

Explore campus



Chris Troiano, a full-time lab assistant for the culinary arts department talks to potential WCC students, during the “Campus Explore” event, held on Nov. 17. The event helped about 200 high school students explore the different programs offered at WCC. The high school students experienced what it’s like to be a WCC student. They attended mini-class sessions, toured the campus and had lunch.

CAMPUS BUILDING TO BE RENAMED AFTER DAMON B. FLOWERS

BY SUNI JO ROBERTS
Deputy Editor

The Plant Operations building on WCC’s campus will be renamed after Damon B. Flowers, vice president of facilities, development and operations in light of his retirement after 23 years of service at the college.

The announcement was made at the most recent board of trustees meeting on Oct. 24, which recognized Flowers’ work toward ensuring the campus has run “smoothly, efficiently and with a keen respect for the environment” under his supervision.

During Flowers’ time at WCC, the campus has expanded in size from 600K gross square feet to 1.2 million gross square feet, according to the board resolution. Through this expansion Flowers has supervised the construction of numerous buildings on campus including the Gunder Myran, Health and Fitness and the Landau Skilled Trades buildings, to name a few.

As a member of the sustainability council, this campus expansion occurred under Flowers with an eye toward environmental responsibility. This has earned buildings on campus silver and gold internationally recognized LEED green building certifications.

“Obviously totally, unexpected, bizarre, a very nice honor,” said Damon Flowers on hearing that the Plant Operations building is being renamed the Damon B. Flowers Building.

Bill Ghrist, manager of Energy and Systems Integration at WCC, has worked with Flowers since he started in 1994. Ghrist started just three months before Flowers and has been able to see Flowers’ approach in making sure the college runs efficiently for years to come.

Ghrist mentioned a project Flowers took on about four or five years after he started at the college to fix the electrical infrastructure of campus buildings. At the time, campus buildings were connected in such a way that to perform preventative maintenance on one

building, other buildings’ electricity had to be taken down as well. So, Flowers implemented a loop fed electrical supply that allows maintenance to isolate just one building without affecting any other buildings.

“He and I have always clicked and seen the benefits of each other’s abilities,” said Ghrist. “I’ve looked up to Damon in many respects as a mentor that has helped me to develop as a better and more well rounded facilities professional. I like to think that I’ve always kind of been his right hand person to assist at providing him with information or services or just a person to bounce ideas off of for the full 24 years of working together. I’ve always enjoyed working with him.”

Penny Hill, executive secretary to Flowers throughout his time at WCC has also worked with him from the beginning of his tenure.

“He was a big catalyst in making sure that we brought the campus up to speed in meeting with all the other technology growth and things that were going on,” said Hill.

Hill also mentioned the close work relationship they’ve developed over working together for many years.

“Personally I worked for him for 24 years,” said Hill. “I have an immense amount of respect for him. He is a very particular type of guy. He is very detail oriented, but he is very fair. It’s almost beyond a boss-employee, it almost feels like family with him so I have a lot of respect for him and it’s been a joy for me.”

In retirement, Flowers plans to focus his energies on volunteering, which is something he has done in the past.

“I was on the board of directors for habitat for humanity and my plan is get back on the board and to one of the builds, hopefully, in Haiti next Spring, is my goal,” said Flowers.

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

New student loan counseling helps students realistically plan repayments

BY BECKY GORDON
Staff Writer

The financial aid office at Washtenaw Community College, along with 48 other colleges and universities across the U.S., has partnered with the Department of Education to run an experimental loan counseling initiative.

A federal register notice from the Department of Education explains that the purpose of the experiment is to test the effectiveness of additional loan counseling.

“It’s not for first time borrowers at all. We’ve always had loan counseling for first time borrowers, that’s been in the regulation for years,” said Lori Trapp, Director of Financial Aid at Washtenaw Community College. “The experiment is for students who have completed entrance counseling and are borrowing again.”

The experiment will split students who have gone through entrance counseling before into two groups: the treatment group and the control group. The Department of Education determined that the students in the treatment group would be those whose social security number ended in an even number, including zero.

The 2017-2018 school year is the first year the experiment has been implemented.

“When the experiment came around, and we’ve talked about how we can have an impact for years, it just seemed like a good fit for our philosophy here in the office,” said Trapp.

Student’s seeking to borrow loans will be notified of the need to attend the session. Trapp estimated that the sessions typically take about an

hour to complete.

“After I got there, it was pretty informative. I learned some stuff that I didn’t at my other entrance loan counseling,” said Tim Cousino, Washtenaw Community College student who’d undergone a loan counseling session in August.

Sessions are completed in a computer lab on campus, and students are asked to bring their FSA ID and password to access websites during the counseling.

“It really is to make our students more informed borrowers. In the immediate time-frame, to just to think about the impact that it will have on them. Because that impact stays with you for many, many years,” said Trapp.

The purpose of the session is to show students where they stand: what their projected income is after graduation, where their loan debt is, and an estimate of their monthly repayment amounts.

Typically the loan counseling sessions are handled and run by Gillian Gargiulo, a financial aid coordinator. However, any and all financial aid administrators can be responsible for running the session.

It begins with showing students an estimated projected income.

“We have them look at the Bureau of Labor Statistics to get an idea of what their income will be,” said Trapp.

Navigating to the Occupational Outlook Handbook on bls.gov allows students to search for professions either alphabetically, by pay, education, training or growth statistics.

“The best thing about it was there was a website where you can look up what the average pay is, for the job you’re looking

for, by state. That’s pretty rad,” said Cousino.

Then students are asked to log into the National Student Loan Database system, nslds.ed.gov, to see what their loan debt is at.

“A third of students were not aware of their total debt,” said Trapp, who had compiled data from a short survey given to students participating in the loan counseling sessions from Oct. 1 to Oct. 24.

“Actually, because I do qualify for grants, [...] it showed me how much Pell Grants I have left too,” said Cousino.

After viewing both sites, students are then guided to studentloans.gov.

