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Faculty union reaches out for help, challenges college's accreditation

BY NATALIE WRIGHT Editor

Members of the Washtenaw Community College faculty union brought more than a year of strife with the college's administration to a head earlier this month, reaching out to a third party to intervene in what the faculty called a "crisis" at the college.

On June 16, the union's leadership sent a letter and package of evidence of their concerns to the Higher Learning Commission, WCC's accrediting body.

The faculty released the letter to the public, but withheld the attached documents, fearing that releasing them may jeopardize the HLC's investigation, faculty union President Maryam Barrie said.

The letter, written by more than 20 faculty members, alleged that the college's administration under President Rose Bellanca's leadership and board of trustees have violated the HLC's criteria for accreditation, as well as the college's stated mission and the board's own policies.

board of trustees, several board members, along with WCC President Rose Bellanca, endorsed the idea of bringing in the HLC or another third party, but have since distanced themselves from the decision (See page A6). The letter stated that the faculty's

desired outcome is to "hold the WCC board of trustees accountable" to address their concerns and to "ensure that the college is under capable leadership."

The faculty highlighted three major points of concern in the letter: a

During the May 27 meeting of the loss of institutional leadership and knowledge, an absence of joint governance and the dismantling of the academic structure and processes.

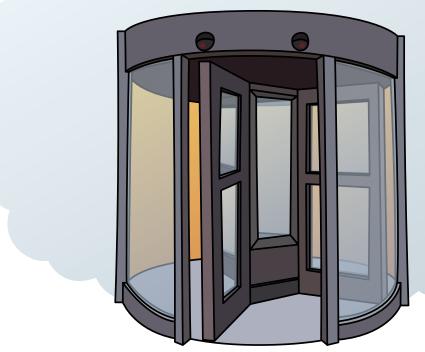
LOSS OF INSTITUTIONAL **LEADERSHIP**

A significant loss of personnel has depleted institutional leadership and knowledge at the school, the faculty wrote.

"Many administrators and support staff have been demoted, involuntarily

See **HLC**, Page A6

The revolving door



"There is nothing new to discuss about the VPI search at this time."

> - WCC President Rose Bellanca

VP of instruction search on hold, interim deans chosen

BY NATALIE WRIGHT

The search for a permanent vice president of instruction has been postponed for at least another year.

The VPI search committee interviewed four candidates this spring, but none of them were a good fit, said Maryam Barrie, president of the faculty union and a member of the committee.

"The entire team had reservations about each candidate," Barrie said.

And Barrie said she was notified by WCC President Rose Bellanca that the VPI search would be put on hold because the team was unable to recommend a candidate and because the current interim VPI William Abernethy has agreed to remain in the

position for a second year.

With four academic dean positions either vacant or in interim sta- for another year. tus, Bellanca told Barrie, the college will not begin the search for a per- cently quoted in *Crain's Detroit*

manent VPI until all of the dean positions have been permanently filled and each of the new deans has completed one successful academic year.

Abernethy's experience will be a great help in the search and orientation of the new deans, she said.

When Abernethy was Bill Abernethy

brought on as the interim VPI in 2013, he said that he was unsure whether he would consider taking the permanent position if it was offered. He is still unsure, he

said. All he could say is that he has agreed to hold the position

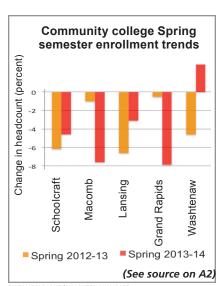
Bellanca, though, was re-

Business saying that Abernethy would likely be the permanent VPI. When a request was sent to Bellanca, through the college's Public Relations department, to either confirm or deny this statement, Bellanca's response, through a college publicist was: "There is noth-

ing new to discuss about the VPI search at this time."

See STAFF, Page A3

Enrollment is finally looking up



NATALIE WRIGHT | WASHTENAW VOICE

BY JAMES SAOUD Managing Editor AND NATALIE WRIGHT

Washtenaw Community College's enrollment for its Spring/Summer semester was up more than 4 percent from last year in both credit hours and total number of students, as of the profile date on July 2. Distance learning enrollments were up more than 17 percent.

WCC stands out in a state where most community colleges are still experiencing major enrollment declines, according to a report from the Michigan Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers.

According to a State of the College report sent out by the college's public relations department, WCC is one of only three community colleges in Michigan that have reported an

See **ENROLLMENT**, Page A2

WCC Foundation help was 'life-saving' for grateful alum

BY VIVIAN ZAGO Staff Writer

Ana Barge is living proof that opportunities provided through the Washtenaw Community College Foundation can change lives – and save lives.

Barge was approaching mid-life when she put her troubled marriage behind her and returned to WCC to restart her college education - thanks to a huge assist from the foundation. She recalled her experiences recently in an address at the 18th Annual WCC Foundation Women's Council Luncheon.

"It was the scariest thing to me, going back to school," said Barge. "All the technology ... I was used to using the computer only to check emails." But, not only did she survive, she thrived.

She transferred to Eastern Michigan University, where she graduated with honors in 2013, and got her bachelor's degree in fiber arts. She also participated in a collaborative study with the University of Michigan for Warmilu LLC, helping to create a blanket widely used to keep infants warm and, ultimately, reduce infant mortality rate.

"Somehow, Ana was recruited to help the company to identify this high-tech blanket they are using across the world, saving lives," said Donna Doleman, chair of the Women's Council who works at SPARK, an economic development company that supports high-tech and innovative business in the region. One of those companies is Warmilu.

the May gathering that raised \$50,000 to help more students like her.

"The foundation of everything, for me," Barge said, "was WCC."

She told how she married in 1992, when she was 25. Two years later, she had the first of her three children. In 1999, she started to study at WCC, but had to drop out.

"My marriage was struggling. I already had one child, had miscarried a baby, got pregnant again, and I had to drop out of school," Barge said. "I could not balance the kids and the husband with school."

After overcoming some very difficult times, she finally returned to WCC.



Former WCC student Ana Barge

"It took me one year, and I was able to get the someone believed in me."

But it all started at Washtenaw, Barge told MACRAO transfer to Eastern Michigan University and also an associate degree in general studies," Barge said. In 2010, she got another associate degree in applied

> science and a certificate in liberal arts. Students like Barge are why the foundation's Women's Council exists.

"The mission is to keep the resources growing and available to students who have the will and the desire to be there, for a proper education," Doleman said, explaining that since 1997, the program has raised funds to create an endowed scholarship for women based on leadership and academic excellence. "We can really see the meaningfulness of what we do at the council, because those, like Ana, are the people who can make a difference.

"It was really nice to see how a student who hit that bump in the road had created this technology that had never been created before, to save babies' lives, and she was a WCC student."

Barge is now an account representative at CORT, a furniture company. While she can testify that it wasn't easy, she also knows the only one who could really change her life was her.

She just needed a little help. And it came from the foundation.

"I am a stronger woman," she said, "and I am like that because somewhere

New budget gets mixed reviews

Critics say college is misrepresenting financial facts

BY NATALIE WRIGHT

The fiscal year 2015 operating budget was the guinea pig for a brand new process designed to help trim costs and align the college's resources with its strategic priorities.

