

CAMPUS NEWS

College  Paper



Volume 19, Issue 6 FREE!

**SUMMER I, 2019
SPECIAL EDITION**



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Studying over summer

Laura LaVacca
Campus News

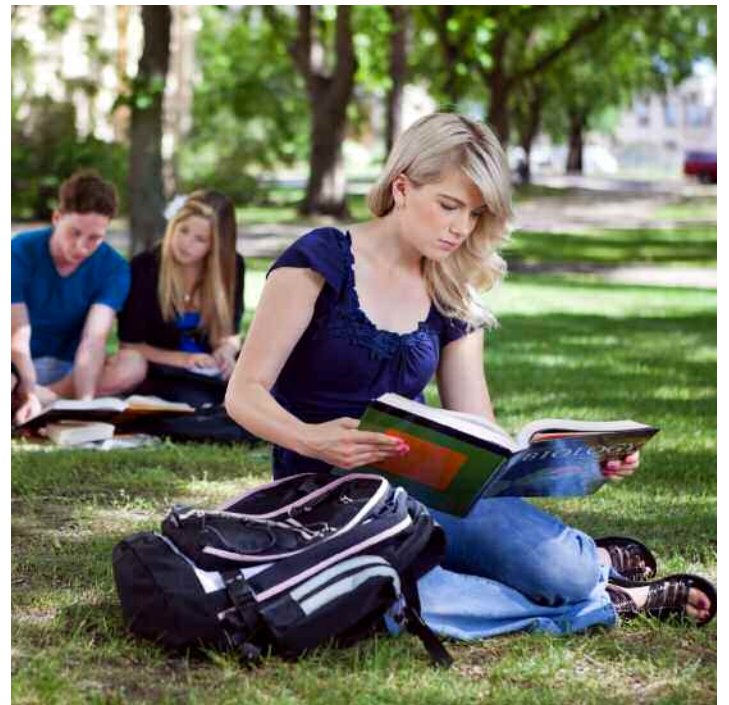
After a tough year of school, a whole two months off basking in the sun can seem like a welcomed break. But maybe some of that time can be used to study. Enter: summer courses.

Doesn't exactly sound like students' first choice but, oftentimes, taking summer classes gives a real leg up on obtaining a degree quicker or even means the difference between graduating on time or not. Many students have to take an extra class at some point and instead of tacking it on to an already overwhelming 15 credit class load, the lazy days of summer may be a great time to just focus on one course – perhaps even the toughest one.

"I definitely plan on taking one or more courses in order to get ahead or keep myself on track. I think summer courses are necessary for people like me who chose a difficult major and then added a minor into the mix. There's no way I'll be

Please continue reading on page 10

**Recover from a bad spring,
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A career with cannabis? Get serious.

Darren Johnson
Campus News

It's like the technology boom of the 1990s: Suddenly the Internet hit big, and any people with tech skills quickly found themselves hired by startups and earning nice pay checks. The startups became big companies, and these founding employees became vested.

But now it's an impending pot boom, and perhaps you have some related skills that can get you hired. In such a fast-growing industry, you can quickly climb the ladder.

With cannabis legalization just beginning in Massachusetts, and with other states in the Northeast, like New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, also on the verge of legalization, a wide array of jobs in the industry will suddenly become available. Are you ready?

I spoke to Max Simon, CEO of Ventura, California-based Green Flower, a leading cannabis education company, about opportunities in the industry. Green Flower is about to partner with a large number of colleges to provide industry training for interested students. They also have online certification courses.

CN: *What kinds of jobs are emerging in the new cannabis industry?*

Max Simon: What most people don't understand is that in the cannabis sector, there's a whole suite of different license types that connect to entirely different business models. The jobs range from everything to retail manager to compliance manager to inventory manager to the famous "bud tender," which is the person that interacts with people on the front line.

And there's a whole suite of management positions and worker positions that fall under the retail sector. Then there's the cultivation sector, which is basically who's growing all the weed. And that also has a full suite of different roles from cultivation manager to nutrients manager to the processing side; where once they actually grow the plant, they have to cut it down and dry it and prepare it for consumption.

Of course, on the other side, now hemp is legal. And so there's this enormous hemp boom happening right now where people are able to actually legally grow pretty large hectares of hemp, which can be used for everything from consumable products to building materials to even textiles. And so the cultivation sector is really rich in opportunity; both for people that are employees, but also a ton of opportunity for entrepreneurs and people starting businesses.

'You should develop your expertise before legalization.'

And so manufacturing is when people are creating products; edible products, vape pens, tinctures and oils. There are formulators, manufacturer's quality control managers, all the way through the line of project managers, customer service reps, sales — there's a huge demand.

And then the warmest demand is for quality salespeople right now. That actually to me seems to be the single biggest opportunity, because the companies are in need of specialized, talented people. And there's so much opportunity for people to expand those businesses. They



Max Simon

need talented, qualified, knowledgeable salespeople to help build those brands.

There are enormous opportunities within every different sector, and what is required for people to take advantage of those is to become knowledgeable and skilled within those areas so that the company doesn't have to start from scratch with you; but rather can bring you in, and you can start making an impact from day one.

CN: *Legalization hasn't happened yet in much of the Northeast, where our readership is, but there's talk that it may be happening soon. This puts people interested in working in this industry in a state of limbo, waiting.*

Max Simon: This is what I've seen after being in this space for five years; there's so much evolution happening, and the laws are continuing to change and shift at pretty, almost mind-blowing rates. And so even if, right this second, the laws in your local area are seeming to be more restrictive, that doesn't mean that that's not going to

change in a very short amount of time. And that if you're not prepared to take advantage of those opportunities, then you just miss them. And so I keep reminding people that they have to become prepared for this next chapter because whether it's places like New York or places like New Jersey or places like Connecticut where maybe legalization has not happened in the fullest sense yet, there's so much movement happening that it is expected to change very quickly. And so I always tell people, if you want to be involved in this industry, don't get discouraged where things are today because it continues to change and flip so quickly that the people that are prepared for it, when that happens, are the ones that get the best jobs, start the best companies, or ultimately can take advantage of the best opportunities.

CN: *So what should a student in a state that hasn't fully legalized yet do if they want to move into this industry, once it's approved?*

continued on page 19

Win Six Flags tix!

Whether you take it with a smart phone or an SLR camera, snap a picture of a community college student (it can be you) reading this issue of Campus News and send it to pics@cccn.us or text it to 518-879-0965, and we'll publish it online and perhaps in the print edition. Include the name, major and college of the student pictured and your info. Five submitters will be chosen each month and win two free tix to Six Flags Great Escape in upstate Lake George, NY! They are open throughout the summer and early fall. Motels are very affordable this time of year. Tickets are worth \$65 each but not transferrable. You deserve a break!



See names of winners on the next page.

Awarded laptops

Construction Technology — Architectural Technology A.A.S. Program students Lucas Schindlar, from East Northport, and Raimy Fernandez, of Selden, center, were each presented with new laptop computers by Scott Erath of William Erath & Sons of Amityville for their scholarship and hard work in Suffolk County Community College's Construction Technology Program.

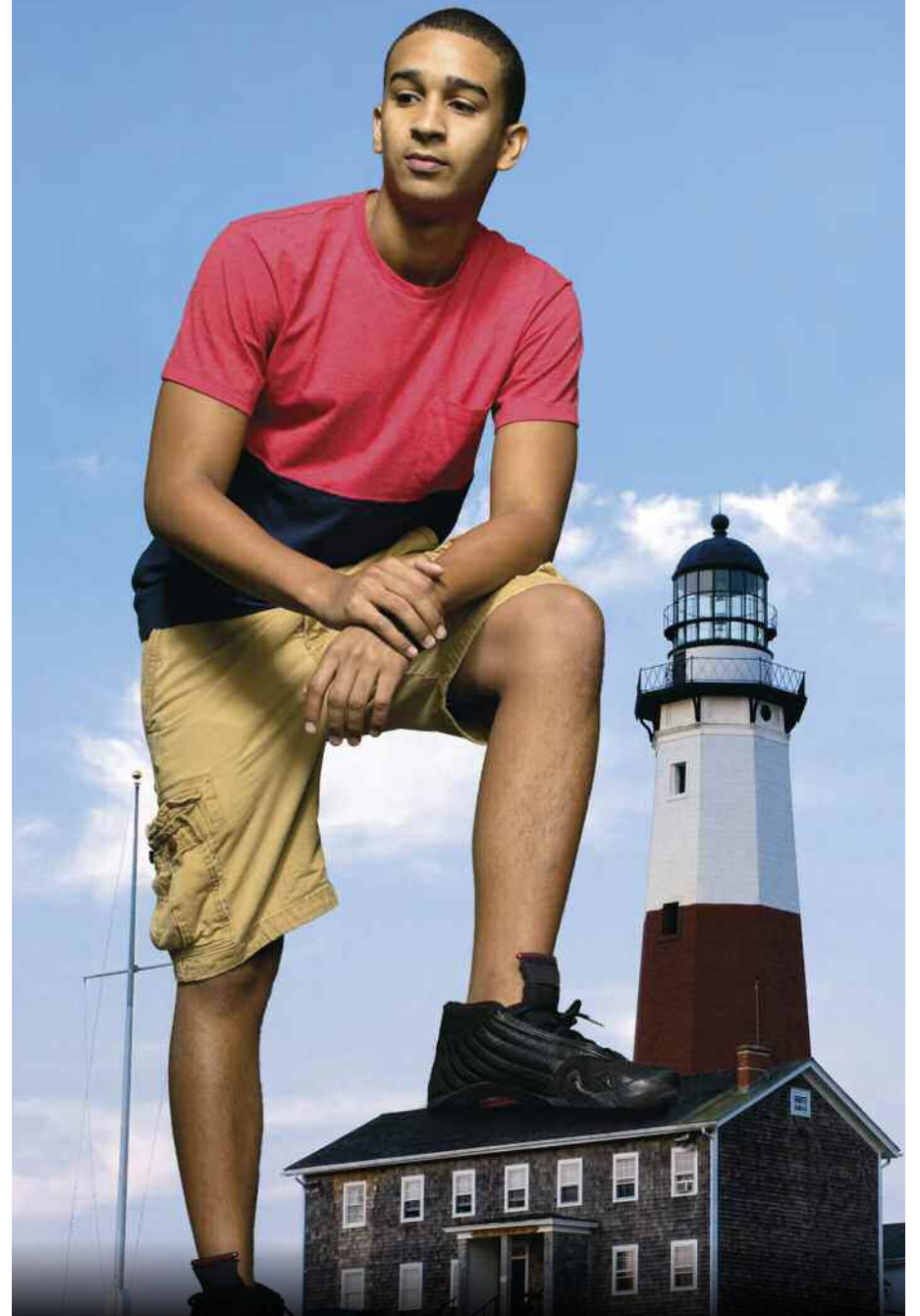
Erath has awarded the computers, worth more than \$2,000 and loaded with construction industry specific software, to

Suffolk students for more than 10 years and has hired and given internships to more than two dozen Suffolk County Community College students during the same period.