“It takes their individual debt and shows them what their repayment amounts will be monthly. The different payment options, which can vary, but that’s a very eye opening experience for a lot of students,” said Trapp.

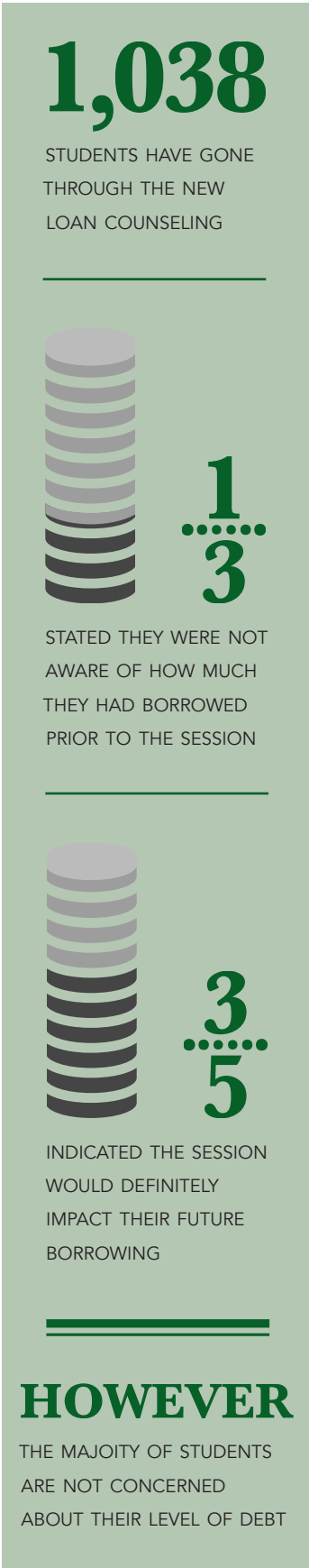
Trapp is a self described “big proponent” of the in-person counseling.

“I think it makes a difference to the students,” said Trapp. “We really want to get that loan debt in front of students, show them the tools that they have available to them.”

According to the survey administered to students following the session, 60 percent indicated the session would definitely impact their borrowing in the future.

However, when asked about their concern over their loan debt amounts, the majority of students replied indifferently.

“Student loans are an investment in yourself. I understand that, and they aren’t a bad thing, but they are a loan. And you will owe that money back,” said Trapp.



What's in a name

Ever wonder where WCC's buildings got their names? While some of the buildings are named for function, five buildings share their names with former administrators, faculty and donors from the college.

Gunder Myran
President of WCC
from 1975–1998

Crane Liberal Arts and Sciences
Dr. H. Richard Crane, a physicist who taught at the University of Michigan and his wife Florence Crane, an Ann Arbor City council member who both donated time and money to WCC

Morris J. Lawrence
Founding faculty member
of WCC

Larry L. Whitworth
Occupational Education
President of WCC from
1998–2011

Henry S. Landau
WCC board of trustee member
from 1977–1982

Fall photo contest WINNER



Thank you for all those who participated in the Fall Photo Contest. We're happy to announce the winner of the Fall Photo Contest: Robert Romig-Fox. The photo "Autumn Country Road," was edited in Photoshop to give it more of an artistic look.

I am very Sensitive to Lights and Sounds

Jacob Sanchez
Diagnosed with autism

Sensory sensitivity is a sign of autism. Learn the others at autismspeaks.org/signs.

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FEATURED TEACHER



ANDREI POP | WASHTENAW VOICE

Charles Johnson is a professor of philosophy. This January marks his 20th year at WCC.

BY ALA KAYMARAM
Staff Writer

The following interview has been edited for length and clarity.

- Q:** How did you get interested in Philosophy?
- A:** I started taking philosophy classes as an undergraduate at Oakland University. I discovered that I have a lot of interest and aptitude in it, so I decided to take it as a major with the encouragement of some of my professors.
- Q:** What area in philosophy did you concentrate on?
- A:** My focus was primarily on epistemology, which is the study of knowledge

as well as ethics. My dissertation was about free will as it relates to our thoughts.

- Q:** What courses do you teach at WCC?
- A:** I teach logic and introduction to philosophy. I have also taught philosophy of religion, in addition to comparative religion. I taught medical ethics for several years, but I haven't taught it recently.
- Q:** Have you taught at other universities? How do our courses compare to theirs?
- A:** I have taught at Oakland, Michigan State, Wayne State, Western, and Eastern. I think that our 100- and 200-level courses line up pretty

much the same. We are dealing with the same content. The biggest difference though, which I think students should feel lucky about, is that we have small class sizes here. That means you will get a lot of individual attention in a way that you might not at larger institutions.

- Q:** How did you decide to start a career at WCC?
- A:** When I started my graduate work, I was able to start teaching almost immediately, and I realized that I love to teach. As I got near the end of my graduate work at Michigan State, I began searching for part-time teaching positions. I taught at a number of four-year institutions like Oakland University. I also

taught for some community colleges like Oakland Community College. I was able to build up a teaching resume, so when this position opened up, I applied for it and I was very fortunate to get it. This has been an incredible place to work.

- Q:** What is your favorite part of your job as a teacher?
- A:** It has to be working with the students. I really do enjoy it, even though I have taught these courses for 20 years. No course is ever the same because the students aren't the same. The kind of insight, questions and enthusiasm that they bring makes every class a unique experience. That makes me excited every term.

Neutral Zone hosts On the Table discussions

Gen Z and baby boomers engage in dialogue

BY SUNI JO ROBERTS
Deputy Editor

In order to build community we need to talk to each other: across generations and sometimes, about difficult topics. This was the opening sentiment delivered by Lori Roddy, Executive Director of the Neutral Zone in Ann Arbor, to a group of youth and adults who were at the Neutral Zone for an “On the Table” event.

This event, while continuing on conversations that happened in early October across southeast Michigan as part of a series supported by the community foundation for SE Michigan, shares many values with the Neutral Zone itself. Those are to provide spaces for youth to allow for personal growth and create communities where young people can grow and thrive.