The \$100 million budget, which was approved by the board of trustees on June 16, is the result of the new process, which aligns each expense to the college's Strategic Plan, Vice President of Finance Bill Johnson

"Two and a half years ago, the winds were changing," Johnson said, noting the enrollment declines that had major financial consequences. And Washtenaw Community College, along with most higher education institutions, is not expecting this

See **BUDGET**, Page A3

WCC employee John Matthews loses his battle with cancer

Staff Writer

John Matthews, a Facilities Management employee for the past six years who was known for his everpresent smile and his passion for golf, has died of cancer. He was 58.

Matthews had been diagnosed with cancer, but his family still felt his death, on May 18, was sudden and unexpected.

"He always looked healthy, acted healthy, never acted like he was sick," said Matthews' step-son, Mike Bergum, describing 58-year-old Matthews after the diagnosis.

Bergum also works at Washtenaw Community College as a journeyman electrician with Facilities Management. He described Matthews as a big asset to the college and a hard worker.

BY M. M. DONALDSON Robinson, building maintenance manager for Facilities Management, said that he had unique skills that were valuable for WCC. Matthews had

> worked as a skilled pipefitter for Ford Motor Company in Saline and had retired after 33 years of service.

Robinson said Matthews made it very clear that he only wanted to work part time with WCC because he wanted to keep his golf schedule.

Robinson described how Matthews liked working at WCC, and, wanted to pick up more hours.

Bergum said Matthews was an avid golfer and had several buddies in different WCC departments that

he would go golfing

Matthews was always laughing, is the first thing Bergum shared about his step-father.

"His attitude and demeanor was always positive," Bergum said.

"Service with a smile," is how Robinson described Matthews.

Matthews' obituary on the Stark Funeral Service website said contributions in his **ENROLLMENT**, From A1

increase in their Spring/Summer enrollment compared to 2013.

And college officials say that it was no accident.

"We didn't just do business as usual; we worked hard for that, and we're going to learn how to do more," President Rose Bellanca said at a recent board of trustees meeting.

Initiatives that led to the increase included a "robust" phone follow-up system with both new applicants and current students, Vice President of Student and Academic Services Linda Blakey said.

Blakey also attributes the increase to new marketing initiatives, including "Launch," a course guide that is mailed out, and new links on the college's homepage where prospective students can "request information" or "schedule a tour.".

Enrollment numbers for Fall semester were also up slightly as of July 9, compared to the same date last year, and Distance Learning enrollments

a ways off." The college is taking a lot of steps to reach its goal of 14,000 students by Fall 2015, she added.

Over the past six months, WCC has implemented a software program called Enrollment Management Action System. Thus far, only the recruitment part of EMAS has been used, Blakey said, but the college is now beginning the process of implementing the retention part of the software.

"Because we know we're not going to get to that 14,000 just with new students," Blakey said. "We're going to have to do it with also getting more of our currently enrolled students to stay.

"We're hoping that with that new tool, we can make a difference in helping students stay at Washtenaw, making them successful so that they're more likely to want to stay."

*Information for the graph on A1 came from the Michigan Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers Community College Weekly Enrollment reports, dated July 18, 2014



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Who is Gus Demas?

(And why is he here?) College's use of consultant scrutinized



Gus Demas, who has been a consultant at WCC for three years, has an office in the Student Center, near the president and vice presidents' offices. EJ STOUT | WASHTENAW VOICE

BY NATALIE WRIGHT

Editor

Some Washtenaw Community College employees have been whispering the name Gus Demas for years now, though most of them couldn't tell you what he does or what he looks

Demas is a consultant. He has an office with a window on the second floor of the Student Center near the president's and vice presidents' offices. Multiple sources have said that he has WCC business cards, but is not listed in the college's employee directory because he is a consultant, not an employee.

Demas previously worked with WCC President Rose Bellanca at Macomb Community College and St. Clair County Community College. He held the position of provost at St. Clair, where the faculty filed a vote of no confidence against him. Demas eventually resigned from that

When Bellanca was hired at WCC in 2011, Demas came with her.

So the question on the lips of many employees at WCC for years has been: What work does Demas do that merits treatment so much different from other consultants?

When The Voice requested an interview with Demas, through the college's Public Relations department, Demas deferred to Bellanca to decide whether or not he would hold the interview. Bellanca said no.

Earlier this year, WCC's faculty union requested information from the college about consultants through the Freedom of Information Act. They received a box full of documents "full control and supervision of the design, derelating to consultants that the school has tail, manner and method of performance of the previously," Abernethy said. "He gives rehired – tax forms, contracts, purchase orders and invoices.

They began their investigation into consultant work - and they started with Demas.

Demas' tax forms show that he has made nearly \$120,000 over the last three years. In 2011 and 2012, Demas was paid under his own name, but in March 2013, he began to be paid under the name "L&G Consultants."

His contracts show that he has been paid repeatedly in increments just under the \$50,000 mark that requires the approval of the board of trustees, and that he is paid at a rate of \$500 a day, plus mileage to and from his home in Romeo - a 146-mile round trip, at \$0.56 per mile, totaling \$81.86 per day, according to a document showing his hours and mileage calculations from Jan. 2014.

The contract describes Demas' work: "Dr. Demas will assess the college's current efforts in the area of Post-Secondary Readiness and Student Success."

Demas serves as the "primary liaison" between K-12 superintendents and Bellanca, the contract says.

Vice President of Student and Academic Services Linda Blakey, who handles most of the K-12 initiatives, said that she and Demas "tagteam" a lot of the work with the superintendents, both reporting directly to Bellanca.

Demas is also a member of the Romeo Community Schools board of education, Blakey

"So he certainly has a perspective from the K-12 side of the house," Blakey said, "which is helpful sometimes when we're trying to work out relationships."

Demas' contract also says that he will have services." And that he has full control over the

In their investigation report on Demas, the faculty noted, "There is no public evidence of any work done for the benefit of the college or its students."

The reason for the flexibility in deliverables in Demas' contract is that he was not hired to achieve one specific goal, Blakey said.

Though Blakey noted that she doesn't see very many of these contracts, she thinks this flexibility is normal for certain kinds of contractors, she said.

Since Demas works on a variety of projects with several different offices within the college, his contract might not spell out specific deliverables, Blakey explained.

One of the projects that Demas has been "instrumental" in developing, Blakey said, is the college's new University Center, which will allow students to take Ferris State University business courses on WCC's campus starting this fall.

"From his prior experience, he has established university centers kind of from the ground up," Blakey said. "So he's been helpful in terms of his connections and in terms of establishing what the contracts need to look like."

Demas' connections at Wayne State University might also help WCC expand its University Center to include WSU engineering courses in the future, Interim Vice President of Instruction Bill Abernethy said.

The Global Trade Mission was also the result of much of Demas' work, Blakey said.

"We're a host site for schools to bring teams of students to the campus, and then they're exposed to basically global entrepreneurship trade activities," Blakey said of the GTM, adding that it has run successfully for two years.

Demas was also involved in establishing a partnership with Milan schools, Blakey said, and in developing WCC's new energy management and HVAC courses that will kick off in the fall, Abernethy added.

When the Ypsilanti and Willow Run school districts faced a merger, Demas was a key player in figuring out the end result, said Scott Menzel, superintendent of Washtenaw Intermediate School District and interim superintendent of Ypsilanti Community Schools during the time of the merger.

"He was a part of the visioning process as we worked with the community to establish what a new, consolidated district would look like," Menzel said.

Another notch in Demas' belt is his work with the Leadership Academy, Blakey said.

Demas worked with Vice President of Human Resources Doug Kruzel and the faculty from Ferris State to develop curriculum that would be presented to the administration's executive officers, deans and "key directors," Blakey said. These courses were held throughout the year.

