

# CAMPUS NEWS

College  Paper

SANDRAPOSEY.NET PAGE

3



## Overcoming STEM bias

While representation has improved, women and gender minorities in STEM continue to face unconscious bias and systemic exclusion.

**Read more on pages 30-31 – and other great stuff within!**



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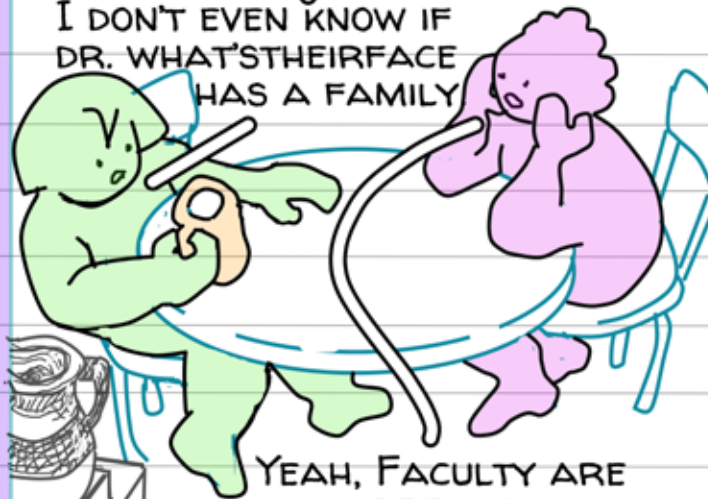


# COLLEGE EDGE

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WHY DO STUDENTS  
TELL ME ABOUT THEIR  
LIVES MORE THAN  
COWORKERS DO?

I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF  
DR. WHAT'STHEIRFACE  
HAS A FAMILY



YEAH, FACULTY ARE  
PRETTY  
TIGHT-LIPPED.

NOT IN CLASS!  
SO MANY LECTURES  
ARE ABOUT A PROF'S  
PERSONAL LIFE.  
APPARENTLY, THEY  
HAVE NO ONE ELSE  
TO TALK TO. IF YOU  
WANT THE DIRT, ASK  
ME. PROFESSORS GET  
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OVERSHARE AND  
SOMEHOW CONNECT  
IT TO WHATEVER THE  
CONTENT IS WHETHER  
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## A podcast about newspapers

Ever wonder how this newspaper is made, and all of the journalistic decisions that come with managing a newspaper? Then listen to publisher Darren Johnson's Weekly Newspaper Podcast.

You can find it on your favorite podcast app or go to [WeeklyNewspaperPodcast.com](http://WeeklyNewspaperPodcast.com).

You can also sign up for his daily Substack newsletter at [journalandpress.com](http://journalandpress.com).

Johnson mixes talk about the business of small-town newspapers with national journalism trends, often using his hometown The Campus News as an example, as well as his independent college paper, Campus News.

Johnson is also a Visiting Professor of Multimedia Journalism at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts.

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**Steve Mallett**



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# Enrollment increase at HVCC

As the Spring 2025 semester is underway at Hudson Valley Community College, enrollment continues to steadily trend upward, driven, in part, by an unprecedented 125 percent increase in newly enrolled students over last spring.

As of the college's official census date on Monday, Feb. 10, when final counts are publicly reported, total enrollment for the Spring 2025 semester was up 8.4 percent over last spring. The total number of enrolled students this spring is 7,600, compared to 7,012 in spring 2024. Over the past two years, the college's spring semester enrollment has grown by more than 15 percent.

"Nearly all student categories - new stu-

dents, transfer students and part-time students - showed growth over last year's numbers this spring, and that is a credit to the faculty, advisors and all of the student support staff at the college. We are thrilled to see students and families recognizing the remarkable value and variety of opportunities offered by the college," said Officer in Charge Louis Coplin.

Seeing growth over last spring are the number of new students (up 125 percent), transfer students (up 41 percent), and non-matriculated part-time students (up 18.5 percent).

According to the National Clearinghouse Research Center, which tracks national enrollment trends across the many cat-

egories of post-secondary education, undergraduate enrollment increased across nearly every sector, with community colleges in particular, seeing a 5.9 percent increase over last year.

The spring term enrollment increase at Hudson Valley follows an annual jump of 5.4 percent during the fall 2024 semester.



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# Black History: Scenes from Queens

**E. Marlay**  
*Campus News*

In between the dates of Saturday, February 1st and Friday, February 28th, Audrey Dove held an exhibition of her work at Queens Library in Flushing in honor of Black History Month.

Audrey Dove is a resident of Flushing and a painter. Her work is acrylic-based and often depicts nature and themes of the African Diaspora, a term that is used to describe the movement of people of African descent all around the world, as well as the communities that had formed because of that movement. She has had her work shown in the Queens County Fair in 2022, where she earned a Red Ribbon second place prize for her work, "Images in a Kaleidoscope." Along with this honor, she has been exhibited at the Flushing Town Hall and Bayside Historical Society. The February exhibition at the Queens Library in Flushing is Dove's second solo exhibition at this location, she previously held an exhibition at this facility in 2020. It was scheduled from March 6th until March 27th but ended early when on the 17th the library closed due to Covid.

The February exhibition was titled "Listen to the Drum: Homage to the Ancestors!" "Mixed in with her work is a summation written by the artist in which she explains what this exhibition is about.

"Art is often considered as being subjective, yet it allows each of us a physical interpretation as well as an introspective visualization. It is also a connector. The poem, "Listen to the Drum" is my North Star. It was the foundation on which this project was conceived. The poem embodies the painful trip of my ancestors from Africa to the West. It connects the historical past to the present. The ancestors exhibited and offered us their strength, endurance, encouragement, and hope. These characteristics, that were deposited in the 'Bank of Time'. It is from these characteristics and traits my paintings are crafted. "The Griot" speaks to me of these deposits."



"The Griot" shows a woman wearing red and holding what appears to be a drum while she is surrounded by other women and children. In the background, you see trees with vibrant green leaves and a beautiful blue sky. This piece seems to speak to the hope that African Ancestors passed down. Looking at the painting I'm imagining joyful people gathering as a community. The colors used in this painting also feel significant. Some of the colors that were used included red and green. According to the W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies Department at UMASS Amherst, the use of red in the Pan-African flag represents the blood that connects all people of African descent, as well as the blood shed for Black Liberation, and the use of green in the Pan-African flag represents the abundant and vibrant natural wealth of Africa. The Pan-African flag was created in 1920 by Marcus Garvey to represent people of the African diaspora as well as symbolize black liberation within the United States. This interpretation of the symbolic use of the colors in Audrey Dove's work can be seen in many of her pieces in the exhibit, not just "The Griot."

One of the few pieces that didn't use the colors of the Pan-African flag was the painting "Shadowed Radiance," which used the colors black and gold. Looking at it, one may interpret the image as a shadow surrounded by gold fabric. This reviewer saw a connection between the image of a shadow - what is left behind when an object or person comes into direct contact with light and the message of the exhibit. The entire collection demonstrates the traits (endurance, strength, hope) that are deposited and passed down to Black people today from their ancestors, connecting them to their past, similar to the way that a shadow is deposited on the ground, but it is always connected to the person it embodies. Gold is also often associated with wealth, potentially symbolizing the value that African ancestors deposited and passed down to their descendants.

I thought that Audrey Dove's work in this exhibit was incredible. I sat in front of these paintings and felt many emotions come off the canvas and engulf me. It is extremely easy to lose track of time at this exhibit.

## Kanopy and chill

**Sarah Murphy**  
*Journal & Press*

Are you getting the most out of your library card? You might be borrowing books, eBooks, DVDs, and audiobooks, but if you haven't added Kanopy to your streaming media diet, you are not taking advantage of one of our library's key features. Kanopy is an on-demand video streaming platform created and curated specifically for public and academic libraries and their patrons. While you won't necessarily catch the most viral content here, and you're unlikely to find any of the truly mindless slop that sometimes passes for entertainment at most of our homes (certainly my own from time to time), you can find world cinema, documentaries, classics, indie films, a good amount of BBC television, and tons of great children's content on Kanopy. And it's free with a library card.

Our monthly analytics on the Kanopy dashboard give me a peek into what films and shows are especially popular among our patrons. (It's essential to note that as with the analytics we use to see what books, DVDs, and other physical materials are popular, we can see the number of patrons accessing the content, but we do not see who is watching what.) So here are the quirky, cool, varied things your friends and neighbors have been watching this month on Kanopy. Go grab your library card, and join them!

### **"Triangle of Sadness" 2022**

What feels at first like a White-Lotus-style critique of the rich on holiday turns into a deeply dark anti-capitalist revenge fantasy briefly featuring Woody Harrelson. Nominated for Academy Awards for best picture, director, and original screenplay, this is an offbeat film, not for the faint of heart and stomach, but not to be missed.

### **"Blackshore" 2024, 6 episodes**

"Blackshore" is an Irish crime series featuring a Dublin detective who returns to her rural town in the west of Ireland to in-

vestigate a murder. There's just nothing quite like murder mysteries solved by sad attractive people with great accents. Outside of the UK and Ireland, it's tough to access this six-episode arc, but Kanopy's got it!

### **"Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" 1967**

Interracial marriage was still illegal in 17 U.S. states when this movie, about a white woman bringing her Black fiancé home to meet her parents, was filmed. Starring Katharine Hepburn, Spencer Tracy, and Sidney Poitier, it was an immediate popular and critical success, nominated for ten academy awards. It was also Tracy's final film role.