To work toward these goals, people spanning generations gathered at the Neutral Zone on Thursday Nov. 7 to discuss topics chosen by youth members of the Neutral Zone. These included timely topics such as police interaction with young people, which sought to address recent events in Ann Arbor that occurred at the Blake Transit Center in which an Ann Arbor teen was arrested. Other topics included sexual assault, rape culture and dating violence, school safety for LGBT youth and anxiety, depression and suicide. Attendees were encouraged to share topics they thought were important to discuss.

A Neutral Zone staff member explained the special focus of the conversations at the Neutral Zone and the results she expects to see.

A driving point for the night was “creating a space where adults are here to listen to the youth perspective, the youth voice and what they have to say,” said



Olivia Miner, a sophomore at Skyline High School, shares her thoughts and feelings about attending “On the Table,” a new initiative that promotes inter-generational conversations with the youth.

Kelsey Cavanagh-Strong, Youth Driven Spaces Manager at the Neutral Zone. She continued with a hope for “youth utilizing the social capital and power that adults have to get action around some of these issues that they think are really important and prevalent to them.”

In alignment with Neutral Zone’s mission to be a youth-driven teen-center dedicated to promoting personal growth, Jade Wang, teen board member, explained three ground rules for the

night’s conversations. The first ground rule, “step up, step back” tells those more reserved to step up and contribute and those who tend to talk a lot in discussions to step back and give other people a chance to talk. The second ground rule, to center the most marginalized voices, encourages everyone to be cognizant of the topic at hand and which voices are most negatively impacted and least listened to and give those voices your attention. The third ground rule is to challenge the



Jade Wang, a participant in the Neutral Zone's Riot Youth group, spoke about the need for respect and understanding in conversation as she laid out the ground rules for the event.

idea and not the person.

Jeff Gaynor, an Ann Arbor School Board member and retired teacher of 38 years, attended the event and spent time at the sexual assault, rape culture and dating violence table.

“This shouldn’t be an unusual situation,” said Gaynor. “But, as a former teacher I know that there are so many demands in the classroom plus various restrictions. I would love to have an environment where students and teachers could have more honest

conversation on matters of real importance at whatever the age the kids are at.”

The aim to give youth a space to be listened to was realized by Olivia Miner, a Sophomore at Skyline High School and participant in poetry programs at the Neutral Zone. She said as someone who has anxiety, it can be hard to talk to a large group of people, but she found the event allowed her to open up in a way she hadn’t expected.

“I just really loved how there

were adults that were willing to listen to what you said completely and not just cut you off and say, ‘Well, what about this,’” said Miner.

Staff and attendees agreed the event was a success. At the end of the event the audience appreciated the conversation that they had but also made calls for action.

“I think because of how successful this is, I can only imagine that we would want to do something like this again,” said Cavanagh-Strong.

IN BRIEF

REDUCED-PRICE PISTONS’ TICKETS

WCC’s Alumni association and the Detroit Pistons have partnered to make a Washtenaw Community College Night at Little Caesars Arena. Exclusive ticket pricing will bring 100-level seats at \$85, which includes a \$10 food voucher for concessions, to the college’s alumni, staff, faculty and students. The WCC Night will be on Friday, Dec. 8, at the Pistons vs. Warriors game.

NETWORKING DINNER

Come network with WCC faculty, staff and alumni over a multi-course gourmet meal at Garrett’s Restaurant. This dinner will be held on Monday, Dec. 4, from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m., and costs \$12.

STUDENT DISCUSSION ROUND TABLE

The Office of Student Organizations is hosting a roundtable discussion on Wednesday, Nov. 29 in LA 159, for students involved in clubs at WCC. The hope of the talk is to discuss how leaders of clubs can better the campus community. Free food will be provided.

VOTERS NOT POLITICIANS

An info table about gerrymandering in Michigan will be on the first floor of the student center on Thursday, Nov. 30, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Gerrymandering is the manipulation of district boundaries to benefit a political party or candidate, and is said to be particularly bad in Michigan. The table will have petitions relating to the topic for registered voters to sign.

SECURITY NOTES

The following incidents were reported to Campus Security between Nov. 6–Nov. 17.

NOV. 8, DRUG VIOLATION

Two students in parking lot 7 were smoking marijuana. Campus safety officers were at the scene. The students were referred to the dean of students for disciplinary action.

NOV. 13, HARASSMENT

On the first floor of the Student Center, a student wanted to sell mix tapes to another student who was working on his computer. After the student refused, he unplugged the power supply of the student’s computer.

NOV. 16, DISORDERLY CONDUCT

A white male entered the fitness center. He didn’t check in, went to the locker room, and then into the sauna. Campus safety was contacted, and officers arrived at the fitness center. The individual walked back out, apologized, and said that he had made a mistake.

NEW MOM, NEW PROBLEMS



BY NATALIE JARVIE
Graphic Designer

I am a new mom, trying to figure out what to do for the holidays for the first time with my daughter, because each side of the family wants us at their house. This presents a problem considering I can't be in two places at once.

My family does not want to spend as much time with my husband as I would like. Which just makes everything harder. On Halloween my family didn't care; that holiday was easy. We were at his parents house and all was well.

Thanksgiving is coming up and I am dreading it. I have no idea what to do.

What's my plan? Fake it.

When you have a little one it is important to always make sure they are comfortable first. If you have to travel a lot make sure they are comfortable, and if you think they won't be comfortable then it is OK not to go to that location this year as there is always next year or a different day.

I know that saying that to a family member might be hard to do, but when it comes to this kind of stuff it is always better to put your child first. Sometimes you might need to spread out visits over a couple weekends. Also talk with your partner if you have one, make sure you two are on the same page as far as not being able

to please everyone.

"It's OK to say no, or to invite people to come see you if you can do that," said Whitney Lee, an adviser, and fellow new mom, at the WCC counseling center.