Overall, administrators had nothing but praise for Demas.

"Gus brings a kind of experience to Washtenaw in areas that we've not explored ally good advice, and he's a very seasoned

Sheriff: Ypsi has a 'perception problem,' not a crime problem

BY JON PRICE Staff Writer

A task force of local law agencies are working together to fight crime and perception in eastern Washtenaw County.

Local law enforcement officials and community leaders gathered for a press conference in Ypsilanti recently to announce the launch of the Eastern Washtenaw Safety Alliance.

State Rep. and former Washtenaw Community College Trustee David Rutledge (D-Ypsilanti), made the opening remarks at the press conference, saying the partnership is something officials in the area have been working towards since late last year.

Rutledge assured the audience that Ypsilanti was a safe area and the collaboration has been designed "to take advantage of the collective resources of three separate police agencies."

Officials who spoke at the press conference, including Washtenaw County Sheriff Jerry Clayton, were reluctant to acknowledge the growing number of violent crimes perpetrated in the area in recent years.

"Because of events that have happened in eastern Washtenaw County over the past few years," Clayton said, "the perception of crime is that there are some challenges we have to work through."

Clayton said his agency has looked at the data and "the reality of crime in eastern Washtenaw is that it's not high."

However, some in the community believe that area has more pressing issues than an image problem or outsiders perception of their community.

Lewis McMullen, 42, is a computer engineering student at Eastern Michigan University and says that while he feels safe on campus, the city



reporters at a press conference on July 8 in Detroit.

STAFF, From A1

INTERIM THE NEW NORM FOR DEAN POSITIONS

Following the sudden resignation of the majority of the college's academic deans last spring, interim deans have been chosen to fill some of the positions, while some remain vacant.

Business instructor Kimberly Hurns will serve as the interim dean of Business and Computer Technologies. Hurns has been teaching at WCC for 12 years and recently headed the creation of the college's new Entrepreneurship

Math instructor Kris Brandemuehl will serve as the interim dean of Math and Sciences. Brandemuehl has taught at the college for 13 years.

Both the Distance Learning and the Health Sciences dean positions remain vacant. And while the college has posted the dean of Health Sciences position, as of July 18 no plan had been publicly announced to fill the dean of Distance Learning position.

Bellanca also announced that Dena Blair will remain in the position of interim dean of Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, a position that she accepted in 2013.

Marilyn Donham, former dean of Advanced Technology and Public Service Careers has taken on the role of Interim Dean of Career Services, Bellanca announced. Brandon Tucker, executive director of Economic and Community Development, will fill her former position on an interim basis.

WCC's faculty union has said that it is seriously concerned with the number of interim and vacant positions in academic leadership, and included this among major complaints that they sent to the Higher Learning Commission last month.

The perpetual interim and vacant status of these leadership positions leaves the faculty uneasy and uninformed, they said, calling it a

"systematic dismantling" of the academic structure and process.

COLLEGE TO HIRE EIGHTH VP

WCC announced on July 14 that the college has filled its new associate vice president of Recruitment and Student Enrollment position.

Evan Montague has more than

23 years of experience in higher education - including experience at a community college and public and private universities – involving

admissions, en-

rollment man-



Evan Montague

agement, financial aid and academic and student affairs programming, according to the announcement sent to faculty and staff from Vice President of Student and Academic Services Linda Blakey.

Montague earned a Ph.D. in Higher, Adult, and Lifelong Education from Michigan State University, Blakey said.

In the new VP position, Montague will oversee recruitment, admissions and registration, orientation, student records and Student Development and Activities.

"I'm just really glad to be at Washtenaw," Montague said. "It's a great institution. It has a great reputation and a lot of great offerings for students. So, I'm pleased to be here to support enrollment and recruitment for the college."

LAWSON RESIGNS VP OF ADVANCEMENT JOB

Vice President of Advancement Wendy Lawson resigned her position recently to accept a position as Vice President of External Affairs for the Mid- and Southeast Michigan offices of Planned Parenthood.

Lawson had worked at Washtenaw Community College for 11 years, she

said, but even before that, she worked for Planned Parenthood for many

"I have always felt that women's reproductive health and control over their own bodies is important for women to be able to have equality," Lawson said.

Lawson's new job will entail many of the same things that she has been doing at WCC: marketing, public relations, fundraising and community

outreach programs. It is tough to leave the college right now, Lawson said, but she thinks that WCC is looking ahead to a bright future.

"There's never a perfect time to leave, but I feel like I'm leaving the college in great shape ... Obviously, I feel like this is a really difficult time,

but I think the core of what the college does hasn't changed at all," Lawson said, adding that the community is just as invested in the college and in the president as it has Wendy Lawson ever been.



Many at the college have come out to say how much Lawson will be missed.

"She brought a wealth of knowledge in government relations and marketing and reaching out to the community," Jason Morgan, director of government relations, said.

"I don't know how I could ever fill your void," WCC President Rose Bellanca told Lawson at a recent Board of Trustees meeting. "I learned so much from you - we all learned a lot from you," Bellanca said. "It's been exciting, and it's been fun and I will miss you. Thank you."

Although Bellanca announced that a search committee has been formed to find Lawson's replacement, the job had not been posted as of July 18.

BUDGET, From A1

decline to stop, Johnson said.

"Legislative pressure continues to point towards reducing the cost of education and yet increasing/redefining the measurement of stu-

dent success," Johnson added. These factors led to a total revamp of the budget preparation process that Johnson said has been "much about a journey."

Overall, the fiscal year 2015 budget shows a \$2.3 million increase in revenue from 2014, and an increase of almost \$5.2 million in expenditures.

While Johnson's presentation to the board had nothing but positive things to say about the budget and the new process that generated it, some have reacted differently.

Before the budget was presented, President Rose Bellanca said confidently at a board meeting: "No one's budget has been cut – that's not happened."

However, the college's faculty and staff are saying that budget cuts have been significant.

"I don't have a sense of how drastic it is, but I can tell you that they have been cut," former faculty union president, Jennifer Baker told The Voice.

Ongoing requests for departmental budgets to be made public have not yet been answered by the college.

Of course the faculty expects budget cuts, Baker said, but they also expect more openness about them.

"I think that the big deal is that there is misrepresentation of what's happening," Baker said. "I don't think that faculty overall expect that everything will be hunky-dory from here on out financially, but there should at least be transparency."

Frustration deepened among the faculty this spring as they waited at least a month longer than usual to see their departmental budgets.

In past years, department chairs have always had their budgets in-hand by mid-May, Maryam Barrie, president of the faculty union, said.

This year, it was late June. "My department (Digital Media Arts) didn't get the budgets until the day they went into effect," Baker said.

The new process that aligned every expense to the Strategic Plan entailed more than 50 meetings between Johnson, the college's other vice presidents

and leadership teams, Johnson said. In these meetings, college officials reviewed the fiscal year 2014 budgets and "drained the pools," Johnson said. They then developed a new budgeting tool, he explained, and a "bottoms up" budgeting process that began with departmental input.

While the decrease in enrollment is expected to generate a nearly \$1 million loss, according to the budget presentation, the tuition hike is expected to offset that by generating an extra \$1.2 million in revenue.

Contract education fees are also expected to increase by about half a million dollars due to an expansion of corporate and community training.