### **"Fleming: the Man Who Would Be Bond" 2014, 4 episodes**

This 4-episode British miniseries is a fictionalized biographical account of Ian Fleming, who famously created the James Bond character and novels. The miniseries covers the years 1938 - 1952, complete with the fashion and scenic design you'd hope for.

The above titles are indicative of the genres and styles you'll find on Kanopy. I've just added the 1973 "Wickerman" to my watchlist along with "Force Majeure" (a 2014 Swedish film by the same director as Triangle of Sadness), "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf" (1966), and "But I'm a Cheerleader," (1999). There are some terrific recent Oscar winners and nominees like "Parasite" (2019) and "Anatomy of a Fall" (2023). And the librarian police would cite me if I didn't mention the modern classic "Party Girl" (1995) starring the great Parker Posey as a alt-club kid who finds her true



"Look Who's Coming to Dinner"

calling at the New York Public Library circulation desk.

Kanopy also features a separate channel full of children's content. Viewers of all ages can catch animation featuring favorite characters like Arthur and Paddington and my new favorite "Shaun the Sheep." And there's a seemingly endless collection of picture books that have been adapted into simple animated read-alouds. "The Snowy Day" is a standout. Kids can also try "Vooks," or video books, featuring narration alongside with the books' text displayed karaoke-style on screen.

Patrons need a participating library card (our Greenwich Free Library participates) to connect to Kanopy, and you can do so on a laptop, tablet, phone, or by adding the Kanopy app to your TV. Each month, you'll get 24 tickets to use, and most films or series are 2-4 tickets each. Kanopy Kids content is unlimited. Our library's DVD collection isn't going anywhere, but we're proud to be able to offer this streaming option, too. As this winter drags on, we can all stand to be entertained from our couch.

*Sarah Murphy is director of the Greenwich Free Library in Greenwich, NY.*





## THE MAYOR'S COLUMN

# Zone-based policing and removing guns

**Eric Adams**  
**Mayor of New York City**  
*Special to Campus News*

Since day one, public safety has been our administration's North Star. Our primary mission has been to create safer streets, safer subways, and a safer city for all New York families. Part of our strategy has been to zero in on removing illegal guns from our streets and out of the hands of criminals before they can cause more harm.

The numbers are in, and since the start of this year, the NYPD has already helped us take more than 1,000 illegal guns off the streets. That is 1,000 weapons that no longer threaten the safety of our neighborhoods, our families, or our children. And those 1,000 guns take the total number of illegal guns taken off city streets since we came into office to a staggering 20,700.

The removal of these illegal guns has

driven year-to-date shootings down by 14.5 percent compared to 2024 and to the lowest point in our city's history, saving countless lives. In fact, for three years in a row, the number of shootings and homicides across our city have both substantially declined. Getting illegal guns and reducing homicides off our streets and out of our cities is critical to protecting our kids, our communities, and our future.

Additionally, transit crime is down 27.9 percent year-to-date, following a significant deployment of officers to city subway platforms and trains, including on overnight shifts. And crime in New York City public housing developments is also down 12.7 percent since the start of the year.

These remarkable results have been driven by the use of zone-based policing, including deploying officers to hot-spot locations experiencing spikes in crime and additions to our Subway Safety Plan, first

implemented in February 2022.

We are going to continue NYPD foot patrols in high-crime areas, both above ground and throughout our transit system. But we know that ending gun violence requires more than enforcement. It requires attention and investment. We are going to ensure that young people have safe places away from gun violence to play by opening more playgrounds and community centers. And we are going to continue to invest in the safety of our schools, our streets, and our subways.

All of this work has led to the third consecutive month of double-digit decreases in overall crime, with the city experiencing reductions in six of the seven major crime categories. And since we came into office three years ago, shootings and homicides are substantially down — 42.2 percent and 22.7 percent, respectively.

Plus, thanks to our Neighborhood Safety Teams, Public Safety Teams, and Community Response Teams that have been deployed in targeted areas, New Yorkers don't just see the numbers going down — they can feel the difference, too.

It is clear: Our public safety strategy is working.

But we will not rest on these achievements. Our priority remains the same: keep New Yorkers safe and continue to address gun violence and illegal firearms. We will keep pressing for more — more officers, more safety, and more results.

Because of our steadfast focus on eradicating gun violence, and the hard work of the brave men and women of New York's Finest, New York City continues to be the safest big city in America, and we will keep working until we are the best place to raise a family as well.

*Find more of Mayor Eric Adams' op-eds on [cccnnews.info](http://cccnnews.info).*



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# STAC's new Exercise Science master's

St. Thomas Aquinas College announce the expansion of its in-demand STEM academic offerings with the launch of new graduate programs in Exercise Science in Fall 2025. These programs build upon the College's successful undergraduate Exercise Science program and are designed to prepare students to assess, evaluate, and develop exercise programs tailored to individual health needs and performance goals.

"The launch of our new graduate programs in Exercise Science reflects our unwavering commitment to academic excellence and innovation," said Ken Daly, President of St. Thomas Aquinas College. "As we launch our first-ever STEM Master's programs, we are equipping students with the knowledge and skills to tackle pressing challenges in health and wellness. These programs embody our mission to prepare students for impactful careers, while advancing the greater good."

The new offerings include a 33-credit Master of Science degree and a 12-credit Advanced Certificate in Exercise Science. Both are part of the College's "ADVANCE: Graduate and Certificate Programs for Lifelong Learners" initiative, which provides affordable educational paths to support lifelong learning and professional development. Courses will be offered in a hybrid format, with a combination of in-person evening and online classes.

"As the healthcare landscape continues to prioritize preventive and holistic approaches, the demand for exercise scientists with advanced degrees is expected to rise steadily," said Dr. Bianca Wentzell, Dean of the School of STEM at St. Thomas Aquinas College. "Our programs will provide students with the expertise needed to excel in this field."

The Master's degree program will equip future students with a versatile skill set, enabling them to pursue diverse careers such as Exercise Physiologist, Clinical



Exercise Physiologist, Wellness Coordinator, Strength and Conditioning Coach, and Sports Scientist. Graduates can apply their expertise in designing tailored exercise programs, managing wellness initiatives, enhancing athletic performance, and conducting research to optimize health and fitness outcomes.

As part of the new program rollout, students who apply to the MS in Exercise Science program by March 15, 2025, will be eligible for a special \$10,000 financial award toward their degree. Through the admissions process, applicants will also be considered for scholarships, tuition discounts, and financial aid opportunities. The 12-credit Advanced Certificate will be offered at a 50% tuition discount. This financial support demonstrates the College's commitment to affordability as students advance their education and prepare for impactful careers in a growing STEM field.

Interested applicants are encouraged to visit the MS in Exercise Science webpage

and complete our interest form. They are also invited to attend the College's upcoming panel discussion "Exercise Science & Health Innovation: Transforming Modern Wellness" on February 5. For more information, please contact Dana Caponong, M.A., Assistant Director of Graduate Admissions at [dcaponon@stac.edu](mailto:dcaponon@stac.edu) or 845-398-4220.

Since its inception on Earth Day 2021, the College's School of STEM has introduced new programs, launched the STEM Exploration Program series for high school students, established the College's STEM Advisory Board, and created innovative learning opportunities. Students gain hands-on experience through the Exercise Is Medicine On Campus initiative, which fosters education and awareness around exercise and physical activity to promote healthy habits within the campus community. The new SKAE Astronomy Center is slated to open Fall 2025, offering research and experiential learning with a state-of-the-art telescope.



# Rise for Trans Youth Rally in NYC

On Feb. 8, Rise Up for Trans Youth held an event in Union Square in New York City. The event was billed as “a space to uplift and empower trans youth and their families” and thousands attended. Campus News photographer M. Marlay captured these scenes.





## RIP CFPB

**Jill Schlesinger**

*Tribune Content Agency  
Special to Journal & Press*

The Trump Administration has all but shuttered the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB).

In an email sent on Saturday February 8, the newly installed White House budget director, Russell Vought, who is also the acting director of the CFPB, instructed CFPB employees to stop investigating and processing consumer issues and to suspend any rules that were finalized, but not officially put into action. (To eliminate the agency would require a separate act of Congress, which is unlikely to occur.)

It's worth reflecting on how the CFPB came into existence and what its defanging means for consumers.

In the aftermath of the 2007-2008 financial crisis, the Obama administration enacted the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010, with a goal of strengthening the oversight of financial institutions.

The reforms included the establishment of a new federal agency, the CFPB, which would be focused on creating rules for protecting consumers. The Obama Administration noted that "before CFPB was established, seven different Federal agencies were responsible

for various aspects of consumer financial protection. No single agency had effective tools to set the rules or oversee the whole market."

The agency was the brainchild of now-Senator Elizabeth Warren, who was instrumental in the creation, building and launch of the agency.

In her 2011 testimony before Congress, Warren said "by law, the CFPB is obligated:

- 1) To ensure that consumers have timely and understandable information to make responsible decisions about financial transactions.
- 2) To protect consumers from unfair, deceptive, and abusive acts or practices, and from discrimination.
- 3) To reduce outdated, unnecessary, or overly burdensome regulations.
- 4) To promote fair competition by enforcing the federal consumer financial laws consistently.
- 5) To advance markets for consumer financial products and services that operate transparently and efficiently to facilitate access and innovation."

The CFPB has enacted rules that have enhanced consumer protections with regard to credit cards, mortgages, student loans, auto loans, credit reports and scores, and payday loans.

