



# THE WASHTENAW VOICE

November 5, 2012 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor, Michigan ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ washtenawvoice.com



KELLY BRACHA THE WASHTENAW VOICE  
Bowling Green State University students fill the Stroh Center to see President Barack Obama during a recent rally in Ohio.



KELLY BRACHA THE WASHTENAW VOICE  
A crowd of more than 3,000 supporters braved the rain to see Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney in Toledo.

## Election 2012

Divided we stand as emotions run high in one of the tightest presidential races in history

BY KELLY BRACHA  
Staff Writer

In just one day, the nation will go to the polls and decide one of most important presidential elections in recent history – but the race is so close

it may be days or weeks before we know the results.

The race between the incumbent, democratic President Barack Obama, and the challenger, republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney, has ignited a

passionate and aggressive battle for both the candidates as well as the American voters.

Emotions are running high as the campaigns wind down and the candidates sit tensely awaiting America's

decision.

The enormous national debt, economic challenges and foreign turmoil have been catalytic to these emotions, and greatly amplify the importance of who wins. For a generation that has

had relatively little to worry about, the future is becoming increasingly uncertain.

Both candidates claim to have the solutions, and both stand firmly behind their beliefs and policies while questioning and dismantling

the policies of their opponent.

Here is a breakdown of each candidate's stance and views on some key issues – gathered from each candidate's official website unless stated otherwise – that will undoubtedly influence each voter's decision.

### Barack Obama – The Issues

#### Education

In his first term, Obama established a college tax credit for students and their families worth up to \$10,000 over four years of college. He also set the goal to lead the world in college graduates by the year 2020 and overall cut tuition costs by half over the next 10 years.

He also launched “Race to the Top” – urging 46 states to raise their standards for college and career readiness, capped repayments on federal student loans at 10 percent, established the American Opportunity

Tax Credit, allowing students to afford higher education by doubling the funding of Pell Grants and invested \$2 billion in community colleges.

Obama says he wants to ensure that veterans and service members can obtain a college education and find employment when they return from service, which is why he implemented the “Post-9/11 GI bill” which has helped more than 800,000 veterans pursue an education.

#### Energy

President Obama says

that, “by ending government subsidies for oil companies and investing in cleaner sources, America can become a global leader in clean energy, creating jobs and businesses while improving our environment and national security.”

He suggests that by doubling fuel efficiency standards, gas prices will decrease and jobs in the automobile industry will increase. Under his presidency, America is producing more oil than in the past 14 years through expanding domestic oil production – including

### Mitt Romney– The Issues

#### Education

Romney wants to reform education in order to put the interest of parents and students ahead of special interest to “provide a chance for every child.”

He hopes to bind federal funds directly to his reform, expanding parental choice, innovation and reward for teachers based on their results rather than tenure.

For K-12, Romney wants to allow low-income and special-needs students to select which school to attend by

making Title I and IDEA funds portable, provide incentives for states to increase choices for parents and expand the DC Opportunity Scholarship program to be used as a model for America.

Romney also plans to reform No Child Left Behind and eliminate any unnecessary certification requirements that may discourage new teachers.

For higher education, Romney wants to simplify the financial aid system, allow private sector participation and replace regulation with

innovation and competition.

#### Energy

Romney states that he “will make America an energy superpower.” He plans to promptly increase America's individual energy production and partner with Canada and Mexico to achieve energy independence by the year 2020.

To achieve this goal, he will require support for increased energy production, regulation and government facilitation of private-sector-led development of new energy technologies with a focus on

ELECTION  
CONTINUED A8

## No youthful enthusiasm in 2012?

BY ADRIAN HEDDEN  
Editor

Voting has never been optional for Gary Cooper. The 55-year-old resident of Ypsilanti and culinary arts student at Washtenaw Community College has seen political participation as a requirement since childhood. “I come from a union family,”

Cooper said. “Voting was a demand growing up. As soon as we were of age, our parents told us we must go out and vote. It's an opportunity to educate and explore avenues for how things should be run.”

And Elizabeth Lewis, a 26-year-old science major from Canton, feels obligated to participate in the election after serving in the military as

a combat medic since 2005. She is proud to serve and reside in a country with a multitude of issues and candidates for voters to choose from.

“Voting feels like a duty to me,” Lewis said. “You don't have to vote Republican or Democrat. There's a lot of options. You can vote any which way you want. Be independent.”

Lewis hopes her apathetic

VOTE  
CONTINUED A8

## A student's guide to Election Day

BY MATT DURR  
Staff Writer

Tuesday's election marks the first time that many students at Washtenaw Community College have been eligible to vote in a Presidential Election. And others may not remember the inconveniences that can pop up at voting booths if you're not prepared.

As we have all election season, *The Voice* is here to

provide a guide on what you'll need and need to know in order to efficiently vote this Tuesday.

### Give yourself plenty of time to wait in line

While the process of actually voting doesn't take very long if you're informed going into the booth, waiting in line can be a hassle. Our advice is to block out a nice chunk of time

to make sure you won't miss out on exercising your right to vote simply because your lunch break was ending and you ran out of time.

The polls are open from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. on Election Day, so make sure you don't wait until the last minute to get there,

ELECTION GUIDE  
CONTINUED A6





# complete YOUR COLLEGE EXPERIENCE!

with Student Development  
and Activities

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ELECTION DAY!

Show us your "I voted" sticker for a sweet treat!  
Tuesday, Nov. 6  
8 a.m.-6 p.m., SC 112

### Commit to Complete

Make your commitment to complete your degree!  
Thursday, Nov. 8  
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
SC Community Room

### Veteran's Center Opening Celebration

Monday, Nov. 12  
11:30 a.m.  
SC 2<sup>nd</sup> floor



Thank a veteran on Nov. 11! To those who have served:  
Welcome Home!

### Seeking veterans or those currently serving:

We'd like to use a photo of you in your military dress in a display.  
Email pictures to:  
rbarsch@wccnet.edu

### "Crossing Borders" Movie

At a time of world tensions, 5 students travel and live together, with surprising results.  
Tuesday, Nov. 13  
1-3 p.m. SC Community Room  
FREE! Light refreshments served

### WCC's Got Talent!

Cheer on WCC students as they showcase their skills!  
Thursday, Nov. 15  
6 p.m. Towsley Auditorium,  
Morris Lawrence Building  
FREE!

Had fun at event?

#WCCSDAROCKS  
Hash Tag it!

## UPCOMING SPORTS

### Fantasy Basketball League

Registration: Nov. 5-13  
You must Pre-register for this event and bring your WCC ID!  
Register at SC 116

### Upcoming Intramural Sports:

For students, Faculty and Staff  
Register prior to selected date(s) of competition. Games played in the SC Community Room. Walk-ups welcome.  
Prizes will be awarded!

### Intramural Table Tennis

6:00-7:30 p.m. on the following dates:

- Monday, Nov. 12
- Tuesday, Nov. 27
- Wednesday, Dec. 5
- Thursday, Dec. 13

### Intramural Darts

6:00-7:30 p.m. on the following dates:

- Wednesday, Nov. 14
- Thursday, Nov. 29
- Monday, Dec. 3
- Tuesday, Dec. 11

### Intramural Air Hockey

6:00-7:30 p.m. on the following dates:

- Tuesday, Nov. 13
- Wednesday, Nov. 28
- Thursday, Dec. 6
- Monday, Dec. 10

### Intramural Foosball

6:00-7:30 p.m. on the following dates:

- Thursday, Nov. 15
- Monday, Nov. 26
- Tuesday, Dec. 4
- Wednesday, Dec. 12



## STAY CONNECTED!

[HTTP://TINYW.CC/SDA](http://tinyw.cc/sda)

Be the first to find out about new tickets and activities!

Enter to win an iPod Touch 8GB:

1. Sign up for email alerts from [tinyw.cc/sda](http://tinyw.cc/sda)
2. Fill out our survey at: [www.tinyurl.com/sdapromotion](http://www.tinyurl.com/sdapromotion)

Must be currently enrolled in three credit hours with a GPA of 2.0 or higher.

# MAKE YOUR FUTURE ALL BUSINESS

Plan on finishing your WCC degree and then start your hands-on business education at Cleary University.

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## Dining to Donate

Enjoy a meal that's filling – and fulfilling.

Dine at Applebee's® and 15% of your bill will be donated to

### Loving Arm Rescue Ranch


Also go in any time in November other than the dates listed and bring a Non Monetary Donation for the rescue and YOU will receive 10% off YOUR bill.

Present this flyer to your server on  
**November 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, or 26<sup>th</sup>**  
at  
**Belleville**  
You must bring this flyer for your donation to be counted.

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FREEDOM OF CHOICE

VOTE ON TUESDAY NOV. 6, 2012

U.S. SENATE

Could Romney surge affect U.S. Senate race?

By BEN SOLIS  
Contributing Editor

Much as President Barack Obama and Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney have offered America two drastically different paths for the country's future, so have incumbent Sen. Debbie Stabenow and her Republican opponent,

businessman and former U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra. Widely popular among Michigan's electorate and middle-class families, Stabenow has served as senator for more than a decade. Hoekstra's tenure in Washington's House of Representatives -- serving Michigan's 2nd

Congressional District -- gives him similar political gravitas and experience as Stabenow. Hoekstra is viewed by his supporters as a reformer who knows how to stimulate job creation and grow the economy. Pre-election polls showed Stabenow is pulling far ahead of Hoekstra, yet Hoekstra's campaign believes the

momentum created by Romney's neck-and-neck presidential bid can push him to victory. Other contenders are vying for the seat, but are not considered credible challengers to either Hoekstra or Stabenow. This is where the two candidates stand on Michigan and the nation's top issues



HOEKSTRA

ECONOMY/TAXES

- A proponent of reforming tax codes and repealing burdensome taxes, he co-sponsored the Fair Tax, Flat Tax and the Tax Code Termination acts.
- Plans to reduce wasteful government spending and supports drastic cuts to entitlement programs.
- Served on the House Budget Committee and helped balance four consecutive budget proposals.
- Supports eliminating

duplicate government agencies

SOCIAL ISSUES/HEALTHCARE

- Voted in favor of free market healthcare solutions and emphatically stands against The President's Affordable Care Act.
- Prefers giving small businesses access to large employer health care benefits and health savings accounts.
- Supports less harsh regulations and punishments for malpractice lawsuits, including getting rid of pain

and suffering claims.

- Has no clear stance on veterans' benefits issues or Social Security reforms.

CIVIL RIGHTS/WOMEN'S RIGHTS

- Pro-life and has voted in favor of and co-sponsored bills limiting abortion rights.
- Voted yes on multiple marriage protection bills and voted no on repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."
- Is a strong proponent of the Second Amendment and gun owners' right to bear arms.



STABENOW

currency manipulation and re-creation of parts manufactured in America. -- Agriculture is a priority for the senator, and helped pass the 2012 Farm Bill -- legislation that cuts spending and opens up more opportunities for small farms and businesses in the state.

ECONOMY/TAXES

- Aside from the Farm Bill, one of the only deficit-reduction bills passed this year, Stabenow has been a proponent of denying Washington politicians from being paid if their is a

government shutdown.

- Stabenow voted no on bailing out Wall Street firms from bankruptcy..

SOCIAL ISSUES/HEALTHCARE

- Supports continued Medicare coverage but opposes Rep. Paul Ryan's plan for reform.
- Against privatizing Social Security. The National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare has honored her for her efforts.
- Established new clinics for veterans and created legislation to help preserve veteran health

benefits.

- Supported the Affordable Care Act.

CIVIL RIGHTS/WOMEN'S RIGHTS

- Supports abortion rights and is pro-choice. Stood with Roe v. Wade in 2003's Sense of the Senate vote dealing with the perception of the law among the senate.
- Voted twice to reject a constitutional amendment defining marriage as between and man and a woman and sponsored anti-racial profiling legislation.

MICHIGAN 12 DISTRICT

JOHN DINGELL



By NATHAN CLARK  
Managing Editor

Stretching from Ann Arbor to Dearborn rests Michigan's U-shaped 12th Congressional District. As it is a restructured district and there is no incumbent, voters must choose from one of three candidates to serve in office for two years: Republican Cynthia Kallgren, Democrat, John Dingell and Libertarian Richard Secula.

Kallgren says her No. 1 priority is job creation, blaming Congress for over-regulating and overtaxing businesses. She vows to invest, innovate and produce like Michigan's forefathers did in the past to return Michigan to the glory days of being the manufacturing capital of the world.

She vows to repeal the Affordable Care Act, more commonly called Obamacare, and to implement effective and economic health care reforms. She is pro-life and supports traditional marriage.

Dingell is no stranger to politics, being the longest serving member of the U.S. House of Representatives on his 29th term in office. He has authored numerous laws

and played a key role in crafting the Patient's Bill of Rights.

Dingell has continuously supported environmental laws and was an architect of the 1972 Clean Water Act.

Acknowledging how hard the economy has hit Michigan, Dingell says he will close loopholes that allow businesses to send jobs overseas, boost incentive to create jobs and stop foreign controlled corporation from interfering with elections.

He supports the Affordable Care Act, is pro-choice and supports equal rights for all Americans.

Libertarian candidate Richard Secula made no information available.