State aid has also increased by nearly half a million dollars. WCC received the highest possible increase in state aid for the second year in a

The budget shows instruction and instructional support receiving a \$1.4 million increase overall. Student services and scholarships are also set to receive a \$300,000 increase.

The budget also includes a \$220,000 technology replacement plan, which will allow the college to achieve an average 41/2-year computer lifecycle over the next three years. This is the recommended lifespan, Johnson said, as opposed to the fiveor six-year lifespan of the college's current computers.

EDITORIAL

Situation critical at WCC, but hardly unique

ulty union knew exactly what they were doing when they asked the Higher Learning Commission – the college's accrediting body - to intervene in an effort to quell the acrimony on campus.

Officially, the faculty has put the college's accreditation in question. But they know, and we know, and hopefully everyone knows the chance that the college's credentials would be stripped is extremely doubtful. The faculty's actions are a cry for help and awareness from the community at large.

WCC cannot lose its accreditation - the consequences to the county and the state would be devastating.

This college is a pillar of this community - and its economy - and, despite the worsening friction between the faculty and the administration, the college is still achieving what it's known for - changing lives.

The faculty's fears appear to be that we are headed in a direction where the college may eventually lose its ability to do that job, but, for now, the college's accreditation is most certainly safe. The most the faculty can expect is for the HLC to send mediators in to mitigate the disorder and facilitate communication.

Whatever happens next, we can only hope that the right people act quickly. However, based on the comments from an HLC representative, we probably shouldn't expect a sense of urgency on its part.

Faculty members have asked the trustees, as one of them wrote, to stop "burying their heads in the sand." The trustees' response has been that they are paying attention, but that it is not their responsibility to micromanage faculty's issues. All of them have noted that they have many constituents to answer to, including local businesses and state government.

Considering the faculty's complaints, one thing is clear: They think the administration is placing too much focus on the money, and it's taking away from the education.

Two of the areas that have been sources for faculty concern - K-12 initiatives, which are strongly tied to state funding, and the \$3 million Department of Labor IGNITE grant - are big sources of income for the college.

Complaints from the faculty allege that the administration was too quick to act in these cases, without enough forethought and input from involved faculty.

To put it in perspective, it is clear that this tug-of-war between financials and instruction is not unique to this campus, or to this point in time.

Conflict between faculty and administration goes back to the roots of education itself.

Former faculty union President Ruth Hatcher explained this historical perspective to The Voice a few months ago, and it seems especially pertinent now, when the college's conflict appears to have reached its breaking point.

"The origins of education were one-on-one," step.

The Washtenaw Community College fac- Hatcher said. "And then there were two kids, and then there were 20 ... And then the teachers needed administrative help to collect the money for the paycheck."

It has always been a balancing act between the education and the money that is necessary to provide that education.

The faculty and administration, by nature, should butt heads sometimes. It's healthy and keeps the school doing its job.

Right now, at colleges across the country, the scales are tipped a little too far to the money side.

When the WCC faculty held its no-confidence vote, the trustees and college President Rose Bellanca were quick to point out that these votes have become trendy, and they were right. WCC's no-confidence vote was the fourth in Michigan this year.

Since 2012, these votes have become more frequent across the country. And, unlike in the past – when faculty dissent was most often the result of contract negotiations and a desire for higher wages - more and more faculty members are complaining that they are being marginalized and that their campuses are being run like corporations. They are asking for more involvement, not more money.

The two most noteworthy cases in the last few years were at New York University and St. Louis University.

Four colleges held votes of no confidence against the NYU president in the 2012-13 academic year. The faculty argued that the school was being run like a business, not a public institution, and the students held a protest against the president's policies.

All along the college and trustees steadfastly professed their support for the president. Sound familiar?

In 2012, the Faculty Senate at St. Louis University held a no-confidence vote in the university president, eventually forcing him to resign. Just like at NYU, the students got involved, forming "SLU students for No Confidence," because, they said, the university was being run like a corporation - and that was not what they signed up for.

The fact is, higher education as a whole has become a lot more about the money and a lot less about public good. Tuition is skyrocketing, and so is student debt.

It's hard to fault anyone at WCC too much when this mindset is so pervasive.

So how does this get fixed?

Who is accountable to fix the larger problems? Who is accountable to fix WCC's

The answer to both is taxpayers and voters. This fall, voters will have the chance to choose three members of the board of trustees. Although three seats do not make for a majority, voting for candidates who commit to placing more focus on education would undoubtedly change the board's conversations – if not its actions.

And changing the conversation is the first

Tuition is 'frozen?'

WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?



"What do you call WCC's tuition? Frozen." At least this is the claim made on the institu-

However, on Aug. 1, tuition rates will increase at Washtenaw Community College, in some cases by up to \$32 per credit hour. Some may question how the college could claim to have frozen their tuition, when in reality it is on the rise for many students.

Visit the school website's homepage, at http:// www.wccnet.edu and click on this bold claim, they may find an answer, just below the surface.

"WCC Freezes Tuition Rates," reads the header. Just underneath in smaller print: "Students who register for Fall Semester by July 31 can lock in current tuition rates."

Fair enough, early birds get the worm, or at least a lower rate on education than their less punctual peers. Except that is not where the stipulations end.

More fine print says that, not only must students register for classes by July 31, but also pay their tuition or set up a payment plan for a semester that doesn't actually begin until Aug. 22.

Students who use the school's website regularly over the summer months may very well see the advertisement, read the fine print, register

for classes, pay for those classes and receive last semester's tuition rates. If they registered in time for last year's freeze, however, they are still experiencing an increase – just a delayed one.

But the reality is that while some students may periodically use the site to check their WCC email or browse through classes that are being offered in the fall semester, most probably don't pay much attention to the school's website while on break, or think to check for hot summer sale prices on tuition.

Travel west on I-94 from the Wayne County area and you may also "freeze," which seems to indicate that

WCC will not be raising their tuition for the 2014-2015 academic year. This may be misleading to new students who have yet to log on to the website and read the fine print.

While claiming their tuition is "frozen" might not be false, it's not quite true either. It may seem ethical to use the marketing schemes to sell claims and decide whether they are legitimate televisions or furniture, but using these tactics to trick college students into thinking their tuition has remained the same begs the question: What's up with that?

For students who didn't get the memo, rates will increase by \$2 per credit hour for in-district students, \$3 for those outside the district, a \$4 increase per hour for those who are attending the college from other states and a whopping

\$32 per credit hour for our college's international students.

On top of these increases in tuition, for those who did not read the fine print, there's also an across-the-board raise of \$9 per credit hour for all online classes - early registration or not.

Not exactly frozen.

If you did take the time to read the fine print and still miss the deadline, please don't worry about a tiny increase in your tuition. After all, it's only a number. Maybe you'll pay a little closer attention to the website, eh?

Then you would get to see the pretty graph, with its nice bright colors, telling you why you shouldn't sweat the details. In the advertisement following the "tuition freeze" on the homepage we see a wonderful chart that compares WCC's tuition rates to the competition - if WCC's competitors were private and public four-year universities. Nowhere on the graph do we see where our school stacks up against other area community colleges or trade schools.

Currently the school's website has tuition for an in-district student listed as \$91 per credit hour. This is slightly below neighboring Jackson Community College at \$117 per credit hour for in-district students and Monroe Community College at \$104 per credit hour. WCC still has the competitive edge on these schools but that small difference isn't as impressive when played out on an informational graphic for the school's

I'm not arguing that our college is no longer affordable, and I also think it is fair to say that the slight increases in tuition do not seem out of line with other schools in our state. I just feel



A chart on WCC's homepage that shows how the school's tuition see a billboard emphasizing tuition stacks up against the 'competition.' www.wccnet.edu

that the education a college or university provides should not be sold in the same manner as an off-brand television, with deceiving graphics and slick marketing techniques.