Here's how I would like to have Thanksgiving: at my in-laws house. My parents will not go there, no matter what. Scratch that idea, now I am trying and trying to figure something out. Then my mom calls, and guess what? She made up a holiday; "Thanksgiving eve" where my husband, daughter and I are now going to her house on this Thanksgiving eve thing.

Two holidays down, one left. Christmas, oh Christmas. This one will be the worst. My mom loves this holiday, however I want to be at my in-laws house for the week before Christmas (which is from my birthday to Christmas). That way we can make cookies, set up the tree and just enjoy each other's company.

But guess what? I was too scared to tell my mom, so now we are going over to her house on Christmas eve for a few hours. Which I really did not want to do because it was not a part of my original plan. But if I really did not want to do this I should have spoken up, right? Yes I should have, but sometimes it's not that easy; you can't just say to your mom, "I don't want to do that," and sometimes you are just worried about their reactions.

I am trying really hard to learn to speak and stand up for myself. I'm doing pretty well at it except when it comes to my mom. That one is more difficult than the rest. I'm not really sure why, either. But I do know that if we don't figure something out soon,

these holidays are only going to get more difficult.

I am going to come up with a plan for next year. I am going to set up a location and time for holidays and events and invite

everyone. Then whoever comes, will. The people that don't, won't. Everyone who is there will be happy and spend time with each other. We will not fight or cause problems and if you

do cause a problem then you can leave.

This time of year is for family to enjoy each other's company and to be grateful we have family to enjoy,

people that love us so much that they want to see us. We want holidays to be fun and full of happy memories, not stressful ones.



VOICE BOX

BY LILO DIGIOUANNI
Contributor

BY AYISHA BHAUNANI
Contributor

How does WCC inform you-what works best to contact you?

What programs/services (that aren't already provided) do you think would help students?



"I don't know about all of the available resources at WCC, but for a community college they're not doing too bad. Email works better for me because I don't really like getting texts. The website is hard to navigate."

Ben Ulewicz
digital video production



"Blackboard is really helpful. I'm taking an online class and the big issue is that it isn't very organized. I feel like the teachers should clarify more (their expectations)."

Nven Mustafa
criminal justice



"Yeah, I don't use the website because it's hard to find what you want. They should make WCC Gateway more noticeable on the home page. But I just stick with my email, really. Having emotional guidance counselors who provide emotional support, especially during registration. A service that focuses on the student being happy and not so strictly on their degree."

Rebecca Kivi
special education



"Even though there are rooms for group studying they aren't very useful because there's too many restrictions on them. We had to ask for special permission just to have eight people in the room. The wifi doesn't work very well and blackboard doesn't work for me. Half of the time I can't submit my assignment."

Margo Rothwell
psychology



"I'd say by email, although I'm only opening mail that is important to me. Ideally, I think the website should have a place that gives out school announcements right away. The less clicking the easier for students. WCC Clubs should have a more accessible club page. I remember it being really difficult to find when or where the clubs were held and they sometimes wouldn't meet- but there was no clear method to let everyone know."

Marie Rofe
graphic design

THE
WASHTENAW VOICE
A NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD NEWSPAPER

OUR TEAM AND ITS ROLE
The Washtenaw Voice is produced every other week by students of Washtenaw Community College. Editorial responsibility lies with the students. The views here are not endorsed or approved by the faculty, administration or Board of Trustees of WCC.

YOUR VOICE
The Voice welcomes letters from readers. Letters should be a maximum of 400 words and include the author's name. A phone number and email address are required so letters can be verified before publication. The Voice welcomes news tips and story ideas.

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Emily Thompson, environmental science professor, showing a bowl to a potential buyer. The “Empty Bowls” fundraiser raised over \$2,170.

Empty bowls full of *compassion*

BY BRITTANY DEKORTE
Editor

Washtenaw Community College’s annual Empty Bowls fundraiser was held on Nov 15. The fundraiser, which is in its fourth year, raised over \$2100. The fundraiser sells bowls that were handcrafted and donated by the ceramics classes at WCC for \$20. The money raised goes to local organizations that help with hunger and food insecurity. Behind the line of bright colored bowls, hung posters describing the difference between food

insecurity and hunger: Food insecurity is the occasional lack of access to enough food for an active and healthy life, while hunger is the chronic lack of access. And both issues are prevalent at WCC. According to surveys done by Emily Thompson and Jessica Hale, two WCC instructors, 1 in 7 people in Washtenaw County deal with food insecurity, and 30 percent of students and staff have dealt with food insecurity. Because of this, this year’s event focused more on the campus itself. “In the past, we’ve given half of the funds to the campus food pantry, half to a community charity,” said Rachel Barsch, the supervisor for student activities at WCC. “This year, half is still going to our pantry, the other half is going to the emergency fund.” The food pantry on campus is available to students to use twice a semester. Each time they go, they are given two bags of food or toiletries. The emergency fund on campus will pay bills for students in the event of an emergency, such as helping to pay for utilities being shut off, or a new tire for a car if one blows out.



A wide variety of bowls were handcrafted for the event. Each bowl was sold for \$20.



The bowls sold in the Student Center on Nov. 15 were handcrafted by the ceramics students and teachers.

In memorial, for the future *LGBTQ students at WCC mark the Transgender Day of Remembrance*

BY EMILY HUBBEL
Contributor

BY BRITTANY DEKORTE
Editor

This past Thursday, students traveling through the student center probably saw the table set up by Out-Space. The table’s mission: inform the student body about the upcoming Transgender Day of Remembrance. Out-Space is the LGBTQ+ club for WCC, and the club’s focus is community outreach and education. TDOR is an annual day of remembrance, usually held on Nov. 20, for trans people who died due to violent hate crimes. First held in 1999, today’s political climate has spurred an extra focus on the date for those in the LGBTQ+ community and their allies. All Out-Space members expressed the urgency that the Trump presidency has caused for activism, particularly regarding transgender issues. Daniela Page-Sander, who is attending WCC for elementary education and is the leader of Out-Space, said “We had literally just gone over this really tough hill about marriage equality and stuff, and there was this whole celebration and everyone was so happy, and then Trump got elected.” Jen, age 20, who is attending WCC for health care foundations,

said, “A lot of it has to do with when marriage equality happened, people were like ‘OK, it’s done. We’ve won, the gays have won but it’s like ‘no, not even close.’” Jen asked for her last name to not be used, because she is not publicly out. “My family celebrates the day of the dead because we’re part Hispanic, so I want to do something similar for Transgender Day of Remembrance, like maybe lighting a candle for all those who have suffered,” Page-Sander said. Jen mentioned a big reason she thinks we need a Transgender Day of Remembrance. “A lot of it centers around the idea of passing, where people basically assume that trans people

