



WCC's
'Global
initiative'

C1

COURTESY PHOTO NASA



Android
Explosion:
wireless gadgets
outnumber
human race

B3

THE WASHTENAW VOICE

January 14, 2013
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Washtenaw Community College
Ann Arbor, Michigan

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WCC officials applaud governor's gun law veto

Campus officials
assert that guns have
no place at WCC

By ADRIAN HEDDEN
Managing Editor

As Reid Smith traverses downtown Detroit, attending classes at Wayne State University deep into the darkness of night, he is unarmed and fears his safety is at risk.

"I have to walk from the school to my apartment every day," Smith said. "I have no recourse. There's no area in the world that I would feel comfortable with a pistol free zone."

The 25-year-old medical student and resident of downtown Detroit possesses a legal Concealed Pistol License, but as he travels between the campus of WSU and a nearby hospital, both state-mandated pistol free zones, he is unable to enjoy the liberties afforded to other CPL holders.

"They're on your honor pistol free zones," Smith said. "I know for a fact that criminals carry in these areas. The only enforcement is that the government trusts us to obey laws. Criminals make their business of breaking laws and campus security isn't going to help. "They just clean up messes."

As Midwest Regional Director of Students for Concealed Carry, Smith, along with more than 40,000 student

members of the national, grassroots organization, lobbied to push Senate Bill 59 through the state legislature and allow concealed carry permit holders to bring their guns onto college campuses and other previously defined pistol free zones.

Necessitating greater standardized requirements and fees for CPLs, as well as transferring responsibility for the administration of gun licenses to Michigan State Police, SCC hoped the bill would expand the rights of licensed gun holders and create greater convenience in the tracking of law-abiding licensees.

But when Republican Gov. Rick Snyder vetoed the bill on Tuesday, Dec. 18, in the wake of a tragic shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn. just days prior, Smith was dismayed that his rights would have to wait.

"While we must vigilantly protect the rights of law-abiding firearms owners, we must also ensure the right of designated public entities to exercise their best discretion in matters of safety and security," Snyder said in a press release. "These public venues need clear legal authority to ban firearms on their premises if they see fit to do so."

According to Smith, Snyder's decision came about when negotiations

GUN LAW
CONTINUED A5



BENJAMIN KNAUSS THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Living Ruins: Residents at Ypsilanti's Schooner Cove apartment complex sift through rubble like this after a Jan. 7 fire.

Sifting through the ashes

By ANNA ELIAS
Staff Writer

As flames consumed the Schooner Cove apartment building in Ypsilanti Township, tenants had many nervous thoughts running through their minds.

Had they turned off the oven? Had they unplugged the coffee

pot? Residents could only hope they were not the source of the early afternoon fire last week as they called roommates to alert them of the inferno, crossing their fingers that their friends were not at home.

"I was at work, it was just before one o'clock, I was working with a client and I saw that my cell phone rang and it was the apartments. I know they

don't call me during the day for anything," said Schooner Cove resident Joelen Kersten. "They said, 'Okay, there's been a fire and we just wanted to make sure that everyone was out of the building.'"

The cause of the Jan. 7 fire is

FIRE
CONTINUED A6

Voice staffer's possessions destroyed in blaze, but his reporter's instinct lives on. Knauss A5

Many factors drive faculty pay

Average pay rates of Michigan community colleges

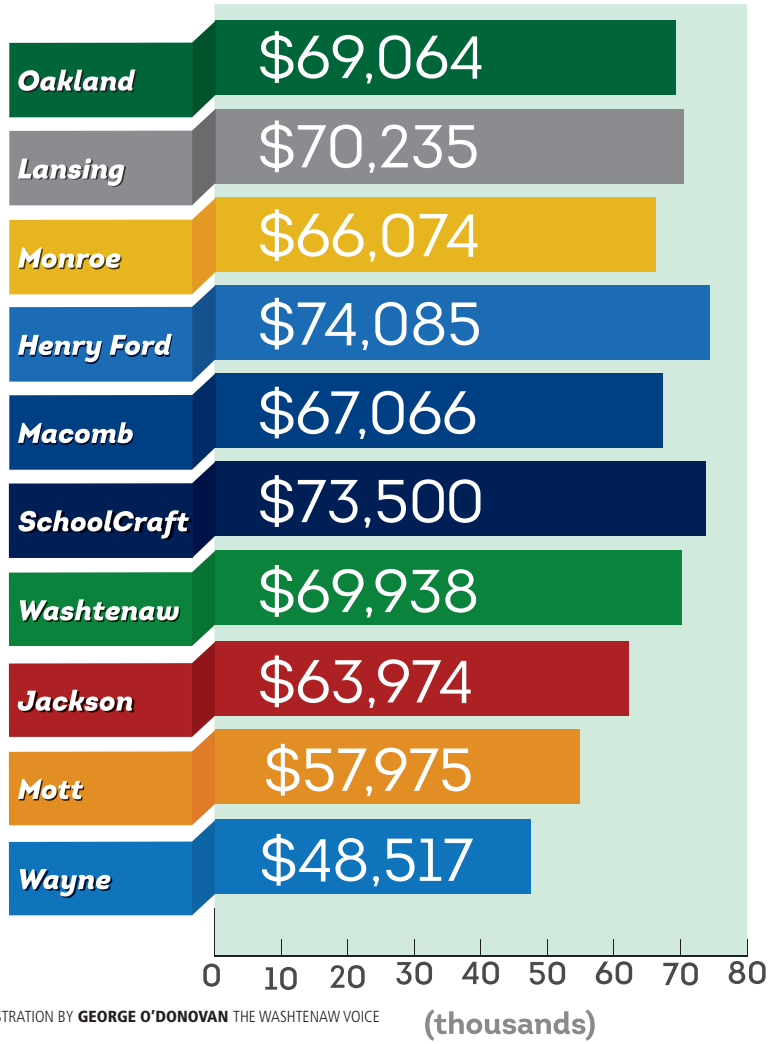


ILLUSTRATION BY GEORGE O'DONOVAN THE WASHTENAW VOICE

(thousands)

PAY
CONTINUED A6

Competitive salaries
ease bargaining tension,
officials say

By ADRIAN HEDDEN
Managing Editor

While Washtenaw Community College's faculty salaries can't compete with Big Ten universities and other prestigious schools, they are competitive with Eastern Michigan University and rank among the highest for community colleges in South East Michigan.

According to a survey curated by Voice staff comparing average annual pay rates for full-time instructors during the 2012-13 academic year, WCC is paying its instructors an average of \$69,938 this year. Salaries have remained uncontroversial during union negotiations since the early 1990s, according to chief negotiator for the teacher's union and history instructor David Fitzpatrick.

Fitzpatrick has led negotiations on faculty pay for three contracts during his employment at WCC. A four-year

Students hail new Social Media protection law

By MARIA RIGOU
Staff Writer

Keshia Bass hates the idea of having to share her social media account information with potential employers.

"It's invasion of privacy," the 29-year-old teaching major from Ann Arbor said. "I don't like that at all."

But now she doesn't have to do it.

Employers and schools in Michigan are no longer permitted to ask employees and students for login information to their personal social media accounts.

A bill passed in mid-December, signed by Gov. Rick Snyder and introduced by state Rep. Aric Nesbitt, R-Lawton "prohibits employers and educational institutions from requiring certain individuals to grant access to, allow observation of, or disclose information that allows access to or observation of personal internet accounts."

Gov. Snyder said in a press release that "potential employees and students should be judged on their skills and abilities, not private online activity."

This bill, known as the "Internet Privacy Protection Act," means that

an employer or institution cannot require an employee or a student to provide them with usernames or passwords for sites like Facebook and Twitter. It lays down three straightforward prohibitions.

First, employers and institutions cannot ask applicants or employees for the username and password or other login information to gain access to any of the individual's accounts.

Second, the Act prohibits employers and institutions from asking applicants, employees or students to "allow observation of" their account, a practice commonly called "shoulder surfing."

Finally, this law prohibits employers and institutions from asking applicants, employees or students to "grant access to" their personal accounts, therefore barring employers from reviewing content without asking for login credentials and without "shoulder surfing."

Recently, in Astoria, Ore., an 18-year-old was caught in a hit-and-run accident after airing his drunk driving on Facebook.

SOCIAL MEDIA
CONTINUED A5

Search for CFO taking longer than predicted

By ADRIAN HEDDEN
Managing Editor

Washtenaw Community College continues its search for a new vice president of Finance that began last month after Steven Hardy tendered his resignation in November – effective on Aug. 1, 2013, following a paid leave of absence.

WCC President Rose Bellanca originally said she hoped to plan to fill the vacancy by Jan. 22, but according to Associate Director of Public Affairs Janet Hawkins that will not be the case.

"The position will not be filled before the end of the month," Hawkins said in an email. "The

college is expanding its search and hopes to place someone in the position within the next month or two.

"Currently, there are no candidates for the position."

An active job posting now on the college's website since December reads that applicants must have earned a master's degree in finance, business administration or a related field.

According to Vice President of Human Resources Douglas Kruzal last month, Hardy is not required to fulfill any duties to the college during the interim. He will continue to be paid, collecting about \$90,000 of his annual salary of \$135,000 until his resignation becomes effective.

Requests by The Voice to interview Kruzal to ask him to elaborate on the

terms of Hardy's resignation and status with the college were declined. He referred reporters to the college's public relations office.

After he resigned over Thanksgiving break in late November, Hardy has been unavailable for comment despite numerous phone calls and emails from Voice staff. No one was home when reporters stopped by his Ann Arbor residence in early December.

Lynn Martin, the college's controller since 2008 has been filling in for Hardy on a day-to-day basis since he left his post in November.

"It's big shoes to fill," Martin said. "But I'll do whatever I can to support the college."

Martin said she had no intention of applying for the position as vice president.



Courtney Keller, WCC '11, SHU '14

“Coming to Siena Heights was the best decision I’ve ever made. My advisor and I worked together to set up a plan so that I graduate on time and I even received scholarships for my artwork. I thought the process of transferring might be difficult but Siena made it easy and headache free.”

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Campus gun range officials say they’re on target with targets

Facility uses a wide variety of photo images; instructors say ‘diversity is crucial’

By ADRIAN HEDDEN
Managing Editor

After Washtenaw Community College’s gun range raised suspicion last winter for its use of target-photographs depicting only African-American males, Firearms Range Master Mark Baker remains firm that suggestions of racism were unfounded. “It’s not symbolic. It’s for bullet placement,” Baker said. “This is really like beating a dead horse.”

Director of WCC’s Police Academy Larry Jackson asserted that the school did not supply the targets that were photographed at the range for stories that appeared in *The Voice* last February.

The targets, all 10 lanes emblazoned with the same photograph of a young, African-American male, were in use by the University of Michigan Police Department during a qualifying exam.

U-M Police are required to use the same target in every lane during qualification exams to create fair and consistent tests, said Diane Brown, public information officer to the U-M Police.

“We want to have total consistency,” Brown said. “The same target has to be used for every officer to give the same effect. The more real-life aspects that can be built into training, the better it is for the officer and community.

“There aren’t silhouettes walking around.”

Brown said that U-M police uses a wide variety of targets for various training exercises and that while the department does provide some targets with images of women, most are

white males. Images on the targets, while consistent from lane to lane, are selected at random, she said.

“They appear to have picked from them off the top,” Brown said in regard to the photographs of African-Americans on the targets from last year’s exam. “But there is a wealth of targets.”

Jackson said that the college does provide photographic targets when needed, but that they feature a different photo.

“We don’t supply targets at all,” Jackson said. “The police provide them for themselves. We do have one target, but it’s a picture of a middle-aged white guy.”

Taken aback by outcry he believed to be generated by an article about the targets in the Feb. 20 issue of *The Washtenaw Voice*, Jackson said that the academy and firing range have made no changes following its release.

He is firm in the academy’s need for photographic targets in providing a variety of situations to test student reactions and decision making.

“People get emotional,” Jackson said. “I felt like everyone thought we were down here training people to shoot at certain types of people. We don’t do that. The fact is that all different kinds of people train in all different types of situations.”

The college’s police academy also uses bull’s eye targets and other shaped targets for marksmanship, Jackson said. Students often shoot at large sheets of white paper, spray painted with different markings for bullet placement.

“They’ve had studies that have shown that photographic targets are the best way to train for decision-making,” Jackson said. “The more life-like the training is, the more effective. Can you imagine a surgeon who has never cut into a cadaver?”

Over the years, as Jackson has seen different law-enforcement agencies rent out WCC’s range for qualifying exams and other police business, he has witnessed a wide variety of photographic, human subjects upon the targets to be shot at.

And it’s all for the sake of realism in preparing officers for the dangers of protecting civilians.

“I’ve seen ’em all,” Jackson said. “There have been women and men of different races, some holding cell-phones, knives and other objects. You want to have a variety to keep students interested and keep them from thinking that it is always going to be the same.”

The Michigan State Police also hope to keep officers on their toes when training on the range. Instructing officer at the Michigan State Police Training Academy’s firing range, Trooper Rose Ford, agrees that an assortment of targets is essential in law enforcement training and qualification exams.

“We use the same (photographic) type of targets,” Ford said. “Obviously we try to make it as real as possible. It’s not always the same; we try to mix it up. A bull’s eye may not fully mentally prepare students.”

Ford said that her range uses Caucasian-male targets and that outside agencies are not allowed to bring their own onto the range. The range provides everything but the ammo, according to Ford. In her 18 years with the MSP, Ford said she has never seen African-Americans depicted on gun-range targets.

“We want to get female threats as well,” Ford said. “I’ve never seen an African-American target. It wouldn’t bother me per se. I can’t say it would be wrong to shoot an African-American target, but diversity is crucial.”

The price of student wellness?

Health & Fitness Center rates on the rise; trustees to amend student fees

By BEN SOLIS
Editor

In an attempt to raise revenue for \$170,000 worth of repairs and renovations to the Health and Fitness Center, monthly and annual rates for members are scheduled to increase on Feb. 1.

Individual members will pay \$64 in monthly dues, \$111 for couples, \$158 for family plans and \$58 or \$105 for senior and senior couples, respectively.

Washtenaw employees and staff will pay \$44, \$91 for couples and \$138 for a three-person family program. Members who pay upfront for annual rates without monthly dues will now pay \$768 for individual plans, \$696 for seniors and \$528 for members associated with the college.

The rates hikes, which were raised last year by the Washtenaw Community College Board of Trustees, will mark the second time the HFC has increased its dues since opening in 2007.

Among the different plans, all fees for monthly dues will increase by \$2 and all annual fees will go up as much as \$24, according to the recommendation presented to trustees last month.

The various rates will increase depending on the type of membership, which can range from individual to family plans, discounted senior plans and designated programs for Washtenaw students, faculty and staff.

No changes will be made to all initiation fees or monthly student rates — student monthly rates and initiation fees will remain at \$45 and \$0, respectively. Other initiation fees range from \$100-\$300.

By restructuring the plan rates, the HFC is projected to generate additional annual revenue totaling in \$158,474.

During the 2011-12 discussions that included the first round of increases, former Board Chair Pamela Horiszny expressed concerns that rates were too high for the average student.

As Center Director Linda Perry and Operations Director Greg Hanby presented the newest round of hikes at last month’s meeting, Horiszny became incensed by a perceived lack of attention to student rates.

“Students are paying more than both our staff and students who are receiving college credit,” Horiszny said in a stern chide to Perry and Hanby at the Dec. 11 meeting. “I want to see this lowered below \$40.”

While Horiszny was not generally opposed to the new fees, she rejected the cost for students, which are higher than the other two rates reserved for the college’s population.

Students with memberships pay a monthly rate of \$45, meanwhile PEA 115 students pay only \$40 and college employees pay \$44, trustees included.

“I think it does matter to our students, as our philosophy has always been about how we can serve them,”

she said. Horiszny suggested that the rate be amended to \$35, which was met by tense debate between other trustees, particularly Richard Landau and Patrick McLean, about how the lowered rate would affect the center’s revenue stream.

Trustee Mark Freeman seconded Horiszny’s call for an amendment.

“We have to make sure that we’re not encouraging just the PEA course, but that we’re encouraging working out and fitness,” Freeman said. “This rate doesn’t encourage that, especially if only 70 students are keeping it up after PEA.”

Perry told *The Washtenaw Voice* that she understands the board’s position and was researching a reasonable cost-cutting path toward lowering the rate students.

“Pricing issues for the community and pricing issues for the students have been our concern from Day One,” she said. “The college has worked hard to have the center be a vehicle for their student focused philosophy. Our goal is the same—to bring as many students in and have them set goals that will keep them healthy and fit for the rest of their lives.”

Perry and Hanby planned to present their findings to trustees at the Jan. 22 board meeting. “We have a good working relationship with the trustees,” Perry said, “and we’ll do whatever we need to do to keep the programs student-focused.”

How does Washtenaw’s fitness club stack up against others in the area?

Health & Fitness Center*	
Individual	
Initiation Fee	\$150
Monthly Dues	\$64
Annual Membership	\$768
*Rates based on proposed changes to take effect on Feb. 1	
Liberty Athletic Club – Ann Arbor	
Individual	
Joining Fee	\$350
Monthly Dues	\$98
No Annual Fee – 30 Days’ Notice required ending membership	

Anytime Fitness – Ann Arbor	
Enrollment Fee	
\$100	
Membership Plans	
Six Month	\$50
12 Month	\$45
18 Month	\$43
Two Year	\$40
Membership includes access to all Anytime Fitness locations	

YMCA – Ann Arbor	
Young Adult (18-27)	
Initiation	\$35
Monthly	\$47
Adult	
Initiation	\$100
Monthly	\$30
Planet Fitness – Ypsilanti	
Regular membership	
Startup Fee	\$29
Monthly Dues	\$10
Annual Billing Fee	\$29 (Oct. 1)

SNIPS

2013 Winter Welcome Day

Student Development and Activities is hosting the 2013 Winter Welcome Day on Jan. 23 in the Student Center from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Representatives from various college departments and student clubs and organizations will be on hand to answer questions. Businesses attending Welcome Day include Noodles and Company, Jimmy Johns, Girl Scouts of America and the Michigan Theater, which will be having a drawing to give away T-shirts and movie passes.

Dental Clinic reopens

The dental clinic in Washtenaw Community College will reopen on Jan. 29. Eligible patients include students registered for Winter classes and WCC faculty and staff. Appointments can be made at (734) 973-3332 or at the clinic, located in the Occupational Education building in Room 106. Appointments can be made for Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. On-site treatments include teeth cleaning and X-rays, among other services.

Your opinion matters

WCC is asking students to go to their emails and complete a survey regarding the WCC website design. They survey should take less than 10 minutes and asks multiple open-ended questions regarding the website.

Free root beer floats

Student Activities will be handing out free root beer floats in the Community Room on Jan. 17 from noon-1 p.m. The floats are given out on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last.

U-M hockey tickets on sale

Tickets for the University of Michigan-Michigan State hockey game at the Joe Lewis Arena on Feb. 2 are on sale now in the Cashiers office. Tickets are limited and cost \$15 per person.