As college students, we should be critical thinkers equipped to examine and research or not. But to think at some point we would have to apply these principles to determine if the very institution we learned them from was pulling a fast one on us seems a bit callous.

In the future, hopefully our school will leave it to the "real world" to swindle us and corrupt our idealistic world views and just be honest next time they want to reach a little bit further into our pockets.

WASHTENAW VOICE

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The Washtenaw Voice is produced fortnightly by students of Washtenaw Community College and the views expressed herein will not imply endorsement or approval by the faculty, administration or Board of Trustees of WCC

Student publications are important in establishing and maintaining an atmosphere of free and responsible discussion and in bringing matters of concern and importance to the attention of the campus community. Editorial responsibility for The Voice lies with the students, who will strive for balance, fairness and integrity in their coverage of issues and events while employing the best habits and practices of free inquiry and expression

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to the kind of careful journalism that will minimize the number of errors printed. To report an error of fact that should be corrected, phone 734-677-5405 or email thewashtenawvoice@gmail.com

A copy of each edition of The Washtenaw Voice is free to everyone. Additional copies are available at The Voice newsroom, TI 106, for 25 cents each.

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Making a run for it



Putting my name on the November ballot was not an easy decision. I had to really think and consider if I felt I was up for the job. I believe in volunteering. I believe in community service. Those were my greatest motivators to even consider throwing myself into the running.

This was the beginning of the "process" for me. I think it can be pretty intimidating for some people to try to run for office. I have always liked the idea of being in an elected office, trying to make the world a better place.

But, like many, I could do without "politics" because of the negative atmosphere I perceive. Who would want to put themselves up for such scrutiny? Or be attacked by an absolute stranger who knows nothing about my life?

Not that any of these things have happened, but I feel that the negative cloud that constantly looms over politics prevents many good people from even considering the possibilities. Even if I do not win this election, I hope I can show others how they can take that first step and give it a try.

After I decided to put my name on the ballot, it was very easy to get through the next steps. For the position of Washtenaw Community

College trustee, anyone can visit the Washtenaw County offices on 200 Main St., and go into the Elections Division's clerk office.

I had to fill out two forms. The first was an "Affidavit of Identity," in which I had to identify myself, my address and the office I am running for. I had to show my Michigan driver's license to the clerk, and he signed my affidavit as a Notary Public.

Along with the affidavit, I paid a \$100 non refundable filing fee. I could have chosen to collect signatures on a nominating petition and not pay the fee. I went with paying the fee because I wasn't sure if I would have enough time to collect the 250 needed signatures.

That's it. That's all you need to do to get your name on the ballot for WCC trustee.

The second form I filled out was a "Statement of Organization Form for Candidate Committees." This is how you declare your campaign committee's name and choose how to file for campaign finance reporting.

There are two choices on how to file for campaign finance. If you do not think you will spend more than \$1,000, you can declare a waiver from reporting on campaign finances. The other choice is that you will agree to file regular reports on your campaign finances.

The day I went into the clerk's office, I was the only one there with the two clerks on duty. They were welcoming, friendly, helpful and patient - answering all my dumb questions.

One side note: If I were to do one thing over again, I would have thought of a better name for my campaign's

committee. I was kind of nervous and just put down the "Christina Fleming Committee." Wow, that was so creative. Had I thought ahead, I could have considered what Stephen Colbert might do. How about "The Super Duper Awesome Committee to Elect the Talented and Vivacious Christina Fleming for WCC Trustee?"

Perhaps that would be a little much. Keep in mind that it's necessary to print the name of your committee on any literature or media you purchase. For now I will need to use the disclaimer "Paid for by the Christina Fleming Committee."

So now I'm on the November ballot. I could choose to do nothing else, spend no more money and see how the chips play. But then again, I don't think anyone puts his or her name on a ballot just to have something to write about.

Editor's note: Christina Fleming has been online editor for The Voice since August 2013

INFO FOR THE WASHTENAW **ELECTIONS DIVISION CLERK:**

http://www.ewashtenaw.org/ government/clerk_register/ elections

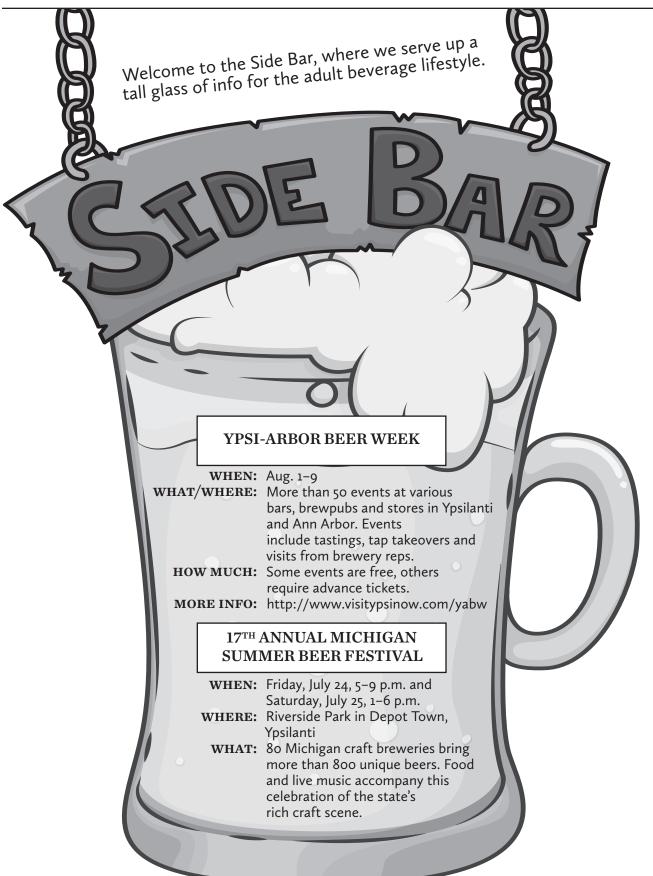
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

WCC faces serious invasion

dent do not appear to have "what it takes."

Moreover, this new team seems to be hell-bent on a secret agenda so toxic that they cannot speak of it except in small groups for fear of explosions.

So, what is this grand agenda, with its loping off of and a lot of work. Our colleges are the best. heads and loutishness? Strangely, the board replies with clicks of its collective tongue and waggles a finger in a "boys will be boys" non-explanation.

A 158-22 vote, however, against the president is unprecedented. I'll bet that you can't get that kind of landslide with your neighbors on the question, "Which direction is north?"

Why are our best and brightest jumping out windows to escape the flames?

Ever since colleges began sprouting up in the United States during the 1700s, there has been a fairly simple formula for their effectiveness: put a good teacher in front of a willing student.

At first, colleges were built to train the clergy to serve in their churches. Later, they trained our farmers and miners,

The board of trustees and its choice of a college presithen people in the newly formed professional trades.

Colleges have expanded to get their arms around all the trades and arts. Computers really help. But good teachers and administrators are as essential to schools as parents are essential to good families. Both require a lot of time

If teaching were just the pouring of a full pitcher of knowledge into an empty head, that would be easy. It's not.