True to its goal, the CFPB's work has provided a single point of accountability, when consumers interact with established large institutions and the smaller independent companies that often fell through the cracks.

The agency also has supervisory and enforcement power, which according to the website (the front door of the website was unavailable at the time of this writing, but other parts were still available), has resulted in ap-

proximately \$19.7 billion in consumer relief and \$5 billion in civil money penalties. The CFPB was also a central portal for financial education and for Americans to submit complaints about a financial product or service.

With the Trump Administration's desire to defang the agency through job eliminations and a stoppage of all work, Americans will lose a critical government agency, whose sole focus is to protect them.

There has already been a lawsuit filed to restore the CFPB, but that will take time to wind through the system.

In the interim, here are other federal and state agencies that may help, if you encounter bad actors in the financial world:

### The Federal Trade Commission (FTC)

If you suspect a company or individual of perpetrating a scam or fraud, go to [ftc.gov/complaint](https://ftc.gov/complaint).

### The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)

If you have an investor-related issue, including "complaints against brokers, brokerage firms, investment advisers, transfer agents, mutual funds, and other market participants", go to <https://help.sec.gov/s/investor-complaint>.

### The Employee Benefits Security Administration

If there is an issue with your 401(k), profit sharing, defined benefit, or other retirement plan, you can go to <https://www.askebsa.dol.gov/WebIntake/>.

### State regulators

Anticipating sweeping changes, the CFPB notified state regulators that they should be alert to consumer complaints arising. Each state has a securities, bank and insurance regulator.

*Jill Schlesinger, CFP, is a CBS News business analyst. A former options trader and CIO of an investment advisory firm, she welcomes comments and questions at [askjill@jillonmoney.com](mailto:askjill@jillonmoney.com).*




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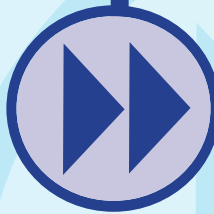
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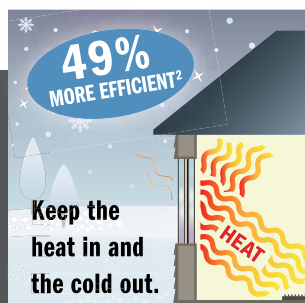
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## Why is there always one leftover bolt?

**Greg Schwem**

*Tribune Content Agency  
Special to Campus News*

I recently visited the Gateway Arch, the St. Louis monument that represents westward exploration and is consistently referred to as an “engineering marvel.”

But, after watching a 30-minute video detailing the Arch’s construction, I am convinced this U-shaped structure, rising 630 feet into the air, is going to fall down eventually. My convictions are based on what I term the “Leftover Bolt Theory.”

The video, which featured terrifying images of workers dangling from steel girders in howling winter winds, also contained grainy film of those same workers screwing bolts onto the structure’s Z-bars. I learned about Z-bars from the National Park Service website, which said the bolts “passed through holes in the inner skin of carbon steel and were held in place by nuts that applied a squeezing force to the concrete core of the wall ‘sandwich,’ creating a friction bond.”

I moved into an unfurnished condominium 18 months ago and have spent the time since assembling everything from a stand-up desk, to an outdoor rattan loveseat to a 6-foot tall floor lamp with a domed shade that consistently finds a way to collide with my head whenever I rise from the couch.

All were built using nuts and bolts, packaged in plastic bags hidden at the bottom of the cardboard box containing the furniture’s various parts. Arch workers tightened their bolts with an industrial torque wrench. I used a hex key.

Upon completion, I proudly gazed at my condo’s new additions before looking at the floor. My palms immediately begin sweating.

One bolt always remained.

Why was that? Did I miss a step in the assembly instructions, which contained no words but a mishmash of dotted lines and arrows showing what goes where? It’s pos-

sible.

Did the manufacturer pack extras just in case? Knowing I am prone to dropping or misplacing fasteners? Highly unlikely, but who knows. I may have left my webcam on during a recent assembly, provoking laughter and compassion from workers charged with shipping my purchases.

Whatever the reason, I’m now convinced my desk will buckle and collapse during a Zoom call. Or that the loveseat will not inspire romantic feelings when it falls apart as my lady friend and I watch a romantic movie. Or that the floor lamp will eventually end up on the floor. All because of one leftover bolt.

I had similar feelings as I boarded the tram that would take me to the Arch’s top. Incidentally, if you suffer from claustrophobia, the Arch is not for you. I’ve been in MRI tubes that feel more roomy than the Arch tram.

During the ride up, there were plenty of chances to see the nuts, bolts, studs, steel plates and girders referenced in the video. All appeared tight, but how does one REALLY know? The video showed workers attaching some bolts by hand. Yes, you read that correctly. Whenever I’ve shunned the aforementioned hex wrench in favor of my bare hands, I’ve regretted it within minutes.

My visit to the top was spectacular...and short. Ten minutes after arriving, my group was herded back onto the trams for the ride down. Upon exiting, the group awaiting passage to the top appeared relieved the trams were functioning correctly.



As the sun dipped behind the St. Louis skyline, I snapped a few more photos of the Arch, which opened to the public in 1967 and hosts two million visitors annually. It is closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s Day, but I have found no evidence that it has ever been closed for maintenance purposes.

Should the latter occur, I hope workers find the leftover bolts before the unthinkable happens. If they need examples, I am happy to send pictures of a broken TV stand that fell apart in the middle of the night.

Maybe the leftover bolt I found in one of the smashed drawers will fit a loveseat.

*Greg Schwem is a corporate stand-up comedian and author of two books: “Text Me If You’re Breathing: Observations, Frustrations and Life Lessons From a Low-Tech Dad” and the recently released “The Road To Success Goes Through the Salad Bar: A Pile of BS From a Corporate Comedian,” available at Amazon.*



# Bob Graham: Snowplow operator

**Adam Harrison Levy**  
*Journal & Press*

**Adam:** *What are your responsibilities as a snowplow operator?*

**Bob:** You have to watch all the traffic coming at you, parked cars off to the side of the road, people walking. And in the cab, the driver's responsibility is for the front and wing plows, and how much sand we want to put down on the roads.

**Adam:** *It's 4:00 am and not many people are out. Do you feel alone plowing these roads?*

**Bob:** Travis, the (Salem) Superintendent of Highways, checks in on us and if somebody needs help, or somebody breaks down, we can rescue each other. Sometimes a hydraulic hose is gonna blow, sometimes even a tire. It's like everything else. You get older and you break.

**Adam:** *Where are we now?*

**Bob:** We're headed up Rt. 153. This is my route: all the side roads way up to the Vermont border.

**Adam:** *And how long have you been doing this route?*

**Bob:** I worked for the town in the late 1980s for four and a half years. And I left and went to Fort Miller Company in Greenwich for thirty-five years. Then I came back on December 4, 2024 because my mother was having health issues and I helped take care of her by being closer to home.

**Adam:** *Is she okay?*

**Bob:** No, she passed away in August. Because I worked in the funeral business you know when it's coming. I got some younger sisters and tried to prepare them for the situation but it's hard. It's reality. It's life. When she passed, she had three out of the four kids there so she didn't die alone.

**Adam:** *What are roads that you plow on your route?*

**Bob:** I do Blind Buck and Beattie Hollow

Road, and all the short roads off of them - Riley Hill Road, Chambers, Pitts Hill, Wilson, Braymer, Fleming, Parqui Lane, McK-eighan, and Blossom.

**Adam:** *Where are we now?*

**Bob:** We're going up Chambers Road and then we'll turn around. Almost all of my roads are dead-end roads. There's not one of them that I can drive right around to hit another one except Riley Hill when I come back down on Rt. 22.

**Adam:** *Do you prefer plowing at night or during the day?*

**Bob:** I like plowing at night because when you're cleaning these intersections, I can look and see car headlights, what's coming and what's not. People are always in a hurry to go nowhere.

**Adam:** *What are the most difficult conditions you've been in?*

**Bob:** When there is freezing rain we run chains on the trucks but sometimes the chains don't mount on the dirt roads. The chains are there to help you, but they don't save you.

**Adam:** *Have you ever slid?*

**Bob:** Oh, god yes, we all have in life.

**Adam:** *What are these slide flaps?*

**Bob:** They're the wings.

**Adam:** *You only have a few inches of clearance. That's skill. I couldn't do that.*

**Bob:** Yes, you could. Anybody can do it after time. You might clunk that bridge a little bit! If anybody tells you they haven't never hit nothing, they're fooling you. We got the three newer trucks. This one's the 2010, we got a 23 and Dean's got the 24. We got a 25 on order. They come with four-way plows. Back in the older days, they were all straight plows.

**Adam:** *So plows have become more sophisticated?*

**Bob:** Everything has. When I worked here in the '80s there was no such thing as



brine and liquid salt. It was just sand and salt mixed together.

**Adam:** *I don't understand.*

**Bob:** It's liquid salt. Back of the truck, there's a big plastic tank hanging off the tailgate of the truck. And this button on this side? It blows that liquid salt onto the sand which helps activate it and starts clearing the road quicker.

**Adam:** *What do you think about when you're driving?*

**Bob:** I have the radio on just to make a little bit of noise in the background. It kinda keeps you relaxed and focused.

**Adam:** *So that you're always paying attention?*

**Bob:** You have to. You got mailboxes on every road we have. And some of the roads have ledges that stick out, so you got to watch them. You don't want to clip a car with your wing. I mean, we do hit a mailbox now and then. You don't want to, but it happens.