Pictured L to R: Natalie Niemann, Associate Professor of Construction Technology; Scott Erath, Wm. Erath & Son, Inc., Amityville; Lucas Schindlar; Raimy Fernandez; Michael Simon, Professor of Construction Technology; Albert Dawson, Associate Professor Engineering/Industrial Technology.



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See last month's contest winners!

These students each won two free tickets to Six Flags Great Escape last month: **Cameron Lada** (below), Studio Art with a focus on

(middle), Liberal Arts major at Suffolk County Community College (reading Campus News before her jazz class); **Hillary Ladeau** (see previous page), Radiologic Technology major, Springfield Technical Community College; **Yeimi Ramos** (top right), Engineering Science major, Nassau Community College; and **Victoria Factor** (bottom right), Biology major, LaGuardia Community College.

Can you make it to Lake George anytime this summer? Join the fun! Send your pic to pics@cccn.us!



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Campus News creates regional editions

With the “death of print media” and all that, Campus News is pursuing version 2.0, where we become even more of a niche publication. We will do that by breaking up into regions, where student and professor writers can have regional “beats,” and where advertisers can hyper-target. This will happen starting this fall.

Frankly, it’s a logistical nightmare and probably isn’t going to save print journalism, but we’re trying because we do believe that real newspapers have value, and we know that the vast majority of these papers still get picked up. It’s

just that the advertisers have gotten more exacting in recent years, due to the hyper-targeting that the Internet provides. (Not that Internet advertising actually works...)

That said, we do think that print isn’t dead, and will make a comeback, even. Fake news on the Internet only helps print media justify itself better, as, at least, a print paper requires some public accountability.

Another bonus of doing this is, for serious journalism students who



currently don’t have a school paper to call their own, here’s a chance to be in charge of something. If you’re up to the challenge, you can be the Upstate Editor or Writer of Campus News, for example, or New England, etc. We will be able to appoint six such people. See our help-wanted ad at

www.ccn.us/intern.

As far as advertising goes, it will be even more affordable for small businesses that only want to reach one particular region. By “stopping the presses” and switching plates, we will be able to only print the ads in the region where the business/college is. Learn more at transferads.com.



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SUNY funds for CCs

As part of SUNY Achieve, the university wide program to help more students graduate from college prepared for competitive careers, State University of New York Chancellor Kristina M. Johnson announced that seven additional community colleges enrolling more than 48,000 additional students will be participating in SUNY's Guided Pathways. Now being implemented at a total of 17 SUNY campuses, this program improves student success outcomes by building capacity and implementing supportive pathways.

Campuses participating in the second Guided Pathways Institutes are: Dutchess Community College, Erie Community College, Finger Lakes Community College, Hudson Valley Community College, Jefferson Community College, Schenectady County Community College and SUNY Ulster.



HVCC

The \$1.8 million multi-year project is supported by Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo, the New York State legislature, and private funding. The first cohort of Guided Pathways campuses began its work in 2018 and were: Corning Community College, Jamestown Community College, Monroe Community College (lead sponsor), Mohawk Valley Community College, Onondaga Community College, SUNY Orange, Rockland Community College, Suffolk Community College, Tompkins Cortland Community College and Westchester Community College.

Outstanding!



Springfield Technical Community College student Mohamed Gabriel has been named one of the state Department of Higher Education's "29 Who Shine," a program that recognizes one outstanding graduating student from each public college and university in Massachusetts. Gabriel, 25, of West Springfield, and his mentor, Title III and Supplemental Instruction Director Jane Lerner, of Northampton, represented the college during a ceremony on May 3 at the State House in Boston that included Gov. Charlie Baker (pictured with Gabriel).

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Upcoming Instant Transfer Decision Days

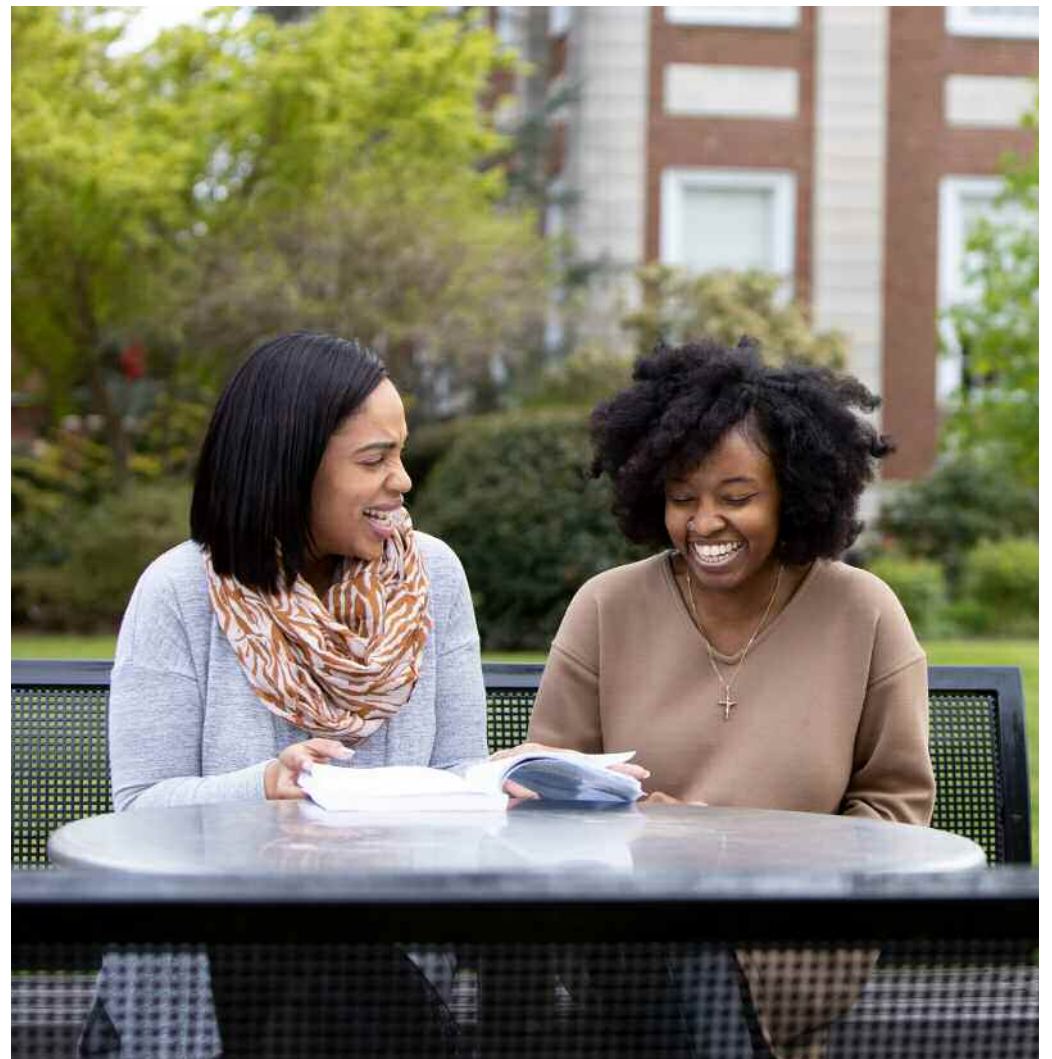
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Read some classics over the summer

Kaylee Johnson
Campus News

For most college students, summer break is a seductress, grazing their backs during dreaded final exams. But, I have found that when it finally arrives, the lack of structure becomes unbearable, especially in my small town where every faded road and overgrown farm field looks melancholy and grossly nostalgic; I hate nostalgia; the way it ties the most unsuspecting one down and carves the word “yesterday” into their fleshy, hopeful chest. I avoid the toxic hold of my small town, where time seems to stand still, by indulging in great literature; call it escapism, or a survival tactic. Over the past few summers I have read and reread some of the greatest American literature, and lusted over characters and alluring fictional worlds alike. Often, so wrapped up in literature that my lens starts to mesh with my favorite fictional characters; distorted, unworldly, and dreamlike. The days seem to go by faster during the summer, and sometimes they are wasted on senseless activities and the egotistical illusion of relaxation. If you can’t afford to backpack around Europe to find yourself, like most college students, you can still have a fulfilling, enlightening summer by immersing yourself in new literary worlds of the past, present, and future.