“When you apply, specifically for those who want to use a different name, you have to go to the student center, and be very visibly talking to a person and saying ‘I want to use this preferred name’ which for some people is going to be really not OK because for some people they’re not out yet necessarily. So they don’t want to be as visible,” said Jen. Jen elaborated on the subject of how using the right name can affect transgender students. “It’s not clear, on your schedules, what’s the legal name and the preferred name. And they show the legal name and the preferred name, which I guess I can understand, but I don’t think (the teachers) need to know my legal name. So my first day of class I was called by my birth name, and was super uncomfortable the entire class, and it pretty much ruined that whole day of class for me because I couldn’t pay attention.” Page-Sander agrees that teachers could do more to help trans students, and that using inclusive language is also important.

“THERE WAS THIS WHOLE CELEBRATION AND EVERYONE WAS SO HAPPY, THEN TRUMP GOT ELECTED.”

want to be like cis people, and that’s the ideal,” Jen said. “And the whole idea is that you’re going to look ‘like’ a cis person, so the whole idea is that you’re ‘masquerading’ as a cis person. Which is really problematic because we really are the gender that we say we are, it’s not like we’re pretending to be something we’re not.” Jen also said that one way that WCC can do better for its transgender students is to make sure teachers use a trans student’s name and correct pronouns.

Out-Space meets every Monday from noon to 2 p.m. in LA 260. For more info on TDOR, visit <https://tdor.info/>



Daniela Page-Sander, who is attending WCC for elementary education and is the leader of Out-Space stands for a picture during an Out-Space meeting.



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For more information, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/voice-scholarships>



Speaking up in class



A student raising his hand during a lecture.

ANDREI POP | WASHTEENAW VOICE

Does your classroom participation reflect your grade?

BY LADAISHA GREENFIELD
Contributor

It is well known that active participation is part of any college class.

Many students know what it's like to sit through a class discussion and give input on a topic — whether they've raised a hand, or had an instructor call on them. Many students have also managed to survive making a presentation, a task that can leave new presenters nervous and tongue-tied.

What do these instances have in common? Speaking. According to some instructors, speaking and participating in class can demonstrate their understanding of materials, and affects their performance in the course.

Instructors want to find out what students are getting out of their course: Are they grasping the material?

What do they have to add?

Are they attentive?

Whether the subject is math, language arts or social sciences, speaking is a way for instructors to get those answers out of the people sitting in the classroom.

Does your participation matter when learning a subject? The answers are

mixed.

At least some instructors say “No.” Hava Levitt-Phillips is a WCC instructor in the field of English language arts, who teaches African American literature and English 111. She always encourages her students to use their voices, because through the power of writing, anyone can express what they don't say. Levitt-Phillips compared the two courses that she teaches. In African American literature, the course material provided can often be difficult to

talk about, covering stories of slavery, segregation, and racism throughout American history.

On the other hand, English 111 makes students discuss what's on their minds to write about. Levitt-Phillips said she's noticed that of many of her literature students who actually read the homework assigned decline to speak in class. In contrast, those who don't complete the homework like to discuss it in class. The same kind of thing happens

in English 111, she said, with the talkative students not finishing their writing center assignments.

“Some need time to process, and think about what's going on, then let their work speak for itself,” Levitt-Phillips said.

But other instructors hold that participation is an important skill for students to succeed. WCC web development instructor Scott Shaper said asking questions and completing assignments is necessary, and so is the obligation to show up to every class session.

“If students don't come to class and participate in the discussions they will not do well,” Shaper said. “Why would any student want to take a class and not participate? What will they learn? Why take the class in the first place?”

Yet, it's evident that some students have serious difficulty speaking in front of their peers in a classroom situation.

In an article discussing the importance of classroom participation, Bonnie M. Miller, an assistant professor of history at the University of Massachusetts, expressed concern about

how participation should be graded in courses. “In formulating our criteria for evaluation of classroom participation, we need to think about the circumstances that may inhibit participation — language barriers, cultural differences, shyness, public speaking anxieties and socioeconomic factors that may diminish our students' sense of their own value in contributing,” she wrote in a 2009 article in American Historical Association.

Miller wrote that when teaching history, students need a variety of ways to participate, to not only accommodate people that dislike speaking, but also help everyone learn the material.

Luke Huff, has been a WCC student for three years.

Naturally extroverted, he says he tries to volunteer to speak in all of his classes.

“I want to answer questions...something needs to be said...” Huff said that, as a hands-on learner, lectures are “insufferable” and presentations can actually be fun.

Part of a band called “Vote for Pedro,” Huff said giving a presentation in school is like

TIPS THAT CAN HELP IF YOU STRUGGLE WITH SPEAKING

• Talk to your instructor

If you are worried that your grade will suffer in the participation portion, let your instructor know outside of class. By telling them about it, you both can figure out a solution.

• Practice speeches and presentations alone

Reciting something that you have to present to others by yourself first, can help you build self-confidence. In your bedroom, bathroom, or any room that you can occupy alone, it's easy to notice things that you need to improve on, including: posture, volume, and clarity in your speaking.

• Write it before you say it

As Hava Levitt-Phillips mentioned before, some students need to collect their thoughts before actually sharing them. Along the margins of your notes, or on a scratch piece of paper, you can write any questions or answers that you may have during a lecture. This can be really helpful for students that tend to stutter or take long pauses, when called on by an instructor.

giving a performance: “You got to keep people engaged,” he said, “...just be prepared, and keep it cool.”