**Adam:** *What are the conditions that we*

**Please read more on the next page**



# RIDE ALONG

## (cont.)

*are driving in right now?*

**Bob:** We got a good frost in the ground right now. So it's nicer to plow when the ground's hard. We have two different plows for every truck. We're running steel blades and the wings right now. But if it gets to be soft out, we'll drop this plow and hook up a different one. It has a rubber blade, and we put rubber blades on the wings, because they plow like a big squeegee. So if the ground is soft, you won't dig in. Because if the ground is soft, and you're running these steel blades, you've got go slow because if they dig in you could end up driving over the plow and breaking the plow.

**Adam:** When you go back to the Salem Barn do you physically have to put on the other blades or does a mechanic do that?

**Bob:** The six of us, plus Travis, we all work together, and we do whatever's got to be done. We try to fix everything we can to save the taxpayer's money.

**Adam:** You said you worked in the funeral business?

**Bob:** I worked for Fort Miller, they provide concrete burial vaults and all the cemetery setups.

**Adam:** What did you do?

**Bob:** Driving the truck, bringing the concrete burial vault to the cemetery, putting it in the ground, setting up the artificial grass, putting up the tent, and setting up the chairs. The funeral procession comes in and they bring the body. After the family leaves we lower the body into the ground, put the cover on, check our equipment, and head for the next one.

**Adam:** Are there any similarities to plowing?

**Bob:** This is more intense because you got a big piece of steel out in front of you, and you don't know what people are gonna

do. Do you see on the first snowstorm how many cars are off in a ditch? Winter's here but they still gotta go, and they go too fast. God forbid they leave twenty minutes early. Now you're in the ditch, now it's gonna cost you a lot more. You should have left twenty minutes early.

**Adam:** Do you stop and help them?

**Bob:** I will stop and ask them if they're all right if they're not injured. But we can't hook on to them because of truck insurance. I sometimes run a little sand on the ground, so they can shovel it underneath the tires. But that's it.

**Adam:** You put in your regular hours this week. But when it snows you have to work, no matter what. You started at 4:00 am this morning and you're probably going to finish mid-morning. What do you do? Drink a lot of coffee?

**Bob:** I've only had one cup of coffee my whole life. I didn't care for it. I drink water, and unsweetened iced tea.

**Adam:** Whoa, you were so close to hitting that tree!

**Bob:** If I'd whacked that one it'd shake your teeth right out.

**Adam:** No kidding! How are dirt roads different from blacktop roads?

**Bob:** Do you see the way the steel blades are bearing down to the dirt? The blacktop will be harder to clear off today because they're so cold now.

**Adam:** So you have to be alert to the texture as well as the width of the road?

**Bob:** Dirt roads aren't as wide as the blacktop, you so can plow it with a wing and a plow going one way. But when you come back, you can just run the plow and you're clearing the whole road. I usually try to go no more than 14 or 15 miles an hour.

**Adam:** Is this the best job you can imagine doing right now?

**Bob:** Because of my age, sixty, absolutely. It's nice, steady work, not like when I was with Fort Miller when you're pushing 2000 pounds of concrete around, out in the cemetery. That's for young people. I hated

to leave, but I wanted to be closer to my mother.

**Adam:** Do you get frustrated being out on your own for so long?

**Bob:** I don't get frustrated. If you do, you're in the wrong business. Everybody's nerves are different. Some people are very nervous. Some people are relaxed. I've been driving tractor-trailers all my life so this is a walk in the park.

**Adam:** Have you ever been in an accident?

**Bob:** I backed into that ditch there once.

**Adam:** Were you hurt?

**Bob:** No, thank God. Nobody's had an accident and gotten hurt since I've been here. You just gotta take your time. Your head's like on a yo-yo. You're constantly spinning, looking at mirrors, and watching out for other people.

**Adam:** It's just about dawn, 6:30 am.

**Bob:** Yeah, this is like a Christmas card. Snow on the trees and snow on the roads. It's nice to look at.

**Adam:** This is about as good as it gets.

**Bob:** Yeah, it is.

*Adam Harrison Levy is a freelance author and journalist (The Guardian, BBC). He teaches writing at the School of Visual Arts and offers workshops and private lessons in Salem, NY. Contact him at [adamharrisonlevy@gmail.com](mailto:adamharrisonlevy@gmail.com).*



# DeNiro, Warner Bros. box office misfire

**Rebecca Rubin**

*Variety*

*Special to Campus News*

“The Alto Knights,” a crime thriller starring dueling Robert De Niro, made moviegoers an offer they easily refused.

The Warner Bros. film was D.O.A. over the weekend with \$3.2 million at the domestic box office, one of the worst-ever starts for a major studio release. “The Alto Knights” also cratered overseas, earning \$1.8 million for a bleak worldwide tally of \$5.1 million. With a price tag above \$45 million before marketing is taken into account, “The Alto Knights” is already one of the year’s biggest misfires.

Box office watchers, however, aren’t exactly scratching their heads to figure out what went wrong. They believe “The Alto Knights” hails from a genre -- mobster movies -- that’s been sleeping with the fishes for decades. Then critics rebuked the film, which landed a poor 37% on Rotten Tomatoes. Audiences, at least the few people who checked the film out, were kinder, giving it a “B” grade on CinemaScore exit polls. Still, those mixed scores don’t bode well for word-of-mouth.

“This kind of crime story has been out of style for years now,” says David A. Gross, who runs the FranchiseRe movie consulting firm. “Current soft theatrical market conditions are not going to help it.”

Directed by “Wag the Dog” and “Rain Man” filmmaker Barry Levinson and adapted by Nicholas Pileggi -- best known for his work as a writer or producer on “Goodfellas,” “Casino” and “The Irishman” -- the movie follows De Niro as Frank Costello and Vito Genovese, childhood friends who became two of New York’s most notorious organized crime bosses.

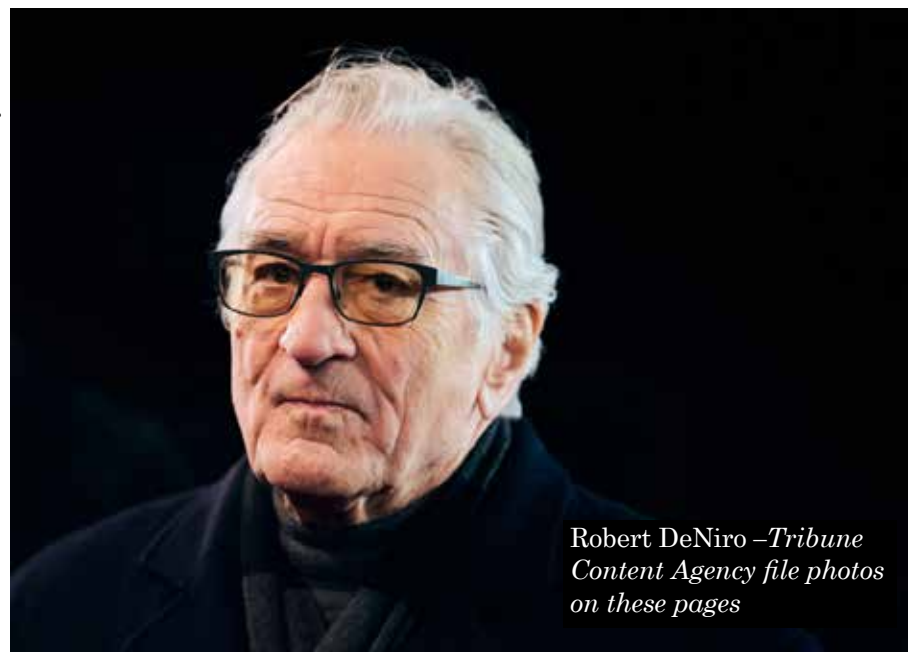
For a film like “The Alto Knights,” which already faces strong headwinds in this theatrical landscape, to have a shot at success, it needs rave reviews or potential awards chatter. Critics weren’t on board,

though, with several calling the choice to have De Niro star opposite himself was unnecessarily confusing. The Washington Post’s Michael O’Sullivan described the stunt as “not just unnecessary, it’s supremely distracting.” (“It invites the question: Why?” he wrote in his review) and The New Yorker’s Justin Chang simply referred to the double casting as an “odd gimmick.”

It’s not like gangster movies were all the rage when Warner Bros. Discovery CEO David Zaslav greenlit the film in 2022. His decision to grant the film a \$45 million budget and theatrical release had prompted a few raised eyebrows on the studio lot at the time. Levinson, who began working on “The Alto Knights” (formerly titled “Wise Guys”) with Pileggi and producer Irwin Winkler before the pandemic, told Variety that Pileggi’s relationship with Zaslav had paved the way for the project to get made.

“Zaslav has known Nick, and somehow in a conversation [the film] came up, and Zaslav was intrigued by it,” Levinson said in an interview prior to the movie’s release. “That was sort of how it all came together.”

The studio also thought “The Alto Knights” could be another entry in De Niro’s pantheon of much-loved gangster films, several of which (like “Goodfellas” and “Mean Streets”) were produced by Warner Bros. For De Niro, “The Alto Knights” represented a return to the genre that made him a star. The 81-year-old became an enduring A-lister after classic Mafia movies like “The Godfather Part II,”



Robert DeNiro—Tribune Content Agency file photos on these pages

“The Untouchables,” “Casino” and “Goodfellas.” He’s even parodied his deep association with Cosa Nostra cinema in the “Analyze This” films.