While enrolled in classes, there is often a shortage of time, and leisure activities that promote positive mental health, and intellectual growth gets pushed aside. If students do have minuscule intervals of free time, they typically spend it watching soulless television shows that evoke some familiar comfort or hanging out with friends, because they are understandably burned out from grueling school work and

rigorous jobs. During the fall and spring semesters I regularly joked about the number of students spotted publicly crying on my campus; passersby so desensitized to the melodramatic sight that they reacted by sighing and walking away. In reality, the lack of coping skills that modern college students have is not something to laugh about. Social media has caused a very noticeable decline in the mental stability and social skills of young adults. While reading is an independent activity, it can teach one how to interact with others and how to approach real world problems with confidence and inner peace. Knowledge that can be applied to society and one’s functional and dysfunctional interpersonal relationships can be learned from almost every literary character, antagonist or protagonist. Embracing the arts will make you feel much more in touch with the world than Twitter, Instagram, or Facebook ever will, for social media will infect you slowly with its tempting mirage, but one night you will wake, sweaty and disillusioned, feeling overwhelming anguish over all of the time wasted on superficialities.

If you devote time to uninterrupted reading on a regular basis, it will become a very spiritual, stress reducing, part of your routine, and by the end of the summer, you will find yourself wanting to carry it into the fall, winter, and spring. In order to find the genre that makes you feel invigorated and entranced you must experiment with multitudinous styles of literature and remain open minded about works that you have never read. Here is a personally curated list of some of the greatest, diverse, classic literature to indulge in this summer. All of these novels have changed my life in preeminent ways:



1. “A Confederacy of Dunces” by John Kennedy Toole
2. “The Color Purple” by Alice Walker
3. “Emma” by Jane Austen
4. “The Catcher in the Rye” by J.D Salinger
5. “The Great Gatsby” by F. Scott Fitzgerald
6. “Tender is the Night” by F. Scott Fitzgerald
7. “Annie John” by Jamaica Kincaid
8. “On the Road” by Jack Kerouac
9. “Their Eyes Were Watching God” by Zora Neale Hurston
10. “The Picture of Dorian Gray” by Oscar Wilde
11. “Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance” by Robert M. Pirsig
12. “In Cold Blood” by Truman Capote
13. “Angela’s Ashes” by Frank McCourt
14. “Naked Lunch” by William S. Burroughs
15. “The Maltese Falcon” by Dashiell Hammett

I read “The Catcher in the Rye” during a summer road trip to Florida; at the time I was sev-

enteen, angsty, and questioning everything about the woes of society. Protagonist Holden Caulfield made me feel strangely understood; having an intricate, abstract mind does not mean one should be cast out of the unforgiving world. Oscar Wilde’s “The Picture of Dorian Gray” encouraged me to ponder the concept of time, or the lack of it. And the question I have been asking for years, why is time such a vastly different experience for each person? Time is the greatest enigma; there are fine lines under my eyes to prove that my emotional battle with the clockmaster was senseless and grotesque. Even the dreamers will eventually be crucified on an analog clock; a hand carved wooden one if they were loved. Be mindful of how you are spending your days, for whether you realize it or not, there is more to learn from the great fictional literary characters than the average rule-followers of society. Let them teach you what they know.

Kaylee Johnson is a senior education major concentrating in English.



Summer courses (cont. from cover)

able to complete the required credits for both just within the 8 semesters given,” Adelphi student Imani Bempong explains.

There are definitely a few things students need to keep in mind when deciding to enroll or not. Firstly, summer courses are divided into sessions, typically three. Each session is about a 3-4 week period. Therefore, courses are condensed because fall and spring semester courses are about 15 weeks in length. This can prove to be a quick way to get new material under students’ belts or a recipe for disaster. Very difficult courses can be hard to grasp in such a short time, but, conversely, the intense focus on a subject matter can prove to be a great way to engulf oneself in a subject and retain the material.

It can also prove to be a way to fall behind since the classes are quickly paced and professors often move on to the next lesson without always giving ample time to the previous. In this case, students should weigh their own study habits, academic abilities and choose summer classes wisely.

Nassau Community College professor Jen Southard notes, “Students need to be prepared for completing a semester’s worth of

work in just a few weeks, meaning that they are probably going to spend a few hours a day outside of class reading and completing assignments.”

In addition, there are other factors to consider: “The only qualm I have is that summer courses tend to be expensive. The costs are entirely out of pocket; no financial aid from the semester carries over. Some of us rely heavily upon financial aid to make it through school,” Bempong gripes.

Most institutions do not offer financial aid or loans for summer classes unless the student is enrolled in a certain number of classes, usually full-time status. Students are left paying out of pocket to complete classes or turning to a bank for a loan. Interest rates on bank loans can be astronomical and paying cold hard cash for credits is difficult when some schools like Hofstra

‘A private college charges \$1500 a credit; a 2-year college \$170.’

University charge \$1500 per undergraduate credit (compared to as low as \$170 for an online community college credit). Hofstra also has a policy in place that prevents students from taking



class at another college if they are within driving distance from Hofstra: “Students may obtain credit on their Hofstra records for courses taken in the summer session at another accredited institution if the other institution is not within reasonable commuting distance of Hofstra and if the courses have been approved in advance.” Other colleges may have similar rules in place so students need to research before paying serious dough for courses that may not even transfer.

If the idea of being in school for extra time isn’t your thing, maybe studying abroad or obtaining an internship will entice you. Schools also offer a chance to gain credit through experiences outside the classroom. For exam-

ple, this summer study abroad in London, Sussex or Manchester with Stony Brook University’s program — and that’s just to name a few of their offerings. Students can get some summer travel under their belts while also obtaining necessary credits.

Entertaining an internship? Having to balance one with a full course load in the spring and fall can be an arduous task. Check out your college’s career center for any listings and get your hours in in a nice air conditioned setting.

Whatever the case may be, don’t rule out spending some of that extra free time in a meaningful way — at least you’ll avoid sunburn, sand in your food and that Great White that’s been lurking around the Long Island Sound...

We sincerely thank everyone who has been part of this iterative process.”

Space is available and registration is currently underway for summer programs and teen summer camps. Fall 2019 classes have been announced and interested students may register beginning August 1.

More information and hours of operation are available online at www.sunywcc.edu/arts.

Arts center to hold classes

Westchester County Executive George Latimer and Westchester Community College President Belinda S. Miles announced in May that Westchester Center for the Arts would continue to offer a full slate of arts, jewelry, and ceramics classes at the County Center at 196 Central Avenue in White Plains through the

spring semester of 2020. Officials from the County and the college worked together to delay a previously scheduled closure of the center while long-term plans continue to be explored.

Westchester Community College President Belinda Miles said, “We are a commu-

nity partner providing access to higher education and lifelong learning. This collaboration means offering classes taught by our renowned arts faculty for continuing education students at the Center for the Arts while pursuing sustainable programs and partnerships that best meet stakeholder needs in Westchester County.

Fast-food patrons: Beware of this person

Greg Schwem

Special to Campus News

The customer in line ahead of me was ordering a sandwich only for herself. Checking my watch, I figured I had plenty of time for a quick bite before my 1:30 p.m. meeting.

Wishful thinking on my part.

“Do you want to add chicken, tofu or organic egg to your power bowl?” the server asked.

“Light tofu,” the customer responded. “Also, no chickpeas. But extra kale.”

“Got it,” the server replied. “And it comes with super grains.”

“Put them on the side,” came the response.

I checked my watch again. And rolled my eyes. Neither participant in the “make the power bowl perfect” conversation noticed.

“Chipotle vinaigrette or red wine vinaigrette?” the server asked.

“Is the chipotle spicy?”

“Spicy but not zippy.”

“So, a little spicy?”

“Exactly.”

“I’ll go with the red wine vinaigrette.”

“Got it,” the server said. “Anything to drink?”

“Yes, I’d like a smoothie,” the customer said.

Upon hearing the word “smoothie,” I made a beeline for the exit, knowing the ensuing conversation between the two would certainly involve whether pumpkin seeds could be substituted for chia seeds. It’s why I deplore ordering food at these “fast-but-rapidly-becoming-slow” food establishments, for I consistently find myself behind customers I blanketly refer to as “The Substitutor.”

My wife and daughters fall into this category, so much so that I now refuse to pick up lunch or dinner for the family, for my middle-aged brain can no longer handle their plethora of special requests, deletions and, yes, substitutions.

“Dad, this has mayonnaise on it,” my daughter recently chastened me. “I said, ‘no



mayonnaise.”

“I thought you said, ‘no mustard.’”

“I said that too. And is this an onion touching the roast beef?”

“You asked for onions.”

“GRILLED onions. That’s a raw onion,” she said, pointing to the onion sliver as if it were an earthworm.

There was another sandwich shop across the street from my initial choice for lunch. I walked in and immediately encountered what I think might be the greatest piece of technology to ever hit the fast-food industry.

The self-ordering kiosk.

Impersonal as they may be, kiosks are the perfect remedy for “The Substitutor,” for they put the onus back on finicky restaurant patrons incapable of ordering food items “as is.” Why should the rest of us be forced to stand behind someone demanding extra this, half that, this on the side and absolutely none of that?

Instead, the kiosk puts “The Substitutor” on the defensive, asking questions in rapid-fire fashion and, subtly, making them realize that it shouldn’t take 20 minutes to order a sandwich. As I tapped in my order of a single burger, I was confronted with the following queries:

Did I want to add sharp cheddar or gruyere?

Did I want to add bacon, avocado or a local egg, or make it a double burger?

Did I want to substitute a gluten-free bun?

Did I want to substitute veggies for bread?

Did I want to smash the kiosk with a blunt object?

OK, I made up the last question; but, if I had to answer, I would have considered tapping, “At this point, why not?” Still, it was just me at the kiosk; I wasn’t in a line behind another customer pondering all those questions and saying, “Hang on. I’m ordering for the office. Let me text everybody.”

I tapped “finish,” inserted my credit card and sauntered to the front counter to await my order. Minutes later, my burger appeared, just as I’d requested it. And if it weren’t, I knew I’d have only myself to blame, for it was me at the controls. Such is the beauty of the self-ordering kiosk.

It was at that moment I realized I had forgotten to order a beverage. “Excuse me,” I said to the cashier, “can I add a drink to my order?”

“Sure,” she replied.

“Great! I’d like a lemonade,” I said.

“Beet ginger, rosemary, strawberry or unsweetened?” she asked.