What about students that may have a hard time using their voice (literally and metaphorically) in the classroom?

Leslie Gilbert, a math instructor new to WCC, said that making students work in groups, allows the shy students to complete a problem without having to raise their hand.

“People get really quiet when they're confused,” she said. “In groups, people can get help, and everyone has a chance to solve problems.”

Relax—having to talk in college can be scary, stressful, and annoying. However, just tell yourself that the more you get through classes, the closer you are to completing your education, and ultimately obtaining the right career. Take a deep breath, talk about any issues that you may have, and work hard the rest of the semester.

TURKEY TALK

BY SUNI JO ROBERTS
Deputy Editor

Getting together with family and friends during the holidays can be a warm and welcoming social environment or an uneasy encounter in which family members tread carefully making sure to not provoke someone’s latest political stance. In an attempt to distract from more sensitive topics here is a list of topics to talk about to connect with whoever you choose to spend the holidays with:

- 1

Do you really think Kylie and Khloe are pregnant?

The Kardashians, like other things, remain as popular as ever despite the fact few people claim their fandom for them. But, it’s popular culture, which most people either willingly consume or are forcefully confronted with and are bound to have something to say about.
- 2

Have you read any good books lately?

Be thoughtful about people’s interests. Don’t ask your second-wave feminist aunt if she has read Bill O’Reilly’s latest book.
- 3

How is work?

This is an easy question that is guaranteed a response from any overworked, yet not burned out, working family member.
- 4

I like your shirt!

Complimenting someone’s clothing or jewelry is an easy way to break the ice.
- 5

Have you listened to any good music lately?

Further, try to ask if someone you know who is a fan of a certain kind of music what they thought of an artist’s’ latest album.
- 6

How is your child doing in school?

There is no surer way to get someone talking then by engaging them in a discussion about their children.
- 7

What was the best part of your day? What was the worst part of your day?

Everyone who has ever done an icebreaker are sure to be familiar with the rose/thorn or high/low activity. It is a good way to talk to someone you know nothing about, like a family member’s partner.
- 8

What is your favorite joke?

This is a lighthearted topic to get people laughing.
- 9

How is your cat/dog/fish?

Just like people love talking about their children, they similarly love telling cute stories and showing cute pictures of their pets.
- 10

What are you looking forward to?

It’s close enough to the new year that people will start thinking into the future and the goals they have for 2018.

Ad Council

WHEN YOU see
BULLYING,
use THIS
EMOJI
TO do SOMETHING
ABOUT it.



 I AM A WITNESS
IWitnessBullying.org

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SUDOKU COLLECTION

- Across

1 Gospel truth

5 Previous time of life

9 Broadway bombs

14 Southwestern stewpot

15 Texer's modest "I think ..."

16 Choosing rhyme starter

17 Hand from the audience

20 Actor ___ Ivory Wayans

21 Castle barrier

22 Con man's sucker

23 Robert of "The Sopranos"

25 Is the right size

27 Group one likes to hang with

34 Prefix with logical

35 Shrunkn Asian sea

36 Braid

37 Jump

39 Blue cartoon papa

42 "Zip-___Doo-Dah"