Yet it’s a type of film that’s 30 years past its sell-by date. Even Martin Scorsese’s starry “Killers of the Flower Moon,” a Western crime drama about the 1920 Oklahoma murders in the Osage Nation, struggled at the box office against a \$200 million budget. And Leonardo DiCaprio starred in that film, which was nominated for several Oscars, alongside De Niro. Meanwhile Levinson’s filmography over the past quarter-century has included such commercial misfires as 2015’s comedy “Rock the Kasbah,” 2014’s drama “The Humbling,” 2012’s horror mockumentary “The Bay” and 2006’s political comedy “Man of the Year.” The Oscar winner’s last significant theatrical hit was 1997’s “Wag the Dog,” which grossed \$65 million against a \$15 million budget.

“Alto Knights’ is a film of a bygone Hollywood era. The director and star are no longer box office draws,” says   
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**(cont.)**

Relationships analyst Jeff Bock. “Warner Bros. didn’t do them any favors as they barely advertised the film. When a film doesn’t have major studio support in this marketplace, it’s bombs away at the box office.”

“Seems like Canadians turned out for an adult drama, something that is unfortunately becoming more and more of a rarity in the North American marketplace,” Bock said.

“The Alto Knights” is the second consecutive theatrical misfire for Warner Bros. after Bong Joon Ho’s big budget sci-fi comedy “Mickey 17.” Coincidentally,

both films feature a lead actor named Robert who plays multiple parts in the same movie. (In “Mickey 17,” Robert Pattinson portrays disposable employee whose body is able to regenerate for science.) In three weeks of release, “Mickey 17” has earned \$40 million domestically and \$110 million worldwide. It’s a respectable tally for the original swing, except that the film cost \$118 million to produce. Since “Mickey 17” needed to earn more like \$275 million to \$300 million to break even, it’s now projected to lose \$75 million to \$80 million in its big screen run.

The studio’s fortunes should rebound in April with “A Minecraft Movie,” a Jack Black-led film adaptation of the popular video game that’s tracking for a decent opening weekend. And later in the year, there’s James Gunn’s “Superman” as well as follow-ups to “Mortal Kombat,” “Final

Destination” and “The Conjuring.” Yet Warner Bros. has several other big swings on the calendar, including Paul Thomas Anderson’s \$140 million “One Battle After Another” and Ryan Coogler’s \$90 million vampire thriller “Sinners.”

In the interview before the debut of “The Alto Knights,” Levinson seemed sanguine about the volatility of the movie industry, which he’s been involved with for decades.

“There are a lot of obstacles in this business, and you just have to navigate it as best you can,” Levinson told Variety. “But there are the moments when you say, ‘Look, I’ve been able to do a lot of stories that interested me, and I was able to work with a lot of actors that I had a great, great working relationship with.’ The downside is the downside. But that comes with the territory.”

## Ian McKellen urges be out, be proud

Ian McKellen said in a recent interview with The Times of London that he feels sorry for fellow actors who feel like they can’t come out as gay. The “X-Men” and “Lord of the Rings” icon has been one of the most prominent gay actors for decades. He publicly came out in 1988 at age 48 during a radio interview on BBC. He is now urging performers to not keep their sexual identity a secret.

“I have never met anybody who came out who regretted it,” McKellen said. “I feel sorry for any famous person who feels they can’t come out. Being in the closet is silly -- there’s no need for it. Don’t listen to your advisers, listen to your heart. Listen to your gay friends who know better. Come out. Get into the sunshine.”

McKellen observed that there’s never been an openly gay Oscar winner for best actor, nor has there been an openly gay U.K. prime minister or Premier League soccer player.

“In women’s sport it’s not an issue,” he said. “I would imagine young footballers are probably, like actors, getting very bad advice from agents who are worried about their own incomes. But the first Premier League footballer to come out will become the most famous footballer in the world, with all the agencies begging for his name on their products.”

While biases against gay actors in Hollywood persist, McKellen thinks the benefits of coming out far outweigh the risks. Kate

Winslet told The Sunday Times in 2021 that it’s “dated crap” for Hollywood to overlook gay actors, especially when it comes to casting straight parts. She added: “That should be almost illegal.”

“I cannot tell you the number of young actors I know -- some well known, some starting out -- who are terrified their sexuality will be revealed and that it will stand in the way of their being cast in straight roles,” the Oscar winner said. “Now that’s fucked up... I can think of at least four actors absolutely hiding their sexuality. It’s painful because they fear being found out. And that’s what they say, ‘I don’t want to be found out.’ —Zack Sharf



# Correspondents without comedy, Trump

**Brian Steinberg**

*Variety*

*Special to Campus News*

The White House Correspondents' Association has canceled plans to have comedian Amber Ruffin perform at its annual dinner on April 26, a new sign of the pressures being brought to bear on news organizations during President Donald Trump's second term.

The journalism group, which has seen its control over interactions with Trump eroded in recent weeks, made the decision after Taylor Budowich, a White House deputy chief of staff, raised comments Ruffin has made in the past that are critical of Trump. Earlier this week, Ruffin told a podcast backed by The Daily Beast that she would not try to make sure her jokes targeted all sides of the political spectrum as the WHCA had requested, and likened the Trump administration to "kind of a bunch of murderers." Playing to both sides "makes them feel like human beings," she said, "cause they're not."

Ruffin, who first came to notice as a writer and contributor to Seth Meyers' "Late Night" on NBC, has in recent years hosted her own program on NBC's Peacock streaming service and, more recently, worked as a featured player on CNN's "Have I Got News For You," a topical comedy program that airs on Saturday nights.

"The WHCA board has unanimously decided we are no longer featuring a comedic performance this year. At this consequential moment for journalism, I want to ensure the focus is not on the politics of division but entirely on awarding our colleagues for their outstanding work and providing scholarship and mentorship to the next generation of journalists," WHCA president Eugene Daniels wrote to members in a statement.

"For the past couple of weeks, I have been planning a re-envisioning of our dinner tradition for this year," he added. "As the date nears, I will share more details of the plans

in place to honor journalistic excellence and a robust, independent media covering the most powerful office in the world.

President Donald Trump will not be attending the dinner.

Daniels, who is about to launch a career as an MSNBC anchor, seemed very supportive of Ruffin just a few weeks ago. "When I began to think about what entertainer would be a perfect fit for the dinner this year, Amber was immediately at the top of my list," he said in February, when the decision to have Ruffin host the dinner was announced.

The annual WHCA dinner often spurs lots of media attention and comedians ranging from Seth Meyers to Roy Wood Jr. have tilted at both the press corps and the presidents they cover. During Trump's tenure, however, the comedy has also generated controversy. In 2018, comedian Michele Wolf drew pushback after a series of jokes and remarks that poked more than an elbow in the ribs of her targets. "I think she's very resourceful, like she burns facts and then she uses that ash to create a perfect smokey eye," said Wolf of Sarah Huckabee Sanders, the White House Press Secretary. "Maybe she's born with it, maybe it's lies." And, Wolf on the media: "He has helped you sell your papers and your books and your TV. You helped create this monster and now you are profiting from him."

But the WHCA dinner has always been a minefield. In 2006, Stephen Colbert sparked a controversy by speaking about then-President George W. Bush, all in the manner of the bloviating talk-show host he portrayed on Comedy Central's "Colbert Report." "I stand by this man," Colbert told the audience. "I stand by this man because he stands for things. Not only for things, he stands on



Amber Ruffin

things. Things like aircraft carriers, and rubble, and recently flooded city squares. And that sends a strong message: that no matter what happens to America, she will always rebound -- with the most powerfully staged photo ops in the world."

Rich Little, the affable comedian and impressionist, was tapped for the event in 2007.

Things seem to have gotten worse with Trump. In 2019, after the Wolf appearance stirred rebuke, the WHCA hired biographer Ron Chernow to give remarks. He may best be known as the author of a history of Alexander Hamilton that was used as source material for Lin-Manuel Miranda's famous musical about the politician. The choice marked the first time since 2003 that a comedian was not utilized.

The WHCA has long managed seating arrangements at the White House during briefings and a "pool" feed that gives members details on the President's movements and remarks so that they are always covered. But the Trump administration has taken over many of those duties, deciding for itself which outlets get entry to the White House and Air Force One. In some cases, non-traditional media outlets with less credibility have been elevated to positions on par with those of NBC News and The New York Times, among others.





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## Retro Nerdfest returns to SUNY ADK

SUNY Adirondack student clubs bring Adirondack Retro Nerdfest back to campus from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 5, in Northwest Bay Conference Center on the college's Queensbury campus.

The inaugural Adirondack Retro Nerdfest was a smashing success in 2023.

"It's a throwback to the days of analog and early digital entertainment," said Kevin Ankeny, distinguished professor of Broadcasting and faculty advisor of Adirondack Broadcast Association, which along with Media Arts Club sponsors the event. "Old-school stuff is trendy and it's being driven by the resurgence of music on vinyl records. This event combines these retro aspects with the pop culture convention atmosphere that's been happening for a decade or so."

The event is a Comic Con-style experience featuring an arcade area with pinball

machines and arcade video games, live DJs playing music from vinyl, a "Smash Brothers" video game tournament, cosplay costume contest and an array of vendors selling vinyl records, comic books, tabletop games, action figures, trading cards and other pop culture items.