Lion King tickets on sale

Tickets for the theater production “The Lion King” at the Detroit Opera House on Feb. 28 at 7:30 p.m. are available at the Cashiers Office. Tickets cost \$20 per person; transportation is not included.

Winter Talent Show auditions

Auditions for the 2013 Winter Talent Show will held in the Towsley Auditorium on Feb. 14, from 5-9 p.m. Students interested in participating in the show are asked to register at tinyurl.com/wccwintertalentshow. For more information, contact Rachel Barsch in the SDA office at (734) 973-3691.

Winter biking seminar

The City of Ypsilanti Non-Motorized Advisory Committee and Bike Ypsi will be hosting a free winter bicycling talk at 2 p.m. on Jan. 19. The event is located at 16 W. Michigan Ave. Topics include indoor biking and proper winter attire. Attendees will receive a 20 percent discount on accessories at Ypsilanti Cycle. For more information, phone (734) 487-9058 or email wolverbob@gmail.com.

SECURITY NOTES

From redacted incident reports provided by Campus Safety and Security, and interviews with Director Jacques Desrosiers.

Threats made against WCC staff

A student made verbal threats against a WCC staff member in the Student Center on Dec. 18 between 12:30-1 p.m. The student left campus without incident. The Washtenaw County Sheriffs Department was notified about the threats.

College’s Fitness Center: Pricey — but worth it



LELAND DAWSON

More often than not, the only time the Washtenaw Community College Health and Fitness Center is being talked about is when the rates change. We almost never hear about the actual value students, faculty, staff and the community get out of the HFC.

There’s no way around it: Compared to local gyms, the HFC is expensive. At \$40 a month or higher depending on the type of membership, it can make the nearby Planet Fitness look like a steal. They often run \$10 a month specials with a small, cash-down payment.

Sayings that are true normally stick around and become “old sayings.” Such is the case with “you get what you pay for.”

At the Planet Fitness on Washtenaw Avenue, the gym looks to be built in a warehouse. There are no windows or natural light, all of the equipment is in one large and open area with very few exceptions, and gym users are restricted from doing any sort of Olympic lifting. These are the compound exercises that a lot of highly-regarded personal trainers have been recommending in recent years.

Beyond just having better lighting and a color scheme that is easier

on the eyes (pink, yellow and black do not mix well), the HFC also has many more amenities than just a few cardio machines, free weights that stop at 50 pounds and an almost barren locker room.

There is a larger variety of cardio machines, ranging from treadmills to elliptical machines to stationary bikes (both standard and recumbent) and many others. The HFC also has many cardio group classes that are free to members. Zumba, spin and cardio kickboxing are a small sampling of the fun classes staffed by highly trained and professional personnel.

The facility has a pool area with a warm water section and a lap pool. They also have hot tubs and saunas in the locker rooms. Complimentary soap, shampoo, and other toiletries are provided as well.

Members have access to a basketball court that hosts a boot-camp class on Saturdays. And if running on a treadmill is getting boring, members can use the in-door track. If one finds the weather hospitable, members can venture outside to the forested outdoor track and then still use the locker room to shower and change clothing to continue the day.

This isn’t everything the HFC has on tap for its members. There is no doubt that the HFC offers a premium service and has a cost that reflects it. These services, facilities and highly trained staff do not come cheaply.

And as such the members should take pride in the fact that they have made such a large and worthy investment in themselves. That is what a gym membership is, after all.

EDITORIAL

At ease without guns on campus

The daily rigors of acquiring a college degree, on time, and with high marks, are strenuous and tiresome. They are punctuated by long nights, inevitable caffeine abuses and high-strung moments that might feel like the weight of the world on a student’s shoulders. The threat of campus gun violence and the fear of those who seek the right to carry such a weapon inconspicuously have never been nor should be counted as one of those ritual stressors.

Enter the Michigan Senate, and Bill 59, legislation that would have allowed guns to be carried on college campuses statewide.

Fortunately, the bill was stymied and vetoed abruptly in light of the unfathomable brutality at a Connecticut grade school, and a handful of other downplayed mass shootings.

Within minutes of Snyder’s statements clarifying why he did not sign SB 59, officials at Washtenaw released heavy sighs of relief.

Among them was President Rose Bellanca.

“I am very pleased that the governor did not sign the legislation to carry concealed weapons,” Bellanca told *The Washtenaw Voice*. “I did not believe there was any legitimate public safety or educational interests to be served by the passage of this legislation.”

Bellanca expressed her concerns to the governor in various written communications, mostly regarding the faulty reasoning of the bill’s intentions; she relayed that her foremost concern was about the safety of our campus, gracefully avoiding the pratfalls of perilous politicking, adding “that it could also lead to an explosive and potentially tragic situation.”

The world around us is changing rapidly. Our society has become increasingly violent and fixated on the glorification of crime. Too many in our generation are disillusioned and uncertain about the future of the nation. Indeed, the discussions were forced upon us by senseless slaughter, but the fear of change should not distract America from the overdue process of dealing with its Gun Problem. If the ideological fissures that plague Washington are a reflection of the American people, it is logical to assume that Washtenaw students are divided along similar lines.

No matter how much each recoils at the thought of armed violence at Washtenaw, and whether they feel civilians with guns are the best way to quell a potential rampage, few students can disagree that a gun can only teach them three things: mild discipline, control and the proper aim for a kill. As far as the college’s leadership is generally concerned, those units are not required reading for any degree or certificate offered on campus.

That which has no educational value should remain solely extracurricular. Thankfully for our collective safety, Gov. Snyder agreed with them.

CORRECTIONS

Because of an editing mistake, a headline on Page A5 in the Dec. 17 edition was incorrect. It should have said, “A century later, science still reeling from 1912 ‘Missing Link’ hoax. *The Voice* regrets the error.

THE WASHTENAW VOICE

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4800 E. Huron River Dr.
TI 106
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
(734) 677-5125
thewashtenawvoice@gmail.com

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EDITOR
Ben Solis
bensolis1@gmail.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Adrian Hedden
ahedden@wccnet.edu

PHOTO EDITOR
Nathan Clark
njclark@wccnet.edu

DESIGN EDITOR
Peter Hochgraf
phochgraf@wccnet.edu

WEB EDITOR
Tom Lee
tlee15@wccnet.edu

ADVERTISING MANAGER
Becky Alliston
ealliston@wccnet.edu

STAFF WRITERS
Kelly Bracha
Leland Dawson
Anna Elias
Michael Hlywa
Amanda Jacobs
Maria Rigou

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Charles Manley
charles.manley@gmail.com

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
George O'Donovan
godonovan@wccnet.edu

CORRESPONDENTS
Michael Adsit
Sawanya Phakphian
Cashmere Morley

ADVISER
Keith Gave
kgave@wccnet.edu

Battling blood-clots and surviving The Edge



BEN SOLIS

You’ll never know how vital your water is until the well runs dry.

I’m not sure when or where I was the first time I heard that phrase. It was either in a William Bell song or a foredoomed fortune cookie. I can’t quite remember.

Drinking water is a natural part of human survival. Water refreshes the weary, withering soul. It makes way like a battering ram for every chemical reaction occurring inside our terminally aging bodies.

If those definitions are accurate, then, in a way, working for *The Voice* while attending classes at Washtenaw Community College was a lot like drinking water.

In August, my well ran dry and *The Washtenaw Voice* printed an ominously jarring story in its teaser space about it. The news was terrifying — I had suffered my second stroke.

For a semester I picked up my beloved *Washtenaw Voice* with a heavy heart and an aching brain. There was something off with the whole production.

It didn’t have my name in it once; I wasn’t there when they put it together. Retracing the steps of what happened to me would be what Hunter S. Thompson called “an exercise in noble futility.”

All you need to know is the why.

My favorite writers have spent their lives spinning tales of a mythic edge that only the insane or the comfortably dead cross once they’ve been pushed to the brink.

Some fall off the cliff, while the rest just find the good sense to turn around with the clear knowledge that it will inevitably destroy them if they dare try again. These passages weren’t fantasies for me; I lived them. When I finally calmed down and started attending classes here at the college,

I replaced my wild habits with two packs of Marlboro’s and about six cups of strong coffee a day, and this strange new trip called journalism.

Finally my brain caught up and I hit The Edge. Facing death and walking away cursing it makes a man question every positive or terrible quality he possesses. Despite the antipathy, all I could think about was getting back to my water.

The Voice staff is more than a collection of friends and coworkers, they’re my family. Without them, I have nothing, and they were gone. If you know me, you’ll know that I hate quitters, I fight the hardest when I’m getting the guts beaten out of me and I’ll keep coming back for more because I’m addicted to it. Yet no matter how much strength you think you have, your body will cut you down if you don’t take care of it. If my experience can help anyone, its message can be found in another phrase.

Be excellent to each other, and be excellent to yourself. You only get one ticket to ride.

You’ll never know when your well is going to run dry.

Journalism: a career to die for?

Reporters sacrifice all to bring you the news



MARIA RIGOU

Detroit Free Press reporter Jeff Seidel remembers searching side-by-side with Detroit Police, looking for the body of a homicide victim, when he thought he might become a victim himself.

“All of a sudden, all these people start pulling out guns. Even the grandma had a gun in her purse,” Seidel said in a recent interview. “I immediately thought, ‘What’s going to happen to us?’

“I was literally scared to death.”

All this, for the sake of bringing truth to the readers of his newspaper.

Journalism is a dangerous profession, and at war in Iraq — and on the streets of Detroit — Seidel has chronicled the worst of man’s atrocity to man. He survived, but others are not so fortunate.

An unprecedented 132 journalists were killed in the line of duty or as consequence of their reporting in 2012. This beats the 2009 record high of 110, of which almost 30 percent were killed in the Maguindanao massacre

in the Philippines.

According to the International Press Institute (IPI), the top five most lethal countries for journalists are Syria, Somalia, Pakistan, Mexico and Indonesia. In Syria alone, at least 31 journalists and eight citizen reporters were killed while covering the conflict there.

In Gaza in late-November, three reporters were killed by an Israeli Defense Force airstrike. In Syria, Marie Colvin, an American reporter working for the British *Sunday Times* and a French photographer were specifically targeted by the Assad regime and murdered. In Mexico, reporters and photographers are regularly kidnapped and killed by drug cartels to send messages to the papers they work for. And in Iran, a blogger was killed while being held captive by the police.

But what does this mean? Is the passion of telling a story really worth it?

Before he spent six months on assignment with homicide detectives in the Detroit Police Department, Seidel spent three months in Iraq, embedded with the U.S. Marines.

“I was sitting on a box of explosives, shoulder-to-shoulder with Marines,” explained Seidel. “It was dangerous, but I didn’t realize the dangers of it.”

That wasn’t the case, however, during his stint with Detroit Police while reporting for his series on homicides in 2004.

Seidel had followed a family in the search for a dead nephew, Dwan Stowers, 24, for some time. Homicide detectives had been too busy to help, so Seidel worked with the family to

report on their progress.

“Working with these people, I realized at what lengths some go to solve crimes,” he explained. “It was starting to get scary.”

There had been a spike in the homicide rate in Detroit that year, and one day Stowers’ aunt received a tip saying that the body they were looking for was buried under a house.

“I just thought somebody was framing them,” Seidel added. “Somebody was going to drive by and shoot them all, because they were going at extreme lengths to find the body.”

Now Seidel was scared — more so than when he’d been sweeping land mines with the Marines.

This is what some reporters are willing to go through to bring you the news.

“It’s a dangerous profession,” said Seidel, now a sports columnist with the newspaper. “But I wouldn’t change anything. I won’t go back to war, though.”

Journalists are at risk on a global scale, and while reporters used to be a bit safer when covering violence and war, those days are now over. No one is safe, and governments respond with impunity, making it easier to kill reporters without suffering consequences.

Something must be done. Somehow, some way, we need to find a way to make life safer for those who risk their lives in search of the truth.

When I finished my conversation with Seidel, I immediately phoned my boyfriend — and started crying.

“This is what I want to do,” I told him. “No matter what.”

Voice Box

INTERVIEWS **MARIA RIGOU** *STAFF WRITER*
PHOTOGRAPHS **CHARLES MANLEY** *STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER*

College students may or may not be able to remember what was on last semester’s final exam, or even what they ate for breakfast this morning, if anything at all. But somehow, those same students can instantly recall a treasure trove of countless random facts and figures, ranging from the completely useless to the down-right bizarre. So tell us...

WHAT IS THE MOST RANDOM FACT YOU KNOW?

TOMMY REYNOLDS
23, Ypsilanti, Computer Science



‘Octopi have three hearts.’

SUSAN FORGIE
baby boomer, Dexter, Business



‘Baby boomers were born 20 seconds apart for 20 years.’

FRANK GRANT
28, Detroit, Business



‘Jordan shoes cost like \$1.70 to make.’

NICHOLAS ROWE
22, Ann Arbor, Pre-med and Nursing



‘A lot of people in Germany don’t have middle names.’

DASIA HURLEY
19, Ann Arbor, Photography



‘Male puppies let female puppies win when playing, even though male puppies are stronger.’

JAMIE FARMER
34, Ypsilanti, Nursing



‘The blood PH level of a human being ranges from 7.35 to 7.45.’

ASAD MIAN
21, Ypsilanti, Nursing



‘Thinking about smiling triggers chemicals in the brain that can actually change a persons’ mood.’

RICHARD MCKESSON
27, Detroit, Business Law



‘Cows have four stomachs.’

His charred apartment a total loss, Voice staffer just covers the news



BENJAMIN KNAUSS

“Do you have insurance?” That was the first thing many asked among the crowd gathered to gaze upon the horrific sight of a 12-unit apartment building burn to a total loss. Fortunately, I was able to answer that question with more peace of mind than some of my neighbors.

I wanted to start my last semester at Washtenaw Community College as a part of the journalism program off on a good foot. I was here to attend *The Voice’s* weekly staff meeting and to find out how I can be a part of this newspaper family.

Then I got the call from my girlfriend, Joelen Kersten, WCC graduate and former staffer, as I stepped into the hall.

“Are you at home?”

“No, why?”

“The office called to see where everyone is and if they are out of the building. They said our apartment is on fire.”

My first thought was of was the cast-iron skillet I had cooked eggs in earlier in the day. I hear that my apartment is on fire and want to believe that it is just a pot of something left on the stove too long and it is smoking sending everyone into a panic.

I wanted to run as fast as I could to

my truck and head home, but stopped at the exit doors, turned and walked back to *The Voice* office. This may be news worth covering, but I still believed it was just going to be overreaction on the account of an apartment manager.

“Breaking news,” the reporter in me was announcing to the newsroom. “My apartment is on fire.”

I turned on the police scanner app on my cell phone, and the first thing that came out of the speaker was a call requesting for mutual aid from other area fire departments to respond to my address.

This was not going to be a “burnt-cookies” scare.

The closer to home I got, the more I was thinking it may have been small and easily taken care of. I did not see any smoke, I did not see any helicopters, and I did not see any responding emergency units.

Then I spotted an aerial fire unit spraying down what I only could assume to be my building as I turned into the entrance of Schooner Cove in Ypsilanti Township.

Watching my home, and everything I own with the exception of what is in my pockets, burn was a conflicting event.

Walking to the scene, I saw my neighbors gathered in one area and the media in another. I waved to the apartment manager and said that I was OK and that Joelen was on her way, too, as I kept walking. She asked where I was going.

I pointed to the media gathering at the scene and said, “I’m going to work.”

Once the fire was out, we all started asking ourselves, “what are we going to do?” The Red Cross showed up in

full force as if on cue.

And its volunteers lived up to their long-established mission statement.

No one affected by the fire, in even minimalist terms, left that night empty handed. We all had been given the opportunity to find our own place to stay, and if we could not than options where available. We all had been given some finances to start to rebuild our lives, starting with the very basic necessities.

We each were leaving behind almost everything, but our first steps forward would be made in new and dry shoes, on a full stomach, in a warm coat and with few bucks to get a toothbrush and other things as we headed for a safe place to stay for the night.

So thank you to the volunteers and generosity of those who gave donations to the Red Cross.

Please think of the local Washtenaw County chapter the next time you want give to a good cause that will go directly to those affected by tragedy when they need it the most.

And I cannot stress enough the importance of having insurance.

My personal policy is going to be able to provide a great place to stay while we are displaced. Possessions will be replaced and the timeframe to get life back to normal is short.

For \$150 a year for my insurance, I am able to have the peace of mind where otherwise would be extreme stress. I know the cost will be different for others, but who can’t come up with an extra \$20 a month for a little peace of mind?



A view to a blaze: Firefighters work to extinguish an apartment fire at the Schooner Cove apartment.



Smoldering scene: An apartment in ruins, incinerated by the recent fire that destroyed on the complex and displaced residents from 12 units.

With or without guns, you can’t outsmart crazy



NATHAN CLARK

Shortly after any mass-shooting, the debate on gun control quickly rises to the top of everyone’s list of concerns and becomes a talking point of politicians throughout the country.

Advocates for gun control come out of the woodwork, lobbying for stricter gun regulations, while pro-gun advocates firmly protest any gun legislation that so much as mentions the word gun in it.

Both sides of the argument have valid points, yet neither side is able to come to any reasonable middle ground. They tend to just argue back and forth for months until the debate fades from public interest only to start up again after the next mass-shooting occurs.

Gun control supporters think stricter gun laws will make it harder for criminals and the mentally ill to get weapons, while the other side thinks everyone should be able to defend themselves without government interference. Both are a little right — and a little wrong.

I served in the Army for eight years, deployed to Iraq twice and have always been a responsible gun owner. So needless to say: I know my way around firearms.

My first thought whenever I hear about a mass shooting is, “why didn’t anyone shoot back?” Shooting back was standard operating procedure for all the years I was in the military, and it still.

Terrible people do terrible things because they’re criminals, and crazy people do crazy things because they’re crazy. Laws don’t stop criminals from

being criminals, nor do laws cure mental illness.

We could get rid of guns outright, but that goes against everything this country was founded on. And it’s just plain stupid.

The second amendment wasn’t designed to protect the rights of hunters to have their weapons. It was meant to keep citizens armed so if the government became a tyrant to its people, citizens had the means to revolt.

Many argue that fact, saying a revolution today is unrealistic and citizens wouldn’t stand a chance because the military has bombs, tanks and warships while all we would be armed with is a cache of machine guns, at best.

So just because the odds are stacked against you, you’d give up? You do realize this nation was created after fighting a long, bloody war against the world’s largest empire of the time period, right?

We live in an interesting country, and it bothers me a little bit that it’s easier to buy a weapon in America than it is to get affordable health insurance, but that’s a whole different philosophical debate.

Everyone has the right to defend themselves and should not be hindered by government mandates. But there is one stipulation I believe is necessary, besides continuing standard background checks: weapons training.

I have no problem with people being able to purchase a gun, but I do have a problem with people not knowing how to use one.

Soldiers and police officers can maintain their composure in a fire-fight due to the hours of training they experience. The average civilian is not prepared to handle a firefight.

So why don’t we just teach everyone how to react to bad situations? People take driver’s education to learn to drive, why not take firearm training to learn how to shoot accurately under pressure?

That sounds reasonable enough.