CYNTHIA KALLGREN

Michigan's 7th Congressional District

By NATHAN CLARK  
Managing Editor

Encompassing everything from Saline to the far reaches of Battle Creek is Michigan's 7th Congressional District. Residents of this broad area will be voting Nov. 6 for one of four possible candidates to represent them in the U.S. House of Representatives:

**Republican Tim Walberg**  
Walberg has been serving in the U.S. House of Representatives since

2006 and served on several subcommittees, including Homeland Security and Education. He's adamantly against government overspending, but also supports cutting taxes. He believes in repealing the Affordable Care Act, supports American energy production, is pro-life and is a strong supporter of traditional marriage.

**Democrat Kurt Richard Haskell**  
Haskell has been a lawyer for more than 10 years. He believes in rebuilding the economy by

rebuilding the middle class and keeping student-loan interest rates low. He supports American's 2nd Amendment rights, believes the war on marijuana is bankrupting the country and says all foreign aid should be reviewed to insure it is in line with American interests.

**Green Party Richard E. Wunsch**  
Not much information could be found on Wunsch, with the exception of a Facebook page stating he is fiscally conservative, supports gun

rights, gay rights and full reproductive rights for women.

**Libertarian Ken Proctor**  
A Vietnam veteran and retired auto worker, Proctor believes in cutting government regulation to promote private sector job creation. He believes all government departmental budgets should be posted online, available for public scrutiny and says Michigan is spending enough on education but it's not getting the most for its money.

IN BRIEF

WCC FALL TALENT SHOW

Washtenaw's got talent, and it'll be on display at the Fall Talent Show on Nov. 15, 4-10 p.m. in the Towsley Auditorium. Due to overwhelming interest during auditions, Student Activities decided it will have two talent shows this year. The next show will be held on March 15. The shows will feature dancing, singing, musical several dignitaries, including WCC President Rose Bellanca and Trustee Diana McKnight-Morton. Admission to the show is free.

DOING THE 'WRITE THING'

The Salvation Army of Washtenaw County is asking the community to "Do the Write Thing," encouraging residents to send letters of gratitude and support to homeless veterans living in the Veterans Haven of Hope in Ann Arbor. The home is a two-year transitional housing program started in 2005 for homeless veterans in the area. Residents can post online messages at facebook.com/sawashtenaw or twitter.com/sawashtenaw.

Letters can be sent to: The Salvation Army of Washtenaw County, ATTN: Veterans Haven of Hope House, 100 Arbana Drive, Ann Arbor, 48103

EMERGING ARTISTS, PART II

Three local artists, Ruth Bardenstein, Jeremy Brooks and Katie Rubin, will have their art featured in Gallery One in the Student Center as part of the ongoing Emerging Artists series. The gallery is hosting a reception for the series on Nov. 7 from 5-7:30 p.m. and artist's talks where the artists will be available for questions from 6-7:30 p.m. For more information, phone (734) 477-8512

POETRY READING

There will be a poetry reading featuring WCC students reading their work in Gallery One on Nov. 8 at 11 a.m. Lunch is included, but only to those who reserve a space at the reading ahead of time. Individuals can reserve a spot by emailing Maryam Barrie at mbarrie@wccnet.edu or phoning (734) 973-3737.

CAMPUS EVENTS

MONDAY, NOV. 5 RESUME DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

Learn the ins and outs of how to craft an enticing resume and cover letter with hands-on training from employment services staff. The workshop will be from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Student Center, SC 287.

TUESDAY, NOV. 6 ELECTION DAY

After voting at your assigned polling place, bring in your "I voted" sticker to Student Activities in SC112 and exchange it for a goodie bag filled with treats. The office is open from 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 7 JOB SEARCH TECHNIQUES

Learn how to look for a job and find out about other job search resources with Employment Services from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in SC 287.

FRIDAY, NOV. 9 INTERVIEW SKILLS WORKSHOP

Employment Services is running a workshop on how to prepare and take the anxiety out of the interview process when applying for a job. The workshop will be from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in SC 287.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 14 REGISTRATION FOR CURRENT STUDENTS

Registration for currently enrolled students begins at 8 a.m. for students with 45 credit hours or more, 11 a.m. for 30 or more, 1 p.m. for 15 or more and 3 p.m. for students with fewer than 15 credit hours.

THURSDAY, NOV. 15 REGISTRATION FOR NEW STUDENTS

Registration for new students begins at 9 a.m. Registration can be completed online or in person at the Student Connections on the second floor of the Student Center.

SECURITY NOTES

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

WCC HARTLAND CENTER ON ALERT

The WCC alert system sent out a message at 12:30 p.m. on Oct. 29 stating its Hartland Center would be closed until further notice. The closure was in response to the suspected shooting incident on nearby Interstate 96. The center was reopened less than an hour later after news reports were released stating it was a false alarm and there was no shooting.

LIQUOR VIOLATION

A student who was deemed to be heavily intoxicated in class was taken to the hospital between 1:30-2:20 p.m. on Oct. 25. Campus Safety and Security was notified by a dean after the dean was called by the instructor of the class the student was attending. Police were notified but had no interaction with the student while on campus.

ASSAULT

A student notified Campus Safety that he was struck in the back of the head by another student in the Student Center at 3 p.m. on Oct. 23. The cause of the incident is unknown, but security officials believe the victim struck his attacker back. No charges have been filed.



STATE SUPREME COURT JUSTICES

10 compete for Michigan high court

By NATHAN CLARK  
Managing Editor

Unlike the U.S. Supreme Court justices, who are appointed by the president and serve for life, Michigan

Supreme Court judges are elected to office for eight-year terms.

In the Nov. 6 election, voters must choose two out of the seven candidates, and two out of three candidates for

3-year-long partial terms to the Supreme Court.

The candidates for the 8-year term are Doug Dern, Connie Marie Kelley, Stephen Markman, Bridget Mary McCormack, Kerry L.

Morgan, Colleen O'Brien and Bob Roddis.

The candidates for the partial-term seats are Mindy Barry, Shelia Johnson and Brian Zahra.

Here's the judicial rundown:

KERRY MORGAN



Kerry L. Morgan has been practicing law for more than 30 years. He's a graduate of Michigan State, with honors, and received his masters from Regent University. He ran for Michigan Supreme Court in 2006, supports Parental rights and is pro-life.

BRIDGET MCCORMACK



Bridget Mary McCormack is a litigator, law professor and Dean of Clinical Affairs at the University of Michigan Law School. She plans to set the example of how a justice should act without bending to the pressures of special interest groups.

COLLEEN O'BRIEN



Colleen O'Brien has been serving in the Oakland County Circuit Court since 1998. She stands on a philosophy of not rendering decisions on what she thinks an outcome should be, but what the law requires and says she will violate the structure of the Constitution by legislating from the bench.

BOB RODDIS



Bob Roddis is a business litigator running on the non-partisan judicial ballot. He received his Master's of Law from Wayne State University, believes it is a judge's duty to keep the Government within the confines of the constitution and says the Federal Reserve is unconstitutional.

SHELIA JOHNSON



Judge Shelia Johnson, has been serving in the 46th District for the past eight years. Her judicial principles include judging fairly without bias, interpreting the law accurately and losing sight of common sense and real world concerns.

STEPHEN MARKMAN



Justice Stephen Markman has served on the Michigan Supreme Court for 13 years. Before that, he was a judge in Michigan Court of appeals. He stands by a policy of following what the law says and not how he feels the law should be. He believes judges are not meant to alter laws they don't agree with.

BRIAN ZAHRA



Justice Brian Zahra was appointed to the Michigan Supreme Court by Governor Rick Snyder in 2011. Before his appointment, he served for 12 years in the Michigan Court of Appeals. Zahra identifies himself as a rule of law judge.

DOUG DERN



Doug Dern is a lawyer in Hartland,. There is no other information available, though a thorough Internet search on him suggests he should probably change the privacy settings on his Facebook page.

CONNIE MARIE KELLY



Judge Connie Marie Kelly was a lawyer for 27 years has been a family law judge for four years. With her background in family court, she says she is focused on hearing both sides of an argument before ruling. She also supports fellow candidates McCormack and Johnson.

MINDY BARRY



Mindy Barry is a strong believer in in government oversight who supports investigating misconduct in federal agencies with no regard to political affiliation. She also believes the constitution is not an evolving document.

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

County voters to decide on four state representatives

By AMANDA JACOBS  
Staff Writer

Michigan has 110 legislative districts, and four of them lay claim to a chunk of Washtenaw County, meaning that county voters will have their say in sending four state representatives to Lansing.

State reps take part in important responsibilities.

They have the ability to amend state constitutions, propose and vote on laws and confirm or deny their state's budgets.

Voters can find their representative districts by looking on their voter registration cards. Parts of districts 52, 53, 54 and 55 are in Washtenaw.

Here are the choices in those legislative races:

MARK OUIMET



District 52 includes a large portion of western Washtenaw County, including the villages of Dexter and Manchester, parts of Ann Arbor, Saline, and Chelsea and parts of Scio Township.

The two candidates running for state representative are Mark Ouimet and Gretchen Driskell.

Ouimet, a Republican candidate and Ann Arbor resident, has served one term as a state representative. In 2011, he was named Legislator of the Year by the Michigan Township Association. His

DISTRICT 52

plan is to create a better environment for businesses by developing a new tax structure and decreasing government regulations.

Gretchen Driskell, Saline's first woman mayor – and its longest-serving one, is a Democratic candidate.

She first started as mayor in 1998 and is serving her seventh term.

Her plan as a state rep would be to direct funding toward educational and local government institutions, and she vows to stand up for women's rights.

GRETCHEN DRISKELL



JEFF IRWIN



District 53 covers the middle area of Washtenaw, including parts of the city of Ann Arbor, as well as parts of the townships of Ann Arbor, Scio and Pittsfield.

Residents in District 53 will have a choice between representative Jeff Irwin and

John Spisak.

Irwin is an Ann Arbor resident and Democratic representative serving his first term. He focuses on building Michigan's "green" economy by supporting the protection of wetlands and use of green

chemistry, as well as enforcing environmental laws. Irwin would also like to focus funds on education, energy conservation and efficiency programs.

Spisak is a student at the University of Michigan and Ann Arbor resident. He is studying

to become a teacher. His main focus is improving education and reducing unnecessary spending of funds. He doesn't plan to increase funding for schools; instead, his focus is on changing the current budgeting systems for education.

JOHN SPISAK



DAVID RUTLEDGE



District 54 includes parts of eastern Washtenaw County, including Augusta, Salem and Superior townships, and Ypsilanti city and township.

The election is between incumbent Rep. David Rutledge, the former three-term trustee of Washtenaw

Community College and Bill Emmerich.

Rutledge is a Democratic candidate in Ypsilanti, and is concluding his first term in Lansing. He is also the President of Alpha Environmental Services. Inc.

Rutledge believes that education should be top

priority for Michigan's government and vows that public schools will receive access to important resources. He opposes corporations being entitled to more rights than citizens and believes focus should be on creating jobs for citizens in the state.

Emmerich, a Republican, stands behind the Michigan Turnaround Plan created by the non-profit organization, Business Leaders for Michigan. Emmerich also supports women's rights to their bodies and equal pay, although he does support the public paying for contraception.

BILL EMMERICH



ADAM ZEMKE



District 55 includes southern Washtenaw County, as well as Monroe County. York, Bedford, and Dundee townships are included, as well as parts of Saline and Pittsfield townships.

Residents of this district will have Adam Zemke and Owen Diaz to choose from. They are both running for a first term as state representative.

Zemke graduated from Michigan State University and has served in multiple community organizations, including the Dexter Township Public Safety Advisory Committee and the Washtenaw County Community Action Board. A Democrat, Zemke vows to support specialized programs for public schools. He

plans to oppose funding cuts and work to bring back funding to universities and community colleges.

Diaz, a Republican and graduate of Eastern Michigan University, has served two terms as Milan's mayor. He is also President of St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Medical Auxiliary. He has a plan to

retain higher education graduates in the state by offering a tuition credit. This is an income tax credit toward tuition paid during post-graduate education. Diaz also plans to bring competitive business to the state by enhancing the Michigan Business Development Program.

OWEN DIAZ





WCC TRUSTEES

BY KELLY BRACHA  
Staff Writer


This election, when heading to the polls and receiving your ballot, you might see a few familiar names. On Nov. 6, three incumbent trustees and a

former Washtenaw Community College instructor will be vying for three seats on the board in two different races.

In one race, there are three candidates for two seats. In the other, Patrick McLean is running unopposed.

Running unopposed.

PATRICK MCLEAN



Before becoming a trustee at Washtenaw Community College, McLean was on the Ohio Board of Regents for the University System of Ohio, where he worked on reducing


costs and providing affordable options for students.

In January 2011, he was appointed to fill a seat on the board at WCC for two years from 2011-12 after former trustee, David Rutledge vacated his seat to run for state representative.

McLean is a member of the Financial Executives International, the Government Finance Officers Association and the Detroit Economic Club.

THREE CANDIDATES FOR TWO SEATS:

RICHARD J. LANDAU



Landau grew up in Ann Arbor and graduated from Brown University, where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree with honors in psychology. He later received


his PhD in clinical psychology from State University of New York and a law degree from Boston University School of Law.

Elected to the WCC Board of

Trustees in November 2000, he began serving in January 2001 and then was re-elected in November 2006.