Admission is free for students with a valid college ID and \$5 for nonstudents.

The "Smash Brothers" video game tournament will be operated by the college's Gaming Club. Snacks and refreshments will be prepared and sold by the Culinary Arts Club. The cosplay costume contest will be sponsored and judged by Theater Club.

Adirondack Retro Nerdfest is produced with the help of Cooper's Cave Games, Sweet Side Records and the college radio station, WGFR.

Updates and details are available on the

radio station website, [wgfr.org](http://wgfr.org).

Vendor space is available by contacting the organizers through the webpage.





# Art exhibit at SCCC East End campus

*Across the Pond*, an exhibit of paintings and prints by Annemarie Waugh, will be on view at the Lyceum Gallery in the Montaukett Building on Suffolk County Community College's Eastern Campus from March 12 through April 17, 2025. A reception for the artist will take place on Thursday, April 3, from 4 – 6 p.m., with light refreshments provided. The event is free and open to the public.

Born in Birmingham, UK, Waugh explores British culture in her work, painting glimpses of tartans, animals, foliage, and iconic characters from British television. She also incorporates silkscreened expressions of British colloquialisms from her upbringing, layering them into abstract compositions on canvases that reach up to six feet in size. The exhibition also features original illustrations

from her upcoming book, *Across the Pond*, set to be published this spring.

Waugh's exploration of language began in 2015 as an art installation, where she chalked British expressions onto a 10 x 20 ft. wall, with their meanings decoded on an opposite wall. This project later evolved into a book examining the richness of British phraseology. In *Across the Pond*, she invites viewers to embrace the humor and nuances of language, incorporating English, Irish, Welsh, Gaelic, Scottish, Cornish, and Yiddish sayings.

She writes: "The England I grew up in was chockablock with clotted cream, loaded baked potatoes, pints of beer, jumble sales, Victorian seaside piers, Ribena, soggy vegetables, and drizzle that never quite



let up. My memories include moss, wit, tea shops, scrummy cakes and biscuits, fish and chips with mushy peas and curry sauce, dampness, nincompoops, and an aversion to taking life too seriously."



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# If ICE comes to campus

**E. Marlay**  
*Campus News*

On February 18th, the Queens College Urban Studies Department organized an event for students titled “Know your rights: Preparing and supporting Immigrant Students.” The purpose of this event was to give Immigrants at Queens College the information they may need to know in case they have a run in with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, as well as current immigration policies. This was a public event meant to inform only and was not a replacement for legal advice regarding individual cases.

One of the main speakers at this event was Elinor Rahmani, who is an Attorney at Citizenship Now! This organization offers free, high-quality, and confidential immigration law services. They can help people become United States Citizens as well as help assess whether they qualify for legal benefits.

Under the Trump administration the Department of Homeland Security had expanded, expedited removal. Expedited removal is a process by which a person within the United States, not at the border, can be quickly removed from the country without a trial or a lawyer.

It was stated in the event, that in order to avoid facing expedited removal you need to be able to prove that you have been inside the United States for at least two years. To prove that you’ve been here for that amount of time, it might be recommended to carry physical photocopies of documentation and not just pictures on your phone.

It was also discussed if Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer approach your home to request to see the federal warrant with a judge’s signature that is required for them to enter your home. It is important to note that there is a difference between a judicial warrant and an administrative warrant. Administrative warrants can be issued by an Immigration and Customs Enforcement official but does not give them the right to enter a person’s house without permission.

A judicial warrant will give the specific address and time of search, will be signed by a Judge, and will have the words, “United States District Court” at the top. The door should remain shut until you see the warrant, which can be passed through a window or under the door.

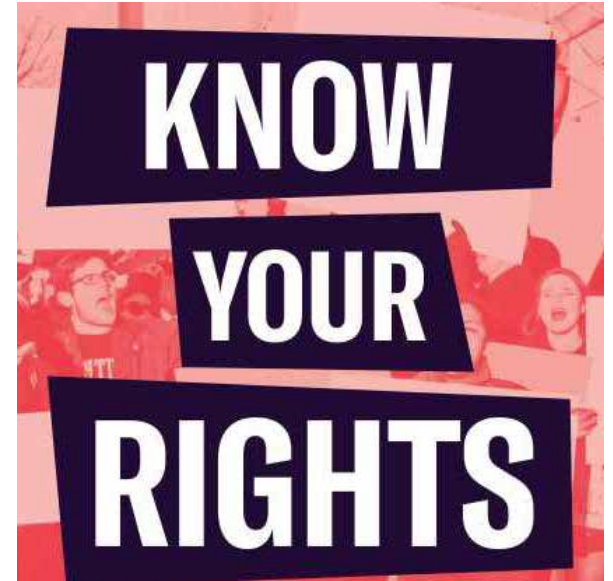
Immigration and Customs Enforcement is also allowed to misidentify themselves in order to gain permission into your house.

Another change that has come into effect under the current administration is that places which were previously safe for immigrants such as churches, schools, and courts. This means that Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers are now able to enter these places and arrest and/or detain immigrants in these places, as well as all public spaces.

It was stated that if you are in a public space and are approached by Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers, you should ask if you are free to go, and if you are not, you should express that you wish to exercise your right to remain silent. The only information that you might want to give them is whether you have any childcare or medical needs, and to request an attorney. It was also emphasized that you should not show them any foreign ID’s.

It was also mentioned that it is important to have money available for a bond if you can, ensure that family members know your alien number, and that you have a designated guardian in the event of separation from your children if you have any. Free non-judicial documents in which you name your children’s designated guardian is, in case of detention or deportation can be found at <https://planningwithparents.commonsgc.cuny.edu>.

According to the website, “This... came about from a project started in 2017 by CUNY Law School alums, professors, students, and other advocates and activists to help undocumented parents plan for their children and families in response to the threat of detention and deportation.”



As for the police, in the state of New York, they are technically only allowed to detain you if they have a reasonable suspicion of you committing a crime or are involved in a crime in some way. It is also not a requirement that you show your id to the police; however, it should be noted that if they cannot identify you can also be detained.

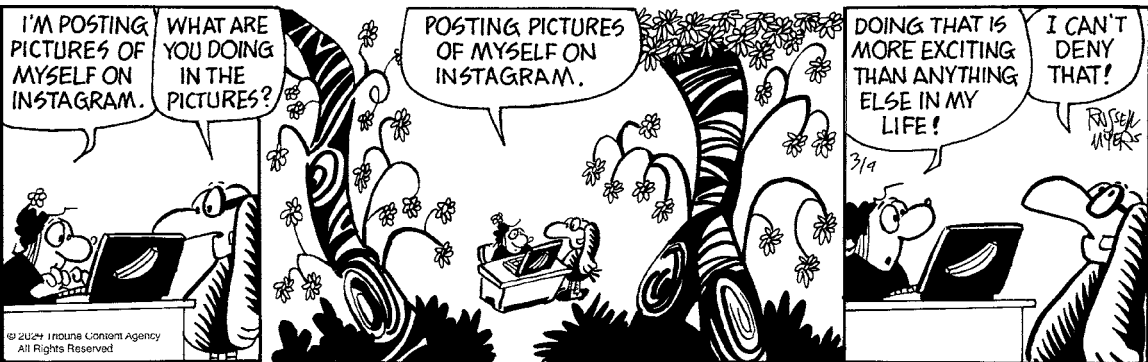
For those worried about whether Immigration and Customs Enforcement has been on any CUNY campus’s it should be noted that according to Bronx Community College, “It has long been and continues to be CUNY policy not to allow immigration enforcement officials to enter its campuses except to the extent required by law.” Meaning that they still will require a warrant signed by a federal judge for them to come onto campuses or to obtain any personal information regarding students. However, if you are made aware of an Immigration and Customs Enforcement raid taking place in New York City you can call the Immigrant Defense Project at (212) 725-6422 to report it. The Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention locator can be used to find adults in Immigration and Customs Enforcement custody or go through the local Immigration and Customs Enforcement office. For information regarding a detained minor, you can call (718) 688-8264 or (718) 688-8270. CUNY students should also keep an eye out for other events like this one on their individual campuses.