GUN LAW FROM A1

between Snyder and supporters of the law broke down over a provision the governor had hoped to add to the bill, allowing schools and other public entities to opt out of allowing concealed carry on their premises.

“Obviously our (SCC) reaction is that we think it’s a travesty for Michigan gun owners who would have been able to defend themselves and others,” Smith said. “It’s a travesty for people who don’t own guns as well.”

After the tragedy in Connecticut, Smith began to perceive growing national attention to Michigan and its proposed change in gun laws. He was fearful that lobbyists from outside the state had begun exerting their views in letters and correspondence with Snyder.

“A lot of people outside Michigan began to contact Snyder,” Smith said. “That gave the bill negative attention. Connecticut gave him a pretext for vetoing a bill he already didn’t like.”

Washtenaw Community College President Rose Bellanca was incited when she heard of the potential that her school would be required to allow concealed handguns.

After voicing her concerns in a letter to Snyder and other law makers, Bellanca is satisfied that a decision was made in the best interest of education.

“I am very pleased that the governor did not sign the legislation to carry concealed weapons,” Bellanca said. “I did not believe there was any legitimate public safety or educational interests to be served by the passage of this legislation.”

Bellanca said her fears that concealed carry at WCC could end in disaster and that handguns pose little educational value to her students.

“It is my opinion that legalizing the carrying of concealed weapons in the WCC environment would jeopardize the safety of our community and interfere with the quality of instruction,” she said. “I was also concerned that it could also lead to an explosive and potentially tragic situation.”

With a career in law enforcement spanning more than 30 years, WCC’s Director of Safety and Security Jacques Desrosiers was also grateful for a decision he worried could have made his and other law enforcement officers’ jobs much more complicated.

Desrosiers worried that allowing more guns and subsequent shooters in the general public would create greater challenges for law enforcement when identifying threats.

“I’m glad he (Snyder) vetoed it. It (Senate Bill 59) would have really muddled the waters,” Desrosiers said. “If we have a crisis (at WCC), we will be assisted by local law enforcement if it seems to exceed our abilities.”

Desrosiers asserts that with the use of call boxes, cameras and active patrols on campus, WCC’s security force is very much able to prevent crisis from ensuing with help from local police.

“We’re visible and proactive,” Desrosiers said. “We get good response from the Washtenaw County Sheriff’s Department. If someone feels endangered, they have three options: run, hide and fight.

“The first one is most advisable.”

SOCIAL MEDIA FROM A1

The post read: “Drivin drunk... classic. but to whoever’s vehicle I hit I am sorry.”

The teenager was arrested, but Brad Johnston, deputy chief of Astoria Police, said that the Facebook post was not enough evidence to prove that the individual was intoxicated.

“Astoria police have an active presence in social media,” the police said in a press release. “With status updates like these, private things do not stay private for long.”

At Washtenaw Community College,

the policy is to safeguard students.

“I am not aware of any situation where a student was (or would be) requested or required to provide their password(s) to WCC staff,” said Larry Aeilts, ombudsman and dean of Enrollment Management.

According to Associate Director of Public Affairs Janet Hawkins, “WCC does not monitor social media (activity) by employees for violations of college policy.”

This is a relief for both students and employees.

“What I have on my Facebook account is personal,” explained Hafsa Shaikh, 22-year-old general studies

student from Ypsilanti. “I would give them everything except for my Facebook login information.”

Michigan isn’t the only state to adapt these laws to the changing Internet social sphere.

Delaware, Maryland, California and Illinois have also passed similar laws, either to protect students or employees.

“I guess it is good (that they are protecting individuals),” said William Alexander, 22-year-old nursing student from Belleville. “I wouldn’t have given them the information in the first place, but still... it’s good.”

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EMU student death sparks safety discussion

By ANNA ELIAS
Staff Writer

Megan Kelly never felt completely secure walking around Washtenaw’s campus by herself, especially at night. But since the suspicious death of an Eastern Michigan University student last month, her senses are heightened and she’s even more cautious.

“(It’s) pretty scary to hear about it at first, especially because it’s so close to home,” said Kelly, 18, an occupational therapy major from Ypsilanti. “When it’s in the area, it’s eye-opening that there are horrible people out there.”

Julia Niswender was found dead in her locked bedroom of her Peninsular Place Apartments on Dec. 11. Her death is being investigated as what police have termed an “apparent homicide.” But because it occurred so far off the WCC campus, college officials were not required to send a notice of the crime to WCC students. Many students, however, felt uneasy after not hearing about the case just days after Niswender was found dead.

“The fact that I haven’t heard about it and it’s not far down the road worries me,” said Abby McIntire, 16, WTMC student of Saline.

Discussion began about whether the college should have sent out an alert to students between Allie Sherman, 16, and friends.

“Eastern is really close to WCC... and it’s for our safety,” said Sherman, WTMC student of Hartland.

The concern about safety on school campuses has been a highlight since the Columbine High School massacre in 1999. Most recently, the Sandy Hook elementary school in Newtown, Conn. was deemed the second deadliest school shooting in U.S. history, following the Virginia Tech massacre in 2007.

In the Sandy Hook case, the gunman was not a current student at the school.

This concerns WCC students. They posed the question of how do you know who is supposed to be on campus or in dorm rooms, and who

is an intruder.

“Nobody wants to walk around with an ID on them,” said Henry Mata, 35, of Ypsilanti, “but it seems that’s what this world is coming to.”

After the Niswender death, EMU officials listened to questions posed by students at the informational forum the day following the discovery of her body. This resulted in the student-led late-night escort service, Students Eyes and Ears for University Safety (SEES), extending its hours for the remainder of the Fall semester. Security at Halle Library, which is open 24 hours, was also extended during finals week.

At the informational forum, EMU President Susan Martin and Chief of Police Bob Hieghes discussed the security changes on campus.

“As the president, I want to reaffirm our strong commitment to safety on this campus,” Martin said.

The university ramped up security presence on campus with hundreds of additional cameras, additional police patrols and many other new security features.

“As a result, our campus is safer than ever,” Martin said.

The Ypsilanti Police Department sent out a press release last Wednesday stating it was waiting on results from toxicology, forensic laboratory results and a final autopsy report.

Lt. Detective Deric Gress, who oversees detectives in the Niswender investigation, told *The Voice* on Jan. 4 that the Ypsilanti Police were going to sit down with the family before any news is released to the public.

Another death investigation in the Peninsular Place apartments has begun after a 21-year-old female was found dead in her bed at 4:35 a.m. last Friday. According to a press release from the Ypsilanti Police Department, “medication was found at the scene that indicates a possible overdose.” There are no indications of foul play.

The Ypsilanti Police said that this death is completely independent from and in no way connected to the investigation into the Niswender death.

FIRE FROM A1



Landing on their feet: Huron Valley Ambulance worker Shawn Raus checks out a cat held by Schooner Cove resident Susan Elamon. The cat was rescued from the third floor of the building after Elamon alerted firefighters to its presence.

believed to be “unattended careless cooking... a grease fire,” Ypsilanti Township fire captain Brad Johnson said on Thursday, adding that the official investigation was ongoing.

Leo Lebron, a resident of the building, was alerted to the fire by a woman from another building. He said the fire began as a grease fire in another unit.

“He turned his burner on and there was so much built up grease underneath it that this giant flame shot up and started burning the place down,” Lebron said of the tenant where the fire began.

The apartment building at 5086 Bosun’s Way consisted of 12 units that are all damaged from the fire that started in a second floor unit. The building was scheduled for demolition Jan. 11, according to Schooner Cove Community Manager Calvette Jenkins. An additional three units suffered smoke damage.

Displaced residents that needed housing immediately were relocated to homes in McKinley’s sister communities, according to Jenkins. The company was working with all affected tenants to continue to honor the lease agreements.

“Some wanted to come back because they love it here,” Jenkins said.

Kersten is one of those residents. Schooner Cove has openings beginning in February for those affected, and she is one of the first moving back.

Schooner Cove set up a relief fund at Bank of Ann Arbor to help support the affected residents. Only two apartments had rental insurance, according to Kersten.

Some employees took it upon

Voice Staff Photographer Charles Manley contributed to this report.

Former Ann Arbor News reporter switches sides in EMU death

By ANNA ELIAS
Staff Writer

When the news broke after the death of an Eastern Michigan student last month, the university had the right guy in the right place to help guide administrators on how to handle the situation

The last time a large homicide investigation enveloped the campus, Geoff Larcom was a hard-digging reporter for *The Ann Arbor News*, which vigorously chronicled the cover-up of the rape and murder of a student in her dorm room.

Laura Dickinson, 22, from Hastings, was found in her dorm room partially nude and a pillow covering her face by a university custodian after students reported a stench in the residence dorm, Hill Hall, on Dec. 15, 2006. The next day a statement was issued by Eastern informing the students of the death and that no foul play was suspected.

Following the arrest of Orange Taylor III for rape and murder of Dickinson more than 10 weeks after her body was found, the university informed Dickinson’s family, staff, faculty, students and the media of the true circumstances surrounding her death.

The university was ultimately found in violation of the Jeanne Clery Act, a federal law requiring

colleges and universities to inform the campuses in a timely manner of crimes that pose a “serious and ongoing threat to students and employees,” according to the Clery Center for Security on Campus.

The way administrators handled the case resulted in firing of the president of the university, the vice president for student affairs and the director and chief of police of the department of public safety.

Now, the Ypsilanti Police Department is investigating the “apparent homicide” of EMU student, Julia Niswender, 23, of Monroe. She was found dead in her locked bedroom in her suite at Peninsular Place Apartments after a roommate called the police for a “welfare check.”

In 2009, Larcom, 54, joined the staff at EMU as executive director of media relations after *The Ann Arbor News* closed its doors for good. With Larcom’s retiring beat at the paper being EMU, he was already familiar with administrators and news at the university.

In Larcom’s new role, working under the direction of Walter Kraft, vice president of communications, he said the university is attempting to update the campus with information “as quickly, as accurately and completely as we can.”

After receiving the largest fine given by the Department of Education to

any college or university of \$350,000 for violation of the federal law, Eastern made great strides to improving security on campus, including a new emergency alert system.

“If you inform the campus in a quick and accurate way, it enables the campus to unite as a community and properly show the grief, and also the condolences, to the family or anybody affected by a crisis,” Larcom said. “Good communication I feel unifies the campus or any other community that is affected by that tragedy.”

The university has sent out numerous emails following the tragedy, as well as holding an informational forum the day following the discovery of the body.

“The media in the initial stages of a crisis is a help, in some ways is your ally,” Larcom said. “It’s your goal to get information out about the nature of the crisis and what’s being done about it, and they have that same purpose.”

Eastern has dedicated a website to the aggregation of investigation updates and media coverage of the ongoing investigation of the homicide by the Ypsilanti Police Department.

“Negative news does happen and people need to know about it,” Larcom said. “Communication builds trust in a community. And the EMU community has acted like a family in trying to show our appreciation and caring for the family in a very difficult situation.”

PAY FROM A1

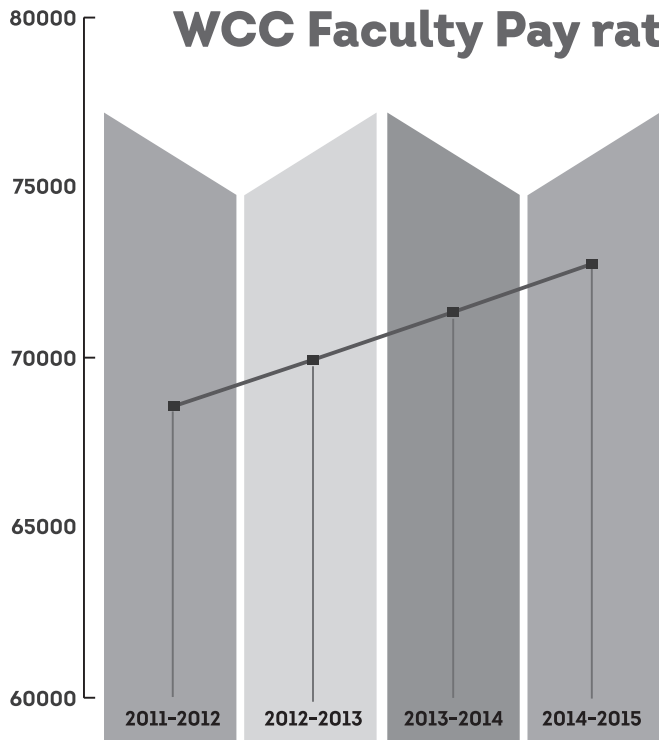


ILLUSTRATION BY GEORGE O'DONOVAN THE WASHTENAW VOICE

contract in 2005 was followed by two three-year contracts in 2009 and 2012. Fitzpatrick said that contracts typically run for three years.

“In the early ’90s, the administration and the college agreed that the way they would set faculty pay rates would be by looking at our comparable institutions, their pay structures,” Fitzpatrick said. “The understanding we have, and it’s not set in stone, is that faculty pay is going to be in the top half of those schools.”

Fitzpatrick defined comparable institutions as comprising nine other community colleges in Southeast Michigan: Monroe County, Jackson, Lansing, Henry Ford, Schoolcraft, Macomb County, Oakland, Charles S. Mott and Wayne County.

“Our salaries will be pegged in the top half of those schools’ salary ranges,” he said. “That has pretty much taken salary off the table as a point of contention. That formula makes it pretty easy to settle on pay. “There’s not much to dispute.”

Henry Ford Community College ranks atop nearby community colleges, paying its teachers an average of \$74,085 per year.

Fitzpatrick is satisfied that instructors at WCC are properly

compensated for the labor and experience they bring to the college. He said it also reflects the lofty credentials possessed by those hired to teach at WCC.

“We’re well compensated, but we do good work and we work hard. We put in long hours,” he said. “Almost all faculty members, and there are a couple notable exceptions because of their skills involved, have at least one master’s degree.

“That pay also reflects the education.”

According to terms of a contract negotiated last summer, WCC full-time instructors will see an increase of 2 percent in their annual salaries each year until 2015. This is consistent with last year’s 2-percent increase in the final year of the 2009 contract.

WCC’s pay rates for full-time faculty are built around a 15-step structure in which instructors are assigned a step, when hired, based on previous experience and education. They then increase one step each year as they continue to teach at WCC.

This year, each step up will garner an increase in pay of roughly \$2,700.

Fitzpatrick said that newly hired faculty can come to WCC at a maximum step of 22 with most new hires between 20 and 22.

WCC versus nearby four-year Universities

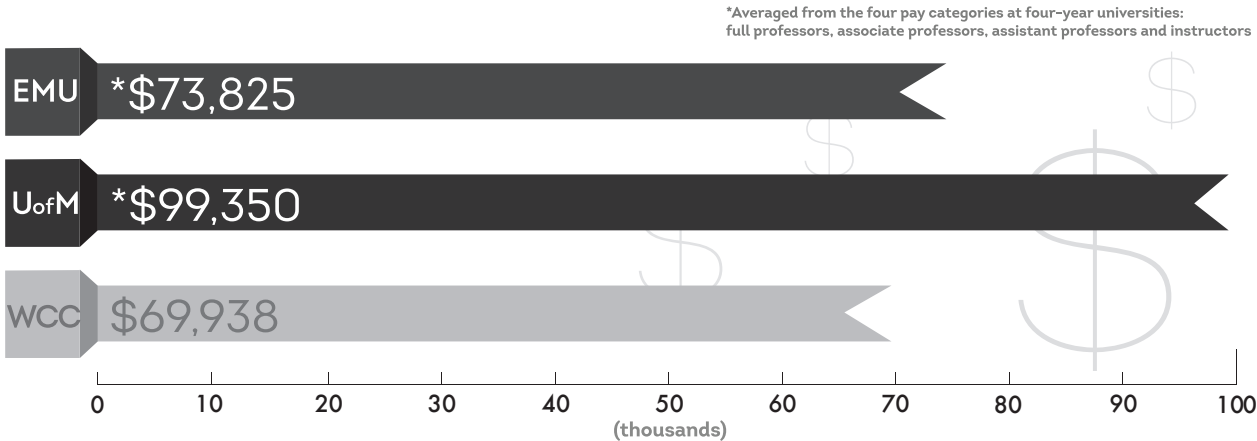


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complete YOUR COLLEGE EXPERIENCE! with Student Development and Activities

Winter Welcome Day

Wednesday, January 23

11 a.m.-2 p.m.

1st floor of the Student Center Building
Check out clubs and WCC departments and organizations
Grab freebies and food from area vendors
Make a wax hand and get an airbrush tattoo

Free Root Beer Floats

Thursday, January 17

Noon- 1 p.m.

SC Community Room
While supplies last

Ticket: The Lion King

Detroit Opera House

Thursday, February 28

7:30 p.m.

Only \$20!

Ticket: Martha Graham Dance

Friday, January 25

8 p.m.

Power Center

\$15

Ticket: Bowling with Student Activities

Meet new friends while enjoying this popular activity

Thursday, February 7

7-9 p.m. Colonial Lanes

\$4.50 includes: 2-hours of bowling, shoe rental and pizza/pop

Talent Show Auditions

If you can dance, sing or wow a crowd with a talent, we need you!

Thursday, February 14, 5-9 p.m.

Towsley Auditorium, Morris

Lawrence Building

Sign-up here:

<http://tinyurl.com/wccwintertalentshow>

Purchase tickets at the Cashier's Office, 2nd floor SCB, M-F, 8:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Ice Hockey Tryouts (Coed)

Monday, January 21 at 7 p.m.

Held at Veteran's Ice Arena

Must bring your WCC ID

The team will practice on Mondays and Thursdays and games will be held on Sundays and Wednesdays

Wrestling Tryouts

Tuesday, January 22 & Thursday, January 24, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Practices will be held in ML Police Academy Training Room

Must bring WCC ID

Practices will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7-9 p.m. and matches will be held on the weekends.

Vote on a name for WCC's Mascot!

Vote at WCC Sports (SC 116)

Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Pick one of five choices or choose your own!

Voting ends on March 1st.

Community Room Tournaments:

Table Tennis, Air Hockey, Foosball, Pool

January 14-17, and January 28-31

6:00-7:30 p.m.

UPCOMING SPORTS

Women's basketball Tryouts

Tuesday, January 15, 9:30-11:00 p.m.

WCC Health and Fitness Center

Must bring WCC ID

Practices held on Tuesdays at 9:30 p.m.

Games held on Thursdays

(7 p.m. or later)

Men's Basketball Tryouts

Wednesday, January 16 & 23, 9:30-11:00 p.m.

WCC Health and Fitness Center

Must bring WCC ID

Practices held Tuesdays and Wednesdays

at 9:30 p.m.

Games will be held on Mondays

(7 p.m. or later)

Coed Running /Walking

Begins Monday, January 28 at 4 p.m.

Practices held on Mondays and Thursdays

at 4 p.m.