His main concern now is keeping tuition costs down.

DIANA MCKNIGHT MORTON




McKnight-Morton was elected to the board in November 1994 and was re-elected in November 2000 and 2006. She has served as Secretary of the Board from

1997-99, Vice Chair from 2003-04 and the position of Chair from 2005-06.

After helping to establish the Washtenaw Technical Middle College on WCC's campus,

McKnight-Morton now looks to address diversity on campus.

WILLIAM HAZEN FIGG



Figg was born and raised in Ann Arbor and worked at WCC for 37 years in the welding and fabrication department.

He served as the head of the welding department for 28 years, retiring in 2009.

Figg hopes to curb spending

and expand the school's relationships with outside employers.

PROPOSALS

PROPOSAL 1

A REFERENDUM TO REPEAL PUBLIC ACT 4 OF 2011 – THE EMERGENCY MANAGER LAW

BY ADRIAN HEDDEN  
Editor

As many cities in Michigan are struggling economically, Gov. Rick Snyder believes he

has the answer to financial shortfalls of local government. In 2011, Snyder reworked Michigan's controversial emergency manager (EM) law, also known as Public Act 72 and

established in 1990.

The modified law, now known as Public Act 4, allows state-appointed EMs to alter union contracts and other labor agreements in hopes of digging

cities out of financial disaster.

In the past, Public Act 72 did not allow EMs to alter pre-existing labor agreements without negotiations. Voting yes on Proposal 1 adds the

ability to modify or terminate existing contracts, often with labor unions that the state pays into.

Voting no on proposal one not only denies EMs the right

to alter contracts but may do away with the entire emergency manager law.

PROPOSAL 2

A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION REGARDING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

BY NATHAN CLARK  
Managing Editor

Michigan, with its long history of manufacturing jobs and labor disputes, has always been thought of as the homeland of labor unions.

Throughout generations,

collective bargaining has been a hot-button issue with labor unions demanding more legal sway to protect the workers and employers struggling to stay in business

States have been dealing with union negotiations, Proposal 2, a proposition to

add collective bargaining to the state constitution, was put on the ballot for this year's election.

The proposal states that, through a constitutional amendment, it will grant all public and private employees the right to organize and

collectively bargain in labor unions, invalidate current or future state and local laws that limit the ability to join unions, bargain collectively. The proposal will also have the state constitution define "employer" as any person or entity employing one or more

employees.

Voting yes on Proposal 2 will make it unconstitutional to hinder collective bargaining rights, giving unions the power to stalemate labor deals and make other labor disputes a negotiation process.

Voting no will not impact

the unions' collective bargaining rights they already have. Collective bargaining will still go on between employers and unions, but without the broad power of a state constitutional amendment favoring unions.

PROPOSAL 3

A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO ESTABLISH A STANDARD FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY

BY KELLY BRACHA  
Staff Writer

Proposal 3, the Renewable Energy Proposal, will appear on the statewide ballot on Nov. 6 and, if passed, would amend the state constitution of Michigan to establish a standard of renewable energy.

The proposal would require electric utilities to provide a

minimum of 25 percent of their annual retail sales of electricity from renewable energy sources like wind, solar, hydropower and biomass, by the year 2025.

The measure was placed on the November 2012 ballot when the State Board of Canvassers certified 419,636 signatures in support of the ballot. On Aug. 15, the board voted to place the measure on the ballot.

It would also limit the rate of increasing charges to consumers to not more than one percent and require the legislature to enact additional laws to encourage the use of Michigan made equipment and employment.

Michigan's current standard, passed by the legislature in 2008, requires 10 percent of retail electricity sales to come

from renewable sources by 2015. The state is on track to meet its 2015 goal, but still heavily relies on fossil fuels to power the state.

According to supporters of the amendment, it is projected to provide more than 40,000 jobs and billions in new investments.

Opposing the amendment is the group Clean Affordable

Renewable Energy for Michigan Coalition. The group is campaigning against the measure, saying that the energy mandate does not belong in the state constitution.

If Proposal 3 passes, Michigan will be the first state to incorporate a renewable energy standard into its constitution.

Those who support the proposal would like to see the state of Michigan require electric utility providers to have a minimum of 25 percent come from renewable energy sources.

Those who do not support amending our state constitution to establish a new standard for renewable energy should vote no.

PROPOSAL 4

A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO ESTABLISH THE MICHIGAN QUALITY HOME CARE COUNCIL AND PROVIDE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING FOR IN-HOME CARE WORKERS

BY AMANDA JACOBS  
Staff Writer

Proposal 4, known as the Michigan Home Health Care Amendment will be on the statewide ballot on Nov. 6. The petition that started the proposal was sponsored by Citizens for Affordable Quality

Home Care and approved by the Board of State Canvassers in March.

The proposal will "amend the state constitution to establish the Michigan Quality Home Care Council and provide collective bargaining for in-home care workers."

If the proposal is approved,

the MQHCC will be in charge of setting minimum compensation standards and employment conditions, as well as providing training for in-home care workers.

The proposal would preserve patients' rights to hire in-home care workers who are not referred from the

council, but are bargaining unit members.

Collective bargaining rights would mean that wages, hours, rules and conditions would be negotiated by a union with the employer for all employees that it represents.

Michigan voters will

have a choice on whether to approve this proposal.

Those who support the rights of in-home care workers to bargain collectively, support background checks of the in-home care workers by the MQHCC and allowing the council to have continued

authority in the area of in-home care should vote yes.

Those who do not want in-home workers to be compelled to join a union and pay union dues or to make patients or relatives pay wages to in-home care workers based on union contracts should vote no on the ballot.

PROPOSAL 5

A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO LIMIT THE ENACTMENT OF NEW TAXES BY STATE GOVERNMENT

BY MATT DURR  
Staff Writer

The proposal will "require a 2/3 majority vote of the State House and the State Senate, or a statewide vote of the people at

a November election, in order for the State of Michigan to impose new or additional taxes on taxpayers or expand the base of taxation or increasing the rate of taxation.

Supporters of this proposal

feel that the current system makes raising taxes too easy. While those opposed say that the new system would give too much power to a small number of politicians in Lansing.

Currently a simple majority is all that is necessary to pass a tax increase in the state of Michigan.

That means 20 votes in the state Senate and 56 in the state House of Representatives

are required to raise taxes currently. If Proposal 5 were passed, 26 votes and 74 in the Senate and House respectively would be needed to raise taxes.

A "yes" vote means you support raising the number

of votes needed to raise taxes, while a "no" vote would be cast if you want things to stay at the current system.

PROPOSAL 6

A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE STATE CONSTITUTION REGARDING CONSTRUCTION OF INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES AND TUNNELS

BY BEN SOLIS  
Contributing Editor

Proposal 6 aims to allow Michigan's residents the right to a popular vote regarding any new construction on access routes to and from Canada.

Titled the Michigan Bridge Initiative, the proposal is sponsored by political action committee, The People Should Decide

If passed, the proposal will "amend the state constitution to require the approval of

a majority of voters at a statewide election in each municipality where "new international bridges or tunnels" are to be located" before the state can proceed with all aspects of a new construction project.

The measure is supported by The Detroit International Bridge Co., as well as The People Should Decide's various sister committees, most of which are politically conservative interest groups.

Voting yes means forcing

a residential popular vote before new projects can be given a green light of approval, delaying all bridge and tunnel construction projects proposed by Gov. Rick Snyder and leaders in Windsor.

Voting no would allow all

mentioned construction projects to move forward without a popular vote. It is supported by Snyder, state Rep. Rashida Tlaib, D-Detroit, the Michigan Chamber of Commerce and Taxpayers Against Monopolies.



THE VOICE WEIGHS IN ON THE FOLLOWING CANDIDATES AND PROPOSALS



PRESIDENT / VICE PRESIDENT – BARACK OBAMA/JOE BIDEN

President Barack Obama has spent the last four years trying to clean up messes from the previous administration – while battling on both sides of the aisle to try to get anything done. Whether it was the economy, healthcare or issues abroad – including two wars – his opponents threw punches for four years, and he took his lumps with grace.

Due to his unwavering support for community colleges, his extension of financial aid and Pell grants -- meanwhile cracking down on fraud within the system -- or his heartfelt and honest approach toward women's and civil rights, *The Washtenaw Voice* supports the reelection of Obama.

Not everything on our laundry list has been fixed, and the president has made mistakes along the way. However, unemployment is down, manufacturing and skilled-labor jobs are up and the housing market is gaining so much momentum the federal reserve has made insinuations of being able to raise interest rates again.

The president's policies are working, and it'd be a shame for anyone else to try to take credit for the hard work he has put into the recovery of our economy.

President Barack Obama deserves four more years to make sure what he started gets finished.

U.S. SENATE – STABENOW

Incumbent Debbie Stabenow is our choice in the race for U.S. Senator. A Democrat from Clare, Stabenow has spent the last 12 years as a senator and proved to be the better choice in this election.

What we really like about Stabenow's platform is her hard stance on China, making health care affordable for Michiganders and committing

to revamp Michigan's economy.

Our problem with Republican candidate Pete Hoekstra is that we couldn't find a clear stance on the majority of issues concerning our state. His website offers very little help and his voting record does not indicate a path we'd like to see our state travel down.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 7 – KURT HASKELL

Your best bet for Michigan's 7th District seat in the U.S. House of Representatives is Democrat Kurt Haskell. He has vowed to rebuild America's economy, and by focusing on the people of the middle class through job incentivizing and tax reform, shows foresight and concern for the needs of the future.

A lawyer for the past 10 years, Haskell has spoken out against strict marijuana regulations, stating that America's War on Drugs is now bankrupting the country.

Hoping to review all tax policies and regulations and repeal incentives that do not encourage American jobs, Haskell's vision is clearly that of American prosperity.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 12 – JON DINGELL

*The Washtenaw Voice* supports Jon Dingell in his bid to remain the 12th District's representative for Michigan in the United States House of Representatives.

Our decision was based on Dingell's continued support for environment initiatives and the creation of new manufacturing

jobs. Dingell has worked over the years to develop more and more businesses in Michigan.

A supporter of equal rights and the Affordable Care Act (AKA: Obamacare), Dingell should be your choice in the coming election to lead Michigan into the future.

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT – CONNIE KELLEY, SHEILA JOHNSON, AND BRIDGET MCCORMACK

All three of these judges have shown Michigan's citizens that women's rights, child abuse and cases against insurance companies denying benefits to hard working families are a top priority. While a judge cannot actively

help middle class families financially, the welfare of these families hinges on whether judges in our Supreme Court will decide cases in a way that puts them first before employers and insurance companies' pocketbooks.

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES– DRISKELL, IRWIN AND RUTLEDGE

We endorse the three Democratic candidates that are currently running in districts 52, 53 and 54 of the Michigan House of Representatives, Gretchen Driskell, Jeff Irwin and former WCC Board of Trustee David Rutledge.

Aside from being a former WCC leader, we particularly think Rutledge's work on the state's education committee is

important to this state's future.

We support Driskell for her humanitarian stances on women's rights and her plans to increase spending on early childhood education.

Both Irwin and Rutledge are seeking re-election and Driskell, the mayor of Saline, is seeking to unseat Republican Mark Ouimet.

COUNTY SHERRIFF – JERRY CLAYTON

*The Voice* endorses current sheriff, Jerry Clayton for re-election this year. Elected to office in 2008, Clayton had close to 20 years-experience in the Sheriff's Department before appointed.

Working to increase resident engagement with the Sherriff's Department, Clayton has added

an email-alert system to his repertoire and reworked the county's neighborhood watch program.

He has served our community well and should, over the next four years, continue to allow our county to be one of the safest communities in Michigan.

WASHTENAW COUNTY PROSECUTOR – MACKIE

Mackie has served Washtenaw County for close to 20 years, and has helped to maintain order and reduce violent crimes within the county. One of Mackie's earliest successes was his vigorous prosecutions of domestic violence cases, which were

ignored when he took office in 1993. Mackie's new plans to actively fight child abuse in correlation with consistent truancy should be applauded, as well as his ability to run a lean office operation that has saved taxpayers money over the past two decades.

U-M REGENTS – BERNSTEIN AND RYDER DIGGS

With two seats open and plenty of worthy candidates, this was a tough decision, but *The Voice* endorses Democrats Mark Berntstein and Shauna Ryder Diggs.

Both candidates favor bringing down the cost of education at the University of Michigan and making sure that students leave college with lower debt.

Bernstein has already presented a plan that would save students close to \$4,800

in loans and says that students from households making less than \$150,000 a year should not face tuition increases.

Diggs has earned the endorsement of departing regents S. Martin Taylor and has said in the past that she believes that loan payments should be reflective of your income so that paying off student loan debt doesn't prevent you from building a new life after college.

WCC TRUSTEES

There are three candidates running for two open seats on WCC's Board of Trustees, and *The Washtenaw Voice* supports the election of trusted incumbents, Diana McKnight-Morton and Richard Landau.

Both providing lifetimes of service in the fields of law and social work, respectively, Landau and McKnight-Morton, along with their fellow WCC Trustees, have led the college to its most prosperous years yet.