43 Clear, as an argument

45 Holiday trees

47 "Hometown Proud" supermarket chain

48 Area in which one has power

52 Royal sari wearer

53 Indian nurse

54 Plugs for products
- Down

1 Road split

2 Skin soother

3 Game with suspects

4 Kind of acid in red wine

5 First settlers

6 Big initials in bowling

7 Bedding accessory

8 Fill to the brim

9 Soft penpoint

10 Pasture

11 Responsibility

12 Italian tower town

13 Ooze

18 Singer Reese

19 Two of a kind
- 24 Wander

26 Actress Ward

27 Basic anatomy units

28 Freeze over

29 Insect trapped in a "motel"

30 Pillow down, say

31 Low point

32 San ___ Padres

33 Take illegally

38 Jetty

40 Costa ___

41 How the wise men came

44 Fire-breathing beasts

46 Major mix-up

49 Sufficient, in texts

50 Tin Man's need

51 Grad student's paper

54 Grade school basics

55 Pointed pub flier

56 ___ gin fizz

58 Flag holder

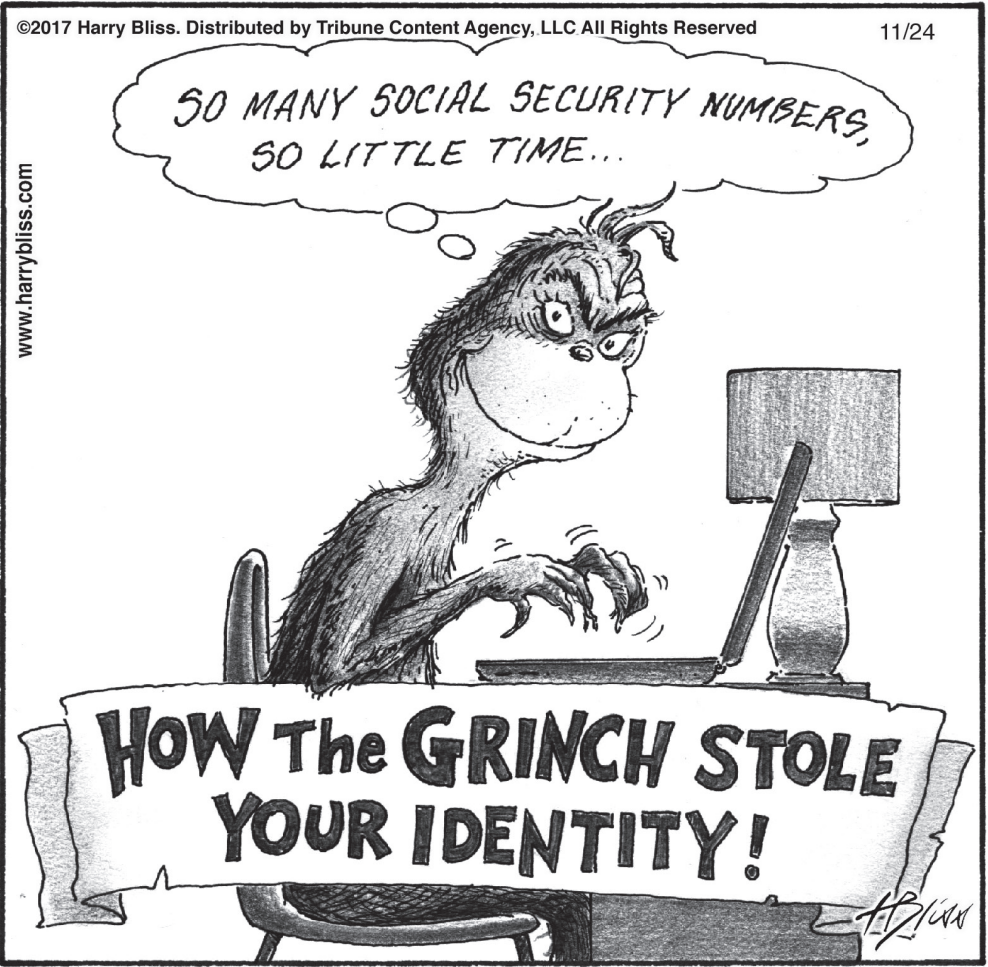
60 Verdi title princess

61 "Walkabout" director Nicolas

62 Genetic carriers

64 Weather map "I"

65 Org. with Lakers and Clippers



Solutions online at washtenawvoice.com

GOOD NEWS, OLDBOT! WE'VE FOUND A **NEW** JOB FOR YOU.

GREAT! I NEED TO FEEL USEFUL!

WHAT IS IT ...
GAAHHH!!

SHAKE SHAKE

SNOW GLOBE.

PRETTY!

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Richard

WASHTENAW VOICE

LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS

Looking for help? As a service to our students, you may places "help wanted" ads in The Voice for free.

Student and WCC employees Classified ads in The Voice are free.

• Send ads to wcc.voice.advertising@gmail.com

• The deadline is 5 p.m. the tuesday before publication

Career Services

Below is a sample of recent employment want ads which have been posted with WCC Career Services. Students are invited to read these ads and to contact Career Services to find out how to apply for the openings. These opportunities and many more can be found on www.wccnet.edu/careerconnection/

Emergency Department Medical Scribe

St. Joseph Mercy: Various locations in MI Earn money while learning one-on-one from top doctors while working in real charts on real patients, all in real time. As a scribe you will accompany the healthcare provider into patient examination rooms in order to transcribe the patient's history, physical exam findings, consultations, labs, X-rays, and other evaluations, as stated by the

provider, directly into the medical record. Prepare plans for follow-up care, as directed by the provider. Process admittal and discharge paperwork. Pre-health track preferred. No clinical experience required to apply.

Mechanical Technician Intern

Ann Arbor, MI The Mechanical Technician Associate will be part of the Ann Arbor Connected Vehicle Test Environment team and will equip vehicles with connected vehicle technology for deployment. The first two weeks will be on the job training. Mechanical/Electrical installation, updates, and removals of vehicle awareness devices (VAD) and/or aftermarket safety devices (ASD) to be deployed on personal vehicles in the Ann Arbor area. Prepare and maintain the device configuration in the configuration management system. Document and maintain the vehicle installations, updates, and removals in the configuration management system with photographs, measurements and

other vehicle information. Harvest data from the VADS and upload to UMTRI server using in-house download program. \$12/hour

Office Staff

Brighton MI Gymnastics facility is looking for office staff to support their front desk operations. Individual must be reliable, have basic computer skills and be able to work with a diverse customer base. Position requires availability during the evenings and on Saturday and Sunday. \$10-\$12/hour. 16-24 hours/week.

IT Intern

Detroit MI Duties include installing and maintaining computer systems including software and hardware on desktops and laptops, resolving internet and network access issues (both wired and wireless), providing network printer support, meeting with staff to provide one-on-one technical assistance as needed/ requested, providing training to staff on software and hardware use, determining causes of computer/software/network malfunctions

through evaluation and testing and resolution via modifications, repair, or external support assistance. Applicants must have experience with Windows XP/7.

Marketing/ Administrative Assistant

Part Time, Ann-Arbor MI- Responsibilities include providing administrative support to company officers, and ensuring efficient operation of the office. Marketing duties require strong verbal and written communication skills. Tasks may include: meeting and event preparation, arrangement and assistance; welcoming, hosting and providing general support to visitors; maintaining office supplies, snacks and refreshments; research; stakeholder relations marketing and correspondence; providing back up support to office staff; helping teams get organized; special projects, and assist with coordi-

nating marketing outreach and communications. \$15-\$18/hour

Concierge

Troy, MI Responsibilities include: Respond to guest requests for special arrangements or services by making arrangements or identifying appropriate providers. Respond to special requests from guests with unique needs and follow up to ensure satisfaction. Gather, summarize, and provide information to guests about the property and the surrounding area amenities, including special events and activities. Answer, record, and process all guest calls, messages, requests, questions, or concerns. Contact appropriate individual or department to resolve guest call, request, or problem. Review shift logs/daily memo books and document pertinent information in log-books. Monitor club lounge for seating availability, service, safety, and well-being of guests. Report accidents, injuries, and unsafe work conditions to manager; and complete safety training and certifications. 25 hours/week.

Barrier/Roll-over Test Technician

Summer internship-General Motors -Milford, MI-This paid internship is responsible for test property installation, fixturing, instrumentation installation and validation, teardown/removal of test site equipment and vehicle for the various Barrier and Roll-over crash tests. Responsible for staging, movement, build, tear-down, and validation of all Barrier/Roll-over test vehicles. Assist with the interpretation and application of Federal Regulatory and GM Internal safety requirements. Trouble-shoot mechanical and electrical problems with Barrier/Roll-over test vehicles. Interface with GM Test Engineers.