Teams should meet at the Sports Club Office (SC 116)

Races will be held on the weekends for those who are interested

Intramural Tennis

Registration: January 14-25 in SC 116

League Period: February 4-February 28

(Mondays or Thursdays)

9:00-10:00 p.m. at Chippewa Tennis Center



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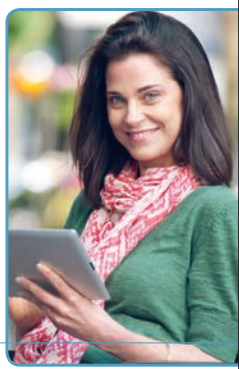
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All that Jas

WCC instructor Obrecht embarks upon new guitar e-magazine

By ANNA ELIAS
Staff Writer

When Web design and tech wizard Ryan Rhea rekindled his love for the acoustic guitar, the perfect outlet he dreamed up was a completely digital guitar-playing magazine. He had the knowledge to build a website as crisp as a February morning in Michigan, but what he was lacking was the written content.

Rhea knew only one person who could fit the bill.

Jas Obrecht, rock journalist and editor since 1978 and English instructor at Washtenaw Community College, was approached to fill the shoes of editor in chief and part owner in the parent company, JRC Media.

The company is comprised of Obrecht, Rhea and Christian Magee. The ability to be a part owner in the company made the deal sweeter to Obrecht to become once again a major part of the magazine industry.

“What typically happens in a publication, new owner takes over and the editor shifts around and the policies get messed up. I wanted to be immune from that,” Obrecht said, “and the way I can do that is to be a part of the owners in addition to the editor in chief.”

That’s not the only advantage to this new e-magazine. Compared to a traditional paper magazine, the internet-based venue gives the ability for Pure Guitar to have unlimited space.

Content held in the e-magazine ranges from a 12,000-word interview with legendary guitarist Eric Johnson to video guitar lessons or the complete audio of the 1990 Jason Becker interview, allowing many of his fans to hear Becker’s voice for the first time.

A perk of being a rock journalist is being able to spend time with favorite guitar players. For Obrecht, that was Eric Johnson. He was finally able to write the 12,000 word article print magazines never had the space for following a long afternoon in Johnson’s company.

“That’s 48 double-spaced pages. I could run the whole thing. A print magazine might do 2,000 or 3,000 words,” Obrecht said. “What do they do with the other 10,000 words? They get lost into the ether.”

A 60-year-old rock journalist, he started his career back in the late 1970’s. While writing for a book publisher in metro Detroit formerly known as Gale Research, Obrecht wrote a piece on Jim Morrison. This is what gained the interest of the editors at Guitar Player magazine.

“He was this city guy with a background in Detroit. He said something like, ‘Yeah, I grew up in Detroit and I only got shot at once.’ I found him to be quite likeable and not at all to be a tough city guy,” said former Guitar Player editor, Tom Wheeler. “Instead, I found a very simpatico writer who was a big fan of Mark Twain’s – which is a very good thing in my book – and cared about music, particularly blues.”

An editor for Guitar Player magazine when Obrecht joined the crew, Wheeler now works under him as the editor at large for Pure Guitar. Obrecht asked many other former colleagues to assist him with his new venture, as well as new journalists he had come to know and befriend.

“It doesn’t feel like a reversal to me, it just feels like here we are, a couple of friends and former colleagues

who are colleagues once again,” Wheeler said.

Along with his love of writing, Obrecht also had an ear for music. As a guitar player himself, whether it was blues, rock or reggae, potential talent wasn’t able to sneak past him.

The ability to seek out budding rock stars is a talent for which Obrecht is well-known. He was able to aid many musicians – including Eddie van Halen – to become internationally known with a few strokes of his pen. This is something many musicians are appreciative of.

“He was one of the guys that really helped me kinda get on my feet and get started. He kind of stuck his neck out for me and he did that before anybody else. I have a lot of gratitude for Jas Obrecht and how he helped me,” Johnson said. “He sees the value in all styles of music. He’s not a journalist that really says ‘... well, this is how it is.’ But more of what somebody has to say and what do they have to offer musically.”

Decades of Obrecht’s life had been spent interviewing personal guitar heroes, but he opted for a more casual life after the bust of an

JAS
CONTINUED B3



ADRIAN HEDDEN THE WASHTENAW VOICE

A Head For Axing: Obrecht’s ear for great playing helped him forge a decades-long career in writing.



ADRIAN HEDDEN THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Web Strings: Jas Obrecht’s Dexter home serves as the base of operations and main editorial office of Pure Guitar magazine.

Orchard Radio DJs sound off about new digs

Technological facelift could make station more accessible

By CASHMERE MORLEY
Voice Correspondent

When Washtenaw’s student radio program, Orchard Radio, moved from the Student Center to the TI building not too long ago, it gained some nifty new equipment – but lost some serious visibility.

Ask students about whether or not they’ve heard of the OR and you’d think you were asking them about some kind of mythical creature; their answers usually result in blank stares, and long pauses. Few know where the station relocated.

Travis Dyer is no stranger to the radio program’s unfamiliarity.

“We worked so hard to get the OR studio in the Student Center, and when they remodeled (to the TI Building) they pretty much just put us in a closet again and forgot us,” said Dyer, who learned his skills in the old studio, where The Sweet Spot is now located.

Dyer, a Washtenaw graduate, is back taking some classes just for fun

in between play-by-play broadcasting of Oxford Community Cable’s local high school hockey team. Despite the humble following to our college radio, Dyer wishes word about ‘The Orchard’ would fall a little further from the tree.

“I think the Orchard Radio program is amazing,” he said. “If someone is interested in working in radio or any other broadcasting field I would recommend choosing Washtenaw’s program.”

You don’t have to be a radio student to reap the benefits of OR. If you love music, you can swing by the room in the TI Building and sign up to be a guest DJ, assuming your GPA is up to at least 2.5 and you’re enrolled in a class at Washtenaw.

Torri Cook was recently invited to sit in with a buddy of hers who was a guest DJ at the Orchard a few semesters ago. Cook said she appreciated the experience.

“I liked how professionally it was set up. It was a cozy space, and you were given full creative opportunities by the song choices you were able to make,” Cook said. “It allows you to get the basics down, and it lets you see if you want to do that for a living. It’s definitely a good starting point.”

Cook explained the process:

“For an hour, you basically build your show from the ground up. My friend had a more rock/pop show, so at the beginning of her time slot, she’d announce her name, the name of her show, and whatever band she was playing that was first up on her list. You just choose some songs to play, announce the band names every few songs and the fact that you’re hosting on Orchard Radio at Washtenaw, and you’re set. It’s really that easy.”

A major in liberal arts, Cook said that radio was her first love, and seeing the process at OR made her want to reconsider a broadcasting arts degree.

“Orchard Radio really made me curious to see what career opportunities were out there involving radio,” she said.

Now, Orchard Radio is budding with even more opportunities, according to Andy Claydon, a system engineer in the Information Technology Services department. In the upcoming weeks, the OR is expecting a facelift. Listeners can expect a slew of new DJs and a completely new website page to boot.

According to Claydon, LoudCity.

ORCHARD
CONTINUED B3



CHARLES MANLEY THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Former Orchard Radio manger Scott York adjusts a microphone rig in the new TI231 studio.

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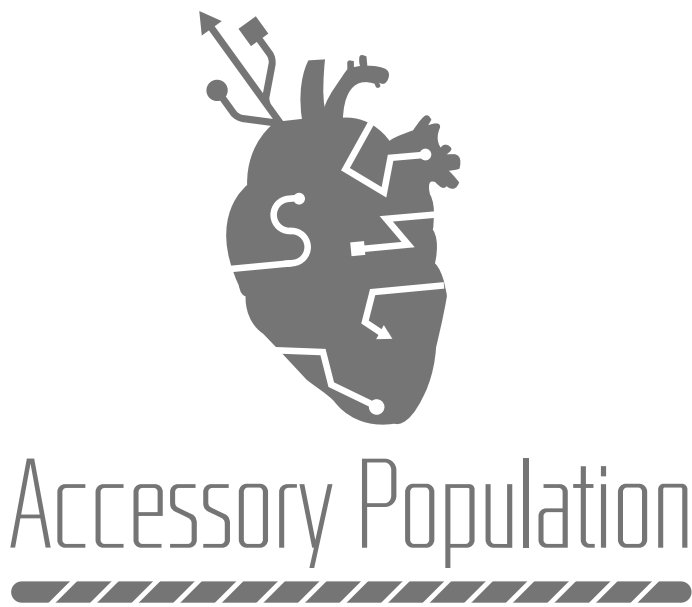
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Gadgets start to reign over people in the U.S.

There are now about 1.4 Internet-connected gadgets per person

By MARIA RIGOU
Staff Writer

It has happened. There are now more Internet-connected gadgets than people in the United States. The latest census revealed that there are 311.5 million people living in the U.S., but we now have more than 425 million gadgets that we use to surf the web. That is about 1.4 gadgets per person. According to a report by the market research firm NPD Group, laptop and desktops computers remain the primary way for Americans to go online when they are home, but smartphones and tablets are “diminishing the computer’s relevance” to the Internet, said John Buffone, NPD’s director of device research for Connected Intelligence.

In the last couple of years, gadgets with smaller screens such as iPhones and other smartphones have had the greatest reach, with an estimated 133 million users. “It has gotten to the point where it is inconvenient if you don’t have access to the Internet,” said Mark Gray, a 29-year-old marketing student from Tecumseh. “Everything I do is online, my work, my school, my email, everything.” Christmas day 2012 saw a record number of devices coming online. More than 17 million gadgets were connected worldwide on the last days of 2012, reported Flurry, an app analytics company. Christmas day 2011 had only 6.8 million activations. “Being connected is essential,” said Siara Gray, a nursing student from Ypsilanti. The 18-year-old explained that since she’s had her smartphone, she is more connected. “I check my phone all the time. Too many times to be able to count them.” Washtenaw Community College

has seen an 81 percent increase in the use of handheld devices from 2011 to 2012, reported Patrick Hughes, director of Network Services. “Our highest simultaneous wireless connection was just over 3,600 (devices).” Information provided by the Network Services department at WCC shows that most of the handheld devices that connect to the wireless network around campus are either Android phones or iPhones. The rise of mobile devices should come as little surprise. Recent research by the firm Forrester has concluded in an outstanding declaration: by 2016, more than 205 million Americans will own a smartphone and 113 million will have a tablet. However, there are still people who remain out of the loop. “I don’t own a smartphone. I don’t feel the need to be connected to the Internet all the time,” said Kimberly Rocheleau, a 30-year-old accounting major from Hartland. “I have a laptop. That’s enough.”

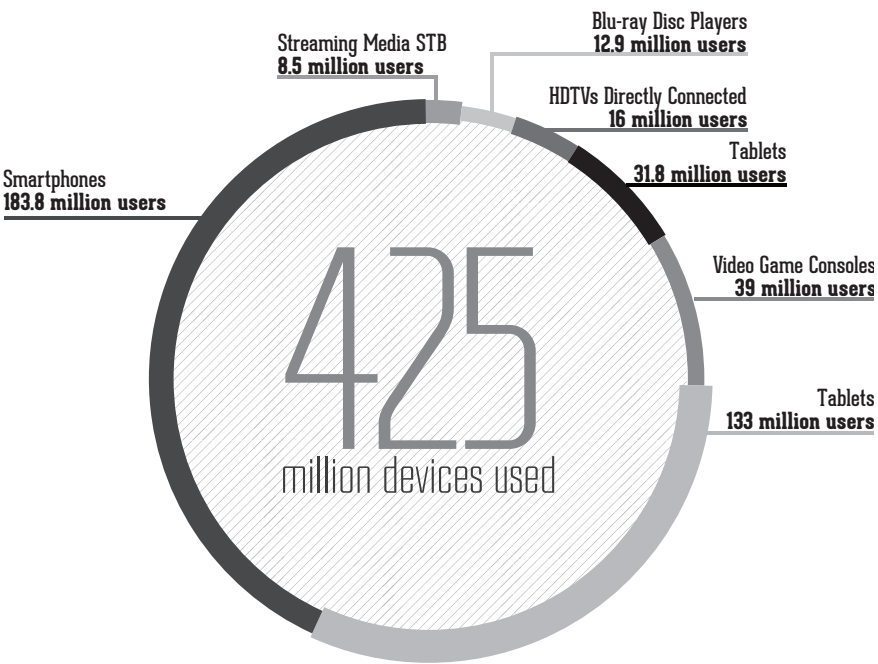


ILLUSTRATION BY GEORGE O'DONOVAN THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Students armed with new gear for the classroom



COURTESY PHOTO THE WASHTENAW VOICE

By LELAND DAWSON
Staff Writer

Students at Washtenaw Community College may be seeing more computers in the classroom this semester than ever before. Tablet and PC manufacturers are making a big push to get consumers to throw away their old notebooks and replace them with the latest, sleekest gadgets. Gone are the bulky, clamshell laptops that weighed more than 10 pounds or the need to use expensive keyboards to type on tablets. The new Samsung Galaxy Note 10.1, which promotes its writing function in most of its advertising, weighs in at a slender 1.3 pounds. Even the enviously slim Apple iPad is seeing a rush of writing apps from different developers. The ability to use a tablet as a notebook is a boon for some students. “I prefer writing over typing,” said zoology student and Ann Arbor resident Brittany Dixon, 23. It feels more natural for some students and for others typing creates a needless distraction. “I use (a laptop), but it’s hard to type and pay attention at the same time,” said Inkster native Harrison Hammons, a 19-year-old health-care administration student.

A perhaps hidden benefit of using a tablet to write notes is that a student cannot simultaneously use Facebook or access email. If a student were to change apps, it would be obvious as the screen would be flat on the desk. WCC Instructors can now allow students to bring in their gadgets without worrying about needless distractions. Common sense will always apply, and students typically can be expected to put their devices on silent and airplane mode while in class. These gadgets may help with limiting the amount of material needed for a class. “I can see students using tablets for books, it’d be a lot easier,” said Jason Adam, a 23-year-old from Detroit who studies animation at WCC. Instead of bringing a hefty textbook for classes like physics, or multiple books and articles for a literature class, a student can put them all on a tablet. This also helps keep some weight in their wallets and purses. Often times, an electronic version of a book can be substantially cheaper than the hard copy. Amazon.com and others offer renting of ebooks. Some of these ebooks can allow students to make notes and highlight text on the pages, and since it is electronic, the student doesn’t have to worry about it being destroyed when the rental expires.

Notebooks themselves may never become obsolete. These new note-writing devices still have some road to cover before they will be as easy or quick to use as their analog brethren. But we are getting closer to the day when everything in the classroom run

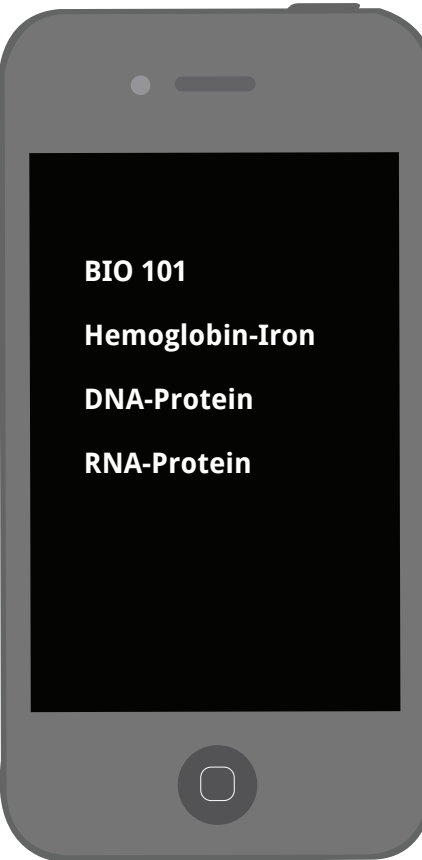


ILLUSTRATION BY GEORGE O'DONOVAN THE WASHTENAW VOICE

ORCHARD FROM B1

com is going to be the place to go for all things Orchard Radio. Soon, the college will put up a link to direct listeners to the site, which will show new features such as recently played songs the moment a DJ spins them. “What’s changing here is that it’s no longer just a QuickTime stream that’s just a raw stream going,” Claydon said. “You can actually download (the Orchard Radio stream) to iTunes or any of those things like Web Player, or Window Media, whatever is set as your default music player. It’s no longer a window that will just get closed. You’ll also see the artist and the title of the song for a change,” he said. Claydon expects these new features to heighten Orchard Radio’s accessibility, boosting the radio’s listeners. After signing up for the program, guest DJs can spin whatever kind of music they want, following the music restrictions of the radio – nothing with racial slurs and profanity on the air. However, while there is virtually

every genre available on the Orchard Radio library for a DJ to use, anyone interested in newer bands and artists might have to dig a little deeper to play music they love. “For more on the DJ aspect, I love that you are able to make your own show and play whatever you want to play,” Dyer said. “A lot of people don’t know that students in the program not only DJ, but they help with broadcasting events like the talent show in November.” A big part of why college radio seems to be falling off the map of student intrigue is how accessible music is already. “We have tried broadcasting in the Student Center, but plans have never gone through,” said Scott York, the former manager of Orchard Radio. “With Internet radio like Pandora and Spotify, mixed with the fact that everyone has music on their phones and devices, it’s hard to get the word out there about a small community college radio station.”

JAS FROM B1



ADRIAN HEDDEN THE WASHTENAW VOICE

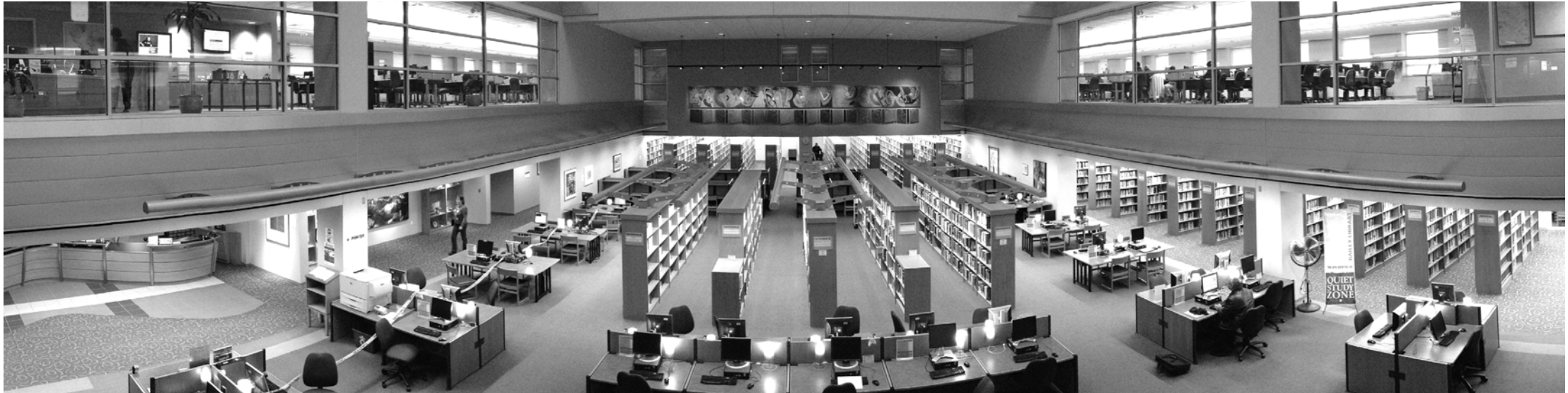
Strings Attached: Featuring an interview with renowned guitar player Eric Johnson (left), Pure Guitar’s first cover story was launched on Dec. 3.

online music magazine in 1998. He joined his wife and daughter in Ann Arbor, where they were happy. Detroit was his home; he was happy to be back. Continuing his work as a journalist, Obrecht was a regular freelance contributor to many magazines and wrote and co-authored many books, including subjects of blues and legendary guitar players. His wife, Michelle Obrecht,

thought he needed a more social outlet than being predominately in their basement writing. “I said, ‘You’ve gotta get out of the basement’ because it wasn’t good for him to be home alone all of the time. So he thought that (teaching) would be a way to get out of the house,” Michelle said. “To learn how to communicate with people and be patient and nurturing to others – it wasn’t necessarily a part of his personality,

but it really brought that out in him.” Obrecht has taught at WCC since 2002. He also taught blues music history at a community college in Silicon Valley beforehand, so teaching was familiar to him upon coming to WCC. “He enjoys communicating how to communicate with other people,” Michelle said. The real-life experience that many of the instructors have is part of what makes Washtenaw a choice school to many students. This is Obrecht’s first time teaching English, which is something he enjoys after devoting most of his life to writing. He was first published in grade school when a poem of his was selected for a children’s poetry anthology put together by a friend of the school’s. “I loved music and I loved writing, so being able to put the two of them together is really a wonderful blessing,” Obrecht said. “That’s as good as it gets, if you can write about stuff you love, you have a shot at a really happy long life.”