Landau's main focus, following his re-election, will be reducing tuition costs to make WCC more affordable

for students. McKnight-Morton, who assisted in the establishment of Washtenaw Technical Middle College, has now actively shifted her goals to address diversity and explore new, potential demographics for the recruitment of future students.

Over the course of their tenures on WCC's Board of Trustees, McKnight-Morton and Landau have learned much about this campus, thus providing the most informed perspectives on how WCC will continue forward.

PROPOSAL 1 – YES

*The Washtenaw Voice* supports the final push to enact Public Act 4, otherwise known as the Emergency Financial Manager law. This measure would expand on the law, and extend the powers

of EMF's to an area where oversight and supervision are needed most: the public school system. We support any measure to help any and all mismanaged districts succeed.

PROPOSAL 2 – NO

While we sympathize with the content of the measure, we disagree with the prospect of unionized collective bargain becoming a solidified law. So we

cannot support this proposal. We believe bargaining should take place on an as-needed basis, and does not require an amendment to the constitution.

PROPOSAL 3 – NO

While the vote was not unanimous, we vote no on Prop 3, the proposal to establish a standard for renewable energy in the state constitution. We support the idea of finding new

energy sources that are cleaner for the environment, but to make it a state mandated law is too much. Energy policies in the state should not be a part of our state's constitution.

PROPOSAL 4 – NO

We unanimously vote no against Proposal 4 to amend the state constitution to establish collective bargaining rights for in-home care workers. Our biggest issue with this proposal

is that it would force in-home workers to join a union and pay union dues, regardless of whether they want to. This seems like a union grab for cash.

PROPOSAL 5 – NO

*The Voice* has decided to vote No on Proposal 5. This proposal would enter into Michigan's state constitution, a requirement that a two-thirds majority vote be reached before any changes to taxes can be levied or repealed.

This would excessively increase the required support

needed to alter or supplement Michigan state taxes.

Furthermore, we feel Proposal 5 would only serve to further muddy our state's legislative process and may allow some small groups of like-minded Senators to ultimately block future proposals by banding together the newly-required votes.

PROPOSAL 6 – NO

*The Washtenaw Voice* does not support the proposed amendment to Michigan's state constitution that would require a residential, popular vote to approve construction projects, bridges and tunnels, in Michigan en-route to Canada.

Not only does Proposal 6

take power away from publicly elected officials to make important decisions regarding expensive and economically-stimulating, international bridges and tunnels, we feel that it favors in particular, the private investors that own The Ambassador Bridge.

ANN ARBOR MILLAGE PROPOSAL 1 – NO

This proposal would raise tax dollars to install art attractions around the city of Ann Arbor. Let's face it, Ann Arbor is one of the most renowned cities for its

creative hub for performance and traditional arts. Ann Arbor would be no less or more distinguished by random, public art attractions sprinkled about town.

ANN ARBOR MILLAGE PROPOSAL 2 – YES

This proposal would raise tax dollars to aid the city's public parks. Ann Arbor is hailed as "Tree City" for a reason: our reputation for public nature,

forest and park areas. *The Voice* sees no reason why Ann Arbor's citizens would want to stay away from that reputation.

YPSILANTI CHARTER AMENDMENT – TO MAKE POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA LOWEST POLICE PRIORITY – NO

Although the profile of the medical marijuana movement has recently swelled with the Supreme Court-approved Michigan Medical Marijuana Law going on the books in 2008, *The Voice* is simply not comfortable telling trained police officers how to do their job.

Attempting to broadly define and require how police are to prioritize certain crimes, the law would weaken officers' ability to improvise and react on a case-by-case basis. We are also unsure of what crimes cops will be expected to increase prosecution for in place of the decriminalized weed busts.

ELECTION CONINTUED FROM A1

either. Make sure you have your state issued Identification Card

While you can still vote if you do not have your state-issued ID card, it makes the process much easier if you simply bring your driver's license or state ID. If you forget your ID, you will have to sign an affidavit in order to vote.

yourself a lot of time. If you know you're simply voting for every Republican candidate, know that you are voting a "straight ticket."

If you only want to vote for the presidential race, know that you don't have to fill out the entire ballot. For information on some the more important issues this election season, see page 1 of *The Voice*.

Know your poling location and your precinct

Some cities have multiple locations where voting takes place, and it's up to you to know where your polling location is. Luckily the state has a website set up that will not only tell you if you are registered, but also where your polling location is located. Visit that website at: <https://webapps.sos.state.mi.us/mivote>

Be aware of what you can't do on Election Day

There are a couple things that first-time voters may not be aware of that can cause troubles for you. Do not wear clothing involved with elections. You cannot wear T-shirts, buttons, hats or any other piece of clothing related to the elections. If you do, you will be asked to cover it up, or you cannot vote.

Also, while it is the 21st century, it is prohibited to use a camera inside of voting booths.

Know your ballot issues beforehand

If you've done your homework, you can save

Read more political coverage at [washtenawvoice.com](http://washtenawvoice.com)

The Washtenaw Voice

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A copy of each edition of The Washtenaw Voice is free to everyone. Additional copies are available at *the Voice* office for 25 cents each.

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# Passionate volunteers working OT for political candidates across Michigan



Inside the offices at the Democratic headquarters in Ann Arbor, a wall painted with chalkboard paint displays the upcoming neighborhood team events calendar full of phonebank times, Sunday canvassing and voter registration parties.



Madison Mazer, a 17-year-old volunteer for the Romney campaign, began volunteering Oct. 9. 'I wanted to help out,' she said, 'After I got a bunch of emails, I decided to volunteer.' As for why she chose to support Romney: 'I don't like Obama... plus I think Romney is pretty attractive.'

## PHOTOS AND WORDS BY KELLY BRACHA

Walking through the doors of any campaign headquarters, Democrat or

Republican, you will find individuals campaigning for the candidates they support. But what they don't share in political views, they share in a passion for this election. Every four years, groups

of fervent voters assemble to speak out for the candidates of their choice and work hard to spread their gospel.

From here in Ann Arbor, to across Michigan in Kalamazoo, volunteers are

giving their time and money for a campaign they believe in.

Both sides have legions of volunteers striving to influence voters within their respective cities and counties through various means:

door-to-door visits, mind-numbing telephone calls to strangers and supplying lawn signs and stickers to voters looking to show their support.

They are the unsung heroes of each campaign, hard at work

every day, ready and willing to talk politics, issues and more importantly, all about the candidates they're supporting.



Driving past the Democratic headquarters on E. Eisenhower Parkway, hard to miss is, Obama 2012, painted across the windows in big blue lettering.



The windows of the JOP headquarters on Washtenaw Avenue are scattered with a variety of signs for each Republican candidate running for various offices



Rows of phones and volunteers sit in the headquarters in Kalamazoo. Each volunteer tries to reach voters over the phone for a moment of their time.

ELECTION CONTINUED FROM A1

## Barack Obama – The Issues

opening up to 75 percent of America's oil and gas resources in the Gulf and Arctic.

Obama also wishes to keep using clean energy. Electricity generated from wind and solar has doubled since his presidency. He has made significant federal investments in clean coal, which have amounted to more than \$10 billion in private investments as well as an increase in employment in the coal sector, reaching its highest level since 1996.

### Healthcare

Obama's health care law has helped stop insurance companies from capping and canceling coverage and provides access to recommended preventative care without co-pays or deductibles. This has helped improve Medicare for seniors and young people get health insurance.

According to Obama, the Affordable Care Act is holding insurance companies

accountable in terms of abuse, such as capping or dropping coverage when ill, helping people on with Medicare stay healthy and stopping health insurance companies from charging more for women than men for the same coverage.

### Taxes

During his presidency, Obama has cut taxes for every American worker and applied 18 tax cuts for small business to help during the recession.

Obama is, "calling on millionaires and billionaires to pay a little bit more so that we can pay down our debt in a balanced way."

He contends that no household making more than \$1 million a year should pay a smaller income tax than the middle-class. In his budget are investments in education, manufacturing and infrastructure while lowering discretionary spending.

For the deficit, Obama has put forward a balanced plan of spending cuts and revenue

increases that will "reduce the deficit by more than \$4 trillion over the next decade," which include \$1 trillion in spending cuts he signed into law last summer.

### Social Security

During Obama's first term, the Recovery Act has provided a one-time payment of \$250 to retirees, Social Security beneficiaries, disabled veterans and SSI recipients. Fifty-six million retirees and others received this one-time payment, totaling \$14 billion.

Obama has called for Congress to enact another \$250 Economic Recovery Payment to seniors, as well as veterans and those with disabilities.

Obama promises to make it easier for Americans to save on their own retirement. His budget lays the foundation for all Americans to participate in retirement accounts at work, which will dramatically increase saving participation rates in 401(k) plans.

funding research.

On his list of energy goals are: to open offshore areas for energy development; pursue a North American Energy partnership – approve the Keystone XL pipeline; ensure accurate assessment of energy resources; and restore transparency and fairness to permitting and regulation.

### Healthcare

Romney says his first day in office he will issue an executive order for the federal government to issue Obamacare waivers to all 50 states. Romney will then work with Congress to repeal the legislation.

Instead of Obamacare, Romney wants to pursue policies that allow each state to develop their own healthcare reform plan fitted for its own citizens, in which the government's role will be to only help markets work with a level playing field for competition.

Romney's main plan includes blocking grant Medicaid and other payments to states, limiting federal standards on private and Medicaid coverage,

## Mitt Romney– The Issues

helping uninsured subsidies and offering grants to explore non-litigation alternatives to dispute resolution.

He believes that competition helps promote improvements in efficiency and effectiveness, leading to higher quality service at lower costs. To achieve this, he wants to cap non-economic damages in medical malpractice lawsuits, empower individuals and small business to form "purchasing pools," prevent discrimination against those with pre-existing conditions and facilitate IT interoperability.

### Taxes

On taxes, Romney wants to repair the nation's tax code by lowering marginal rates to stimulate entrepreneurship, job creation and investment while still raising the revenue needed to fund a smaller government.

For individual taxes, Romney wishes to make permanent 20 percent cut in marginal rates, maintain the current tax rates of interest, dividends, and capital gains, as well as eliminate taxes for taxpayers with an adjusted growth income

below \$200,000 (on interest, dividends and capital gains) and eliminate the Death Tax.

For corporate taxes, Romney wants to cut the corporate rate to 25 percent, make permanent the Research and Experimentation tax credit, switch to a territorial tax system rather than citizenship-based, which is what America currently uses. The difference in systems is with the territorial system, only local income – income from within the country – is taxed. The residential system means that residents are taxed on their worldwide income.

Romney also wishes to repeal the corporate Alternative Minimum Tax.

### Social Security

Romney proposes that Social Security be adjusted – the retirement age should slowly be increased to account for increases in longevity and for future generations of seniors, benefits should continue to grow, but with lower rates for those with higher income.

For coverage of other elections on the ballot this year, visit [washtenawvoice.com](http://washtenawvoice.com)

VOTE CONTINUED FROM A1

peers will look into questions raised in this election season about foreign policy and healthcare and take the chance to voice their opinions.

But not all students are as optimistic about their role in the election. Many have perceived a lapse in voter enthusiasm after the widespread excitement for 2008's historic presidential election faded over the past four years.

"Last time, we were voting for an African American president," Cooper said of the election in 2008. "Bush had been making heavy bills, the Democrats and Republicans were both tired and wanted a change."

Lewis believes that this year's election has retained much of the hype garnered in 2008, and perceives that the anticipation and characterization of either



Royce Narvab

candidate has only changed.

"Instead of black versus white, this year it's more like a family versus a company," Lewis said. "The hype is still the same, but focused differently. Obama is the family".

Political science instructor and former Congresswoman Lynn Rivers also points to President Obama's initial campaign as sparking unusual excitement in 2008, unmatched in 2012. But she has observed the enthusiasm gap narrow

as the election becomes imminent.

"(In 2008) we were making history," Rivers said. "There was the possibility of having the first black president. He was young and had a message of change. As it's gotten tighter (this year), people who have been watching from the sidelines have been stepping up to have their voices heard."

Certain that many student concerns have been brought to light in the coming election, Rivers points to busy student lifestyles as a main hurdle of their sovereignty in the political arena.

She looks to the debate between candidates regarding federal dollars being spent on defense and education and its direct correlation to financial aid at WCC. Rivers also believes students should

consider decisions about Social Security and Medicare funds that she said youngsters will ultimately pay for in the future.

"It's hard for young people to think about," Rivers said. "They have constraints on their time and this (voting) often doesn't have a high priority, but it should. They fool themselves if they think this election has nothing to do with them."

Many students agree. Marti Pastula, a 22-year-old medical administration major, is excited to vote for her first time in the coming election. Concerned with economy and women's rights, Patsula plans to vote – because she can.

"I'm motivated by the fact that it (voting) is something unique to have the right to make a difference," Patsula

said. "You might as well take advantage."

Some on WCC's campus don't feel their opinions are relevant to the electoral process at all and plan to opt-out of voting this year, citing a theorized insignificance of their own votes in national elections.

Royce Narvab, 21, a liberal arts major from Ann Arbor, sees little difference in the presidential candidates and is frustrated regardless, for the sake of American troops deployed to the Middle East.

"I feel like I really have no faith in the political process," he said. "It's just the lesser of two evils. I'm definitely worried about the war. Just get a lot of the troops back and stop messing around."