“Whatever doesn’t require holding up the line,” I replied.

Substitutors, try saying that some time. Or use the kiosk.

Greg Schwem is a corporate stand-up comedian and author of the book “Text Me If You’re Breathing: Observations, Frustrations and Life Lessons From a Low-Tech Dad.”



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the order
substitutor!’**

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New grads need a financial plan

Jill Schlesinger
Special to Campus News

Recent college graduates need to take control of their financial lives. If you are a parent, grandparent or close friend, you can help in this process by highlighting these financial goals.

Every grad needs to know how much she is making and spending to address all aspects of her financial life. Some expenses may be a shock, especially rent, utility bills and groceries now that the graduate is not living with three roommates. There are lots of apps to help with the process, including Mint and PocketGuard.

With cash flow in hand, it's time to address the three most important issues for

any adult: 1) Reduction of consumer debt 2) Establishment of emergency cash reserves (6-12 months of living expenses) 3) Maximizing retirement contributions.

Create a list of each loan (credit card, auto, personal and student) and include lender details, like the interest rates associated with the loans, monthly payment amounts due and contact info.

Parents/grandparents/friends, you can discuss repayment strategies that will eradicate the outstanding debt as quickly as possible. Income will drive how much any graduate can allocate toward this goal, and as a result, how long it will take.

Grads should focus on the highest interest loans and then systematically work their way down to the lower interest ones. Whatever amount will be going to pay down debt should be automatically sent to the lender so that no penalties or late fees accumulate.

If there's no debt to manage, then new grads can quickly aim to accumulate a financial safety net. Remind grads that this money cannot be put into risky investments - it should be liquid in case there is a need to access the funds, especially for any expenses that could arise within the next year.

If the new job includes a retirement plan, contribute to it, at least up to the match, if one exists, or to the extent cash flow allows. Parents can review the investment options within the plan and steer their grad toward lower cost index funds, if they are available.

While there may be some resistance,

help him understand the power of saving and investing for the future.

If a grad is living independently, she needs to review the lease. Keep in mind that many landlords hike the rent after the first year. Every time you move, it will cost money, so there may be an incentive to sign a longer lease that has a slightly higher rate in the first year.

If your grad will be boomeranging back home with you (about one-third of all 18-34-year-olds live with their parents), it's a good idea to create ground rules, which may include how long the arrangement will last and whether or not you will charge rent. I recommend putting these types of agreements in writing to make sure everyone is on the same page.

Grads should understand the different items that are detailed on their paychecks, including: federal and state income tax withholding; Social Security and Medicare taxes - also known as FICA taxes; health insurance premiums; and retirement contributions.

New grads, you will develop your own credit record, and is vitally important to pay bills on time and to guard your personal information. Review your credit report every 12 months at annualcreditreport.com, and if there are errors, flag them.

Jill Schlesinger, CFP, is a CBS News business analyst. She welcomes comments and questions at askjill@jillonmoney.com.



Criminal Justice chair's book

Dr. Robert Costello, Chair of the Criminal Justice Department at Nassau Community College, is the editor of and contributor to "New York's Criminal Justice System," a college textbook just published by Carolina Academic Press.

According to Dr. Costello, each of the 13 chapters of "New York's Criminal Justice System" covers a specific aspect of the system and is authored by an expert in that

topic. When readers have finished with the book they should have a thorough understanding of the disparate parts of New York State's criminal justice system and how the various parts function together as part of a collective and interdependent whole. "Because of New York's national standing as a bellwether for law enforcement and criminal justice, and the state's unique demographic and density makeup,

an understanding of the criminal justice system of New York will help readers to better grasp the role of criminal justice nationwide," said Dr. Costello.

All proceeds from "New York's Criminal Justice System" will go to the NCC Foundation scholarship in honor of slain NYPD detectives and NCC alumni Brian Moore and Omar Edwards. The scholarship helps pay the tuition of Nassau Community College students studying criminal justice who aspire to a career in law enforcement.

Should you rent a car to travel Europe?

Rick Steves
Tribune Content Agency

It's easy to travel through Europe without a car, but there are times when I enjoy the freedom of having my own wheels. I don't drive in big cities, but having a car can be the best – and, sometimes, only – way to get off the beaten path. When exploring small towns or the countryside, I connect the dots with a rental car.

Last spring, for example, a great little car helped me get around the whitewashed hill towns of southern Spain and the beach towns of Portugal's Algarve region. I rode cheap public transportation out to Sevilla's airport, picked up my car, and got on my way.

There's nothing exotic about driving in Europe. Sure, southern Europeans seem to make up their own rules of the road, and you'll need to adjust to some unfamiliar signage, but it's all part of the experience. Here are some tips for making the most of the open road.

The Basics: While the British and Irish drive on the left, everyone on the Continent drives on the same side that we do in the USA. Filling the tank is just like back home, except it's euros and liters rather than dollars and gallons. Don't overreact to Europe's high cost of fuel. Over there, cars get great mileage and distances are short.

Signs: All of Europe uses the same simple set of road symbols, which you can easily find online or through your rental agency. Any sign that's red usually means "don't" – such as don't enter or don't pass. A blue sign typically is telling you "do" – such as "go right" or "exit here." Make educated guesses if you don't know for sure (a red sign with an exclamation mark is telling you

"be ready for anything").

Passing: After a few minutes on Germany's autobahn or France's autoroute, you'll quickly learn that the fast lane is used only for passing – cruise in the left lane and you'll soon have a Mercedes up your tailpipe.

When you do pass other drivers, be bold but careful. On winding roads, the slower car ahead of you may use turn-signal sign language to indicate when it's OK to pass. Be sure you understand the lane markings: In France a single, solid, white line in the middle of the road means no passing in either direction; in Germany it's a double white line.

Traffic Circles: For many first-time European drivers, traffic circles are a high-pressure event that require a snap decision about something you don't completely understand: your exit. Take an extra loop around to explore your options. Don't worry – no other cars will know you've gone around enough times to get dizzy.

Speeding: In many countries, car speed is monitored by automatic cameras that click photos and send speeders very expensive tickets by mail (they'll find you through your rental agency). It's smart to know – and follow – the area speed limit.

Drinking and Driving: The legal blood-alcohol limit is lower in Europe than in the U.S., and punishment ranges from steep fines to imprisonment. In France, all cars must have a Breathalyzer on board (supplied if your rental starts in France). Europe takes its DUI laws seriously, and so should you.



Traveling backroads in England

Expressways and Tolls: Most of Europe is laced with freeways. In Germany and throughout most of northern Europe, these expressways are toll-free. In France and countries to the south, these super-highways usually come with tolls. I always feel that toll freeways are a good value in terms of time saved, mileage improved, and relative safety enjoyed.

Maps and GPS: A good map is a must-have on any European road trip. Don't rely blindly on your phone's mapping app or a GPS device for directions; always have at least a vague sense of your route.

Keep a paper map handy, and pay attention to road signs so you can consider alternatives, if you feel the GPS route is Getting Pretty Screwy. I navigate by town names because road numbers on maps often don't match the signs.

No-Go Areas: Cities across Europe (London, Stockholm, Oslo) discourage urban driving

by charging congestion tolls, and some places (Rome, Naples, Florence, Pisa) ban car traffic altogether. In general, old town centers can be difficult to drive in, with one-way streets and narrow roadways. Many cities provide efficient "park & ride" lots at the end stops of trams and subways, just outside the old center and often near the freeway exit. Park, take public transit into town, and save yourself time and money.

Venturing onto the open road in Europe gives you the freedom to make discoveries as you go, following an intriguing road sign or poking up an inviting lane. Wherever you drive, relax and enjoy the ride.

Rick Steves writes travel guidebooks to the cruise ports of the Mediterranean and Northern Europe and hosts travel shows on public television and public radio. Email him at rick@rick-steves.com.



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Are there limits to campus free speech?

Daniel Ferris
Campus News

Last month, legendary feminist academic Camille Paglia came under fire from students at Philadelphia's University of the Arts, where Paglia is a tenured professor. The controversy stemmed from comments made by Paglia critical of some aspects of the #MeToo movement, as well as a lecture given by Paglia titled "Ambiguous Images: Sexual Duality and Sexual Multiplicity in Western Art," which protestors accused of being transphobic.

Paglia (who identifies as transgender herself) has been no stranger to controversy in her three and a half decades in academia. The publication of her first book, "Sexual Personae," garnered both praise and criticism from both sides of the political and cultural divide. This most recent controversy, however, takes on a different tone: rather than facing criticism from pundits and social critics, Paglia has found herself the target of a small, yet vocal contingent of students who take a combative approach in silencing voices they deem problematic.

Paglia's story is just the most recent example of an alarming trend that has been picking up steam for the past several years. Look towards the years leading up to and immediately following the 2016 pres-

idential election, and you will find no shortage of stories similar to this. In 2017, conservative political scientist Charles Murray was forced to cancel a speaking gig at Vermont's Middlebury College when a group of student protestors interrupted the event (ironically, some of these protestors were shouting "This is what democracy looks like!"). That same year, both Milo Yiannopoulos and Ann Coulter (both controversial conservative speakers known for their particularly abrasive and often derogatory style of speech) were further forced to cancel engagements at the University of California at Berkeley when protestors threatened violent, disruptive action against attendees.

While these events initially centered around the loudest and most offensive of right-wing pundits, censorious action taken by students has quickly expanded to include not just conservative speakers, but also considerably more progressive academics such as Paglia. Indeed, it appears that the window for what is deemed acceptable speech closes slightly more with each passing incident, as the demands of these student protestors grow increasingly hostile to ideas that aren't in strict alignment with their own. What's more, the demands of these groups often go beyond mere censorship, with students calling for the firing of



Camille Paglia

thinkers they deem offensive. In Paglia's case, the petition levied against her explicitly demanded that she "be removed from [the University of the Arts] faculty and replaced by a queer person of color," in addition to banning her books from sale on campus.