Library offers free professional research 24/7



CHARLES MANLEY THE WASHTENAW VOICE

By BENJAMIN KNAUSS
Voice Correspondent

The Bailey Library is in your pocket, on your cell phone, and it's been there for over a year now. Even when you're working on a paper at 2 a.m. and wish the library were open – it is.

The "Ask an Expert" feature that is a part of the Washtenaw Community College library website is every student's free link to professional research help around the clock every day of the year.

Any WCC student can email, live chat or instant message a professional librarian any research questions and get help.

WCC is one of 16 colleges and universities in the state that take part in the Research Help Now Michigan Virtual Reference Service (RHN) that began in February 2004. The service is free of charge to all patrons of the participating institutions.

Librarian Sandy McCarthy is an RHN co-administrator. McCarthy says

the service is widely underused. "Students don't understand the help available," McCarthy said. Caesar Sabuda, 20, Liberal Arts major from South Lyon was unaware of the library services.

"I have used the database in the past, but did not know about the other services," Sabuda said. "It will be a lot of help in my ethics class next semester."

RHN doesn't provide direct answers to questions. Nor does it act as a personal assistant. Rather, students pose questions and the answering librarians will guide them to the valuable information they seek.

Think of the service as the GPS Unit in your car. You get turn-by-turn directions, but you still have to do the work of driving.

"We get questions on all levels, from basic to grad students," McCarthy said. "We get a positive response (to our help)."

The RHN is also partner with a larger reference cooperative, made up of librarians across the country and United Kingdom. It is this larger cooperative that takes over after hours

or when librarians are busy with other questions.

Any librarian you're working with will have access to all the information available from the WCC library and databases. If a question can't be answered right away, then a notice is sent to library staff and you can pick up with them in finding the information you need. This is not a regular occurrence; WCC has more e-books available online than in the physical library.

Once the information has been found and questions answered, the student then receives an email transcript of the interaction with the librarian. This transcript will include links to all sites visited and all communication exchanged.

"It's challenging because, with anything virtual, we have no face-to-face contact," said Maureen Perault, WCC librarian.

Students who use the service are reminded to keep the conversation going with the librarian. Feel free to ask questions and make sure you get the help you need.

"When doing research, your best

friend in the world is a librarian," Perault said.

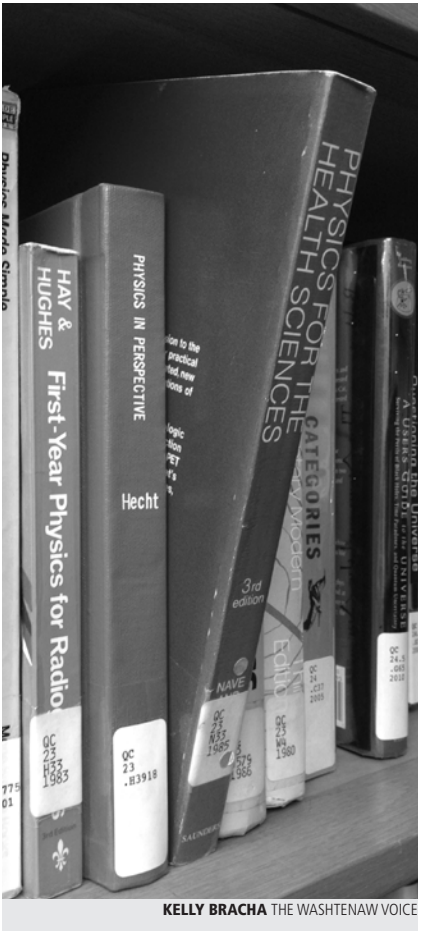
In the past year, WCC has also started a program allowing students to send text messages to the library when it is open. The text questions don't have to be research related as with the chat service. You can simply send a text to ask if the library is open or if a specific book is available to check out.

Tom Zimmerman, WCC Writing Center director, endorses the use of all the interactive features the library now offers.

"It's cool, as long as students get what they need and the library has the staff resources available to answer the questions," Zimmerman said.

Zimmerman went on to say that the writing center highly encourages the use of the library databases as credible online resources. It is the same databases used in all of the Ask an Expert features.

You can text a librarian expert at (734) 328-2823 Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., and on Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.



KELLY BRACHA THE WASHTENAW VOICE

A learning community at WCC—for the ages

A place where young and not-so-young can learn together

By MICHAEL J. HLYWA
Staff Writer

At some colleges, an 18-year-old kid fresh out of high school working with a 38-year-old mother of three in class might be an unusual sight that could spell disaster. At Washtenaw Community College, it's a typical classroom dynamic that students and faculty are quick to overcome and even embrace.

At first it can be uncomfortable for everyone. Many younger students' primary examples of adults in their 30s, 40s or 50s are their parents and relatives. Younger students aren't used to relating with people in these age groups as their peers and colleagues.

"They grew up differently than we did. Plus, when you're in classes with students that are the same age as your kids, you probably feel like you need to tell them what to do – like being a parent," said Brittney La Nore, a 22-year-old nursing student from Muskegon.

Older students sometimes fear that they can't negotiate the age difference, either. They often fear that younger students might shun them for being out-of-touch.

"I'm a pretty vocal person, so it wasn't hard for me to speak up or take initiative to ask people what was going on," said Laurel Hemphill, 49, a radiography student from Milan. "But, I can see how it would be intimidating to try to relate to younger people, because they just don't have the same experiences at this point."

This uncertainty might prevent members of the two age groups from collaborating were it not for the efforts of their instructors.

Sue Albach, lead instructor for geology and environmental science, makes it easy for her students to work together on labs by assigning lab partners according to seating arrangement.

"I'm like, 'Hey, you're going to work with your table,' and that kind throws people in there rather than thinking, 'well how am I going to fit in with somebody?'" Albach said.

It doesn't take long for students to move past their differences and begin to appreciate each other's strengths.

Younger students learn to appreciate the discipline, determination, and experience of their older colleagues.

"I kind of like being in classes with older people," said Meronte Wilson, a 20-year-old elementary education student from Ypsilanti. "There's more of a settled-ness. They kind of make you act accordingly. Older people kind of have their priorities more in sight than younger."

Older students also tend to benefit from the freedom and creativity of a younger mind.

"We think differently," said Tory Hemphill, a 21-year-old vocal music education student from Milan. "We're not stuck in the box, like new math and old math. We can think in both ways. So I think that it's important for younger people to work with older people and older people to work with younger people so that it's more of a homogenous idea."

Instructors recognize and, in fact, rely on these strengths to teach their classes. In many ways, it makes their jobs a little easier.

"Every human on the planet is the sum total of their experiences," said English and writing instructor Lisa Veasey. "That's what we bring to every situation, whether it's an educational situation or not. The more experiences we have, the richer that (situation) is. It makes my job so much more fun!"

Most importantly, collaboration between younger and older students is a key component in the WCC experience and better prepares them for the real world.

"Interaction between students is absolutely essential," said Bill Reichert, computer networking instructor. "There's so much more to a college education than just learning the material. This is the way you'll be working when you're on the outside. You're going to be working with groups of people, and you need to (learn to) do that."

In the end, as Veasey suggested, the age gap between students still exists. The key to moving past it is to recognize that all students strive toward the same goal – self-improvement. Embracing the experience of others, regardless of age, helps achieve that goal.

Career Services workshops help student job seekers

By MICHAEL J. HLYWA
Staff Writer

Employers decide if a candidate is right for the job within 30 seconds of scanning a resume or after just a few minutes of conducting an interview, experts say. So, it is crucial for job-seekers to make an immediate impression.

Students like 25-year-old Dylan Michael, a cabinetry and millwork student, often struggle with how to use their somewhat limited professional experience to snag a career opportunity.

"I'm confident I can get a minimum-wage job anywhere, but as far as a career path is concerned, I'm not so confident," Michael said.

Fortunately for Michael and others like him, Washtenaw Community College is showing its students how to navigate the job market.

Career Services is hosting three free workshops to help students and alumni ferret out job opportunities,

craft eye-catching resumes, and stand out in interviews.

"Our students are attractive to employers because WCC has a great reputation for creating students with good skills," said David Wildfong, Professional Services Faculty and Student Adviser. "The three workshops we have – Job Seeking Strategies, Resume Construction and Development, and Interviewing Skills and Strategies – are three things we think most students need some help with."

"Even if they believe that they know how to put together a proper resume or how to look for work, there's always little tips that they may not know about that can help them be more competitive in the job market," he continued. "When students come and see me they have a leg up in terms of their job search."

Starting with the job search, for instance, job seekers' first misstep is to rely solely on the Internet for finding career opportunities.

"If you want to get hired on nowadays, you have to have a networking component to your job search," Wildfong said.

The workshop helps students recognize and build networking opportunities. Once people find an opportunity, they often draft a single, generic resume to use for every job application.

"The content of your resume really should mirror the job you're applying for," Wildfong said.

The resume workshop covers layout, content, cover letters, and references.

When it's finally time for an interview, too many people fail to research the company with which they are interviewing.

"They may ask you, 'What do you know about us and what we do,' and if you don't know, that looks bad," Wildfong said.

The interview workshop highlights steps to take before, during and after an interview.

New Auto Finishing lab for the automotive department set to open

By AMANDA JACOBS
Staff Writer

The caution tape is gone around a construction zone in the OE building, and now the Auto Body Repair students have a long-awaited "lab" for their award-winning projects.

Those classrooms at OE 143 make up the new Auto Finishing Assembly Lab for the ABR department. The lab was scheduled to be ready for use by the start of the winter semester.

"The lab was something that the faculty wanted when we were still designing the OE building," said Damon Flowers, associate vice president of Facilities Development and Operations said. "But we didn't have the budget for it."

Design plans for the lab came together last spring, and the Facilities Management department began

construction on the room starting at the beginning of the Fall semester.

"The design started in the spring and was released for construction and approved in late September," said Todd Bishop, the construction project manager. "We had some design issues with the constructional steel so it delayed it a little bit."

The new lab will include new heating and air conditioning, and hoses for electricity and compressed air. ABR 119: The Art of Metal Shaping is a class that is scheduled to be held in OE 143.

"We won't know exactly what the classroom will be used for until Winter semester gets started," said Scott Malnar, an instructor and department chair of the Auto Body Repair department. "But we're excited to have the room; students will be able to have it as a Custom Cars and Concepts assembly room for Winter semester."



KELLY BRACHA THE WASHTENAW VOICE

New Digs: The redesigned WCC auto lab, near completion on Jan. 11.



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Latest Tarantino flick takes violent vengeance on America’s past

By ADRIAN HEDDEN
Managing Editor

The cruelty and perversion of American slavery was next on his hit list as renowned gore-monger, Quentin Tarantino continued to wage war against the evils of history in “Django Unchained.”

After 2009’s “Inglorious Basterds” found the irreverently violent director

re-writing the history books, killing Hitler with agonizing yet incredulous brutality, Tarantino took Jamie Foxx as his lead on another tale of blood-soaked sensationalism and violent historical fiction.

And the oppressors of old didn’t stand a chance against the power of Hollywood.

Teamed up with a bounty hunter played by Christopher Waltz, who took home the Oscar in 2009 for best supporting actor as a Nazi officer in “Basterds,” Foxx fulfills the bloody, gun-toting vision of his clever and seemingly sadistic director in this witty and tactfully comedic homage to aging Western – or in this case

Southern – epics.

Foxx’s titular character, a former slave newly freed to assist Waltz in the murder of outlaws across the American West, speaks rarely but with incredible impact.

Simplistic, menacing lines are pushed from Foxx’s lips with the same frank intimidation of Clint Eastwood’s “Man with No Name” in director Sergio Leone’s innovative spaghetti Western films of the early 1960s.

Comedic elements are sprinkled throughout this modern take, appealing to giggling, modern-day audiences with quirky, meandering bouts of dialogue that put Tarantino’s stamp on each of his irreverent, bloodstained

films.

But his films often teeter on the cliff of parody.

And the slaughter is carried out with the same stark, stomach-wrenching eccentricity viewers have come to expect from Tarantino after “Pulp Fiction” and “Kill Bill” had audiences gasp at the creativity behind the carnage.

But in “Django Unchained,” that terror has a purpose.

From hilarious mockery of the Ku Klux Klan as they argue in struggle to see out of their shabby burlap masks, to the terrifyingly fabricated logic of the supposed science behind racism, Tarantino delves into the true terrors

that befell the human psyche in the 1800s.

But the righteous director can’t help but gain laughing vengeance in all his cinematic glory.

After nearly three hours of Foxx’s murderous rampage on the racist South, it is clear that historical accuracy was trumped by a deep-seeded desire to right the wrongs of the past with bullets and blood splatters for all.

Grade:	B+
Runtime:	165 minutes
Genre:	Historical fiction
Rated:	R

Ravi Shankar inspired The Beatles, enriched human bonds



BEN SOLIS

World-renowned composer, virtuoso sitar player and devoted Hindustani classical music conservationist Pandit Ravi Shankar died due to complications after undergoing a heart-valve replacement surgery a week prior to his death.

Shankar will be remembered by many as a venerable holy man of modern musical exploration, building bonds across sonic and social borders or wherever his touring schedule brought him.

In the minority of his vast fan base, the guru of meditative trance will be missed by pockets of lost hippies who often mistakenly believed that his sole harmonic contribution was to the psychedelic movement of the 1960s.

Whatever his various personae meant to those who followed him, Shankar was, first and foremost, a proud participant in the human experience.

With his universal East-meets-West approach to education and arrangement, Shankar’s mission was, at

its core, connecting people who might have never found similarity without the catalyst of music.

Most known for introducing the psychedelic rock world to Indian music, Shankar helped bridge the gap between disparate cultural histories and classical-world genres. Yet this was only a superficial aspect of what Shankar was able to achieve in his 73-year career.

Born April 7, 1920 in Varanasi, India, Shankar began his fascination with Indian music as a dancer, and later studied sitar in a rigorous monastic fashion from 1938-1944. As he grew into a renowned composer, Shankar garnered the position of musical director for All India Radio in New Delhi, cementing his total-immersion goal of transplanting Hindustani music to whomever cared to listen.

His AIR duties also allowed the budding Pandit – a title given to a master teacher or guru – to sample the offerings of American jazz artists and emerging orchestral prodigies, such as his long-time collaborator and friend, violinist Yehundi Menuhin.

By exposing himself to a wider audience with gigs in Germany, the United Kingdom and the U.S., Shankar’s musings were picked up by British pop-rockers, The Byrds. From there, other British Invasion acts,

including The Rolling Stones and The Beatles, began making the expansive, droning notes of sitars and the percussive blasts of the tabla drums a cornerstone in Acid Culture psychedelia.

Beatles guitarist George Harrison became so enamored with the instrument that he used a sitar for effect on Rubber Soul’s “Norwegian Wood.” He then spent six months with Shankar in India learning how to perfect the sound.

That training would eventually help his Beatles win their first two Grammy Awards for Album of the Year and Best Contemporary Album – the Shankar-inspired “Within You, Without You” appeared as a focal point on the Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band album.

These collaborative and educational successes were merely highlights of Shankar’s impact, particularly with his own music.

His early awareness and subsequent incorporation of Southern India’s Carnatic music, which varies greatly from the Islamic-influenced Hindustani of the North, helped the Pandit create a universal, pan-Indian musical culture that still endures today.

Truly, Shankar understood, among many things, the driving rhythms of the world’s heart.

‘Star Wars’ or ‘Star Whores’?

As Mickey Mouse takes up a lightsaber, the inner child is left in purgatory



ADRIAN HEDDEN

George Lucas was once a genius.

A maverick among directors of high-budget American cinema from the humble start of his career, he was hailed by generations of starry-eyed science fiction fans as the creator of their biblical “Star Wars” saga.

But the mythically ambitious director and screenwriter’s exhaustive transition from rebel to corporate giant has finally gone too far.

After bankrolling his earlier projects and maintaining his own private production company, Lucas Film for years, the blockbuster titan recently sold his legacy to The Walt Disney Company to the tune of about \$4 billion.

Although he had shown a penchant for re-working and designing his past-loved works, much to the self-righteous outrage of legions of immaturely incited fans, Lucas has always made his films on his own terms.

But that will tragically no longer be the case. Now Disney will have final judgment and Lucas can recline atop a plethora of hoity beach furniture.

His responsibility to create and imagine is now sold out.

The recent acquisition is the third of three major buyouts by Disney since hiring Robert A. Iger as chief executive in 2005. Iger also led the conglomerate to take over comic icon Marvel Entertainment for \$4 billion in 2009, but began his war path in 2006 at almost double the rate, purchasing Pixar Animation Studios for more than \$7 billion.

The greedy media goliath that brought us Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck and all the famed characters that today’s children have



PHOTO COURSTY MANCUNION.COM

Fimmaker George Lucas.

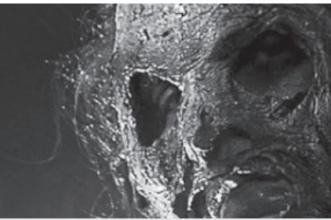
been too old for since birth is now to steer the helm of the world’s most renowned space-opera epics and several of science fiction’s most treasured franchises.

And the story is headed straight for a cheese-covered, asteroid belt.

Disney has even promised a rushed, 2015 release date for its first incarnation of the “Star Wars” series. Viewers can only wait in agonizing anticipation of the glossy, candy-coated garbage that will be thrust down our throats as a substitute for the continuation of the iconic legend.

So what is your childhood wonder worth? To Lucas, it has clearly come to represent an opportunity to spend the twilight years of his life wading in chlorine-infested waters with tiny umbrellas and trace amounts of liquor floating in his juicy drinks.

And to Iger it’s just another cash cow for Disney to suck from, growing fatter and fatter on cannibalized genius – and the naïve imagination of our youth.