Sometimes, people, who have seen too many cowboy movies, are charmed by the sheriff who puts on a shiny star and then guns down Lash La Rue. Education is not

The next time you wonder at the cause of school shootings, remind yourself of how much money we all saved by closing down psychiatric facilities, to rely on pills.

Perhaps the board should make a nice circle, and resign together, so that the next election cycle can fill their shockingly empty seats.

Hal Weidner Instructor Emeritus, WCC

GUEST EDITORIAL

Are taxpayers getting their money's worth in WCC?

Courtesy of The Ann Arbor Independent

County taxpayers pay \$345 per \$100,000 in taxable home value to support Washtenaw Community College. In 2012-2013, county taxpayers paid \$45.9 million to WCC officials. In return the two-year college's President Bellanca graduated just five percent of enrolled students in two years and 15 percent of students in three years. The average cost to students who did graduate with a degree from WCC was \$31,704. At Alpena Community College 30.4 percent of students graduate at a cost of \$36,371 per degree completion.

Dr. Bellanca is embroiled in a tug-of-war with the college's unionized faculty over communication, governance, institutional transparency and accountability. The college's student newspaper recently published a piece which alleged that WCC officials intend to impose restrictions on editorial independence (allegations WCC officials denied to a student reporter). Faculty allege Dr. Bellanca has allowed crucial administrative positions to remain unfilled.

Amid it all, enrollment is down and the cost of tuition is up. We believe the mission of WCC is the educate the county's students who choose to enroll, but also to graduate those who enroll and to provide a two-year education economically for both property tax payers and students.

Under Dr. Bellanca's leadership, county property tax payers give over \$3,800 per student enrolled (12,000), but that cost jumps to \$25,500 per degree completion (1,800). At Alpena Community College the cost to property tax

payers per degree completion (597) is \$4,340 and the cost to county property tax payers per student enrolled (1,991) is \$1,301.

Dr. Bellanca's institution is providing Washtenaw County property tax payers with a poor return on their collective annual \$40-\$50 million investment in property tax dollars. Further, she is doing so at a cost per degree completion that is far and above that paid by property tax payers in Michigan counties where their two-year colleges graduate 25-35 percent of students who enroll.

While faculty and administrators are often at odds over governance and institutional transparency, Dr. Bellanca's three year tenure has been marred by a lack of communication and an atmosphere of fear and mistrust on the part of faculty who say they fear retaliation when voicing concerns. The school's student journalists who produce The Washtenaw Voice have done a credible job of covering the conflicts that have arisen between Dr. Bellanca and her faculty.

County taxpayers and WCC students deserve a community college whose leaders and faculty work together to produce two-year student degree completion rates that exceed five percent. Dr. Bellanca's job is not easy. Ann Arbor sends over 90 percent of high school graduates to college, but only half of them are judged college ready by the state. That readiness rate is significantly lower in other school districts throughout the county. Be that as it may, we believe the WCC Board must hold Dr. Bellanca to much higher standards with respect to student completion rates and spending.

Summer treats that trick us

BY M. M. DONALDSON Staff Writer

The nostalgia of the sticky, hot summers of my youth requires a sticky, cold Popsicle of frozen sugar-water in a variety of bright colors. Maturity is a funny thing when it tries to justify that the consumption of something fun must have some redeeming health

That was my logic as I stood in the frozen ice cream and novelties section of the grocery store.

Looking at cool deliciousness behind glass, like drooling over diamonds at a jewelry counter, I was sure I could make a choice that wasn't just decadent, but actually good for me.

The Minute Maid Juice Bars with the orange, cherry and grape assortment played up in my mind as belonging in a bona fide food group. With a leap of faith, I grabbed a box, sure that it was a good choice.

I have read "100 percent pure squeezed orange juice" on the front label so many times that Minute Maid has been etched in my mind as a reliable brand. It has also been pricier to my pocket book and tastier to my taste buds. The name has been around for 65 years, being one of the first to promote orange juice having a brand.

Days later, I fished out a grape frozen treat and read the ingredients: apple juice from concentrate, high fructose corn syrup, less than 2 percent of natural and artificial flavors, citric acid, cellulose, guar and xanthan gums, ascorbic acid (vitamin C), Red on the whole "orange, cherry and

nutrition labels a little closer.

It is common knowledge that becoming familiar with the Nutrition Facts labels helps us to understand what we are eating. Reading them is about as exciting as studying the index of most textbooks. It doesn't help that the down-to-business part of food packaging is in a ridiculously small font.

The Food and Drug Administration is proposing several changes to the nutritional label that will make it easier to read with larger fonts and more emphasis on sodium content and added sugars. Another change will highlight the difference between the amount of calories in a serving size and the amount of eating the entire contents of a box or bag in one sitting.

"By revamping the Nutrition Facts label, FDA wants to make it easier than ever for consumers to make better informed food choices that will support a healthy diet," said Michael R. Taylor, the FDA's deputy commissioner for foods and veterinary medicine, in a press release.

Understanding all the information on the Nutrition Facts label does take time, but it allows us to control what we do or do not want in our diets. Deciphering ingredients is a crucial task for those with food allergies, and the front of the box will continue to entice us with glitz and glam. Ignoring the Nutrition Facts label may create a blissful ignorance, but it's still ignorance.

Regardless, I'm feeling a bit duped



Know what you are eating with summertime treats to beat the heat. M. M. DONALDSON

#40, Blue #1.

Not a grape to be had. I consulted the box, looking for answers that I had not bothered to question before purchasing.

"Minute Maid Juice Bars...Naturally and Artificially Flavored...90 % juice**."

Asterisks usually mean there is more information located elsewhere and I matched them with "**All flavors made with apple juice" on the Nutrition Facts panel.

There was still a possibility that the orange and cherry juice bars might redeem themselves with actually having orange or cherry juice in them.

Orange juice bar ingredients: apple juice from concentrate, high fructose corn syrup, less than 2 percent of natural and artificial flavors, citric acid, cellulose, guar and xanthan gums, ascorbic acid (vitamin C), beta carotene.

Cherry juice bar ingredients: apple juice from concentrate, high fructose corn syrup, less than 2 percent of natural and artificial flavors, citric acid, cellulose, guar and xanthan gums, ascorbic acid (vitamin C), Red #40, Blue #1.

It's my own fault for not reading the fine print in the first place. It's doubly my fault for thinking that I can

have my treat and have it healthy, too.

Now I've been shamed into reviewing

grape" juice, when really it should have been orange-, red- and purplecolored apple juice. Something about this whole experience felt devious, but perhaps brand expectations cannot be relied on to give what is expected.

Wow. Betrayal is an ugly feeling.

For those still interested in having a healthy summer treat, 100 percent juice and even chunks of fruit can be made into popsicles, helping to reach the USDA's recommended daily requirement of two cups of fruit each day. Pinterest and Google Images show uncountable ideas for homemade popsicles.

But for all of us, we need to be honest to ourselves about what we are eating. If we choose a frozen treat made of sugar-water, that is fine as an occasional treat, but not a daily requirement.

M. M. Donaldson is a staff writer with The Voice and a journalism student at WCC. She has a bachelor's degree in family and community services from Michigan State University and has several years experience with nutrition issues affecting infants through older adults.