The University of the Arts declined to meet any of the demands set forth by student protestors, although faculty at other institutions have not always fared so well. In a recent conversation with Vox's Ezra Klein, economist Tyler Cowen, himself an academic at George Mason University, spoke of his personal experience with censorship on college campuses, stating "...people on the center-left, when it comes to issues of race and gender, cannot really say anything... people like this talk to me all the time. The world doesn't know how many cases there are, including people who lose jobs, or lose promotions, or cannot become administrators... Two years ago, I didn't think this. And now it strikes me as a significant worry. We're making academia weaker."

As for Paglia, she will likely

continue to make waves for years to come, as she has done for the majority of her career. Whether this strangely censorious new attitude will reveal itself to be a passing fad or something more deeply entrenched in our culture remains to be seen, although there will certainly be more incidents like this on college campuses in the years to come. Freedom of speech is one of the fundamental rights of a free and democratic society, and in an ideal world, it is nowhere championed more than on the college campus, where free inquiry and the ability to speak one's mind without fear of violent reprisal is among the greatest of virtues. As students, we are on the frontlines of the free speech debate, and each one of us must ask ourselves: Where do I stand?

Daniel Ferris is a writer and marketing consultant based in NYC. He is currently attending Columbia University.



Have an interesting college story to tell?



Send us a message at collegestories@cccn.us!

Millie Bobby Brown talks 'Godzilla'

Angelique Jackson
Variety

Millie Bobby Brown is no stranger to stardom thanks to "Stranger Things," but she still can't believe she's making her feature film debut in the monster reboot "Godzilla: King of the Monsters."

"It's kind of unreal," Brown told *Variety* at the premiere. "I'm like, 'What is happening right now?' It's so bizarre and unreal, and I never thought I'd be doing this. I really didn't."

Brown and the cast shut down Hollywood Boulevard on Saturday night for the massive premiere at TCL Chinese Theatre, posing with the fans that lined the street before they walked the black carpet, which featured a special appearance from Godzilla himself.

"I used to actually walk down here and look at this [theater] and my dad used to say, 'This is where they do premieres,'" the 15-year-old actress recalled. "And now I'm here."

Brown stars in the film as Madison Russell, a girl caught in a clash of the titans as Godzilla takes on iconic monsters, including the character's main nemesis Ghidorah, in an effort to help save mankind. Since the titular king of monsters began gracing (or terrorizing) our screenings in 1954, he has fought a host of legendary characters including King Kong. So how did the young star get the role as his leading lady?

Director Michael Dougherty said it was a "no brainer" to cast the teen after seeing her as Eleven in "Stranger Things."

"I'll be completely honest that she was such an amazing breakout performance there,"

Dougherty said of her acclaimed performance on the hit Netflix show. But he shared that what really won him over was bonding over their mutual love of animals.

"We spent more time talking about animals and the natural world and our love of wildlife than anything else," he continued, saying it was "an honor and a privilege" to work with the young star. "Millie is actually an old soul. So as much as she looks like, you know, your average 15-year-old, she has a wisdom and a strength about her that is rare."

Kyle Chandler, who plays Brown's father Mark Russell, also took a moment to praise his co-star for her sweet and professional demeanor on set.

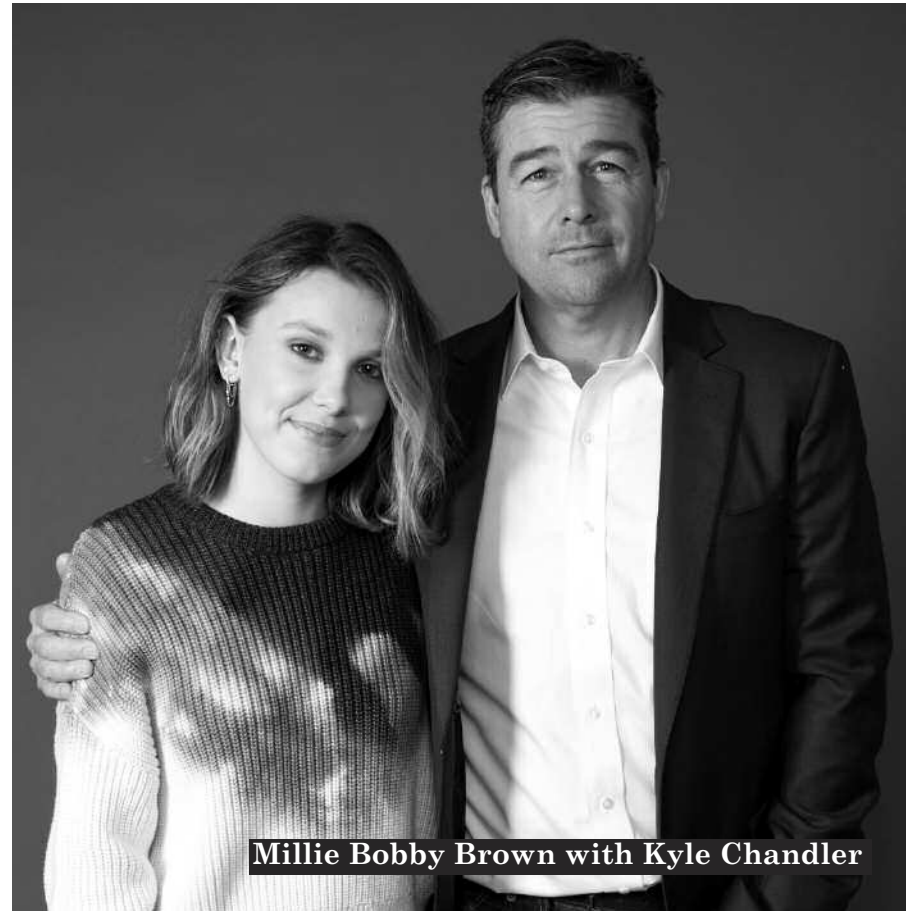
"She's a kid, and she's a cool kid. She's got a great curiosity and she likes to study what she does so she knows her craft," Chandler said of his on-screen daughter. "She's a pretty interesting young person in the business. I think you'll see a lot of her do a lot of different things in the future."

Chandler also has a special connection to the monster universe, as one of the only actors who has appearing on-screen with both Godzilla and King

'It's so bizarre and unreal, and I never thought I'd be doing this. I really didn't.'

Kong before the two face off in next year's movie. (He appeared in Peter Jackson's 2005 film about the ape.)

"When you go on the town with Godzilla, it's sort of a rough night. It's destroying



Millie Bobby Brown with Kyle Chandler

things and what have you," he joked about his experiences with each monster. "You go out with King Kong, he's more of a ladies' man. It's two different deals."

O'Shea Jackson Jr., Chief Warrant Officer Barnes, had a much different take on the monster.

"Listen, I've loved Godzilla since I was 5 years old," he said. "When we did 'Straight Outta Compton,' they asked me to list my five heroes — The Rock, Kobe Bryant, Goku (Dragon Ball), Sonic the Hedgehog and Godzilla. You know, none of those guys have ever let me down."

In fact, Jackson is such a big fan of Godzilla that he was gifted a custom necklace, featuring the monster and designed by jeweler Johnny

Dang, to wear on the red carpet.

"There was one practical effect on set and it was Godzilla skin," he went on. "I never thought I'd ever be able to touch Godzilla. Little kid O'Shea is freaking out. And the day that the skin was on set, the day I got to touch Godzilla, was the day my little girl was born. So, it all came full circle."

Unlike Jackson, Brown wasn't a fan of Godzilla before signing onto the movie, but this experience changed her perspective. "One of the things you should know is that if you are a diehard Godzilla fan, you're going to love this movie. If you're not one, you're going to be a diehard Godzilla fan [after it]," she said.

Brown continued, laughing: "I never knew Godzilla before this. I had never met him. [But] he's a great guy. I swiped right on Godzilla."

Check this out

Last month, we wrote about master-level chess player and LaGuardia Community College accounting student Giovanni Ospina.

He went on beat two dozen players on May 6, in the E-Atrium on campus, darting from table to table, only allowing himself 10 seconds to decide on each move.

The 37-year-old, who immigrated to Queens from Columbia and is father to a six-year-old, has done these exhibitions many times before, and, while he rarely faces a challenge, there are no hard feelings, either way.

“It’s a way to find new talent,” he said in an interview. “We hope to form a team at LAGCC and maybe take on other CUNY schools.”

Even better, on Thursday, June 20, 12-6 p.m. in E-111, Ospina will head a tournament for LaGuardia students, faculty and staff. Prizes include a total of \$250 worth of Amazon gift cards for the top four finishers.

For more details, write lagcc.chess@gmail.com or call/text 347-219-4247.



High art

Last month, we also previewed an art show coming to LaGuardia, but the dates have changed slightly since we went to print.

“Domestic New York” will run from June 9 to August 9 at LaGuardia Community College. Opening reception will be on June 7 from 6:00 p.m to 9:00 p.m.

Find our full story on ccn.us, using search and typing in “Domestic New York,”

The work of New York-based artist and architect Sal Cosenza will be featured. His detailed and colorful paintings



‘The Song is Ended’ by Sal Cosenza

include skyscrapers in human situations.

“I really hope they see it as a story,” the artist said. “I wouldn’t mind if they actually laugh a little because it is kind of funny, if you step away from it. I have buildings talking and buildings engaging in very serious human issues.”



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Be a pot-trepreneur (cont.)

Max Simon: There are two things that you can do. One is you have to become knowledgeable and skilled; that is the biggest issue that exists in the cannabis industry right now. For companies and employers, there is there's no shortage of enthusiasm, right? There are lots of people that want to be involved with those companies, but there's an enormous shortage of specialized skills and talent. And so if you think about it, from a company perspective, would you rather have somebody who knows nothing and you have to train from scratch? Or would you rather bring somebody in who already is well trained and skilled? And the answer is obviously the latter.