‘Leatherface’ doesn’t need 3-D

COURTESY PHOTO TGDAILY.COM

By NATHAN CLARK
Photo Editor

Americans love horror movies, so the film industry does its best to spew out as many visceral gore flicks as the average movie-goer’s stomach can handle. Most of the horror films hitting the screen these days are nothing more than remakes, revisions, unwanted sequels or rereleases with 3-D technology thrown in to add a few extra bucks to the ticket price.

“Texas Chainsaw 3-D” fits into each category a tiny bit.

Picking up shortly after the end of the original 1974 version of “The Texas Chainsaw Massacre,” the movie follows the story of what happened to Leatherface, the chainsaw-wielding antagonist who wears the severed faces of his victims as a mask, and his creepy, cannibalistic family.

In this installment, one of Leatherface’s victims finally manages to escape and tell the police about the horrors being committed by the cruel family.

“Texas Chainsaw 3-D” is not necessarily a remake, nor is it revamped version converted to 3-D. The movie feels more like a sequel that really should have been made 20 years ago. But if it was made back then, it probably wouldn’t be in 3-D.

What makes the movie truly stand out is the way it portrays Leatherface and how his family was destroyed by the angry locals. It has an ominous feeling of empathy and pity for Leatherface, reminiscent of the classic film “Frankenstein” where the real monster in the film was man, himself.

The film is filled with numerous scenes of graphic violence, showing every detestable and bloody detail that

was merely hinted at in the original 1974 film.

Being in 3-D, the movie is loaded with the standard shots designed for 3-D viewers, such as bloody chunks of man meat gushing in every direction and chainsaws flying off-screen.

“Texas Chainsaw 3-D” truly has all the stereotypical makings of a horror film, converted into 3-D.

But with its interesting take on the story of what happened when one of Leatherface’s victims escaped, what happened to the family and how mob justice isn’t necessarily a good thing, for fans of the saga, the movie is worth checking out—with or without paying a few dollars more for 3-D.

Grade:	C+
Runtime:	92 minutes
Genre:	Horror
Rated:	R

Game on, eh?

Hockey’s finally back after nearly four months on ice



TOM LEE

Early Sunday morning the NHL Players Association and the owners of the NHL have reached a tentative agreement to salvage the rest of the season at the last minute. This comes as great news to me and all the diehard hockey fans that have been waiting for this since the season was locked out on Sept. 15.

This last-minute save comes just in time, with football season ending. It’s something to watch as a filler until baseball returns in the spring.

The NHL’s return is great for everyone that is involved in the sport. I am referring to all people who depend on the games, from the bar owners to ticket-scanners to the folks who pour the beer and make the popcorn at Joe Louis Arena every bit as much as the players, coaches and management of the teams.

The new collective bargaining agreement, which took 113 days to reach, needed to be ratified by both sides before the season could start – but it is in everyone’s best interest to put this brutally ugly chapter behind them and drop the damned puck.

Players have been keeping busy staying in shape to play by holding workouts on their own. Some played with minor leagues, and many others played in professional leagues throughout Europe.

Among them was Detroit Red Wings center Pavel Datsyuk, who left his Central Red Army club fans in Russia by scoring a shootout goal that lifted the CSKA to a 3-2 victory.

After watching the video of it online, I can’t wait to start seeing him and his Detroit teammates playing again. And if it’s anything like the last time the NHL lost nearly a half season to a work stoppage in 1995, this could be a good open for Detroit.

In a 50-game season in 1995, the Red Wings advanced to the Stanley Cup finals – when they were swept by New Jersey. This year? The so-called experts agree there’s no guarantee Detroit will even make the post-season – unlike the last 21 straight years.

Either way, hockey is back whether you like it or not, and it’s about time.

Tom Lee is the Web Editor of The Washtenaw Voice.



ANDREW BRODIE THE WASHTENAW VOICE

He Shoots, He Scores: Players from opposing teams race towards a loose puck in the 2011 tournament.



ANDREW BRODIE THE WASHTENAW VOICE

High-sticking: During a break, a young hockey fan gives spectators a peek at a future star.

Pond Hockey Classic is back in Whitmore Lake

By LELAND DAWSON

Staff Writer

Pond-hockey teams will gather in Whitmore Lake to compete for a chance to win an all-expense paid trip to Finland – and through their slap shots and body checks – help out a deserving charity.

The Michigan Pond Hockey Classic, scheduled for Jan. 25-27, will feature a wide variety of teams for three wild days of 4-on-4 hockey. But it’s not just about the competition on the ice at Mac’s Marina on Whitmore Lake; charity plays a large part.

The Michigan Pond Hockey Sports Charity will receive all proceeds from the event.

“They’re a local charity, helping

kids and parents who can’t afford the sports equipment or fees (associated with playing),” said Anne Duffy, the public relations and communications director of the tournament. “And it’s for all sports, not just hockey.”

There’s a lot of pent-up excitement for this year’s event, which was canceled last year because warm temperatures prevented the formation of safe ice conditions on the lake.

The rules of the tournament are simple: teams are made up of a maximum of seven players, with only four per team competing on the 75-by-150-foot rinks. Games are 30-minutes long, there are no icing or offside calls, and no goalies or permanent defenders are allowed. With these rules, spectators

can expect some high-scoring, fast-action games.

One division from the Classic will be playing in the U.S. qualifier of the Red Bull Open Ice International World Championship Pond Hockey Tournament, and the winners of Sunday’s championship game in that division will earn a free trip to Helsinki, Finland, paid for by Red Bull. There, they will have the opportunity to play the European champion for the World Championship.

Those wishing to do more than just watch are welcome to volunteer. This weekend people will be needed to cut the rinks for the games and during the tournament volunteers can help as cleanup crews and scorekeepers.

Pond Hockey Classic

What: **Michigan Pond Hockey Classic**
Where: **Mac’s Marina, 9876 Main Street Whitmore Lake**
When: **Jan. 25: 7-10 p.m.; Jan. 26: 1-4 and 7-10 p.m.; Jan. 27: Noon-4 p.m.**
Cost: **Free**

For more information, visit MichiganPondHockey.com

College sports activities gearing up

By LELAND DAWSON

Staff Writer

The Washtenaw Community College Sports office has released the winter semester sports schedule. All interested students must be registered for at least three credit hours during the term and have at least a 2.0 grade point average.

Coed ice hockey, located at the Veteran’s Ice Arena, will have tryouts on Jan. 21 at 7 p.m. After that, practices will be held on Mondays and Thursdays with competitions on Sundays and Wednesdays. Students must be at least 18 years old and need to bring their WCC ID card.

Women’s basketball tryouts will be held on Jan. 15 from 9:30-11 p.m.

Practices begin at 9:30 p.m. on every Tuesday and competitions are held on Thursdays at 7 p.m. or possibly later. All events are held at the WCC Health and Fitness Center. Students must be at least 16, with a WCC ID card.

Men’s basketball, which will hold its events at the WCC Health and Fitness Center, has two tryouts. Both are from 9:30-11 p.m. with the first on Jan. 16 and the second on Jan. 23. Students must register in room 116 of the Student Center before the tryouts. Practices will be held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays beginning at 9:30 p.m., while competitions are on Mondays and start at 7 p.m. or later. Students must be at least 16, with a WCC ID card.

Coed wrestling tryouts will be on

Jan. 22 and 24, 7-9 p.m. Practices are on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7-9 p.m. Matches will be on the weekends. All wrestling events occur in the Police Academy Training Room in the Morris Lawrence building. Students must be at least 18, with a WCC ID card.

The coed Running/Walking Club will have its first meeting on Jan. 28 at 4 or 5 p.m. in SC 116. Students have the option of attending either time. After that, practices will be held on Mondays and Thursdays at the same times, with competitions on the weekend for those that are interested.

Tennis events will be located at the Chippewa Tennis Center. Participants should register between Jan. 14 and 25 in SC 116 as spaces are limited.

Practice is on Mondays and Thursdays from Feb. 4 through Feb. 28, 9-10 p.m.

Coed bowling will meet at Colonial Lanes every Friday beginning Feb. 8 and ending March 1. Events will begin at 5:30 p.m. and students must register between Jan. 28 and Feb. 6 in SC 116.

Community Room Tournaments continue this semester, with events being held Monday through Thursday for the weeks of Jan. 14 to 17, 28 to 31, Feb. 4 to 7 and 11 to 14. The Jan. events will go from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., and the Feb. events are from 6-7 p.m. Tournaments include table tennis, air hockey, foosball, and billiards. On applicable Wednesdays, only a dart tournament will be held in SC 116.

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A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter snads for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letter, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each issue the code letters are different.

Y R W I W K I W Y U F
U K N X F A W H W I Y -
B E Z F E W ' X X Y -
I W E Z Y R - F E W B X
G M X R B E Z J F U E ,
Y R W F Y R W I B X
G M O O B E Z M G .
— Booker T. Washington

Sudoku

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

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Crossword

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about Pearl Harbor
69. ____-deucey (form of backgammon)
70. Miss Dinsmore
71. N.Y. and S.F., e.g.

Down
1. Firecracker paths
2. Scott of “Joanie Loves Chachi”
3. Caesar’s “And you!”
4. Gives the green light
5. Friend in France
6. O, Us or GQ
7. Cries of loathing
8. Home for doves
9. Serbian province
10. Designated, perhaps incorrectly
11. Jim Croce’s “____ Name”
12. Brand of acrylic fiber
13. Sprang
18. Vampire of folklore
22. Absconded with
24. “No ifs, ____ or buts”
25. Sioux tribe
27. Jeanne ____: French saint
28. Apprehension expression
29. Auto racer Yarborough
30. Give the go-ahead
31. Colors lightly
35. Vent anger
36. Vidi in “Veni, vidi, vici”
37. Mail carriers’ assignments: Abbr.

39. Jerry Lewis telethon time
41. Cries from the amazed
44. Luth. or Episc.
46. Popeye’s creator
49. Activate
50. Big blasts
51. Humane org.
52. Fox drama set in southern California
53. Present occasion
56. Scottish Celt
57. Kin of fulmars

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20							21				22			
				23		24	25		26					
27	28	29					30	31						
32				33					34		35	36	37	
38			39		40				41		42			
43				44		45				46		47		
				48		49					50			
51	52	53						54						
55						56	57			58		59	60	61
62						63			64	65				
66						67					68			
69						70						71		

59. Restaurant with waffles and such
60. ____ cloud (cosmic debris)
61. Arrow poison
64. Avril Lavigne’s “Sk8er ____”
65. Palindromic English river3. Give it ____ (attempt)
4. Natural gusher
5. Bushy do, for short
6. “War and Peace” author Tolstoy
7. Cleo’s snakes
8. Amusement park shout
9. “Sophie’s Choice” star
10. Takes prisoner
11. Put ____ to
12. Sri Lanka export
13. Merganser relatives
18. Jump line abbr.
22. The holm oak
24. ____ now (currently)
25. Needle-shaped
27. Hic, ____, hoc
28. ____acte: intermission

29. End in ____ (require overtime)
30. Branch of learning
31. “____ the thought!”
35. Move about
36. Old Hebrew measure
37. Gen-____
39. Some strings
41. His: Fr.
44. Country, in Cordoba
46. German port
49. 1980s president
50. Actress Mercouri
51. Footless animals
52. San ____, California
53. Flying high
56. ‘James and the Giant Peach’ author Roald
57. Irish-Gaelic
59. Doctrines, informally
60. Bullring hurrahs
61. School reference
64. S or N
65. London has two

Abaca



MICHAEL ADSIT THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Answers

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CRYPTOQUOTE
There are two ways of exerting one's strength - one is pushing down, the other is pulling up.
— Booker T. Washington

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

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

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Students and WCC employees: Classified ads in *The Voice* are free.
Local business owners: Looking for help? Post your free help wanted ads in *The Voice*. Send ads to thewashtenawvoice@gmail.com.
Deadline for the Sept. 10 issue is Sept. 4 at 5 p.m.

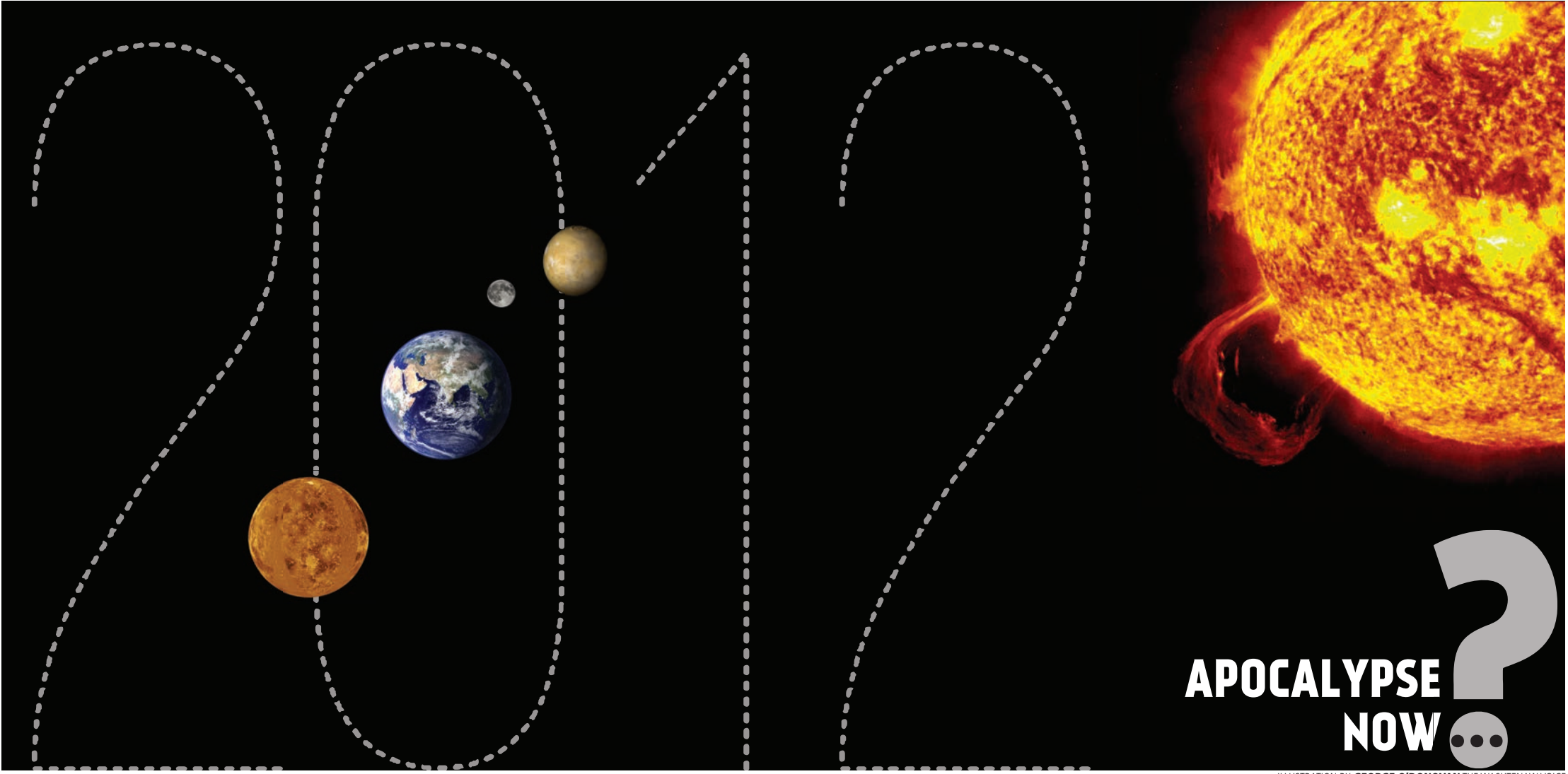
HELP WANTED
Painter Commercial/Residential: Keider Painting Company is now hiring part time and full time associates. Must have valid driver's license and be able to pass a back ground check and drug test. Experience preferred. Keider New applicants only. Great for college students or grad. Please let me know if you have any questions. Phone (810) 220-7171 or apply in person at 123 Brighton Lake Road, Suite 101, Brighton.
Head Start Teachers: Must have a minimum of a BA in Early Childhood Education or a BA with course work equivalent to a major relating to Early Childhood Education and experience teaching preschool age children. Documented experiences working with persons of various, racial, ethnic, social and cultural backgrounds. Ability to communicate in English with or without accommodations. Must also have good physical mobility including ability to find and direct and move children in case of an emergency. Must be able to lift up to 50 pounds unassisted in order to assist children during emergencies. Knowledge of or ability to learn to conduct developmental assessments of children. Good understanding of child development, age appropriate behaviors, common childhood behavior problems and appropriate interventions. Hours, days and schedules will vary based on need. Must be willing to work M-F from the

hours of 7:45 a.m. 5 .m. To apply, or learn more, visit our http://guidance-center.org/careers.
Assistant Teachers, Head Start: Must have a minimum of a CDA and be enrolled in a program leading to an AA or BA degree. Documented experiences working with persons of various, racial, ethnic, social and cultural backgrounds. Ability to communicate in English with or without accommodations. Must be able to lift up to 50 pounds unassisted in order to assist children during emergencies. Must be willing to work M-F from the hours of 7:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. To apply, or learn more, visit our http://guidance-center.org/careers.
SERVICES
Volunteer tutors: Washtenaw Literacy needs volunteers to tutor adults in basic reading, writing, math and English as a Second Language. If in Help change lives – one word at a time! Contact info@washtenawliteracy.org or call (734) 879-1320.
Need Health Care? Are you between the ages of 12-22? Contact the Corner Health Center at (734) 484.3600 or visit online at: www.cornerhealth.org
Below is a sample of recent employment want ads that have been posted with WCC's Career Services. Students are invited to read these ads and to contact the employers as indicated, or to stop by Career Services, located in ML 104, to

review the complete posting. Or contact: or: (734) 677-5155; careers@wccnet.edu; or www.wccnet.edu/employment/
Product Support Representative: Provide technical product assistance and training to customers and other departments. Work with team managers to ensure that customers receive timely, quality service. Company offers a business casual environment. Full-time in Ann Arbor.
Lead Preschool Teacher: Must have a desire to work with young children and understand the developmental needs of toddlers and young preschoolers (18 months-4 years). Must possess excellent time-management and creative-thinking skills. Must be able to plan curriculum and prepare age-appropriate daily activities to support the goals of the curriculum. Above average communication skills with staff and parents. Present positive and professional attitude at all times. Keep clean and orderly classroom that is safe and nurturing. Full-time in South Lyon.
Tax Data Entry: Seeking an experienced and dedicated professional with attention to detail to enter data into our computer and tax software during the 2013 tax season. Job duties and skills include: Prioritizing day-to-day tasks. Information gathering; Scanning various tax documents; Entering data into software program; Following up when additional

information is needed; Providing excellent customer service. Training provided. Tax season in Ann Arbor.
Leasing Consultant: Management company in Ann Arbor is seeking a part-time leasing consultant for an apartment community to work Saturdays. This position will have you assisting the residential manager in the overall operation of the community, including leasing, data entry and resident interaction. Must have excellent written and verbal communication skills, knowledge of federal, state and local fair housing laws, closing skills and strong computer skills.
Retail Customer Service Receiving: Ann Arbor Garden Store. High school diploma required, along with previous retail experience. Must have excellent computer skills, ability to multi-task in a fast-paced environment. Must be willing to work flexible schedule, including nights, weekends & holidays. Hi-lo experience a plus, but willing to train. Generous employee discount. Full-time.
Professional Recruiter: Recruiting and placing clinical, scientific and technical staff for positions across the United States. Use a customer-service driven approach to develop recruiting strategies. This person will determine optimum recruitment methods to develop and maintain a highly qualified candidate pool and should be familiar with the recruiting field's concepts, practices, and procedures. Ability to screen

candidates, maintain database of contacts, present and negotiate job offer packages. Full-time in Ann Arbor.
Welding Technician Positions. Looking for individuals who have experience working with MIG and TIG welding, production welding and rework and can assist with the routine daily maintenance and repair of industrialized machinery in an automotive production environment. Responsibilities include: Maintaining the automated robotic welding cells. Troubleshooting and repairing all systems breakdowns; and performing all necessary preventative maintenance objectives. Full-time in Novi.
Certified Nursing Assistant. **Caregivers:** to work under nursing directives, in home with the patient providing personal care, homemaking, and companionship. Candidates must have at least six months home-care experience. In responding, please state if you have experience with one hour bath visits working under Medicaid/Medicare guidelines.
Web Developer: Seeking a technician to help us operate, maintain and further develop and test our medical Web application. Participate in the design and coding of enhancements to the application and the creation of new features. Exercise the application against various evolving test suites. Monitor and support our hosting infrastructure, including application and system configuration, and backup and recovery. Full-time in Ann Arbor.