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WCC trustees deny their part in intervention request

BY NATALIE WRIGHT

Editor

After the faculty union sent a letter to the Higher Learning Commission on June 16 asking for intervention at the college, the Washtenaw Community College board of trustees was quick to distance itself from

At the board's meeting on June 24, the trustees unanimously supported the following statement in an action item:

"It has come to the attention of the Washtenaw Community College board of trustees that a document was sent by the Washtenaw Community College Education Association union to the Higher Learning Commission stating several board members recommended Higher Learning Commission intervention.

"It was not the recommendation of the WCC board of trustees to request intervention of the Higher Learning Commission. The board affirms WCC meets the criteria for accreditation set forth by the Higher Learning Commission.

"The board directs the president to communicate this action to the Higher Learning Commission."

While the union's letter to the HLC did not implicate the trustees in recommending the HLC's intervention, as the board's statement said, the trustees did, in fact, make the suggestion.

The first mention of bringing in the HLC came in a private letter sent to the board of trustees from the faculty union in 2013, Jennifer Baker, the union's president at the time, said.

When the trustees renewed Bellanca's contract a few months later, the faculty seriously considered reaching out to the HLC, Baker said, but decided it wasn't the right time.

Then on April 22, the faculty union's newly elected president, Maryam Barrie, gave a speech at a meeting of the board of trustees in which she mentioned the need for third-party intervention.

"I urge you to hire an independent audit to do some sort of work climate survey that WCC employees throughout the college could respond to accurately without any fear of repercussions," Barrie told the trustees, never mentioning the HLC by name.

Third party intervention was not mentioned again - at least publicly

– until the trustees brought it up at Commission back in," Horiszny said. their May 27 meeting.

Trustee Pam Horiszny was the first to mention the HLC.

"What I'd like to suggest is that we bring the Higher Learning



Pam Horiszny was the first trustee to publicly mention **HLC intervention.** WASHTENAW VOICE | FILE PHOTO

"They know where we were three years or four years or five years ago, and I would like them to see where we are today. And then we, as an institution – the faculty, the board, the pres-

ident – can move forward based on that report.

"(The community), they need to know that (our accreditation) is not in jeopardy and that we are strong," Horiszny added.

Trustee Patrick McLean agreed with Horiszny's suggestion, but did not specifically name the HLC.

"I believe it's maybe in our interest to look at some type of third party to come look at what kind of processes exist across the campus," McLean said. "Sometimes it's the

case that people of goodwill, people who are working toward even a common end, find it difficult to work with one another for whatever reasons ... We seem to have reached our point where we need a translator."

Anne Williams, chairman of the board, supported the idea as well.

"We need to do the right thing," Williams said, "and I would support Trustee Horiszny's comment, the possibility of bringing the HLC in to evaluate where things are at. I think that could give us a clear picture of a possibility."

President Bellanca was the last to address the suggestion.

"As far as the HLC, oh, my God, I'd love them to come," Bellanca said. "Because, you know why? Just this year we were accredited for all our extension centers; we were also with distance learning, a program online.

"We're really working our best to live up to that accreditation. There isn't anything we would do, that I would do, or any of us would do to tamper with that accreditation."

While the question of who suggested contacting the HLC may seem like petty semantics, it is crucial for the HLC's investigation, Baker said in an email.

HLC, From A1

transferred, forced to retire or resign or been fired during President Bellanca's time at the college," the letter read. "The departure of several key personnel from the administration has caused a severe loss of institutional knowledge that is crippling the effectiveness of the college."

The faculty cited the interim status and uncertain future of the Vice President of Instruction position since Stuart Blacklaw was fired in March 2013, and four out of five recently vacated academic dean positions, which have been filled with interim deans. There also doesn't appear to be a plan to replace the dean of Distance Learning, they wrote.

This loss of leadership hinders the faculty's ability to work affectively and take part in decisions regarding curriculum, Kelley Gottschang, chair of the Curriculum Committee, wrote in a separate letter to the board of trustees, also dated June 16.

"All of this creates a vacuum in the academic chain of command," Gottschang wrote, "resulting in a cul- was approved on ture of non-academic administrators June 24, and decreating, running, scheduling and supervising credit-based courses and programs."

ABSENCE OF JOINT GOVERNANCE

While the academic chain of command has been depleted, the administration has grown, and an increase in top-down decision-making and communication has led to a decrease in faculty involvement, the letter said.

The faculty noted that in Bellanca's three years, the college has gone from having two executive vice presidents to eight, and there has been a "corresponding increase in unilateral decision making."

One example cited in the letter is a \$2.9 million Department of Labor grant, which was awarded to the college in 2012. The college sought and received the IGNITE grant without the support or involvement of the academic deans and faculty involved, the letter said.

"In that grant, the college promised deliverables without so much as consulting the concerned faculty as to whether or not these deliverables could be delivered," David Fitzpatrick, chief negotiator for the union, said. "Then when the grant was awarded, it was still several months before the

faculty who would be responsible for development was informed of the grant's details."

Also cited was a plan for a new \$12.5 million Center for Advanced Manufacturing, which the faculty said they first learned about when Bellanca met with department chairs recently. In this meeting, Bellanca told faculty to "get on board or get out of the way," the letter said.

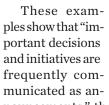
At a recent board of trustees meeting, Bellanca denied that she made that comment and suggested that the involved faculty must have misunderstood her.

A lack of communication regarding the budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 was also cited in the faculty's letter. When the letter was written on June 16, two weeks before the start of the fiscal year, the faculty had not received the departmental budgets.

"No one at lower levels of the college knows what their operating budget will be two weeks from now," the letter said. In the past, department chairs would have had the budget in hand by mid-May, Barrie said.

The budget partmental budgets were sent out later that week.

ples show that "important decisions and initiatives are municated as an-



Maryam Barrie

nouncements," the letter said. "The result is that the college is unsettled, unaware and uninformed."

'SYSTEMATIC DISMANTLING' OF ACADEMIC STRUCTURE

The faculty's last point suggested that the loss of institutional leadership and knowledge was an intentional move by Bellanca to compromise the academic chain of command and take decision-making power out of the hands of academic personnel.

"Increasingly, non-academic vice presidents are moving forward with credit courses, credit programs and agreements involving outside parties," the letter said. "Our academic chain of command has been isolated, ignored and shifted into perpetual interim status, which puts us in a holding pattern and disempowers the faculty."

"This is top-down curricular development at best and a complete

disregard for the academic process at worst," Gottschang wrote.

The faculty's letter cited a recent foreign language initiative with Ypsilanti Community High Schools as an example. The administration had been working on this initiative for almost a year before faculty were notified, Barrie said.

Michelle Garey, chair of the foreign language department, said that when she was notified of the initiative, it was not through the academic chain of command.

"I was asked to participate in this initiative not by my dean nor by the Vice President of Instruction - neither of whom appeared to have any awareness or understanding of this initiative – but by the Vice President of Student Affairs," Garey said at the May 27 meeting.

Garey was asked to create non transferable high school courses, she said, that would be available to high school freshman and sophomores and would not count for any type of college credit.

Ypsilanti High School faculty were also in the middle of contract negotiations at the time, Garey said, and were trying to prevent the outsourcing of their jobs.

"And, according to their union president, were completely unaware that an agreement with WCC was already in place," she said.

"Our recent vote of no confidence was described as an 'unfortunate distraction," Garey said. "I think an unfortunate distraction would be a headline in a local paper ... that reads, "WCC scabs local high school jobs."