There is only a small amount of colleges doing some kind of training and education, and whether you want to do that in your local area, that's great. Obviously that's the reason why Green Flower exists. We have very comprehensive online certificate programs that are well-respected and well-regarded in

the industry as being a critical source of training. And so companies like ours are filling that skills gap by providing this comprehensive knowledge and education. And that's something that's of crucial importance. I would call it a requirement if you want to be a part of this industry.

The second thing I would say is get to know those companies, find the companies that you're interested in working for and start to get on their radar early, so that whether it's they need you now or they need you next month or they need you in three months, you're developing a relationship with the people that are building companies and acquiring licenses.

Because oftentimes what people don't see is that they are one month away from, perhaps, getting \$1 million, and now needing to expand very quickly; or they're three months away from opening up a new location that you didn't know about, and they're going to be hiring, say, a hundred people. And so you have to start being prepared for those by developing relationships and getting on their radars as soon as possible.

Companies are raising 5, 10, 25, 50, 90 million dollars. And as a result are having to put that predominantly into personnel growth, because that's what's fueling the development of the industry. And so every time a state legalizes, investment follows; every time investment follows, company growth explodes. And what you're seeing in

places where it's becoming legalized is the amount of job growth is far surpassing, exponentially surpassing, the amount of qualified people that are available to fill it based on their existing knowledge and skills.

CN: *Most of our readers are currently enrolled in a college program. Some may be interested in entering the cannabis industry. How can they adapt their studies to make themselves hireable once legalization hits?*

Max Simon: What's most important for students is that they pick their sector because that sector will dictate the knowledge that's needed. For example, if you're a business person,

'People say, "Hey, I love cannabis. Can I work there?" It's insulting.'

you might want to go into the retail management side or the distribution management side or even the marketing and sales side. All of those skillsets translate into cannabis. You just need to learn the specialized details where there's not a lot of crossover, like learning about the regulations or learning about the restrictions on marketing and branding or learning about the uniqueness of what happens in the cannabis industry. Being sure you speak the right language.

CN: *So it seems that if one wants to get into the cannabis in-*



Photo courtesy Green Flower

dustry, he or she can't simply be a marijuana aficionado. Serious planning is needed.

Max Simon: The biggest pain point that employers face is everybody underestimates how sophisticated and how much innovation and growth and regulation is taking place. And so you have this huge

wave of people that are just like, "Hey, I love cannabis. Can I work there?"

It's almost insulting, because the amount of sophistication and growth that these companies are experiencing are rivaling big agriculture or big medicine or big retail. And so you need to really have your A-game if you want to get involved in these things. The point is, you need to get the knowledge and training; this is so much more sophisticated and involved than people think it is. If you're serious about getting a job in this industry, you've got to get serious about it and show up in a way that those employers respect.

Green Flower scholarship

Green Flower is offering scholarships because "We understand how difficult getting an education can be, and we want to ensure that the cannabis industry has the support of a passionate, well-trained workforce."

With that, they are launching their 2019 Green Flower Scholarship Program. \$25,000 in will be awarded to those seeking to make an impact on the cannabis industry. Apply at <https://www.green-flower.com/scholarship#apply-form>.

The last day to apply is June 17th and winners are announced July 5th.

Campus Puzzle

(solution page 24)

Across

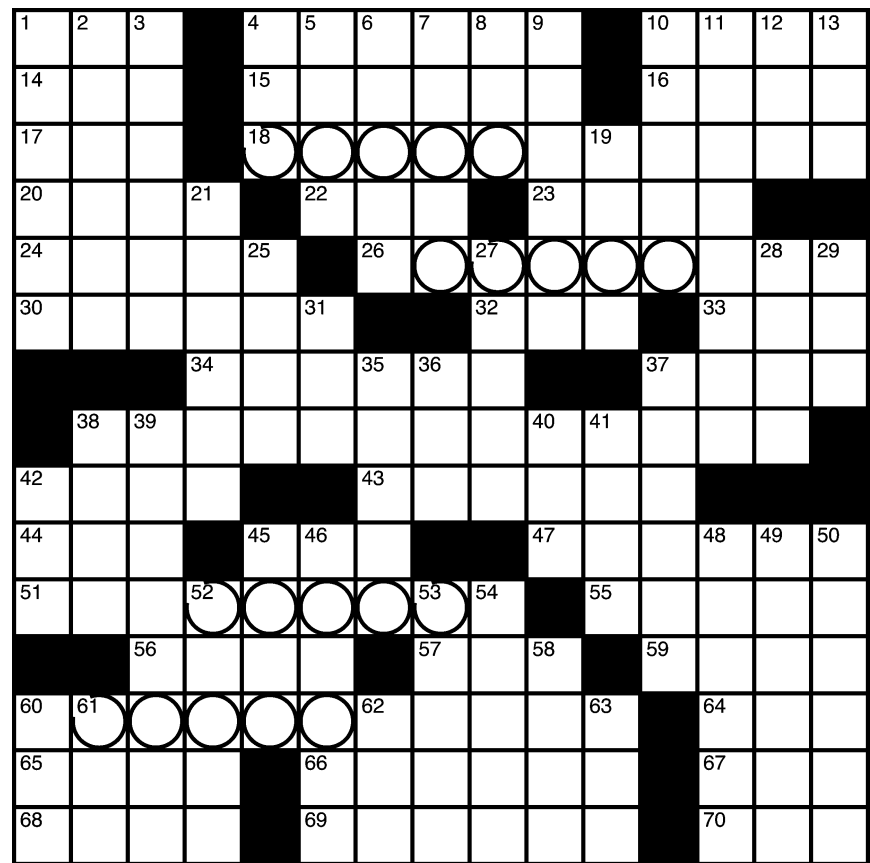
- 1 Civil ___
 4 Tropical fish with large peepers
 10 Add to the staff
 14 Jungle swinger
 15 Rapper whose professional name sounds like a candy
 16 Sport, for ports: Abbr.
 17 Kindled
 18 Churchgoer's "If it's meant to be"
 20 Explorer Ericson
 22 Kitchy-___
 23 Blame taker
 24 Curtain material
 26 Another name for the gladiolus
 30 Cable box display
 32 Dispensable candy
 33 High bond rating
 34 Geological epoch in which mammals arose
 37 Leave ___: reward the waiter
 38 Post-Cold

- War hierarchy ... and what is literally contained in the circled squares
 42 Mortar carriers
 43 ___ Fables
 44 Nonprofit URL ending
 45 Adherent's suffix
 47 Muscat residents
 51 Out-of-the-office assignment
 55 Point of view
 56 Peau de ___: satin-weave ___ cloth
 57 Wide shoe width
 59 In any way
 60 They're often passed on the road
 64 Holiday threshold
 65 Starting course
 66 Austrian capital
 67 "Mis-___ ZrabTes"
 68 Chris of "The Good Wife"
 69 First female Shuttle pilot ___ Collins
 70 H.S. 12th-

Down

- 1 NYSE locale
 2 Per unit
 3 Head to bed
 4 Brussels' land: Abbr.
 5 "Don't worry about me"
 6 Copter predecessors
 7 Provide with funding
 8 Evergreen that's a homophone of a vowel
 9 Political refugee
 10 Judaism: kosher :: Islam: ___
 11 Start
 12 Took part in a marathon
 13 Cake mix need
 19 City southwest of Warsaw
 21 Reporter's quintet of questions
 25 Ask for Whiskas, perhaps
 27 Opinion columns
 28 Lion's den

- 29 Jabber
 31 Prefix with friendly
 35 Muse of poetry
 36 Marlins' MLB div.
 37 Source of media revenue
 38 "Me neither"
 39 Barely beats
 40 Valentine card hugs
 41 LP measures
 42 Baseball inst. in Cooperstown
 45 "___ it my way"
 46 Turn sharply
 48 Orange choices
 49 "Well, ___!": "What an outrage!"
 50 Blood pressure elevator
 52 Acid test outcome, possibly
 53 Party hearty
 54 Nancy Drew creator Carolyn
 58 White-tailed coastal bird
 60 Nine-digit ID
 61 Lav, in Bath
 62 Three on a sundial
 63 ___ Antonio



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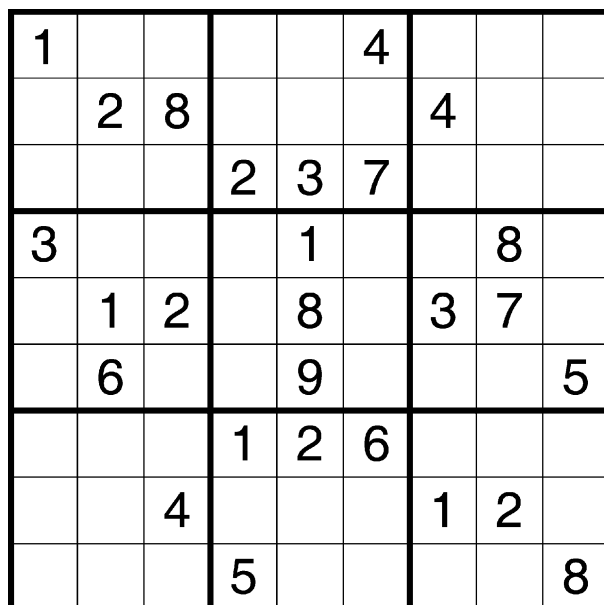
TSgt Ledra Thomas

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Campus Sudoku

(solution page 30)



Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

New president

The State University of New York Board of Trustees on May 8 appointed Carlee Drummer, Ph.D., president of Columbia-Greene Community College.

Drummer will become C-GCC's sixth president, succeeding President James Campion, who assumed his post in 2000. Her appointment is effective July 8.

Since 2014, Drummer has served as the President of Quinebaug Valley Community College (QVCC) in Danielson, Conn., which serves approximately 1,500 full- and part-time students, and more than 2,000 students taking non-credit, workforce, or personal development courses.