Jennifer Baker, a digital media arts instructor and

president of WCC's teacher's union, worries that students may be misled by the hype surrounding 2008 compared to this year's election.

"Every election is your opportunity to have a voice," Baker said. "Students should really take advantage of it. The depressing part is that we engage in what we see, ad wise. That's not helpful at all. The campaign advertising, for me, is very negative on both sides. It's very problematic."

She feels voter apathy and exaggerations from the media affecting all generations at WCC – not only the young, but sees excitement growing while counting down to Nov. 6.

"It's not just the young people who don't vote; this affects all age groups," Baker said. "People tend to get more interested as the election gets closer."



# SPOTLIGHT

THE WASHTENAW VOICE • SECTION B

## WCC reaches out to veterans more than ever

BY NATHAN CLARK  
Managing Editor

Until about a year ago, Washtenaw Community College's relationship with student veterans was virtually non-existent. The school accepted and supported veterans, but it never went out of its way to help returning soldiers and their families. Until now.

Since the beginning of the Fall semester, WCC has stepped up its help for students making

the transition from military life to getting a college education or retraining for a new job outside of the service.

"Word is getting out about this school," said Reginald Rodgers, vocational rehabilitation counselor from Veteran Affairs. "I recently got a call from two soldiers who are not even out of the military yet, and they were asking me about this place. So the good word is getting out."

IMPROVEMENTS  
CONTINUED B2



STUDENT VETERANS COURTESY ILLUSTRATION

### HONORING VETERANS

**Thu., Nov. 8:**

A panel discussion with representatives from the VA and student veterans enrolled at WCC will be held in the Student Center from noon-1 p.m. The panel will be talking about what it is like transitioning from the military to college life. All are welcome.

**Mon., Nov. 12:**

There will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the opening of the veterans office on the second floor of the Student Center at 11:30 a.m. President Rose Bellanca and other dignitaries in attendance will say a few words before a lunch with select student veterans.

## After three Afghan tours; scars and nightmares

'Blown up, brainwashed' Marine encourages PTSD treatment for others, too

BY ANNA ELIAS  
Staff Writer

Ryan Anderson has an everlasting reminder of what happened as he walks the halls of Washtenaw Community College each day: shrapnel still in his back from "being blown up."

After bedtime, he has other issues.

"I have a lot of nightmares," Anderson, 24, of Belleville, says, "I remember everything, everyone who didn't come back."

An automotive technologies student, husband and father, Anderson is a second-generation United States Marine who spent three years out of the five he enlisted for deployed in Afghanistan, fighting the longest war the United States has ever endured.

After working in a factory after high school, Anderson realized he needed a plan for his life, that he wasn't going to spend the rest of it in that factory like the other men in his life. The choice to join the Marines was obvious to him. What he wasn't planning on was returning home with more problems than when he left.

The physical scars from war

wounds are one thing. But the greater issue was something far worse. Recognizing it was difficult; admitting he needed treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder was even harder.

PTSD is still pushed under the rug by many people who claim it's not a real illness since there's no blood test or genetic marker for it.

"You're brainwashed from the beginning – but in a good way – to follow orders," said Anderson. "No one tells you to do it (get help for PTSD). It's your own choice."

For Anderson, though, the choice was easy. Seek treatment before something bad happened.

*Resources for veterans are available on campus with the Student Veterans Club and Veteran Affairs. The VA Hospital in Ann Arbor is also available and you can visit the website at [www.annarbor.va.gov](http://www.annarbor.va.gov).*

"If I scare Ryan, he could accidentally hurt me," said his wife, Heather.

She has a 6-year-old son, Lucius, who has high-functioning autism. The former Marine speaks about having to set ground rules for his step-son so he doesn't startle him, causing Anderson to harm him accidentally.

Anderson expressed concern for his wife and step-son, saying he is "more scared for them

ANDERSON  
CONTINUED B2



BRIAN SOOS COURTESY PHOTO

Brian Soos embraces his daughter on one of his return trips home from Iraq. See story Page B5

### HEROES WELCOME

From Vietnam to Kosova, Somalia, Iraq and Afghanistan, Washtenaw veterans have fought for their country. These are their stories. **More profiles in courage pages 4-5**

## Wounded Warrior advocate gives hope to soldiers with role on TV's 'Nashville'

BY MATT DURR  
Staff Writer

Anyone who knows Sgt. Melvin Kearney can tell you about his infectious – and perpetual – million-dollar smile, one that has helped get Kearney cast on the new ABC drama "Nashville," starring Hayden Panettiere and Connie Britton.

But for a man who lost five "battle buddies" during the war in Iraq, that smile was hiding a bit of survivor's guilt and plenty of job-related stress.

"I didn't stop to take care of myself, and now I'm doing

a better job of taking of other people because I'm taking care of myself," Kearney said in a telephone interview with *The Voice*. "I found balance with this. This came at a right time. Now that I'm acting, I can tap my creative side."

"While I'm acting, I'm letting go of my built up emotions that I suppress and it's awesome."

As an advocate for the Army Wounded Warrior (AW2) program, Kearney's life can get pretty hectic and stressful. Monday through Friday, Kearney is a self-described pit bull, responsible for making sure the men and women who

fought for our freedoms are taken care of once they return home.

Kearney started as AW2 advocate at the VA hospital in Ann Arbor before transferring to his current post in Nashville.

After working continuously for more than three years, he was starting to get burnt out.

"I realized I was hitting it so hard because of survivors guilt," Kearney said.

But it wasn't until a family member close to Kearney pointed out that he couldn't do much good if he was sick and in a hospital bed that he realized

he needed to slow down.

That's when salvation came in the form of a role on "Nashville."

One of the more difficult parts of Kearney's job as an AW2 advocate is helping soldiers with traumatic brain injuries. Sometimes these soldiers have a hard time remembering things, but when Kearney is around, they know who he is and what he does for them.

With that in mind, Kearney decided to have business cards made with his photo on

KEARNEY  
CONTINUED B2



MELVIN KEARNEY COURTESY PHOTO

Sgt. Melvin Kearney on patrol.

# VOICE BOX

As the election approaches, one of the most popular subjects for both presidential candidates is what each plans to do with our troops still engaged in the nation's longest war. Both Obama and Romney have plans to keep the troops in Afghanistan through 2014.

*The Voice* asked students how they felt about that policy.

INTERVIEWS **AMANDA JACOBS** STAFF WRITER  
PHOTOS **JESSICA PROTETCH** CONTRIBUTOR



"I think the troops should stay for our defense, just to play it safe."

**BRETT KOKKALES**  
18, Dexter, General Studies



"I think we should bring them home and line them up on our own borders. We've done what we needed to do, and we should start taking care of ourselves."

**DAN KEDROSKE**  
19, Dexter, Welding



"I think it's a good idea to stay as long as we're not at war."

**MELISSA JACKSON**  
44, Ypsilanti, Human Services



"I think we should stay, because we're still globally connected. As long as we're not killing people for no reason, there are things that need to be done."

**DEANNA JORDAN**  
30, Belleville, Video Production



"I think they should gradually pull them out. They're keeping down the opposition. We want their government to be able to succeed without our help."

**JOE HUFFORD**  
18, Ann Arbor, General Studies



"I think they should come home. It's probably beneficial that they are there, but there are things we should work on at home first."

**WHITNEY WALLEN**  
23, Ypsilanti, Liberal Arts Transfer



"The only point of the war was for the government to get cheap gas. They should come home now."

**KIRSTEN MOORE**  
17, Canton, WTMC



"Obama probably has access to people who know what they're talking about. The people in Afghanistan report to him, so we should probably take Obama's advice if he thinks they should stay."

**JEREMY WAGNER**  
19, Ann Arbor, General Studies



"I think they should stay long enough to stabilize things until they're able to come back."

**JULIE PILON**  
44, Ann Arbor, Radiography



"It doesn't matter much to me. Pull them out, because we could use them in China."

**EARL STENBACKER**  
20, Howell, General Studies



"I feel like we've been there for so long. The war is over, Bin Laden is gone, and people are losing their family and friends. So why stay there?"

**BRIANNAH HENDERSON**  
22, Ann Arbor, Elementary Education



"I'd like to take the troops out, but I don't think it would end the mission."

**BRIAN STEINBERG**  
43, Ann Arbor, Digital Video



**ANDERSON FROM B1**

than I am for myself.”

Yet he still considers himself lucky compared to what he experienced in Afghanistan. He remembers a girl, maybe 8-10 years old. She was covered in burns. Her left arm from the elbow down was gone as well as her left leg from the knee down.

Her entire left side was sutured and stapled from extensive surgery. And Anderson remembers her smile, despite the injuries.

Those emotions get stuffed in the unused cargo pockets of the pants of a Marine, Anderson explained. And sometimes, Marines need to forget those images in order to carry out orders.

When you get blown up as a Marine, you blow up others.

“You do what you can to bring home your friends. You don’t worry about what’s right and wrong. It’s right to bring home your brothers,” said Anderson. “I don’t fight the fight for the country; more so, I fight the

fight for the people of the country.”

When Anderson met his wife Heather, he was on leave.

“I was very lucky to have met Ryan when he was in the military so I didn’t have to deal with the stresses from civilian life to the military life,” said Heather. “I knew when I met Ryan that he had some PTSD symptoms that I could pinpoint easily, but could also draw him away from them with distraction.”

In December 2010, Anderson and Heather got married. She grew up a military brat with her father in the Air Force. She understood what military life was all about.

“It takes a strong human being to be in a relationship with someone who is away from you for six months – sometimes a year – at a time,” Heather said.

For husband and wife, life has been anything but easy. However, they are still able to tell jokes and laugh while they

take life in stride.

In 2011, Anderson left the service. Now, he lives at home with his wife and step-son as he embarks on his new journey of adjusting to civilian life and being a student.

Living with someone with PTSD is difficult, though it can be done with a certain level of understanding. The first step is to be aware, according to Heather.

“Even if you’re not willing to learn because it’s not something you want to think about, you have to learn to respect someone else’s feelings,” said Heather. “It comes down to devotion and love.”

Anderson urges every veteran, family member, or friend of a veteran who thinks that the veteran may need help to not be afraid to confront them.

“In the Marines they say to ‘adapt and overcome,’” Anderson says, “but we’re still human.” said Anderson.

**IMPROVEMENTS FROM B1**

Rodgers says he has been seeing roughly 30-40 veterans a week at WCC since he started regular counseling hours last winter.

Rodgers pointed to the veteran hiring fair and the recent expansion of the Student Veterans Association on campus along with a veteran’s office the college is opening up in the Student Center and the Veterans Day celebration the school is planning as signs of how much the school now cares about its veterans.

The school is currently in the process of enlisting a veteran’s counselor to assist students from the office in the Student Center

“We’re finishing the process of hiring a veteran’s counselor,” said Vice President of Student and Academic Services Linda Blakey. “We should have one hired in the next couple of weeks.”

The push for vocational rehabilitation is aimed at helping veterans who don’t have educational benefits, Rodgers said.

“We need to do more to

encourage vets to identify themselves. I know there are more veterans here than the enrollment numbers indicate,” Rodgers said.

There are 385 registered student veterans on campus this semester, but that number only reflects the students who identified themselves as having served in their enrollment application.

Starting this semester, in a partnership with the United Association (UA), Washtenaw created an accelerated welding certificate at selected military installations, for soldiers still in the military but near the end of their contract.

The certificate is an 18-week, six-credit course that is guaranteed to transfer to any other UA-approved training program and also counts as the first year of a student’s five year apprenticeship in welding.

Washtenaw is still trying to expand course offerings for veterans. The school tried offering a special COM 130 class to veterans, but it was canceled due to low enrollment.

“We want try it again (offer special classes to veterans), but

**KEARNEY FROM B1**

the back so his soldiers could always look at his face to give them hope.

The photographer that day asked Kearney if he minded if he passed the photos along to some people he knew in TV. Soon, Kearney received a call asking if he wanted to come in for an audition.

“I could do that,” Kearney said. “I thought I would show up smiling and if this doesn’t work out, I’m fine.”

As anxiety started to get to him while he waited with the other actors auditioning that day, Kearney reminded himself that this was nothing to be nervous about.

“What are you worried about? You did two tours in Iraq,” Kearney told himself.

Once his name was called, Kearney went in and began

telling his story about his time in Iraq and why he still wears the giant smile that has become his calling card.

“Because as my mom was going through cancer she always told me, ‘you can’t control your circumstances and situations, but you can control your attitude,’” Kearney told the crew.

On the spot, the assistant director asked Kearney to jump into the role and immediately he returned to the mindset that served him in Iraq.

A few hours later, he got the call.

“They love you.”

Kearney plays “Bo” the bodyguard for rising country star “Juliette Barnes,” played by Panettiere. While Kearney admits that he is no actor, playing the role of a bodyguard came naturally to him. After

all, while serving two tours in Iraq, Kearney was essentially a bodyguard on duty.

## “WE NEED TO TELL OUR STORY, I’M A SOLDIER FIRST; I’M A VETERAN FIRST.”

“They want me to act out what I did in reality. When they say action, I just step into my military mindset,” Kearney said. “They are so talented I just react off their actions and I end up acting, that’s how talented they are.”

While seeing himself on TV was a thrill, Kearney says the more important part was the people he is able to inspire through his work on the show.