# FUN & GAMES

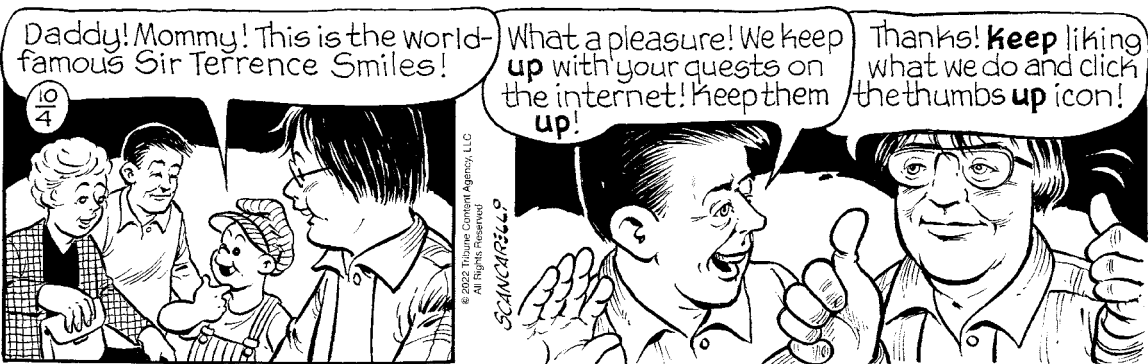
## Animal Crackers by Fred Wagner



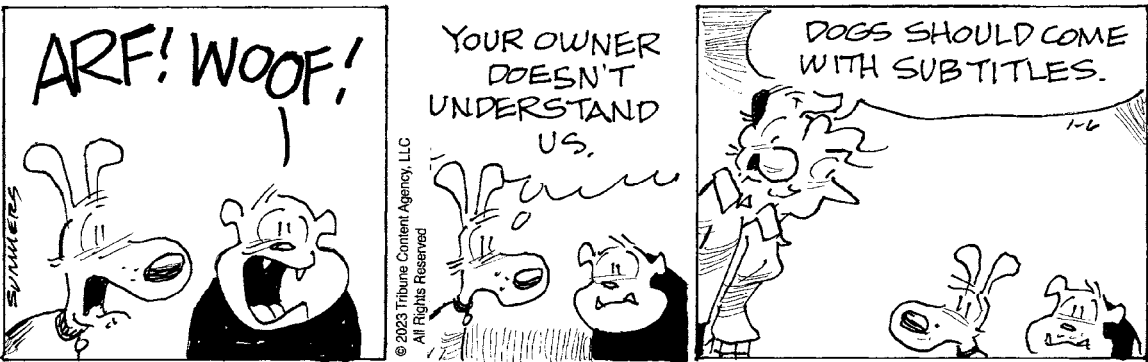
## Broom Hilda by Russell Myers



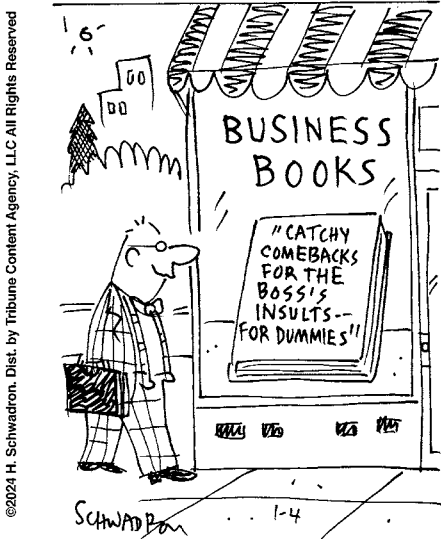
## Gasoline Alley by Jim Scancarelli



## The Middletons by Dana Summers



## 9 to 5 by Harley Schwadron



## Word Play Answers Page 28

### JUMBLE

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

CRATT  
□ □ □ □ □

KYOLE  
□ □ □ □ □

GEDREN  
□ □ □ □ □

YGOEVA  
□ □ □ □ □

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

### THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

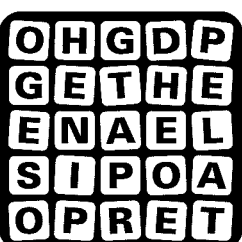
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



### Boggle BrainBusters!

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE POINT SCALE

Letters	Points
3 letters	1 point
4 letters	2 points
5 letters	3 points
6 letters	4 points
7 letters	5 points
8 letters	10 points
9 letters	15 points

YOUR BOGGLE RATING

Points	Rating
151+	Champion
101-150	Expert
61-100	Pro
31-60	Garner
21-30	Rookie
11-20	Amateur
0-10	Try again

Boggle BrainBusters Bonus

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

Find AT LEAST FIVE EIGHT-LETTER MAMMALS in the grid of letters.



FUN & GAMES

More Word Play Answers Page 28

SCRABBLE

G R A M S

A

E

Y

T

N

M

S

RACK 1

O

O

X

K

B

R

W

Triple Word Score

A

I

Y

T

V

S

R

1st Letter Double

E

O

O

T

G

R

T

RACK 4

PAR SCORE 145-155

BEST SCORE 255

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, 5th Edition. SOLUTION TOMORROW

For more information on tournaments and clubs, email NASPA - North American SCRABBLE Players Association info@scrabbleplayers.org. Visit our website - www.scrabbleplayers.org. For puzzle inquiries contact scrgrams@gmail.com

FOUR RACK TOTAL

TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

10-03

Word Find By Frank J. D'Agostino

Find these words associated with being happy (and find Frank's acrostic books on Amazon):

Adore

Beautiful

Bliss

Delighted

Elated

Excited

Exultant

Fulfilled

Genial

Glad

Glorious

Great

Grin

Happy

High Spirits

Humored

Jolly

Jovial

Joyful

Lovable

Merry

Nice

Paradise

Satisfied

Smile

Sunny

Thrilled

Tickled Pink

Upbeat

Walk On Air

F U L F I L L E D P Y W E L W  
B E A U T I F U L L K R O V N  
S U N N Y I W A L K O N A I R  
A O I O B X C O M D U S R V H  
T F C X L G J K A E T G S Y U  
I G E N I A L D L I R U S P M  
S E Y W S Q E L R E O R X P O  
F J X D S T E I T I D P Y A R  
I O Q C A L P M R V X P R H E  
E Y O L I S J O V I A L I I D  
D F E M H T L O V A B L E N A  
G U S G B G E X U L T A N T K  
L L I P A R A D I S E O G Q Y  
A H T H R I L L E D G R E A T  
D E L I G H T E D U P B E A T

Filbert by LA Bonté



Political Cartoon of the Month by Joel Pett



Crossword

Across

1 File

8 Go as low as 15 Tightens, say

16 Observation when Porky leaves

17 Ready

18 "I'll do it"

19 Pass with a wave?

20 Up to one's eyeballs

21 "Street Scene" playwright

22 Water line?

23 D.C. United's first home

26 Obscures

28 Belinda Carlisle album with French songs and Irish musicians

30 Corkers

31 Pub freebie

32 Confection that reportedly improves heart health

34 Small tower

35 Lots

36 Companion of Dionysus

37 Fit

38 TY preceder, maybe

39 "Never \_\_\_ the com-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15													
17													
19													
21													
23													
25													
27													
29													
31													
33													
35													
37													
39													
41													
43													
45													
47													
49													
51													
53													

ments"

40 Scoring instructions

44 Saved for later, in a way

47 One of the Istari, in Middle-earth

48 Tinkerer

50 Disinfectant distilled from needles

51 Humdinger

52 Feature of an assured fit

11 Member of the Siouan family

12 Images on Clemson Tigers merchandise

13 Cook with a lot of Apples?

14 Shout of support

20 "My goose is cooked"

22 Lead-in to draw or hold

Sudoku

Each column/row must contain the numbers from 1 to 9, without repetitions. The digits can only occur once per block. The sum of every single row, column and block must equal 45.

				9		4	
7		8		5			6
			1	8		7	
9				7			3
	1	5				9	2
2				3			8
		3		9	4		
8				1		6	
	9		2				

53 On point

54 Scottish dogs

Down

1 Stopped lying?

2 artery

3 Maintain

4 "Bruised" director

5 Party exercise

6 Rather

7 Suffix for records

8 Defeats soundly, in sports slang

9 Piñata feature

10 Look that causes discomfort

11 Member of the Siouan family

12 Images on Clemson Tigers merchandise

13 Cook with a lot of Apples?

14 Shout of support

20 "My goose is cooked"

22 Lead-in to draw or hold

24 Furnace part

25 Dennings of "2 Broke Girls"

27 Tear

28 Midwinter honorees

29 Grated ingredient in cranberry relish, often

30 MVP of the first two Super Bowls

31 Clown whose voice inspired Krusty of "The Simpsons"

32 Binary

33 Down

34 One of six in a fl. oz.

37 "Toss a can my way"

39 City on the Seine

41 Don DeLillo title inspired by an Andy Warhol print series

42 Hold dear

43 Runs without moving

45 Market unit

46 Singer-songwriter Suzanne

47 "Sideways" subject

48 S.A. country bordering five others

49 Novelist Rita Brown

50 Sound of a sock

## 50 SUNY EOP students honored

The SUNY Board of Trustees and Chancellor John B. King Jr. recognized the achievements of 50 students in SUNY's Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) who are honored with the Norman R. McConney Jr. Award for Student Excellence. The award, now celebrating its sixth class of honorees, recognizes outstanding EOP students for their academic merit and perseverance.

The honor is named in memory of Norman R. McConney Jr. (1946–2016), a graduate of the University at Albany and former assistant dean for special programs at SUNY. McConney, alongside former Assembly Deputy Speaker Arthur O. Eve, helped create the EOP as a statewide program.

The SUNY Board of Trustees said, "More than 8,000 SUNY students on 55 campuses are directly benefiting from the extraordinary services offered by the Educational Opportunity Program. Their paths towards a college education are immeasurably strengthened by the support offered by EOP, which is one of SUNY's most powerful strategies for student success and upward mobility."

"I am constantly reminded of the profound impact SUNY's Educational Opportunity Program has had on countless lives. The stories, triumphs, and unwavering determination of SUNY's EOP students serve as beacons of hope and inspiration for fu-

ture generations of students," said SUNY Chancellor King. "At SUNY, we are immensely grateful for the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the Legislature who continue to support this transformative program that ensures students not only start but have the support to complete their degrees."

Shannon R. Waite, Ed.D., Assistant Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at Howard University's School of Education and an Educational Opportunity Program alumna, was this year's keynote speaker. With over 20 years of experience as an educator, Dr. Waite's research focuses on diversity recruitment and pipeline programs, culturally responsive school leadership, fostering critical consciousness in educational leaders, and exploring the intersections of hyper-segregation and the school-to-prison pipeline.