Contact the Career Services office at (734) 677-5155 or careers@wccnet.edu for more information. The Career Services department is located in the Morris Lawrence building-ML 104

events

ARTMUSIC & FUNCAMPUS

PENNY STAMPS SPEAKER SERIES: CONGRESSMAN JOHN LEWIS
Rescheduled: John Lewis is a civil rights leader and an American politician.
Hill Auditorium | 825 North University Ave., Ann Arbor
Monday, Nov. 27, 7-8:30 p.m. | Free

STRAIGHT UP | FEATURING GREG GOSS
Pop-up art show and sale featuring work by Greg Goss.
Alley Bar | 112 W Liberty St., Ann Arbor
Monday, Nov. 27, 7-10 p.m. | Free

PENNY STAMPS SPEAKER SERIES: JUSTINE MAHONEY
His art has captivated people for their approach to exploring the dark side of human existence.
The Michigan Theater | 603 E Liberty St., Ann Arbor
Thursday, Nov. 30, 5:10-6:30 p.m. | Free

BLACK-FRIDAY MTB RIDE
This is their 9th Annual Black Friday MTB Ride.
Rolling Hills County Park | 7660 Stony Creek Rd., Ypsilanti
Friday, Nov. 24, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. | Free

HORIZON PRESENTS: YOU'RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN
Charles Schulz's comic comes to life in Clark Gesner's musical, You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown.
Riverside Arts Center | 76 N Huron St., Ypsilanti
Thursday, Nov. 30 and Saturday, Dec. 2, 7 p.m. | \$10

NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS COSTUME PARTY & FUNDRAISER
The Music & Arts Guild is pleased to announce their annual fundraiser party.
Dreamland Theater | 26 N Washington St., Ypsilanti
Saturday, Dec. 2, 7-11:59 p.m. | \$10

THE BUSINESS OF BEING AN ARTIST
Coaching with Sandra Xenakis is here once again, join the fun at the Entrepreneurship Center.
Main Campus | Entrepreneurship Center
Monday, Nov. 27, book an appointment | Free

BLOOD DRIVE
Donate blood to help save lives.
Morris Lawrence Building | Room 101
Monday, Dec. 4, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. | Free

FREE COFFEE WEDNESDAYS
Free coffee Wednesday is still here and still the best day of the week! Get your coffee fix at the Entrepreneurship Center. They also have tea and snacks as well.
Main Campus | Entrepreneurship Center
Every Wednesday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. | Free



PHOTO COURTESY | PENNY STAMPS

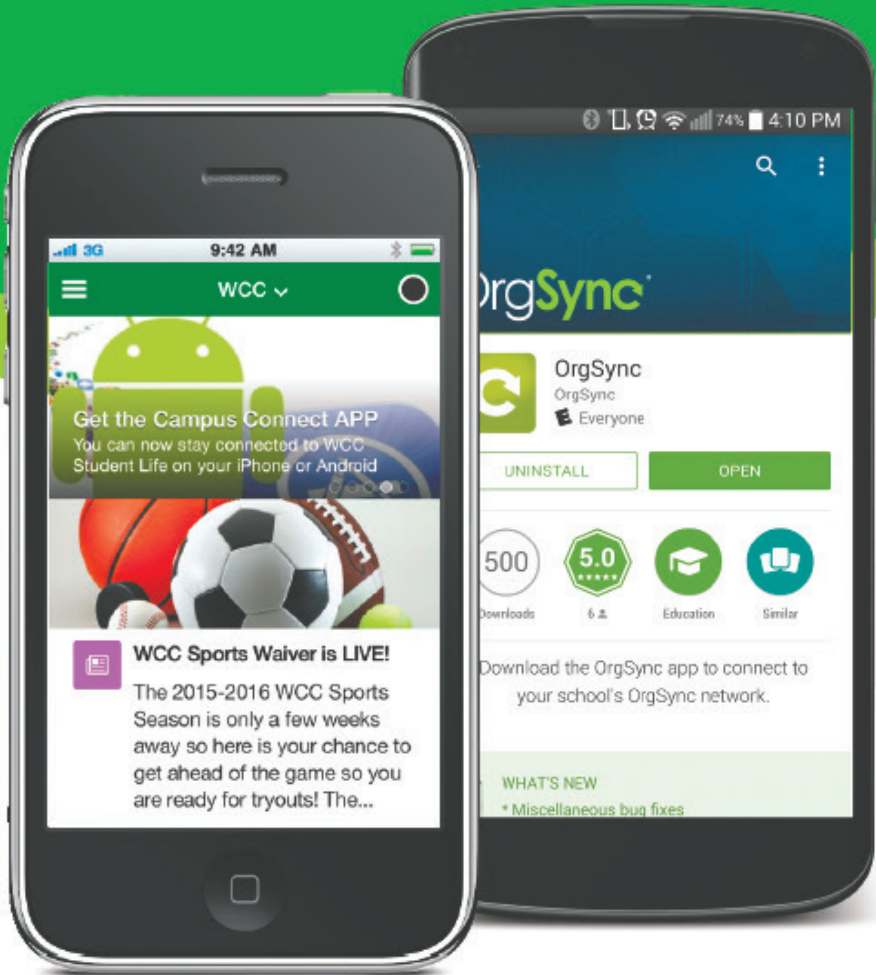


NATALIE JARVIE | WASHTENAW VOICE



NATALIE JARVIE | WASHTENAW VOICE

CAMPUS CONNECT
WCC Student Life Available on iPhone and Android



Campus Connect provides opportunities for students and staff to get involved:

- Join a club or sport
- Keep up with student activities – both on and off campus
- Easily communicate with club members and meet new friends
- Organize and manage student life from your mobile device

To log on, use your WCC NetID and Password.

Download app at: <http://www.orgsync.com/features/mobile>

ALSO AVAILABLE FOR PC AND MAC DESKTOPS.

SIGN-IN TODAY: Visit SC 112 or <http://campusconnect.wccnet.edu>