People like the soldiers in

Afghanistan who Skyped with Kearney the night his character debuted. Knowing their friend was going to be on the program, the soldiers woke up early, before going on deployment, to watch the show and chat with him.

“To see you on TV, from the battlefield to TV, you give us hope that we can do anything,” one of the soldiers told Kearney.

And it’s that sentiment that drives Kearney even more.

Kearney has filmed three episodes thus far and hopes there will be more down the road. But as successful as this early run has been for him, Kearney is still dedicated to serving those that serve us.

“This isn’t a job for me, I’m

passionate about what I do,” Kearney said. “I tell soldiers everyday, they’re here for us. And they have people here that care for them.”

Kearney said his first love is making an impact on soldiers’ lives and telling the stories of those men and women.

“We need to let people know what we’re going through. We can’t hide behind our wounds or a smile. We need to tell our story,” he said. “I’m a soldier first; I’m a veteran first.”

With his newfound role on TV, Kearney isn’t sure what the next step is in telling those stories and getting the word out about soldiers and their struggles. He said he is working with producers of the show to

get more veterans involved in making the show happen.

“If acting is my next step in helping soldiers realize that they can do great things, I’ll take that charge. I’m going to give it 100 percent,” Kearney said. “Honestly I’ll put it in God’s hands.”

So whether it’s on TV or in the hallways of the local VA hospital, Kearney remains committed to being an advocate for veterans all over the world. And giving those soldiers hope is all that matters.

“It’s a surreal feeling. When I’m getting phone calls from people from around the country and soldiers from Afghanistan, saying, ‘this is bigger than you, this is for the soldiers’...I love it.”

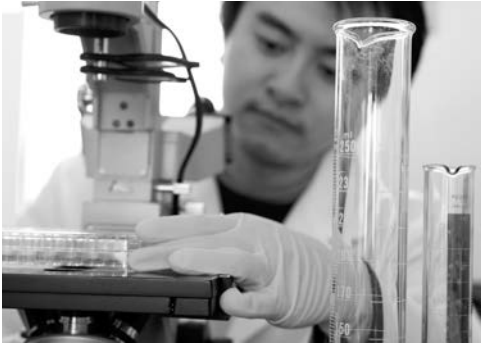
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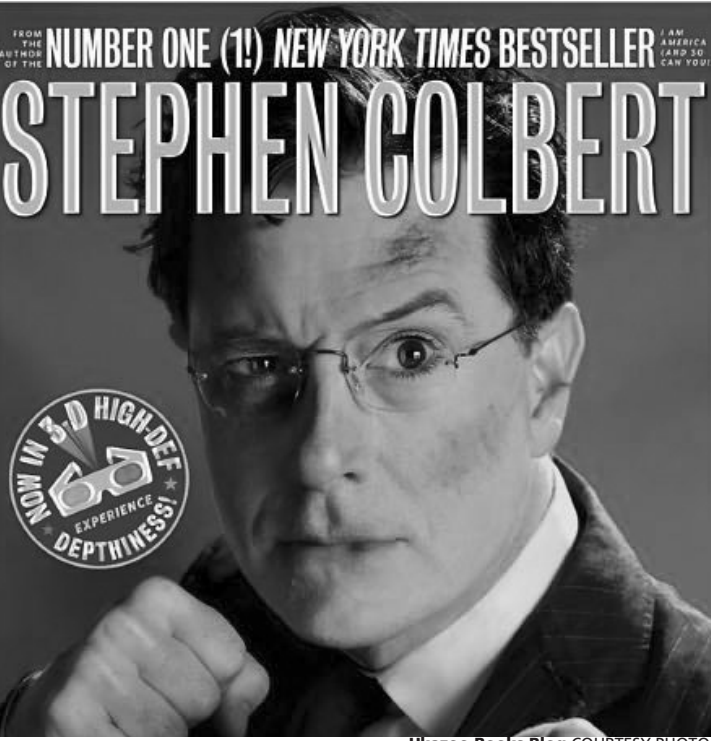
AIM HIGHER





BOOK

# New Colbert book full of laughs, ‘truthiness’



BY NATHAN CLARK  
*Managing Editor*

Political pundit and master wordsmith Stephen Colbert has never been a fan of books, believing they lack the kind of truth that can only be found in the gut; yet, he has once again found the time to spread his message in the form of, naturally, a book.

Author of the New York Times bestseller “I am America (And So Can You),” Stephen Colbert recently released his latest work of literary genius, “America Again: Re-becoming the Greatness We Never Weren’t.”

Much like Colbert’s previous book, “America Again” is loaded with zany yet

thought-provoking chapters on such issues as healthcare, Wall Street, elections and easy solutions explained in a way that only Colbert could make plausible.

Featuring “3-D high-definition depthiness,” the book comes with a pair old-fashion blue and red 3-D glasses readers need to fully enjoy the hilarious photos inside.

It almost feels like Colbert is in the room, screaming his words at you while you’re wearing the glasses.

Although the glasses are simple and made of paper, they are so special the book tells readers who lose their glasses to go to the bookstore with \$28.99 for a new pair of glasses and a complimentary

second copy of the book.

From beginning to end, Colbert squeezes in as many jokes and satirical jabs as possible, each one more hilarious than the next, but many of them will sound familiar to fans of his television show “The Colbert Report.”

Unlike the previous book, which was extremely text heavy, this one is littered with color photos, illustrations, graphs, charts, fill in the blank questionnaires and handy advice such as how to fashion his book into a shiv in case you end up in one of America’s government-funded private prisons.

The book is an easy read that any member, or non-member, of the Colbert nation could

quickly dive into and finish within hours.

The only possible negative thing about the book is the last chapter titled “I am drunk.” It’s not bad, it just feels a little forced. But it’s still hilarious.

“America Again” is a spectacular read that everyone with a sense of humor – and anyone who needs ones – should pick up. Like the quote from Colbert on the back of the book says, “If there’s a better book than this, I haven’t written it.”

Publisher: Grand Central Publishing  
Genre: Humor  
Page count: 240  
Grade: A+

BOOK

# ‘The Casual Vacancy’ Sharp departure from Potter



BY KELLY BRACHA  
*Staff Writer*

If you’re expecting Harry Potter, well... don’t. This is not a fantasy novel. “The Casual Vacancy” features heroin addiction, rape, casual sex, major moral and political questions – not to mention, a whole lot of vulgarity.

The story takes place in a fictional English village named Pagford. The sudden death of Barry Fairbrother, a member of the parish council, leaves the small village shocked and in the hands of darkness demonstrated by Howard Mollison, a morbidly obese deli owner who considers himself to be the first citizen of Pagford.

At the event of Barry Fairbrother’s death, Howard Mollison jumps at the

opportunity to have his son, Miles Mollison, become the new member on the 16-person council.

Pagford’s association with a public-housing project called “The Fields” is the source of animosity and a divide among the town’s residents. A war between those who believed in Barry Fairbrother’s work of keeping The Fields off the map begins to fuel each individual’s own political agenda in pursuit of the vacant council seat.

The novel definitely takes a turn from the writing we’re used to seeing from the “Harry Potter” author, J.K. Rowling. Depictions of suicide, poverty and sex in cemeteries are just some of the more graphic

scenes that garnish the adult narrative.

Rowling’s flair for creating large and detailed cast members is greatly pronounced in *The Casual Vacancy*.

There are more than 20 characters who come into play and are introduced in rapid succession, leaving the reader a little hard-pressed to keep up with each individual’s role in the plot. But they do all have a role and a purpose.

What makes Rowling a great storyteller is not her way with words, but the intricacies and vividness she brings in the worlds she crafts, even ones so little and seemingly insignificant as Pagford. Each character is detailed from head to toe and each scene narrated with prose.

Although the book is

described to have comedic elements, a majority of the novel feels quite dark and depressing, as there are scenes of domestic violence and an overall gratuitous nature.

In the end, it’s all just too much. The ending is somewhat predictable and the book itself is a tad too long at more than 500 pages, but the story remains gripping throughout. It’s definitely an intriguing addition to the bibliography fashioned by the same author who brought us the Harry Potter series targeted toward children.

Genre: Historical Fiction  
Publishing House: Little, Brown Book Group.  
Grade: C

COMIC

# An open letter to a comic book tyrant

New ‘Superman’ title signals shake-ups at DC Comics; it’s about time



BY BEN SOLIS  
*Contributing Editor*

Famed writer and comic book luminary Grant Morrison has had a vice-grip on some of DC and Marvel Comics’ most important titles for decades. And like all ill-fated despots, it’s time for him to go.

Morrison’s tumultuous history with DC in particular is full of big hits and devastating misses. The titles that soared were arguably some of the best graphic novels and single issues published by the company -- at the same time scoring big

points for Morrison’s portfolio.

But when he failed, whole series imploded, damaging the surrealist reputation Morrison had built around himself.

Outside the realm of his own creative content, Morrison is, arguably, a whack job.

We’re talking about a guy who practices the occult, tells fans that his ideas come from personal alien abductions or Ouija boards, and tried to make The Joker a transvestite; Morrison himself spent time as a transvestite just to see what the experience was like.

Morrison is the kind of writer who obviously puts himself and his eccentricities before his work, as stellar as most of his catalog may be.

Yet his erratic behavior and instability have been reflected

in his recent chaotic runs on Batman, and now DC’s tent-pole franchise, Action Comics.

Morrison has been doing such a bad job on Action that artists have defected from the project in anger, claiming that they can’t keep up with Morrison’s non-linear style.

Meanwhile, other Superman teams lay in wait for him to enlighten them on what should happen next; the books exist in different time periods, so what Morrison writes one week is the only timeline they can follow.

But there is hope for Action Comics: current Batman writer and rising star Scott Snyder.

Snyder officially announced a few months back he’d be working with Superman writer Scott Lobdell (not Morrison) on a connected limited series

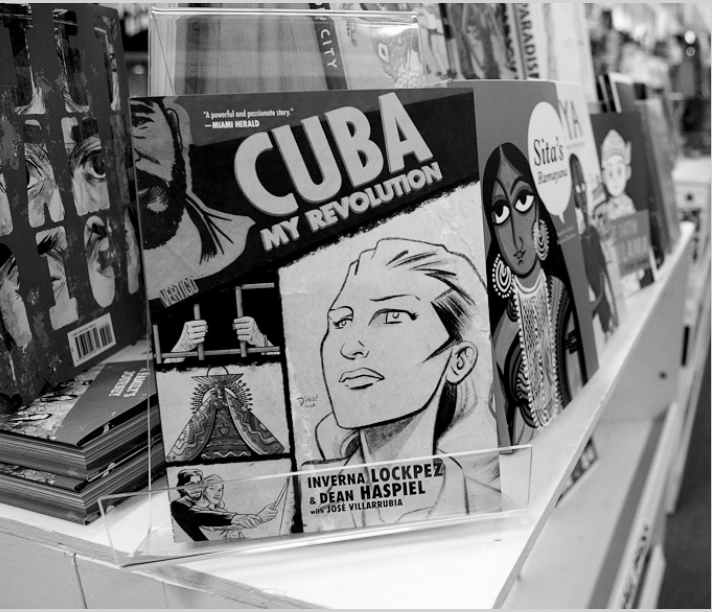
Superman book. Jim Lee, DC’s golden-boy artist and co-publisher, will provide the artwork.

The hope among the majority of readers who hate Morrison is that Snyder will do so well on his project that DC can finally pull Morrison off of Action, permanently. He wouldn’t be missed either – Action has been selling poorly next to the main Superman title, even after only one year.

This new book is a huge opportunity for Snyder to show he can handle not one, but two of DC’s biggest characters at the same time.

Moreover, the malignant voice of the comic world will be shown, once and for all, that his psychedelic idiosyncrasies are so 20 years ago.

# WCC prof says comic books can educate, inspire



BY NATALIE WRIGHT  
*Contributor*

This year, a comic book movie became the third highest-grossing film in cinematic history. Marvel’s “The Avengers” made more than \$200 million in its opening weekend alone.

“It was so good because

the people who made it were true comic book fans,” said Kennisha Payne, 17. Her eyes light up and she has trouble staying in her seat as she recalls the film.

Comics have an ability to get people excited. That’s why Barnaby Pung uses them to teach his students critical thinking and problem solving

skills in his ACS 108 class. He says the combination of words and visuals are the “ultimate in critical thinking.”

On a recent Thursday afternoon, Pung held a lecture in the Student Center called “Everything I Need to Know About Life, I Learned From Comic Books.”

He began the event with a discussion about how comic books have evolved since the 1930s. He took the audience through each decade, explaining how comics have correlated with world affairs throughout history.

In the 1930s and ’40s, Captain America supported the war effort by instilling patriotism in American children.

In the 1950s and ’60s, superheroes became radioactive following the first use of atomic weapons and heroes like the X-Men commented on civil rights. “The X-Men story is all about how people react to ‘the

other,’ the thing they don’t understand,” said Pung.

In the 1970s and ’80s, comics started taking focus on social issues, especially the war on drugs. This is when Iron Man became an alcoholic, Pung explained. He got in trouble with the other Avengers for “driving” his suit drunk.

In the 1990s darker themes started to take root. “Comics were allowed, finally, to grow with their audience,” said Pung.