This year's student speaker, Siniyah Sutton-Barton, a senior at Monroe Community College, has consistently earned Dean's List honors in the campus's Homeland Security program. She played a key role in founding the MCC Women of Excellence organization, focusing on mentorship, academic support, financial literacy, professional development, and community engagement. Sutton-Barton was also inducted into the



Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society. Active in her community, she has led clothing drives and collected hygiene items for domestic violence organizations. As an advocate for colon cancer awareness, inspired by her mother's early death from the disease, she promotes testing and awareness. Sutton-Barton, a mother of two, balances her studies, advocacy, and family life.

Since its inception in 1967, the EOP has provided access, academic support, and supplemental financial assistance to students from disadvantaged backgrounds, many of whom are the first in their families to attend college. In its 58-year history, the EOP has served more than 85,000 students and evolved into one of the country's most successful college access programs.

## FUN & GAMES SOLUTIONS

**Boggle:** ANTE-  
LOPE ANTEAT-  
ER ELEPHANT  
HEDGEHOG POR-  
POISE

**Jumble:** TRACT  
YOKEL GENDER  
VOYAGE – REAL  
GO-GETTER

Page 28 | March 2025 | Campus News

**SCRABBLE G R A M S SOLUTION**

A <sub>1</sub>	M <sub>3</sub>	N <sub>1</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	Y <sub>4</sub>	RACK 1 =	<b>62</b>
W <sub>4</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	K <sub>5</sub>	B <sub>3</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	X <sub>8</sub>	RACK 2 =	<b>119</b>
V <sub>4</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	I <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	Y <sub>4</sub>	RACK 3 =	<b>67</b>
G <sub>2</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>		RACK 4 =	<b>7</b>

PAR SCORE 145-155 TOTAL **255**  
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6	3	1	7	2	9	8	4	5
7	2	8	4	5	3	1	9	6
4	5	9	1	8	6	7	3	2
9	8	6	5	7	2	4	1	3
3	1	5	6	4	8	9	2	7
2	7	4	9	3	1	5	6	8
5	6	3	8	9	4	2	7	1
8	4	2	3	1	7	6	5	9
1	9	7	2	6	5	3	8	4



# New career-focused graduate programs

St. Thomas Aquinas College continues to lead in career-driven graduate education with the latest expansion of ADVANCE: Graduate and Certificate Programs for Lifelong Learners — with new MBA concentrations and Advanced Certificates in Artificial Intelligence, Business Analytics, and Cybersecurity. These specialized tracks are designed to equip students with the expertise demanded by today's fastest-growing industries and provide them a strategic, competitive edge in data-driven and technology-focused fields.

"Innovation fuels career progress, so at St. Thomas Aquinas College we are committed to leading the way in transformative education," said Ken Daly, President of St. Thomas Aquinas College. "By expanding our ADVANCE portfolio with these high-impact programs, we are equipping students with the specialized business expertise to help drive the future of AI, business analytics, and cy-

bersecurity. These programs are designed to place graduates at the forefront of the digital transformation, ensuring they possess the high-demand skills that power today's dynamic industries."

Launching in Fall 2025, the new MBA concentrations are offered through a partnership with Rize Education, ensuring an industry-aligned curriculum that delivers real-world business applications of AI, business analytics, and cybersecurity strategies—key drivers of global business success. The College continues to offer additional MBA concentrations and Advanced Certificates in: Finance, Healthcare Management & Informatics, Human Resource Management, and Marketing.

With flexible online and on-campus options, students can tailor their MBA or Certificate experience to fit their schedules while gaining expertise that translates directly into leadership roles in technology-driven industries.

These new programs join the College's growing ADVANCE portfolio, which recently introduced an M.S. and Advanced Certificate in Exercise Science and a Master of Public Administration (MPA) with new specializations in Nonprofit Leadership and Criminal Justice Leadership, further strengthening the College's commitment to high-impact, career-focused education.

The College remains dedicated to providing affordable access to graduate education. As part of the rollout for the new MBA Programs, students who apply to the MBA in AI, Business Analytics or Cybersecurity program by April 30, 2025, will be eligible for a special \$10,000 financial award toward their degree. All 15-credit Advanced Business Certificates are offered at a 50% tuition discount.

For more information on these transformative programs, visit [stac.edu/mba](http://stac.edu/mba) or contact [dcaponon@stac.edu](mailto:dcaponon@stac.edu) or 845-398-4220.



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# It's time for women to overcome historical barriers in STEM. Here's how.

**Sayantika Mondal**  
*Special to Campus News*

International Women's Day – March 8 – is a time to reflect on the progress women have made in all fields, but it also highlights the barriers that still exist, especially in male-dominated disciplines like science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). While representation has improved, women and gender minorities in STEM continue to face unique challenges, from unconscious bias to systemic exclusion. In fact, as of last year, women made up just 28% of the STEM workforce worldwide.

As someone who has navigated the world of STEM, I understand firsthand the hurdles, biases, and moments of self-doubt that can arise. However, I also know the power of persistence, community, and mentorship in overcoming these barriers.

When I started my Ph.D. in Mathematics at the CUNY Graduate Center during the pandemic, I struggled with isolation. The already small number of women in my field, combined with the lack of in-person networking opportunities, made it even harder to find my space. I later learned about CUNY Women in STEM, a student group at the school that had existed for over a decade but had become inactive. Seeing the need for a supportive space, I revived the group, not just for myself, but also for others searching for a community. Along the way, I've learned valuable lessons that I believe can help women and gender minorities thrive in STEM fields at all academic levels.

Here are five strategies that have helped me in my journey as a woman in STEM:

## 1. Build the community you need

If you don't see a support network that fits your needs, create one. That's what I did when I revived CUNY Women in STEM, and it turned out that many others needed the same space. Whether it's start-



ing a student group, forming a study circle, or launching an online forum, building a community can make a difference for you and for others who might be searching for the same kind of support.

## 2. Advocate for yourself and others

Many women in STEM hesitate to speak up about their accomplishments, concerns, or needs. I've learned that self-advocacy is essential, not just for individual success but for creating systemic change. If you see an issue, whether it's bias in the workplace or a lack of resources for women in STEM,

speaking up. Find allies, build a support system, and push for change where you can. I believe having more representation in advocacy roles across the board can make a big difference. I was the officer of student life and services and the co-chair for student affairs in the Graduate Center's student government, and these roles helped me advocate for all students while being cognizant of the challenges faced by minority groups. Over the past few years, the number of female graduate students in my department has steadily increased thanks in part to advocacy by me and my fellow students.

**Please read more on the next page**



# (cont.)

### 3. Have fun with networking

Informal networking — socializing — is just as important as formal networking. That's why CUNY in STEM organizes game nights and museum trips as well as panels and discussions. Finding opportunities to gather with fellow women in STEM, whether through professional meetups or casual hangouts, is a great way to stay connected and feel supported. A career panel can be helpful, but sometimes a conversation over coffee and games can be just as impactful.

### 4. Find your mentors — and be one

Mentorship is crucial at every stage of a STEM career. If you're an undergraduate, seek guidance from graduate students or professionals. If you're further along in your journey, pay it forward by mentoring someone else. When I started my Ph.D., I wished I had more female grad students to turn to for advice. But over the years, I have found mentors and role models in other faculty and friends I met at events and academic conferences. If you're a mathematics student at CUNY, the student-run CUNY Directed Reading Program in which mathematics graduate students mentor undergraduates is a great way to find and provide support. By fostering connections, we bridge gaps and empower each other to succeed.

### 5. Mix it up

Mingling with peers is terrific, but I've

learned the value of connecting with students and professionals at different levels. In CUNY Women in STEM, undergraduates connect with graduate students to gain insight into research, graduate school, and career paths. Similarly, reaching out to advanced students, professors, and industry professionals can provide guidance and opportunities that you might not find in your immediate circle. Diversity of experience benefits everyone. From finding roommates to learning about job openings and companies, all it takes is us talking to one another.

If you're looking for places to start, organizations like Women in STEM Leadership, the Society of Women Engineers, and local university groups offer fantastic resources and support.

Within CUNY, student-led groups, such as BrainE and CUNYSciComm, focus on STEM outreach while supporting women and gender-minority academics, and QUNY provides a safe space for queer students in STEM. Collaborations among these groups ensure that diverse voices are represented and that students from all backgrounds feel supported in their academic and professional pursuits.

Women and gender minorities don't just belong in STEM fields, they enhance them. We bring important new ideas,



Sayantika Mondal —Photo by Alex Irklievski

perspectives, and experiences and make STEM more innovative and responsive to societal needs. The challenges to excel are real, but so are the opportunities to thrive and uplift each other in the process.

For those interested in learning more about our work at CUNY Women in STEM, you can find us on Instagram (@cuny\_women.in.stem\_gc) or reach out via email (cunywomeninstem@gmail.com).

Together, we can continue to break barriers, make history, and shape an even brighter and more inclusive future in STEM.

*Sayantika Mondal is a Mathematics Ph.D. student at the CUNY Graduate Center and the leader of CUNY Women in STEM, a chartered student organization at the CUNY Graduate Center.*

## ABOUT CAMPUS NEWS

### CAMPUS NEWS

has been continuously published since January 2010, monthly with a lighter schedule during summers. It's available at dozens of campuses in the Northeast and via street kiosks in the City of New York. Staff

are largely freelance college students, faculty and staff. Our goal is to be helpful and entertaining for our academic readership.

This print publication continues to have a great pick-up rate!

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