Mayan doomsday: hype or hyperbole?

Did ancient culture predict anything at all?

By MICHAEL J. HLYWA
Staff Writer

Dec. 21 came and went without a major disaster of apocalyptic proportions. The world still exists, but does that mean that the 2012 phenomenon was irrelevant? More importantly, why did a Mayan-born doomsday myth gain such a following?

Most information about Mayan culture, according to Washtenaw Community College humanities instructor Elisabeth Thoburn, comes from four separate codices. One of them, the Dresden codex, was responsible for the myth linking the end of the Mayan calendar with the end of the world.

“The hype started with a serious

researcher when they began to translate that text (the Dresden codex),” Thoburn said. “As these old texts and glyphs and images are opened to huge, wide interpretation, one of them was always that this was predicting the end of the world.”

Thoburn credits society’s doomsday mentality for the stir this translation caused. To her, the Mayans simply counted up to the number 13, which coincidentally has special significance throughout many cultures.

“That’s all they did was they counted through until 13, and they probably figured, ‘well by then we’ll have another count,’” Thoburn said.

Others at WCC expressed differing views ranging from brooding to whimsical to thoughtful.

Some, like Marquis Harrington, 22, a music production student from Ypsilanti, think it’s because society has become cynical.

“America is such a young culture that thrives on negativity and fear,” Harrington said. “People also have more access to information, and they share that information – even tweak it a little bit – just to get more people on their side.”

Others like Brittney La Nore, a 22-year-old nursing student from Muskegon, just laugh it off.

“I personally think they just ran out of stone to write on,” La Nore said.

But anthropology professor David Mackres believes it’s a sign that society is looking for a new way to define itself.

“I think it’s another example of a millennial movement,” Mackres said.

“Every once in a while, you’ll have these millennialist movements where society is under a lot of stress. When cultural norms no longer meet society’s needs, (society) starts grasping onto revival movements. Think of it as a cultural mass response to anxiety.”

In light of the planet’s global warming, nations’ financial crises, and society’s perceived moral degradation, humanity certainly qualifies as a society under stress. But why would so many latch onto an end-of-the-world prophecy as their revival movement of choice?

“There’s a kind of world-cleansing element to millennial movements where the world will end, we’ll start from scratch and everything will be clean again,” Mackres said. “There’s an impulse to cleanse the world of what is flawed and come back to a perfect state. (The 2012 phenomenon) has an apocalyptic, end-of-the-world notion to it that appeals to a lot of people who maybe don’t see that in traditional religion.”

Regardless of why people embraced this particular doomsday prophecy, the fact that the world exists today is proof that the 2012 phenomenon was

nothing more than superstition, right?

That may not be accurate. The date may have passed, but society’s troubles are still present. In fact, some believe that Dec. 21 simply marked the end of an age, and that a new age has begun.

“Not all of these kinds of redefining-reality movements in history fail,” Mackres said. “Most do, but sometimes they take off and become the orthodox. That’s what happened with Islam, with Christianity and with Buddhism. (Millennial movements are) a way to try to think organized and relate to a rapidly changing world, so maybe something else will come along. I think there are a lot of people looking out there.”

Whatever the case, the Mayans obviously may not have correctly predicted the end of the world, but it remains to be seen if they foretold a new social consciousness.

Finally ready to protect and serve



Pomp and Circumstance: David Imber leads his fellow graduates into the Towsley Auditorium for WCC’s Police Academy graduation on Dec. 14.

Experience, diversity distinguishes Police Academy graduates

By ADRIAN HEDDEN
Managing Editor

Bagpipes wound themselves sonically around Towsley Auditorium as David Imber and Matt Baranski stood in stoic anticipation of a ceremony that would end in them becoming police officers.

Imber, who carried an American flag as he led a group of his fellow cadets into the ceremony, was joined by 13 graduates from Washtenaw Community College’s Police Academy for their graduation ceremony in late December.

Baranski’s father, Steve was proud of his son and optimistic of the future to be brought by training at WCC.

“This police academy gets a lot of good feedback,” the elder Baranski said. “It’s the instructors and the location. Being in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, it draws a lot of support from the state police, county police and campus police.

“And they don’t want the has-beens, they want the best.”

As the ceremony proceeded, a proud hush encased the audience of family and friends. Some close acquaintances, overcome with emotion, hovered near the entrance, proudly sobbing for their relatives.

“They will work strange hours over holidays and vacations,” said

Ann Arbor Police officer and keynote speaker John Seto, as he addressed the crowd of about 100. “They will deal with tragic situations, but be patient with them. You will also be a part of the police family.”

Academy instructor at WCC for the past 15 years and an officer of the University of Michigan Police Department for more than 20, Gary Hicks attended the ceremony certain that students from WCC will serve as law enforcement personnel with a rare intelligence gained through diverse backgrounds.

“They (students) are very talented and insightful,” Hicks said. “I’ve had conversations with students who have served in Iraq; we talked about dealing with people from different countries.



Go Blue: Keynote speaker John Seto of the Ann Arbor Police Department commends the graduating cadets.

It became useful in the classroom because students without those experiences were able to hear their peers speak about how they handled the situations and the people.

“That is real life.”

Hicks credited the success of WCC’s program to a highly skilled and qualified faculty. He emphasized that empathy gained from everyday experience is essential to successful law enforcement training.

“Theory is wonderful, history is valuable, but that real-life experience and the stories that come from it are great teachers,” Hicks said. “The view that I have, being an officer for a very long time, is that so many things are taught about how to understand

human nature, how to empathize with people rather than just enforce laws.

“It’s not just about driving fast and learning to shoot.”

According to Hicks, the majority of instructors at WCC’s Police Academy walk the streets as officers of the law every day.

And Public Information Officer to the U-M Police, Diane Brown, who was also in attendance, said she was grateful that WCC’s program remains active during times of state-wide budget cuts in law enforcement.

“Several of our police officers have graduated from here,” Brown said. “Many programs have been eliminated across the state. There aren’t as many in-house academies.”



A worldwide yearning

Students from around the globe on the Washtenaw experince

WORDS, PHOTOS AND ILLUSTRATIONS BY SAWANYA PHAKPHIAN
Voice Correspondent

As more international students attend United States colleges and universities in recent years, Washtenaw Community College has not gained much increase in the enrollment of international students. According to the “2012 Open Door Report” released by the Institute of International Education (IIE), 764,321 students from abroad attended United

States colleges and universities in 2011-2012, a 5.7 percent increase over the previous academic year. During the same period, 63 foreign students with a student visa, less than 1 percent of the college’s total enrollment, attended WCC. “A smaller number of international students may be related to several factors, such as a difficulty to obtain

required documents for an application and limited fields of study that allow international students to enroll at WCC,” said Nicole Diamond, a counselor for international students. But while their numbers are low, international students and foreign-born alumni have a lot to say about their life-changing experiences at Washtenaw.



MILDA LAPAITE, 20, MATH AND SCIENCE AND CULINARY ART, LITHUANIA

Why did you choose WCC, and how did you hear about the college?
I heard that it was a great college, because there are many great universities around, like University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan University. I heard that instructors

came from these places. I also heard that WCC is one of the great colleges in the nation. That’s great.

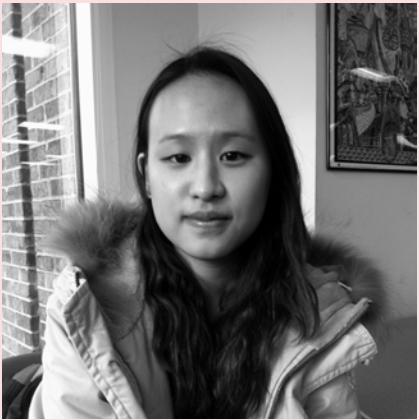
What are the resources at WCC that help with your transition?
In the beginning, it was hard. I went to private school and they were not that friendly. Now, it’s perfectly fine. There are people who help me out. At WCC, the international adviser and Terri are amazing. They help me with everything, helping get into the college.

What are the differences or similarities between here and home?
Culture is very different. You can find any races and any food. People are from all around the world. I love that. People are so busy, compared to back home in Europe. It’s more laid back at home.

Is it easy to adjust to American culture? How?
It is pretty easy now. The difficult part is language. Once I know the language, it became easier.

Is it easy for you to interact with other students? Why or why not?
It is easy for me, because I am very talkative. Once I know the language and know how things go around here, all those basic things, I am good to go.

What do you plan to do after WCC?
I am planning to go to Schoolcraft in Livonia, getting a culinary arts degree. Maybe I will work for a year in a restaurant. Then I wish to get a bachelor’s degree from Le Cordon Bleu, something fancy like that.



MARGARET SONG, 23, EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, SOUTH KOREA

Why did you choose WCC, and how did you hear about the college?
My dad works at University of Michigan. WCC is the closet college near it. I came here because of the reasonable tuition. I also want to learn English. I heard about a community college because one of my friends told me. Then I checked one nearby.

What are the resources at WCC that help with your transition?
The International Club helps me get along with friends here. Although it didn’t help me much, I didn’t meet many friends in there, only a couple friends. Instead, I made friend through a friend at church.

What are the differences or similarities between here and home?
People are different here. In an Asian country, we don’t have much diversity. Entering the college is different too. In my country, I need to take a standardized test, similar to SAT, to get into a college. Here at community college, I could attend without it. However, similarities are tests, a lot of tests. Subjects we learn are similar, although there is no writing center in Korea. There are many classes to help with writing here.

Is it easy to adjust to American culture? How?
Yes, because I was born here and lived here until (I was) 7 before moving back to Korea. I can understand English well. I went to middle school here, too. Also, there are a lot of U.S. dramas that I watched in Korea, so I understand American culture a bit.

Is it easy for you to interact with other students? Why or why not?
It’s hard, because talking is very hard. I think in Korean and translate into English, so it takes a longer time to talk. Also, American culture is different. I don’t understand idioms. When I was in middle school, there weren’t many differences between cultures. The way people are talking is different from Korea.

What do you plan to do after WCC?
I’m planning to go back to Korea and finish my degree in biology and French. I might go to graduate school. I think I might go into psychology.



GREYZA PEREZ, 19, BIOLOGY, VENEZUELA

Why did you choose WCC, and how did you hear about the college?
Actually, my aunt came here two years ago before me. She recommended me to come to this college. She said it was a good school, so I applied.

What are the resources at WCC that help with your transition?
Before I came to school, I knew one girl. She came to school one semester before me. She helped me get to know other international students.

What are the differences or similarities between here and home?
It is absolutely different here, like where I lived is so hot. People here came from everywhere. In my country, we don’t have many cultural differences. People here are kind. They are willing to help.

Is it easy to adjust to American culture? How?
It was not easy for me at the beginning. One of the different things between here and home is the students here are pretty close, like they are not very open to international students. When I first came here, I expected to talk and get to know them. But it is not like that. That is really different from my country.

Is it easy for you to interact with other students? Why or why not?
Most of my friends are international. They know what I am talking about. Many of them have experienced the same thing, so it is easier for me to meet with people from other countries.

What do you plan to do after WCC?
I’m planning to apply for school in Canada. I am doing a pre-med program, so I want to go to American school. Anyway, it depends where I get accepted.



CYNTHIA AKUE, 18, FOOD SCIENCE AND NUTRITION, NIGERIA

Why did you choose WCC, and how did you hear about the college?
I chose WCC to study and to accomplish my associate degree. I heard it through my siblings who went here.

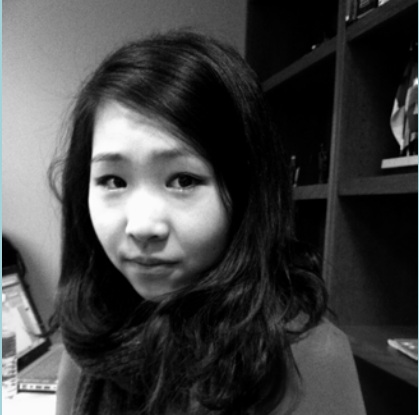
What are the resources at WCC that help with your transition?
International students, they’re friendly and helpful.

What are the differences or similarities between here and home?
You have to meet so many different people from different races. Environment is good for study, the easy system of education. It’s not easy at home due to the problem of government and problem between tribes. Food I eat at home is similar to here, Jollof rice.

Is it easy to adjust to American culture? How?
It is not easy at first. My first semester was in Winter 2012. Because of the terrible cold weather and people, I missed my friends and families in my hometown. I overcame that because I had friends who have kept me company. I gained some encouragement from my families and loved ones. I came here for studying, so I have to achieve my aims at WCC.

Is it easy for you to interact with other students? Why or why not?
It isn’t that easy for me to talk to them. I don’t know them. Not everyone likes to make friends, but I like to be associated with students in classes.

What do you plan to do after WCC?
I plan to follow my education and maybe transfer to U-M or EMU, wherever accepts me.



LUNA PARK, 20, ARTS, SOUTH KOREA

Why did you choose WCC, and how did you hear about the college?
I came to look at the campus when I was in high school. Then I decided to come here. I didn’t know what I was going to do. I didn’t want to go to college yet, because it’s really expensive. It’s cheaper here and way smaller. It’s easier to learn for students.

What are the resources at WCC that help with your transition?
Nicole (Diamond), the counselor, helped me. Outside school, I also have people to help me. I live with my friend’s family. They are really nice people.

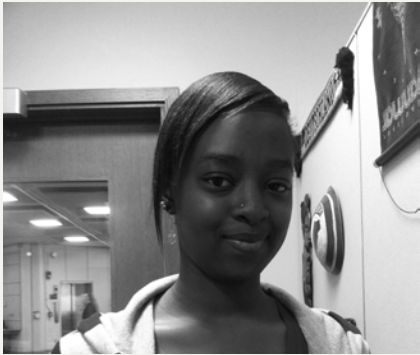
What are the differences or similarities between here and home?

Schools are really messed up back home. They educate you too much. There is no choice for classes. You don’t have any choices. It’s really strict over there. People are different, too. For me, people here are nicer. Korea could be nice and caring, but at that same time they could be very indifferent. People have old passions; they don’t like changes.

Is it easy to adjust to American culture? How?
I am very open to varied things. American culture is more open here than at home. There are more cultural differences. People came here with the American dream. However, sometimes yes, it’s difficult. There are some people who are not so friendly to international people, when they don’t really know anything about (you). I just got over it. It is what it is because I am in their country.

Is it easy for you to interact with other student? Why or why not?
I went to high school here. I have American friends. Now I know more international students, and I like it.

What do you plan to do after WCC?
I’m getting an associate degree, and I am planning to get a job for awhile. I also want to learn more about colleges before I transfer my credits to them.



FANNATA LAOUAN, 18, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, NIGER

Why did you choose WCC, and how did you hear about the college?
My sister went here.

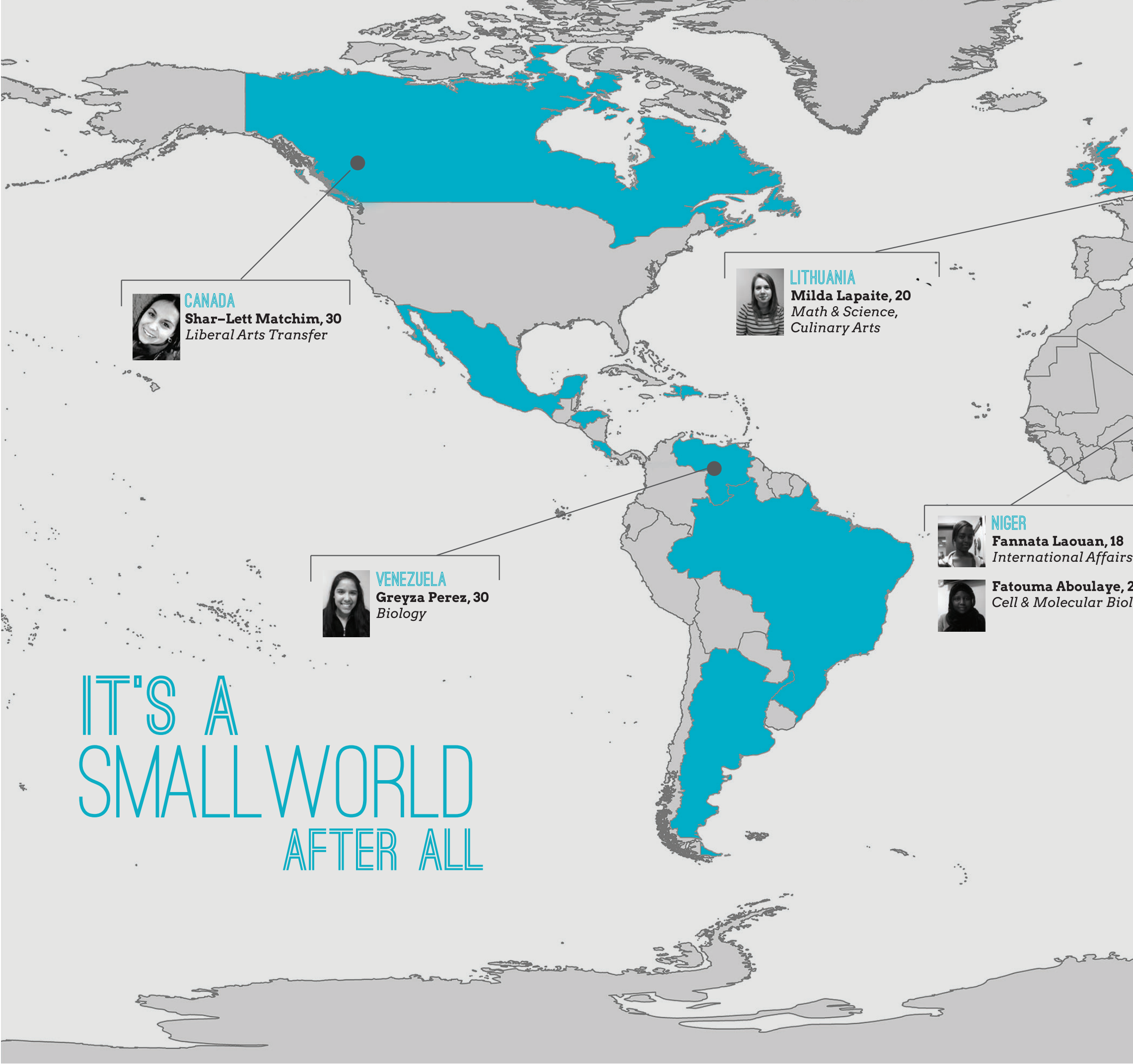
What are the resources at WCC that help with your transition?
The adviser helped me choose my classes.