And in the 2000s, comics had to address the war on terror. This began what Pung called a “resurgence” of popularity in the industry.

“We had to have heroes,” he explained.

Since the release of the first X-Men movie in 2000, popular culture has been on a comic book binge escalating with this year’s release of “Marvel’s The Avengers” and the final installment in the “Dark Knight” trilogy.

This revival of superheroes is a great thing for future

generations, according to Cheryl Roberts, 54, a student at WCC and a mother of two. “Kids today need these role models,” she said, “somebody needs to save the world.”

She suggested that Pung take his lecture to elementary schools. She thinks that getting kids excited about something like comic books could draw their attention away from the “video games and rap music that are so violent.” Comic books can teach them life lessons.

During the event, Pung highlighted specific lessons that comic books taught him, and that he believes can be valuable to students.

Personal responsibility, he said, he found in the Spiderman stories. The well-known line, “with great power comes great responsibility,” teaches readers that talents and skills come with an obligation to do good.

The Fantastic Four teach problem-solving. Batman and Robin, teamwork. Captain America and the Punisher

present opposing viewpoints on ethics and morality.

The Green Lantern is all about courage. “It’s about how courage isn’t doing something without fear, it’s recognizing that fear and doing it anyway,” Pung said.

Jon Miller, 25, said that he was not comic fan before this event, but the story about the Green Lantern got him interested.

“Our generation and society have this ‘conform or die’ mentality,” he said, “so we really need that message of courage.”

Lastly, Pung said, all comic books can inspire readers to “pursue something greater than themselves.” They led him to take martial arts when he was 10 in the hope that he could become Batman, and they were the cause of his aspiration to teach, to take on the “hero role.”

Whether it’s comic books or not, he says to students, “you need to have something in your life that you let inspire you.”



# HEROES WELCOME



## Honoring WCC students, staff and faculty who have served

### From dropout to dean, by way of the U.S. Marines

BY LELAND DAWSON  
*Contributor*

For Washtenaw Community College's Dean of Human, Social and Behavioral Sciences Bill Abernathy, military service was a short, yet life-defining chapter. He served just shy of three years, from December 1965 to October 1968. That was enough time to get his life back on track.

Abernathy dropped out of high school and joined the Marine Corps at the age of 17. He served in Vietnam as part of a combined action platoon, or CAP. It was a small unit normally made up of about 12 Marines and included local Vietnamese troops. The CAP saw limited engagement with the enemy and was mostly an advisory and training platoon.

As a corporal, Abernathy became the leader of this small unit, which was no small responsibility. At most, he was only one or two ranks above the rest of his platoon, an oddity in the Marine Corps. With no officer or staff non-commissioned officer to lead them, Abernathy couldn't just "kick ass and take names," as he explained. He had to take a more diplomatic route.

"I was a wise guy," as Abernathy describes his life before the Marines. "I took one look at the Marine Corps and the Marine Corps took one look at me, and I (became) a straight arrow."

Looking back at it now he chuckles, though no transformation of that kind is free from hardship.

"We will sharpen you like crude steel into a sword, a

weapon to be used against the enemies of the United States," is an unofficial motto for some Marine Corps drill instructors. Anyone familiar with the tempering process of a sword knows it can be very painful for the steel.

There are many horror stories of troops returning from Vietnam to protests, trash being thrown at them, or even being assaulted and called murderers. Abernathy has no such story. He describes his reintroduction to life in the U.S. as a "melting," adding, "I was just glad to be out."

After his release from active duty, Abernathy used his \$130 a month from the Montgomery GI Bill to attend college at the University of Oregon in pursuit of a bachelor's degree. Thanks

ABERNATHY  
CONTINUED B6



BILL ABERNATHY COURTESY PHOTO

WCC dean of Human, Social and Behavioral Sciences Bill Abernathy, center, on patrol in Vietnam.



NATHAN CLARK WASHTENAW VOICE

Far right standing is Nathan Clark, WCC student and Voice managing editor, in Iraq in 2006.

## Iraq vet says war was a lot tougher on his family



MATTHEW NAULT COURTESY PHOTO

Matthew Nault, right, and a buddy have a Pepsi durring Nault's 15-month tour in Iraq in 2008.

BY MARIA RIGOU  
*Contributor*

Matthew Nault was one of the lucky ones.

Nault, 24, went into the Army in July 2007 at the height of two armed conflicts, served a 15-month tour in Iraq, and returned home as pretty much the same person he was before he put on a uniform.

As it turned out, his deployment to a war zone was harder on his family.

"My mother wished for the best, but prepared for the worst," Nault said. "It was hard on my dad. He was nervous about it. You hear all these stories of soldiers getting killed in duty."

Nault was stationed in Iraq for 15 months. His unit was mostly assigned to the "Green Zone," – a relatively secure area surrounding the Embassy of the United States in Baghdad. His Military Police unit was in charge of the Iraqi government representatives. He started out as a driver working a physical security detail of the Iraqi Prime Minister, and continued protecting and serving other government officials.

As he performed his duties, he noticed that the Iraqi people did not want the U.S. Army there. Some in his unit, however, had mixed emotions about the natives.

"My team leader hated them,"

Nault said, "because he had lost some people in combat."

Nault was born and raised in Deerfield, a small town about 35 miles south of Ann Arbor. Like a lot of young men, after graduating from high school, he didn't know what to do. Since he couldn't afford college tuition to further his education, he decided to join the Army.

His enlistment began at Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo., in late July with 19 weeks of Military Police training.

After that, Nault reported to Ft. Carson, Colo., and on his second day there, he was told he was deploying to Iraq. He was not surprised.

"As a new soldier, you are just a number," he said. "They are going to deploy you rather than other people that have been deployed in the past."

After Iraq, Nault went home on a 30-day leave, returning to Ft. Carson, Colo., to begin training for law enforcement certification.

"We went from a combat-oriented mind set, to relaxed, to police work," he said.

In February 2010, Nault was deployed once more to Camp Humphreys in Pyeongtaek, South Korea, where as a sergeant he led a Military Police unit that protected President Barack Obama when he toured the country.

"I wanted to give him the 'fist bump,' but that didn't work

out," Nault recalled. "We had to patrol the streets, which was very cool."

After Korea, coming home was easy for Nault. In two deployments, he was not involved in any major combat events, so his transition from military to civilian life was seamless.

Again, it might have been more difficult for family and friends. At first, they did not want to ask him any questions, but with time they realized that his experiences in Iraq and Korea were more positive and enriching than a traumatic stage in his life.

"I see it as a light switch," Nault explained about his experience in the Army. "I either have my military mode on, or I have it off."

Nault is now pursuing a degree in criminal justice at Washtenaw Community College, and hopes one day to transfer to Eastern Michigan University. In the meantime, Nault's service to his country continues in the reserves with the 303rd Military Police in Jackson. He remains ready for combat in case he is needed.

"Sometimes I miss it," Nault admitted about the five years he gave his country. "It's the friendships that you make there that makes it worthwhile."

Every combat veteran should be so lucky.

## WCC Vets Club founder enjoying life in Ivy League

BY MICHAEL J. HLYWA  
*Contributor*

If you haven't heard of Robert Nelson, chances are good that you soon will. He is an enterprising man who makes a difference wherever he goes, including at Washtenaw Community College.

Nelson, 25, attributes his success to the discipline he learned in the military and opportunity he seized at WCC, both of which helped him break into the Ivy League when he was accepted for admission at Columbia University. There he is majoring in political science with a focus on philosophy. He plans to let Columbia and the city of New York refine his skills and further propel him along his path to politics.

Nelson first put his plan into motion when, at 17, he eagerly enlisted with the Marine Corp to gain the money and discipline he needed to succeed in college. It was the first in a series of life-changing decisions. He was stationed in Hawaii in 2007, where he anxiously awaited deployment. He felt that serving stateside was simply training to do the job he was meant to do. His



ROBERT NELSON COURTESY PHOTO

real job – the one he signed up for – was to go fight in a war. So when Nelson was deployed as a corporal to Afghanistan in May 2009, it was the culmination of his military career.

"You have to look at it as doing something bigger than yourself," said Nelson about his deployment. "Pretty soon it was a normal everyday job. I worked 12 hours a day, seven days a week. It was the longest work weeks of my life."

Within months of coming home from his 10-month deployment, Nelson focused on building his future. He left his hometown of Rome, Ga., and moved to Belleville to be with

his girlfriend, now wife, Jenn Smith. The day after his move, Nelson made another life-changing decision: he enrolled at WCC. He began his first class a week later.

"I fell in love with WCC instantly," said Nelson. "It felt like picking up an old book that you haven't read in forever."

WCC rekindled Nelson's scholastic fire. He easily integrated into its highly diverse campus. Despite its diversity, however, he noticed a lack of support for veterans.

"He was kind of quiet and reserved when I first met him," said Nathan Clark, managing editor of *The Washtenaw Voice* and the first veteran Nelson met on campus. "The school kept kicking around the idea of starting a veteran's club but never got anywhere with it. Robert got the paperwork going."

Recognizing an opportunity to create something meaningful, Nelson founded the WCC Corps of Student Veterans – later renamed to the Student Veterans Club – in November 2011. He designed the club to bring student veterans together,

NELSON  
CONTINUED B6



# Navy provided direction for freshly minted dental assistant

BY STEPHANIE NELSON  
*Contributor*

At the same time Nikki Wiitanen was looking for direction in her life, the United States was looking for direction following the aftermath of Sept. 11.

In 2002, Wiitanen, then 20, had finished one semester of college. However, she decided not to go back to school the next semester and decided instead to join the military. Knowing what her country was going through following the terrorist attacks, she wanted to use her passion for cooking and for her country in a single cause.

Finding the right area of the military didn't seem that difficult.

"I didn't just want to run around with a gun and shoot people," said Wiitanen, who believed the Navy was more of job and less career-oriented. The Navy provided the

opportunity for her to dabble in her dreams of owning her own restaurant by acting as a chef in the military, which typically defines the job as "cook."

Choosing the Navy also rewarded Wiitanen with the opportunity to travel like she wanted, with port-of-calls in such places as Hong Kong, Saudi Arabia and Australia.

Wiitanen's first assignment was in Sicily, Italy, for two and a half years.

"By far, my favorite place I was (stationed)," she said. "It couldn't get any better than that."

While there, Wiitanen trained beside local Italian chefs to build up her basic cooking skills.

Aboard the USS Ronald Regan aircraft carrier in San Diego, Calif., Wiitanen was a part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In shore duty in the state of Washington as the head of a

cooking facility for servicemen who were guarding nuclear weapons, she showed talent enough to cater formal dinners for Navy brass and visiting defense contractors.

Despite her obvious success and talent, Wiitanen endured enough disrespect and harassment to send her packing after eight years, back to life outside the Navy.

She returned to school, but not without trepidation.

"I had a bit of anxiety," she admitted about the transition to a civilian again. "All you have is yourself. You don't answer to anybody, and it's kind of scary".

Right away, Wiitanen moved to Idaho, the residence of her then-husband, and attended Lewis-Clark State College as a biology major.

It was through a friend that she heard about careers in dental hygiene. The money

WIITANEN  
CONTINUED B6



Nikki Wiitanen stands under the flag near an aircraft carrier during her eight-year stint in the Navy.

# With a backpack full of memories, bullet holes, veteran finds future

BY NATALIE WRIGHT  
*Contributor*

Michael Kilcline's backpack has two small holes – one in the bottom and an identical one in the side – but it still manages to hold the memories of another life.

The holes mark the places where a 7.62 mm bullet entered and exited the pack when he was a soldier in Afghanistan.

It's not the kind of backpack the Army typically lets you take home, but it became his when the holes rendered it useless. And Kilcline shows it off with pride.

"It had been in a helicopter that got shot, and it became mine because it could no longer be used," he explained. Still, it's good enough to hold books, computers and binders that fill most students' backpacks these days, the 31-year-old social work student said.

Kilcline joined the Army in 2006 as a way to pay for college. He left St. Clair Shores and went to Fort Benning, Ga. for basic training, followed by duty at Fort Rucker, Ala., before he got orders to go to Korea. He stayed there for a year, before



MICHAEL KILCLINE COURTESY PHOTO

he was stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Then, in 2009, he received orders to go to Afghanistan, seven months earlier than he was supposed to.

"It was kind of expected," he said of his deployment, "but we didn't know when we would get orders, and when we would actually go."

In Afghanistan, he served as a member of the 1-17 Air Cavalry working on helicopters called "Kiowa Warriors." Aviation is very different than the rest of the Army, he said.

"In the rest of the Army, the enlisted do most of the fighting, and the officers stay back, but in aviation the officers fly, the officers do the fighting," he

explained.

This means that Kilcline, along with the rest of the enlisted, mostly worked on the helicopters between missions.

When he returned home in 2010, Kilcline had a job lined up with the intelligence community. But because of an act signed by President Barack Obama that year, he lost it. The act prohibits anyone in active reserve, like Kilcline, from working for another government agency. Because he is still technically in the Department of Defense, he cannot be employed by any other department.

So, he decided to return to school to become a social worker. His GI Bill pays him to go to school and provides a basic allowance for housing.

Kilcline hopes one day to get a job with Child Protective Services after he finishes school.

Despite some doors being shut, and a few holes in an old backpack, Kilcline found his future at Washtenaw Community College in a career that will allow him to serve others in civilian life.