Under Drummer's leadership, QVCC established a food pantry to assist students facing food insecurity; opened a 10,000 square-foot, LEED Silver Certified Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center; introduced new



academic programs in cybersecurity, mechatronics, and medical laboratory technician training, and partnered with General Electric to install 2,500 solar panels on campus, saving the college an estimated \$1.75 million over 20-25 years.

Drummer earned both her doctorate and masters of arts in English from SUNY's Stony Brook University. She received her bachelor of arts, magna cum laude, from Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio.

Sign-language course

The SUNY Ulster Office of Continuing and Professional Education will offer an Introduction to Beginning American Sign Language (ASL) class on Wednesdays, June 12 through August 14, from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. The course will be taught by Dr. Jennifer Delora, Ph.D. and will be held at the Kingston

Center of SUNY Ulster on 94 Mary's Avenue.

ASL is the third most popular language in the USA.

For more information or to register, contact (845) 339-2025 or visit www.sunyulster.edu/ce and register online using registration code NCC 2144-01.

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CC student is Harvard-bound

James Casey of Natick, Mass., a student veteran and honors student, graduating from Mass-Bay Community College, has been accepted to Harvard University. He explains his acceptance into Harvard University “as being a total long shot.” He added, “I knew I had a solid GPA, but it’s Harvard, and it’s very competitive. I worked really hard to be a good student, but I didn’t think I would be this successful. After a lot of hard work, determination, and support from the MassBay faculty and staff, I will be a student at Harvard next fall. I am so excited that I got in!”

In high school, James studied Automotive Technology at Framingham’s Keefe Technical High School. Although he enjoyed the program and his teachers, he decided after high school he wanted to serve his country as an Assaultman in the United States Marine Corps. He signed a four-

year commitment and the day after his high school graduation, he was off to Parris Island, South Carolina for recruit training. “I’m so happy I went into the Marines because it made me a more driven person. It really taught me to take advantage of opportunities that come your way, because you never know if you’ll have those opportunities again.” After his four years of service, James decided not to reenlist in the Marine Corps and headed home to decide his next move.

In September 2017, James began classes and quickly connected with MassBay Athletic Director, Adam Nelson, to see how his passion for sports and creative writing might help the college. “I started writing game recaps for the basketball team and was the PA announcer for all the home games. I really enjoyed being involved, so I would help with baseball and anything else the

department needed. I was having so much fun, that I applied and was accepted to be an Orientation Leader, welcoming new students to campus. It was an amazing opportunity.” He has a 3.96 GPA.

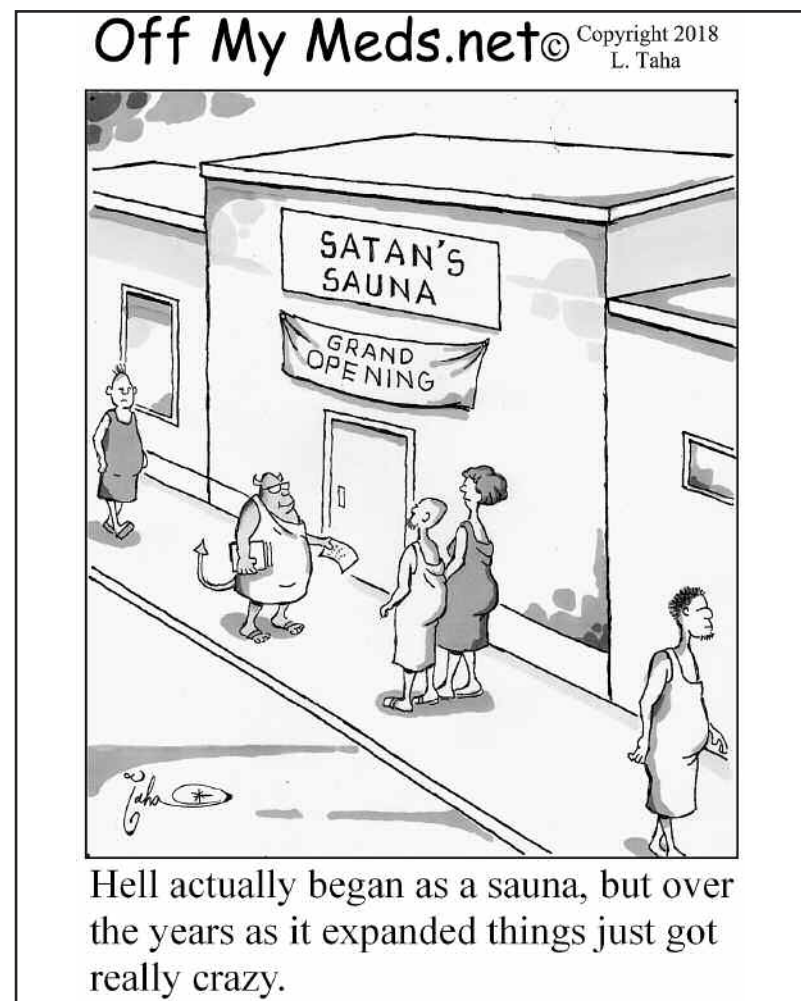
With his sights set on pursuing a bachelor’s degree, he started applying to local universities, but it wasn’t until his Communication Professor, Carolyn Guttilla, urged him did he decide to apply to Harvard. “I never even considered Harvard, because I knew how selective they are.”

His acceptance letter from Harvard University, which he received this week, states, “nearly sixteen hundred students applied for the twelve places available for transfer students.” James, a first generation college student explains, “I’m really proud, honored, and grateful for this opportunity. This is not lost on me, this is a big deal to be accepted and I’m extremely happy.”



James goes on to explain, “I have to admit, I really didn’t know much about MassBay before I came here. There’s a stigma around community college that it’s only for people that can’t succeed elsewhere, and that’s simply not true. Community college doesn’t limit you, it’s a great experience that anyone can take advantage of, and you can take those opportunities and turn it into the foundation to reach your goals. I honestly believe I wouldn’t have gotten into Harvard if it wasn’t for MassBay.”

9 to 5 by Harley Schwadron



Hell actually began as a sauna, but over the years as it expanded things just got really crazy.

Upon graduation, what I've learned

Yesenia Coello
Campus News

What a strange, long trip it's been.

These words reverberate in my mind as the Grateful Dead plays on my YouTube tab. Although I'm probably the farthest thing you'll ever encounter from a Deadhead – I felt compelled to listen to this song when my sister quoted it in the graduation card my family had gifted me immediately after my ceremony.

Graduating college is both a celebratory moment and a bittersweet goodbye. You've officially grown your wings and have been permitted to enter the professional world. Or at least that's how the traditional narrative goes. To be honest, I think anyone can enter the professional realm under the right circumstances. For me personally, college has been a strange, long trip that has impacted me more than I would like to admit out loud.

For the relevance of this publication, I'll solely be focusing on my experiences at my two-year school. For me, a somewhat shiftless high school graduate, I had no idea what I wanted to do

next. I only knew what I liked, and I knew that high school wouldn't allot me the opportunities I sought. Instead, rather than being proactive, I remained indolent and indifferent; seemingly content to waste my days feeding my pitiless Internet addiction. (I wish I were kidding, but I'm not.)

Thankfully, I knew college was the perfect place to reinvent myself. I became a bit more active in my community, albeit still somewhat withdrawn and under the oppressive hand of social anxiety. This was the norm for all of my freshman year and most of my sophomore year. As far as academia went, sophomore year was when I found myself enamored by subject material that I not only enjoyed but felt comfortable enough to express my inner intellect for (whereas in high school, I had to suppress it in order to avoid attention from underachieving bullies). For once, I felt good about my academic standing and my progress as a student.

Until, well, Imposter's Syndrome kicked in.

For those unaware, Imposter Syndrome is the nagging feeling that somehow, regardless of

your achievements and undeniable proof of their existence, that you've somehow weaseled your way to success – somehow going undetected by those around you.

Well, compared to most in my life – family and immediate friends – I felt like I couldn't compare. As if being placed in remedial math somehow defined who I was. No matter where I went, the talents I've honed, the goals I've achieved, I'd still be that kid who would never be able to find "X." I wasn't a true intellectual – I was simply just a slow underachiever who wished to be something she wasn't.

Even today, as I sit and type this, I still struggle with these feelings. Even after spending countless hours studying, I still

'College was the perfect place to reinvent myself, to try harder.'

feel like the shadow of my former self. Not only that, but I also felt like my career, my life, was not going in the direction I had anticipated. I mean, not that I really anticipated anything specifically. I just hoped, at the tender of twenty-three, I would've had things figured out. (As cliché as that sounds.)

Oh, yeah. You might be wondering how all these thoughts correlate with my two-year experience, right? Well, after a particularly rough summer a few years ago, I returned to school perturbed and anxious about the future. Would I be able to become the student I had once tricked myself into believing I was? Those were the thoughts that permeated my mind on the daily. Surely, I was too unintelligent to be anything but, right?

I was wrong.

Supportive and intellectually

stimulating professors forced me to work harder, forcing me to rise to occasions I didn't really give much thought to. "Hey, these are just an ordinary part of life," I thought. Again, wrong. I could've easily opted to not study hard, to do the bare minimum. Or potentially even drop out. Yet, even though the cards were always on the table, I sought to work for my grades. I wanted to improve. I wanted to prove that I was more than my preconceived notions. That I could be the person I always believed I was.

As for my peers, they inspired me to work harder. Some were high school dropouts, adult students with children and full-time jobs, even some of my peers. Regardless, we all shared a common goal: to obtain an education. Some of them were the most astute and intellectually astute people I've ever encountered. Some of them have even provided me opportunities that would open up doors for me that have allowed me to network and expand my career.

And to these individuals, I'm forever grateful.

To those who are currently in a situation similar to mine, I implore you to focus on your school work, even if it's just tiny increments or seeking help from professors and labs. Maybe one day you'll claim your prize as you stride across the stage, bewildered at the person you've become.

I hope one day I'll be able to as well.