What are the differences or similarities between here and home?
Here is boring. There is really nothing special about this place. In my country, we have freedom. You go out whenever you want to. You have fun, especially when you have friends. However, I came here for studying.

Is it easy to adjust to American culture? How?
No, it wasn’t easy for me. I have been here for five years, and I still don’t feel like I adapted into it yet. The difficult parts are culture and language. It isn’t easy to learn, but I am doing my best.

Is it easy for you to interact with other students? Why or why not?
No, I don’t feel comfortable speaking in English. I don’t like some people’s attitude, such as the way they act. Some are rude. I am not used to it. Most of my friends are international.

What do you plan to do after WCC?
I want to go back, find a job, and help poor people. I would like to get an associate’s degree and then transfer to EMU or another state. Once I get a bachelor’s degree, I will go back home.



CANADA
Shar-Lett Matchim, 30
Liberal Arts Transfer



LITHUANIA
Milda Lapaite, 20
*Math & Science,
Culinary Arts*



VENEZUELA
Greyza Perez, 30
Biology

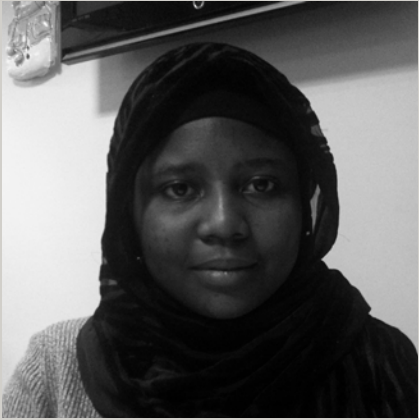


NIGER
Fannata Laouan, 18
International Affairs



Fatouma Aboulaye, 20
Cell & Molecular Biology

IT'S A SMALL WORLD AFTER ALL



FATOUMA ABDOULAYE, 20,
MOLECULAR BIOLOGY, NIGER

Why did you choose WCC, and how did you hear about the college?

I came here in the U.S. first, because I wanted to study in cell and molecular biology. I was not sure how to start it, because I just got here from Africa – a different school and language. Here, people speak English. In my country, we speak French. For me, to go from high school to college is hard, so

I chose to come to community college first. The question is which community college. My uncle told me to choose between WCC and Henry Ford Community College. I chose to come here because of its close distance to home.

What are the resources at WCC that help with your transition?

The International Student Association helps me out a lot. Being part of them helps open me up. I'm a shy person. When you get to know me, then I become much more open. When I meet with people, I am happy. I really love being around people. My English was horrible, when I first came here. At least I know some people who won't laugh at me because they experience the same thing. We just speak common English, as we can. We understand each other.

Also, my English teacher was very nice to me. After each class, I would ask her questions, because I couldn't hear her and I couldn't understand her. She would go through all the materials. She spent almost an hour to explain to me. She is so amazing.

What are the differences or similarities between here and home?

There is a big difference. In my country, the study is really rough. You have to memorize everything. You have to do your homework. But then here you choose your class at the time you want. This is like heaven. In my high school, I have to do all homework, but here no. I feel like I'm getting lazy. No one here is going to tell me to study. I have to force myself to do so.

Is it easy to adjust to American culture? How?

Not really. I still can't fit it. My mentality is somewhat different than here. Sometimes I just feel like I don't want to get into it too much, because I don't want to lose my roots, who I am. Keeping my root is very important to me. I want to keep my custom and tradition.

Is it easy for you to interact with other students? Why or why not?

I don't feel like my root is blocking me from interacting with others. Here I am talking to you. It's just I don't feel easy to follow the rules/norms here.

What do you plan to do after WCC?

I am going to transfer next fall. However, I didn't choose the university yet. I am still thinking about it, University of Michigan or Wayne (State) University. The two offer the major I want, which is cell and molecular biology. I would like to transfer there and have a bachelor's degree. After that, I hope to go to med school, studying what I want to study, either urogynaecology or gynaecology. I would like to help women from my country, because many of them experience complications during giving birth.



SHAR-LETT MATCHIM, 30,
LIBERAL ARTS TRANSFER, CANADA (GRADUATED)

Why did you choose WCC, and how did you hear about the college?

I chose WCC, because it was affordable. I was an au pair at the time and heard about the college from the organization.

What were the resources at WCC that helped with your transition?

I tried to partake in everyday things at WCC. I attended international fairs and other activities and used the newly built gym to work out. I would meet up with my classmates in the cafe area or library, when we had to work on projects. I found all the staff at Student Connections very helpful as a resource in helping me find the right courses and make sure that my credits were going to help in a transfer.

What were the differences or similarities between here and home?

At home, my university was huge. It took up much of the city. I was just a number there. Since I was a psychology major, most of my classes were made up of 400 people or more. In some classes no actual teacher was present; instead the lecture was taught by a pre-taped lesson that played on a large video screen. To ask a question you would have to wait until the end of the lecture, then tape questions at the front and wait for an e-mail response.

WCC was a much newer building, with much smaller classes. I got a chance to get to know my classmates and teachers as friends. My teachers seemed to be truly passionate about their careers, one psychology professor in particular. She gave me the motivation to excel and thrive in my choice to work towards my degree. Also, I loved that I could get answers quickly, when I needed them.

Was it easy to adjust to American culture? How?

You would think moving from Canada would be a breeze. However, the adjustment took time, as it would in any new culture. But you can't be afraid to interact and to accept the new culture for what it is. I think you have to learn to give up having expectations and having comparisons in your head of what things were like at home. Once you drop these inner conflicts, you can start to embrace your new environment for what it is.

Was it easy for you to interact with other students? Why or why not?

I found it easy to interact with other students, because I was always one to chat. My classes were small in size, and the environments friendly so talking to others was easy. I also found that most professors went out of the way to help break the ice between students, having them work together on projects or introducing themselves at the beginning of a new course.

When did you graduate from WCC?

In 2007.

How did WCC help you achieve your goals?

WCC helped me achieve my goals by keeping me on track with my credits. I could seek help easily at student connection and see which courses were needed to transfer to a four year college successfully. I did just that, transferred to EMU and graduated with a B.S in psychology.



What were the resources at WCC that helped with your transition?

The Writing Center helped me develop my writing skills. I was also impressed at my math instructor, Mr. [Name]. Anyway, he taught very well and he gave me a letter of recommendation, which helped me transfer to a four year college.

What were the differences or similarities between here and home?

Education here is different. In Thailand, instruction is more hands-on. Here, I had to do everything by myself.

Was it easy for you to interact with other students? Why or why not?

It's difficult to make friends here. Everyone is from different backgrounds, so it's not together much like what happened in Thailand.

Was it easy to adjust to American culture? How?

I have always had a trouble with American culture. After many years of my stay, I am still not familiar with it.

When did you graduate from WCC?

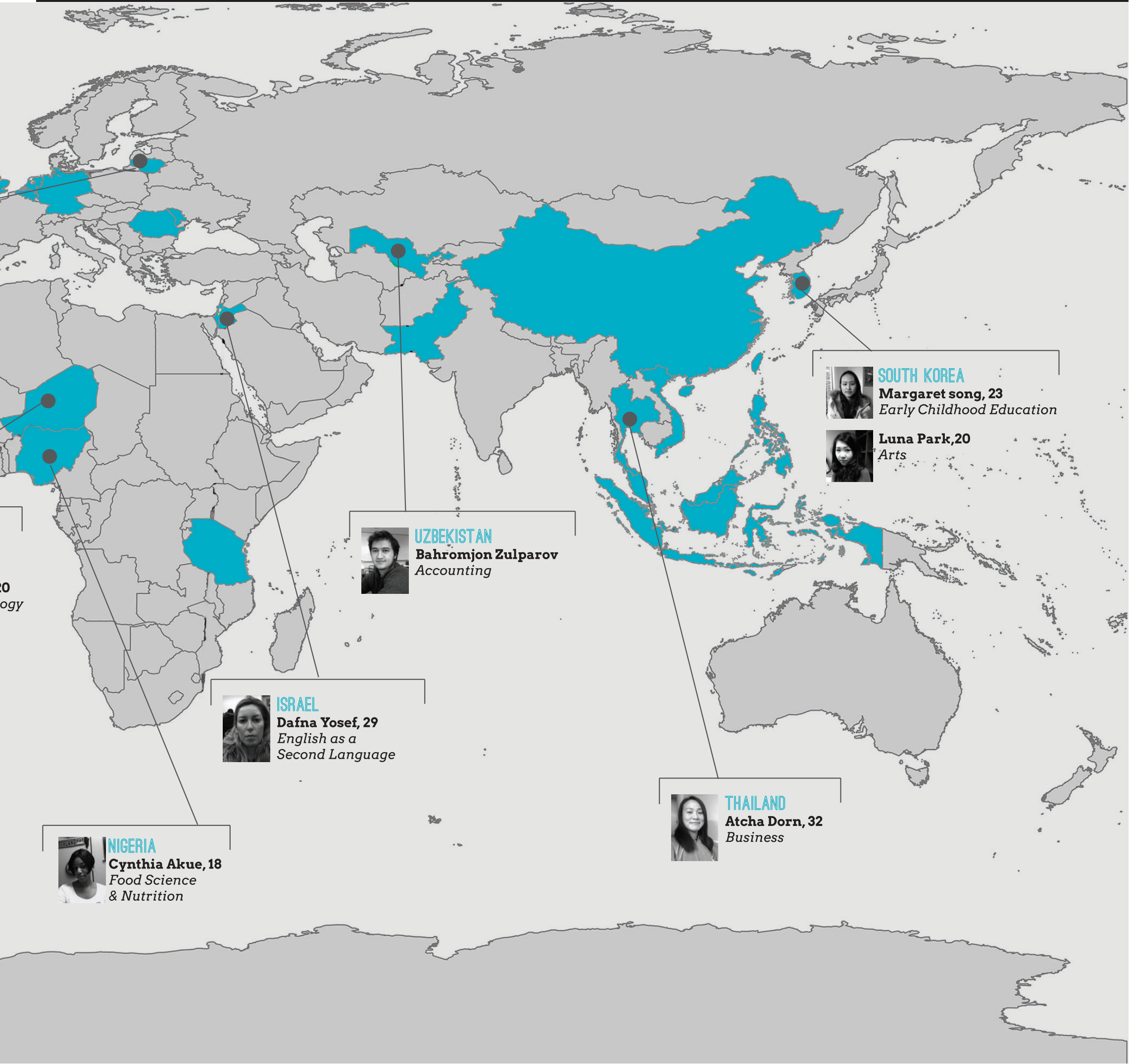
Around 2008.

How did WCC help you achieve your goals?

Going to WCC helped me a lot. For example, I got a letter of recommendation. More importantly, because I studied in American college, it helped me find a job in the U.S.

WCC serves both local residents and international students in Washtenaw County. As many things have changed, international students are still consistent. They make friends with others. Their future at WCC. A small number thus does not represent the whole.

STAY CONNECTED
THE VOICE



NIGERIA
Cynthia Akue, 18
Food Science & Nutrition

ISRAEL
Dafna Yosef, 29
English as a Second Language

UZBEKISTAN
Bahromjon Zulparov
Accounting

SOUTH KOREA
Margaret song, 23
Early Childhood Education
Luna Park, 20
Arts

THAILAND
Atcha Dorn, 32
Business

ATCHA DORN, 32, BUSINESS, THAILAND (GRADUATED)

Why did you choose WCC, and how did you hear about the college?

I came to the U.S. through an Au Pair in America Program. The program recommended me to study at WCC. WCC is the most affordable and close to my house.

What helped with your transition?

Writing skills. Staff was friendly and willing to help. The instructor, although I couldn't remember his name, was very kind to me. He helped me write a letter to get accepted to EMU.

What are the differences between here and home?

Teachers and school helped with class selections.

What about other students/why or why not?

Some came and went. Students didn't hang out much. It felt a little bit lonely.

What about the food? How?

American food. It's bland, unlike Thai food. After living with it, I need some spicy food.

What are your goals?

For example, an instructor helped write a letter of recommendation for me. I obtained a certificate in business and management and knowledge for my future study. The experience of international students living in Washtenaw County is a great experience. The international students' experience at WCC is a great experience. They learn different culture. They start their own business. It does not reflect the inability of teaching at WCC.



DAFNA YOSEF, 29, ESL, ISRAEL (GRADUATED)

Why did you choose WCC, and how did you hear about the college?

I heard about WCC from an au pair in America. This was the closest college in order to take ESL classes.

What were the resources at WCC that helped with your transition?

The staff at the international student office, I think her name is Cecilia. She helped me a lot. She helped me with the paperwork, classes and registration. She was very welcoming. She calmed me down. I remember I was so freaked out, because it was my first two weeks in the U.S.

What are the differences between here and home?

The differences are that in the U.S., people don't break the rules, more organized here. I have to work hard in order to achieve my goal. But in Israel I don't have to work hard, because I get whatever I want. It is my home country, so I do not appreciate it as much as here.

Was it easy to adjust to American culture? How?

Yes, it was very difficult, because I didn't know how to speak in English, and the norms were very different.

Was it easy for you to interact with other students? Why or why not?

Yes, at first it was very difficult. But I got confidence, because I had a class with people with the same level, and they were international as well. It was very comfortable.

When did you graduate from WCC?

In 2011.

How did WCC help you achieve your goals?

I think it gives me the first experience of college in the U.S. I am now studying at EMU.



BAHROMJON ZULPAROV, 20, ACCOUNTING, UZBEKISTAN

Why did you choose WCC, and how did you hear about the college?

I heard about it when I came to EMU.

What are the resources at WCC that help with your transition?

I went to the international office at EMU. I completed an application to be a guest student at WCC. I am taking class at EMU and WCC.

What are the differences or similarities between here and home?

Culture and education are different. Overall, I would say that (there are) more chances to be successful in the U.S. There are advantages and disadvantages of going away from your country. I don't see any similarities.

Is it easy to adjust to American culture? How?

It was easy, because I came here when I was 16. It has been four years already. I started my high school in New York. I got really easy adapted because of that. I was a foreign exchange student in high school.

Is it easy for you to interact with other students? Why or why not?

Yes, it is much easier, because I got used to American culture. I can interact with many people. I kinda like it.

What do you plan to do after WCC?

I plan to get a job and work here. In the long run, I might go home.

Ecumenical Extension

Photography Study Abroad program opens its doors to video students. Read online at <http://washtenawvoice.com>

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EMU advisers are available Wednesday from 1-5 p.m. and Thursdays from 12-4 p.m. in WCC Counseling Center



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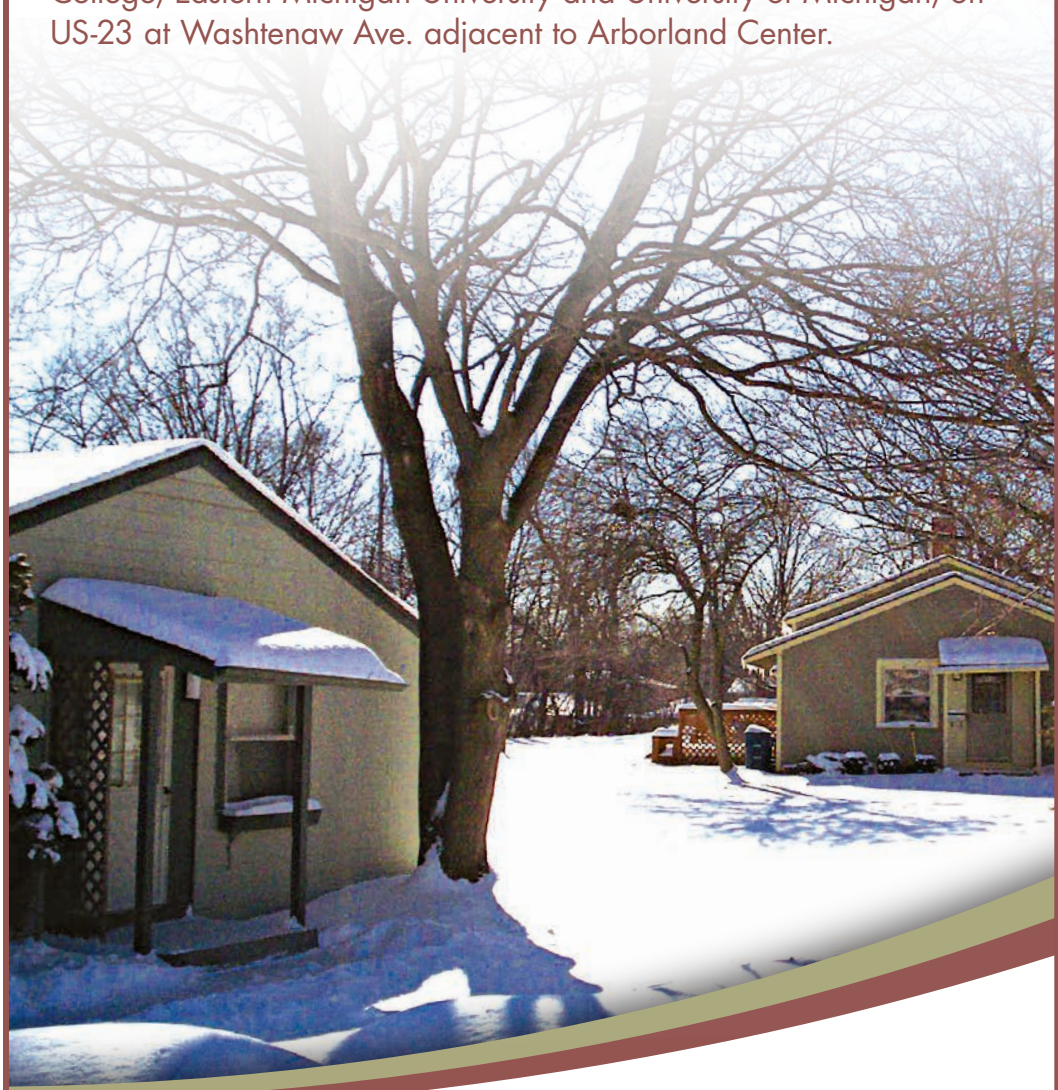
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