"I've always wanted to be helping out," the Army war veteran says, "and I think that is the best avenue for me."

# 'Desert Storm' Navy vet would do it all over again, if called

BY TAYLOR TUCKER  
*Contributor*

Eric Simpson was still in high school, watching Americans at war on TV, and he could see his future.

"I remember lying on my living room floor watching downtown Baghdad get destroyed," he said, "and I knew right then I wanted to be a part of it."

He would be. Well aware that Desert Storm was going on, Simpson enlisted in the Navy when he was only 19 years old. Coming straight out of high school, he was never surer of anything else before that point.

After completing boot camp in Orlando, Fla., Simpson was stationed in San Diego. From there, Simpson and his battle group, Kitty Hawk, were sent to patrol the Persian Gulf for six months. It was then sent to the Horns of Africa in Somalia after war lords began stealing food the United States had given to the starving Africans.

His battle group was assigned to launch missiles and strategically place U.S. Marines on the shores. After duties there were completed,

his ship, the USS Kinkaid, was then placed back into the Gulf. This time they were alone.

Being the only destroyer in the Strait of Hormuz, perhaps the most strategically critical waterway on the planet, was daunting. Simpson was scared. During his time there, Iran was tracking everyone and everything that passed through. And it had some serious weapons.

"It's not like a video game when you're there," Simpson said. His group did it's six-month tour there, replaced by another, and the Kinkaid was off to Australia and then Hawaii, which Simpson says is the best part of the tour, but unfortunately, his tour was completed. He had circled the planet, mostly by ship, with stops that included Japan, South Korea and Canada.

The transition from the Navy world to "the civilian world," as he called it, wasn't as difficult as some others.

When he returned home in January, 1993, he started dating a childhood friend he'd known since middle school. They married in June that same year and now have five children.

Like a lot of young men at the time, Simpson went to work in the auto industry. Then, like a lot of older men at the time, he was laid off in the midst of the latest economic recession.

Rather than sit home and collect unemployment, he figured the time was right to get back in the classroom.

"The best time to go to school and get a degree would be now," he said, so he signed up for classes. Two years later, he received his associate degree in occupational studies. That was in 2008, and he hasn't looked back.

"Having a degree puts you a mile above everyone else," he said.

Although Simpson's military story isn't as dramatic as others might be, he values it immensely.

"It made me a man," he said. "And I can tell you exactly what our ship looked like, where every room is and everything. I remember all of it."

And know this, too: He'd do it all over again in a heartbeat.

"If my country called me up right now and needed me to fight again," he said bluntly, "I would."

# After three Iraq tours, vet says 'it was hard trying to find where I belonged'

BY SARA BORG  
*Contributor*

Brian Soos didn't get a very good head start in life, but it got a whole lot worse when he joined the Army and went to fight the war in Iraq – for three perilous tours.

"I've been shot at. I've been blown up. And I've been stabbed," the former sergeant says. "War is not fun. It's not what the media tells us it is, and it's not what you usually see."

Soos, 31, the adopted son of a family in Lincoln Park, took a wrong turn in his teen-age years and was lost in a world where only trouble surrounded him. In a moment of courage, he decided to follow a childhood dream, and joined the Army.

Between March 15, 2004 and April 1, 2011, Soos fought in wars known as Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, as a soldier in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division.

"I've seen my fair share of killing, where there is a no win situation," the former sergeant said. "And we somehow came out on top."

Not without sacrifice. Soos revealed that he lost several comrades to the war, including his best friend – and it greatly affected him and others in his unit. None of them spoke for six months, he said.



BRIAN SOOS COURTESY PHOTO

Soos and his daughter reunite

He came home with a Purple Heart, a medal awarded for wounds suffered in combat.

In the midst of his traumatic military experience, Soos met his wife while on leave after his second tour in Iraq. They married six months later.

Being married and in the military was hard because you're hearing about all the other soldiers' relationships falling apart, and they make you paranoid, Soos said. But his marriage has endured – perhaps because of what he'd been through in uniform.

"I haven't gotten into a fight with my wife since I've been back," he said. "Well we have arguments, but five minutes later one of us comes back like a dog with its tale between its legs, all like, 'I'm sorry.'"

Coming back home and getting used to everyday life was difficult. You're used to the high

stress and seek adrenaline, and you think you're indestructible, said Soos.

"You argue with your family because you've been gone for so long," he said. "You have lots of doubts, and it's a mix-mash of trying to fix everything. . . It was hard trying to find where I belonged."

So he tried college – again. He decided to put his GI Bill to use and return to Washtenaw Community College, where he studied before he enlisted.

School was no picnic for him at first, he said, partly because he was used to the extreme structure of a wartime Army. College life was almost too laid back, and it was easy to get lazy.

Now he has his sights set on an associate degree in applied science. As a welder, he hopes to one day have his own fabrication shop for on and off-road vehicles.

# Kosovo vet felt 'jilted' by Army

BY CASHMERE MORLEY  
*Contributor*

When you first meet Stewart Masami, you'd never guess that the 37-year-old Army veteran of African-American and Japanese descent once dreamed of playing professional basketball. You'd never be able to tell that he has survived homelessness, gunshots, poisonous spider bites, and wild sandstorm nights with his weapon pressed against his chest in the Mojave Desert.

When he walks into the room, Masami smells like expensive cologne and looks like any other Washtenaw Community College student: as if his whole future is ahead of him, and that degree in business he's striving for is just a year or two away.

You'd never be able to tell that it took Masami more than 10 years to reach that point.

Because when Masami left the Army in the late 1990s, he was "jilted and angry" after serving his deployment to Kosovo in the war-torn former nation of Yugoslavia. He was a man who had been destroyed emotionally and mentally, and left with almost nothing to show for it. But hardships for

Masami weren't new territory.

"I was at war before I even came in the Army," Masami said. He grew up in Detroit, in a world where hustling on the streets was the only way to keep some money in your pocket. He felt like his family needed him back home, where Masami was living with a sister who had a learning disability.

Masami once attended Oakland University, where he earned a 4.0 GPA. But after partying got in the way of his attendance, he was dropped from his classes. He couldn't go home, and he couldn't go to school, so money was what ultimately projected him into the military. He wasn't exactly flush then either.

"People have this idea that people in the military make a lot of money. They don't," Masami said.

When he got out of the Army and tried going back into school, the military made it nearly impossible, telling Masami that it would reimburse him the money once he paid for classes. At the time, it was either pay for school or pay for an apartment. Masami couldn't afford both, and the military wasn't willing to give him the money he'd earned up front.

"It was the same crap everywhere I went. People were living in poverty. Soldiers were forgotten, homeless... I was a victim of that." Masami said. "It's not what people think. It's a serious job. And almost everything they tell you is a lie."

During his deployment in Kosovo, Masami had a sergeant who was constantly on his back, whispering in his ear that he was a good-for-nothing soldier who would never succeed in the Army.

"I just think he didn't like me. That's the only explanation I can come up with," Masami said. "I was doing everything right."

After Masami got out of Kosovo, he was pumping gas at a Citgo in North Carolina when he looked up and saw that same sergeant who had made his life miserable. All of the lies and all of the emotional battering that the man had inflicted on Masami boiled up in an instant.

"I broke his leg," Masami recalls. "I don't know what came over me."

It seems as though bad luck was following Masami, because when he came back from fighting in Kosovo, he

MASAMI  
CONTINUED B6



ABERNATHY FROM B4

to an extension to the program, it took a good chunk out of his master’s degree as well. He earned his PhD in English from the University of Wisconsin on his own.

When reflecting on his service, there is a sense that Abernathy wishes he could have done more. If he had it to do over again, he explained, “I would’ve not dropped out of high school.”

Without an education, highly technical jobs or advanced-leadership positions were out of reach. “I was destined for something pretty pedestrian,” he said with some regret in his voice.

There was a time, he acknowledged, when he wished he could have become an officer. Once he had his undergraduate degree, however, time slipped

from his fingers and before he knew it, he had become too old to earn a commission.

Now, he considers himself a metaphorical firefighter: putting out fires dealing with teachers, students and classes. He smiles as he talks of day-to-day activities. His office has some Marine Corps memorabilia, although the English literature books far outweigh the Marine Corps’ eagle, globe and anchor. He is quick to smile, especially when retelling stories of his service.

From the jungles of Vietnam in the 1960s to the unassuming office spaces and classrooms of WCC, Abernathy’s life has come to a place most high school drop outs never would imagine. Yet, here he is, in a unique situation to understand precisely how important education truly is.

MASAMI FROM B5

also got rear-ended by a woman while sitting at a stoplight. He had eight months left into his original three-year enlistment. “All of my TA-50 was in that trunk,” Masami said. TA-50 is all the equipment a soldier is expected to return back to the military after serving his duty. “When she smacked me, she pushed me across six lanes of traffic. I had to climb out of my sunroof.”

Masami was sent to a hospital, unable to return his TA-50 back into the military.

“I couldn’t get my TA-50 out, they didn’t know what else to do with me. Because of that they rewrote my orders, and that’s how I ended up staying another six months. By the time I got out of the hospital and back to my unit, they handed me a piece of paper that said I was back in,

and there was nothing I could do about it,” Masami added bitterly. “They bend the rules to make you remain a soldier.” Now, Masami is looking toward the future. He aims to one day start his own business, a dream he has wanted since he was 13 years old.

“I like to work,” Masami

said. “I don’t like someone just handing me something. I can sell you anything. This cologne I’m wearing? My car is full of this stuff.”

Masami has even invented his own scents based on what he likes and knows can sell well in the market.

When asked what advice

he has for anyone joining the military, Masami says, simply, “Don’t do it.”

While he thinks that some people can have a good experience in the military, it’s all a matter of will.

And if you do go in, “learn as much as you can, but don’t let them brainwash you.”

NELSON FROM B4

offer them support and give them a voice in the college.

“He was a subdued, focused guy,” said Matt Keller, who succeeded Nelson as president of the Student Veterans Club. “He was real focused on getting the club up and running and on getting into Columbia.”

Nelson completed the liberal arts program at WCC in just 18 months. He and his wife then relocated to New York City so Nelson could attend Columbia. While Columbia was vastly different from a community college, Nelson transitioned easily.

“I feel that Washtenaw prepared me pretty well for Colombia,” said Nelson. “I think that Washtenaw offers a good edge for a four-year university. I had so many professors that also teach at University of Michigan and Eastern who have that experience of working at a four-year university.”

As for veteran student

support, Nelson found U.S. Military Veterans of Columbia University, a club similar to but more mature than the WCC club. MilVets brought student veterans together and also promoted recruiting opportunities specifically for veterans, something Nelson expects the WCC club will develop as it grows.

Since Nelson’s departure, Keller has been focused on getting the club more involved with the Student Veterans of America, a national non-profit organization. Keller also wants to recruit more veteran students and hopes to open a veteran students’ lounge in the Student Center in November.

“I feel that WCC is really up there in veteran support now compared to what it was a year ago,” said Nelson.

It is the drive of Nelson and other determined veteran students like him that have made it that way.

WIITANEN FROM B5

seemed good, but Idaho didn’t prove to have what Wiitanen was looking for in terms of training. Moving back to Michigan offered her the chance to become a part of the highly acclaimed dental assistant program at Washtenaw Community College, and a chance to be close with her family again.

Over the summer, a decade after her first restless semester of college, Wiitanen graduated from the dental assistant program at Washtenaw Community College.

“I’m ready to slow down a bit,” she said, “take some time off from school.”

She’s got the itch to travel again and would like to visit some new places and revisit some old.

As for the eight-year stint in the Navy now in her rear-view mirror, Wiitanen has no regrets.

“I was proud to have served my country,” she said.

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PHOTOS BY  
CHARLES MANLEY  
Staff Photographer

American Cancer Society employee Abby Stonerook, 28, of Plymouth dances with the crowd before the 5k walk begins. Saturday.

# Beilein leads breast cancer awareness walk at WCC

By CANDACE J. PRUITT  
Contributor

University of Michigan basketball coach John Beilein and his wife Kathleen were among hundreds who met at Washtenaw Community College for the annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk.

Beilein, who is a part of a charitable organization Coaches vs. Cancer, had more than enough company among a diverse and passionate group of

people on a mission on a chilly Oct. 27 morning.

Among them were Cybmey Broch and her family, walking for their cousin Shelley Medrid. Medrid, 46, was diagnosed with breast cancer when she was 28.

“I’m a survivor of breast cancer – seven years and five months,” said Medrid, smiling as she pointed out her status on a sticker handed out to the walkers.

Some participants enrolled in a cancer prevention study,

which included giving a blood sample, recording body measurements and filling out a written survey.

“This study is not just looking at breast cancer,” said American Cancer Society staffer Caryn Lorentz. She noted an array of other programs designed to help with patients diverse needs, as well.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT: [WWW.CANCER.ORG/ANNARBORCPS3](http://WWW.CANCER.ORG/ANNARBORCPS3).



Participants at the ‘Making Strides Against Breast Cancer’ 5k walk start their journey on WCC’s campus Saturday, October 25th.



Cancer walk participants file through WCC’s parking lot at the start of the 5k.



Cancer walk participants in pink ribbon sunglasses pose by the Chevy pace car.

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