Yesenia Coello recently graduated from SUNY New Paltz. She previously attended SUNY Schenectady.

Political Cartoon of the Month by Joel Pett



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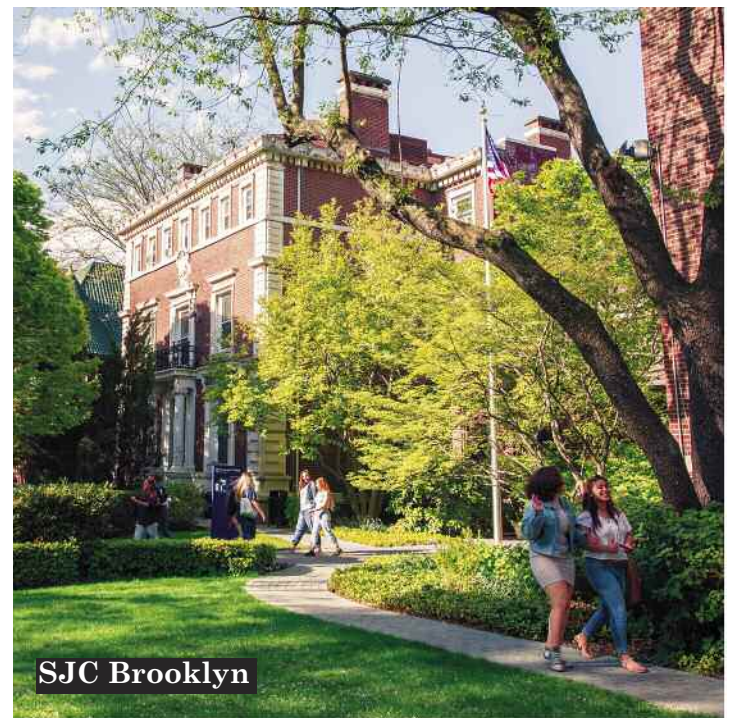
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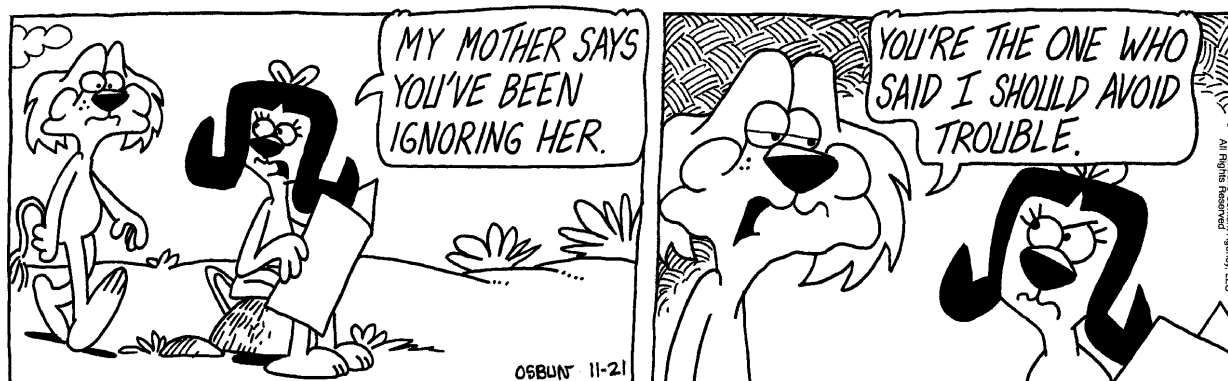
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C-GCC auto tech has model year

This April, recent Columbia-Greene Community College graduate Timothy Hempel of Tivoli, N.Y., took on one of his professors at the 2019 New York International Auto Show in the Spark Plug Challenge.

Marc Gilbert, Assistant Professor of Automotive Technology at C-GCC, completed the task in one minute, 23 seconds – but Hempel ultimately triumphed at one minute, 22 seconds. It was a contest Gilbert says he was happy to lose, and also one of many victories C-GCC's Automotive Technology program has celebrated in the last year.

Things first revved up for the program during the Fall 2018 semester with the arrival of Subaru University, a Subaru Technician certification option for enrolled automotive technology degree students. It offers Level 1 and Level 2 Subaru tech-

nical training courses that, once completed, qualify students for employment at any Subaru dealership in the country.

Not long after, C-GCC's parking lot got a little more packed – in support of Subaru-U, Colonial Subaru of Kingston, N.Y., handed over the keys to a donated 2004 Subaru Forester and a late-model Subaru engine for student lab practice. In addition, the college purchased a 2009 Subaru Legacy and a 2012 Subaru Impreza Sport from Colonial, using monies from the JK Winters Automotive Fund, administered by the Columbia-Greene Community Foundation.

As the Spring semester drew to a close, the program finished strong, deemed one of the best Automotive Schools in the Northeast by Trade School Future.

The honor was based on criteria including graduation rates, tuition fees, student debt, and

salaries offered to candidates after graduation, and C-GCC was listed among only five institutions, joining Lancaster County Career and Technology Center in Willow Street, Pa., Rosedale Technical College in Pittsburgh, Pa., SUNY College of Technology at Alfred, N.Y., and Vermont Technical College of Randolph, Vt.

Taught by Master Technicians certified by the National Institute of Automotive Service Excellence (ASE), C-GCC's Automotive Technology program offers several options for study in addition to the Subaru University program, including:

- A one-year certificate program that provides comprehensive training for entry-level employment at a dealership- or repair-shop-technician;
- An applied science degree (A.A.S.), which includes both



technical and general studies, and two paid summer internships;

- An associate degree in occupational studies (A.O.S.), which also includes two paid summer work experiences, and prepares students to be automotive technicians, component rebuilders, and parts department managers, or
- An A.O.S. degree offered through the Toyota Technical Education Network (T-TEN) program, which includes direct paid internship employment within a Toyota or Lexus dealership.

For more information, visit SUNYcgcc.edu, or call (518) 828-4181, ext. 3241.

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Ode to the the best and worst students

Darren Johnson
Campus News

I recently realized, a good trick to falling asleep at night – amidst all the anxiety in our waking lives – is to ask myself trivia questions: Name at least seven US states that end with a vowel (“Y” doesn’t count); name at least 10 world leaders (this question was a lot easier to answer pre-Internet, before my brain became saturated with clickbait quizzes); name a dozen American authors from the 1800s; name five countries that begin with the letter “K” (this one is really hard). You get the idea.

By the time I get to the fourth or fifth answer, I’m fast asleep. Sometimes I will wake up in a sweat at 2 a.m. and blurt out “Kazakhstan!”

But recently I came up with a question that isn’t quite trivia, not to me, and it kept me up later than expected: What happened to the best and worst students in my school?

When I create such sleepy-time questions, I usually set up some parameters. For this question, I had to pick a school. Grade school? High school? College? Grad school?

I decided to go with grade school. Strangely, every school I attended has gone out of busi-

ness in some way. The grade school still is there, but has a different name now. It is a Catholic school, and many of the students were high-powered. It also was a close-knit place, and we were constantly ranked, punished and/or rewarded, so, for my sleepy-time purposes, this question would be the easiest to answer. Or so I thought.

The smartest kid

The smartest kid from that school, which had about eight or nine really smart kids per grade, was a boy (let’s call him William). We regularly were tested, and he’d always score in the top percentile on these tests. He was an overall good person – tall and broad shouldered, so he wasn’t prey for bullies – and he’d often calmly defuse others’ arguments on the playground.

I remember he came from a house in the country, without a father, and his brother was ill. He had a hardworking mother and a grandfather who he adored and who played a positive role in his life. William always had kind things to say, and a big heart. He’d invite me to his parties, even though most kids didn’t think I was cool enough to have over, and, one time, I picked up one of his heavy dumbbells over my head and he seemed genuinely impressed. I

wasn’t used to positive feedback, so took some pleasure in that.

The least academic kid

I won’t call him the dumbest kid. Surely he wasn’t. But he definitely got the worst grades in the class. Let’s call him Peter.

One time, I got a rare detention because I didn’t turn in some cartoons I’d drawn for an assignment because I didn’t like my work. Peter was always in detention, and he was made to do some homework he, again, hadn’t turned in. On the sheet were multiple-choice questions. He laughed, with big yellow teeth, and randomly circled letters, finishing the assignment in 15 seconds. He thought I was a sucker for actually doing my assignment slowly, with care.

Another time, I went over to his house. He lived in the projects (the Catholic school gave out some need-based scholarships). He told me his father was in prison for shooting a nurse. His grandfather was known to watch pornography on TV with the kids around. His mother looked frazzled. She had yellowed clippings taped to the faux wood paneled walls, all about the death of Elvis Presley. There was snow on the ground, and we used a former Formica tabletop as a sled to go down a nearby hill. My parents forbade me from going there again, after learning the details of my visit.

So what happened?

I mostly lost touch with both William and Peter after eighth-grade graduation. I went to a different high school than both; occasionally I’d see William when my team would play football against his. I saw Peter only once more; I was 14 and doing my paper route and he was goofing around with some idiots; though he seemed glad to see me, flashing that wide smile with his big yellow teeth.

William, because of his size and work ethic, eventually went on to play college football. His academic specialty was military history, so he signed on as an Army officer to get real-world experience before returning to academia for his doctorate. Unfortunately, though, he quickly died in Iraq, when his tank went over a mine, and was deceased in his early 30s, leaving behind a wife and child. His online obituary is followed by many comments attesting to his goodness.

Peter made it to about 40, after a life of substance abuse and maybe a minor jail stint – it’s hard to get the exact details – and that life likely wore him down, and he died prematurely of a stroke, also leaving behind a child. Posts on his obituary page show he was well-liked.

One followed the rules; one didn’t.

So what eventually happened to the “best” and “worst” students from my former grade school? Essentially, the same thing.

And that’s the last word...for now.

Darren Johnson ranks himself as maybe the eighth brightest student from his 8th grade class. Reach him at darren@cccn.us.



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