After learning about the foreign language initiative, the faculty pointed out that it had "significant problems and potential liabilities," Garey said. It was potentially in violation of the Michigan Department of Education's Teacher Certification Code, and WCC's board of trustee's policy on

dual enrollment, she explained. Bellanca responded to Garey's comments, saying that the administration hadn't been aware of the problems with the initiative.

"We did not know that they were negotiating with their union, or we would have never done that," Bellanca said. "As soon as we heard that it was going to be for ninth and 10th grade, it was no deal ... We called immediately and found out, and we told them to stop, that we would stop. We pulled out of it."

BELLANCA AND TRUSTEES RESPOND

At the May 27 meeting, Bellanca responded to the faculty's concerns and to the May 1 vote of no confidence.

Bellanca told the faculty that she was sorry if she has disrespected them in any way. She said that she can explain the reasons for everything

they've raised concerns about.

"The one thing that we can all agree on is that we care about students,' Bellanca said. "You may not like me - I wish you did – but you may not like me, and



Rose Bellanca

that's OK ... You might not like my style, because my style is a little more participatory, and sometimes that's taken a multiple of ways, but what you need to know is that I have my heart and soul in this job."

And the trustees, she added, hold her to "very high standards," despite what the faculty might think.

Each member of the board of trustees also responded to the faculty at the meeting. The majority of them said that they did not consider it their responsibility to address the faculty's concerns, nor did they quite understand the concerns. They also reiterated their full support for Bellanca.

"We're very supportive of a president who's working very hard to do all the right things for the college as a whole - every aspect of it, not just instruction - and the community, because we are a community college," Trustee Stephen Gill said. "We are not just a collection of classrooms.

"The trustees have oversight," Gill added, "but our job is to support the president and what she does."

Several trustees reiterated Gill's sentiment that it is hard for the board to delve too deeply into the curriculum issues because they have a lot of other constituents to answer to.

"We understand what you're saying to us, we just don't understand what is it that you want us as a board to do," Trustee Diana McKnight-Morton said. "We don't know what's going on with your program, because we have so many other issues that we're looking at. We are the advisory board, and we are the policy-making board primarily.

"Right now, you're taking away from

what the real business is of this board to deal with your issues that we still don't quite understand," McKnight-Morton added.

Trustee Mark Freeman stood out from the rest of the board, acknowledging that they might have some responsibility to intervene.

"Mostly, I want to see us work and really get to the heart of the matter," he said. Freeman also noted that the criticisms the board has heard from the faculty "may contain some meaningful information for us."

WHAT COMES NEXT?

The HLC had until July 16 to review the documents and respond to

It also may not send a response, if it does not find validity to the complaints, Julie Morrison, the college's HLC liaison, said.

"When we receive a complaint, if we go through it and think that there are some issues, we send a report to the institution and give them a chance to send a response," John Hausaman, an HLC spokesman, said.

The HLC's resport, if it sent one, is confidential until the college has a chance to respond, Hausaman said.

After receiving the college's response, the HLC would determine whether or not to take action. There are several possibilities as to what that action would be, Hausaman said, but it could include sending people to campus to investigate.

But the HLC's complaint process is slow, he said.

"It could be a while before you see anything actually happen," Hausaman said. "There's no general time frame. Each complaint would be taken on a caseby-case basis ... I don't anticipate that it would take years, but it could be a while."

It is important to specify, he added, that the HLC only takes into account the criteria for the school's accreditation. So if the HLC were to agree with the faculty that the college has violated the criteria for accreditation, it could put the college's accreditation in jeopardy.

WCC has been accredited by the HLC since 1975, Julie Morrison, executive director of institutional effectiveness, planning, and accreditation, said at a recent board meeting.

The most recent reaffirmation of accreditation was in February 2010, and the next reaffirmation is set for 2019-2020.

SAFETY, From A3

that surrounds the school is not so hospitable.

"I don't really dally around outside of campus," the 42-year-old Willis native said. "I used to have a late class and would kind of have to rush to my car, always looking around me at nighttime."

The alliance is a collaborative effort by the Ypsilanti Police Department, Eastern Michigan Police Department and the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office. The agreement between the agencies would eliminate jurisdictional boundaries and allow each department to access one another's private data more easily.

According to the sheriff's department, there will also be a new focus on community policing - a method that puts emphasis on officers familiarizing themselves with the locality and citizens

"There are two things that we know for sure," Rutledge said. "No. 1, that police alone cannot make a community safe. No. 2, crime can happen anywhere."

Though crime could happen anywhere, statistics seem to indicate that in the Washtenaw County area specifically, it is on the rise.

According to the Michigan State Police database, there were a total of 8,667 arrests made in Washtenaw County in 2013, as compared to the 7,328 arrests made in 2012.

The same records show that 22 of these arrests were based on charges of murder or non-negligent manslaughter and 380 were in connection to various other violent crimes, including rape and assault charges.

McMullen emphasized that it's not Ypsilanti's image that keeps him looking over his shoulder.

"You get an email when something happens," he said, "and a lot of times it's somebody that got robbed. I don't think it's a perception thing. It's actually going on."

The student recalled the murder of EMU football player Demarius Reed, who was shot in his off-campus, Ypsilanti apartment last October.

"Murdered not even a year ago," he said. "To me, that's not a perception. I mean, that's a dead body on the ground." EMU President Susan Martin also spoke at the conference,

held at the Ypsilanti office of SPARK, an economic development organization based in Ann Arbor.

"As president, I've held safety as a top priority," Martin said,

Pernicano said. "Now, not only can I say yes, but I can say the

on and off campus. "That's something I'm very proud of."

noting that she is often in direct contact with EMU Police Chief Robert Heighes.

"When I first started here six years ago," Martin said, «I changed the relationship with the police chief to report directly to the president. They call me 24/7."

Martin said the university will spend a projected \$1.7 million on campus safety this year. "Those costs are associated with adding 10 new police officers

and what they need to be effective," Martin said, adding that that includes "additional lighting on the perimeter of campus and continuing to add more cameras to the more than 500 we already have on campus." These security upgrades to the campus, along with the forma-

tion of the EWSA, have some in the community feeling hopeful.

EMU student Joseph Pernicano, 21, said he is impressed by

the efforts of local government. "As a student, the question I receive most is if EMU is safe," community and the university are working to improve safety

NEWS YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED OVER THE SUMMER:

FIVE NEW PROGRAMS APPROVED FOR FALL

BY NATALIE WRIGHT

Edito

Students who are still exploring career pathways will have a few new choices to consider this fall with the introduction of five new academic programs at Washtenaw Community College.

All of the following information comes from the program recommendations presented to, and approved by, the WCC Board of Trustees.

For more information on these programs, visit: http://www.wccnet.edu/academics/programs/.

HONORS IN THE LIBERAL ARTS

WCC's first honors program is designed for students who wish to transfer to competitive four-year universities. The reading- and writing-intensive curriculum totals 60-61 credit hours and is built around the theme "America in the World: Global Awareness and Diversity."

This program was designed as a response to WCC's "Shaping Our Future" opportunity analysis, in which the college received these responses: "Huron students view WCC as a 'failed choice;'" "WCC needs to stop coming off as the poor stepchild;" "Balance the tension between high standards and the open door."

PARALEGAL STUDIES/PRE-LAW

In this program, students will earn an Associate in Arts degree while preparing for entry-level paralegal positions or further study in the field of law.

The median pay for paralegal positions is \$46,990, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Paralegal positions are expected to grow 17 percent between 2012 and 2022, according to the bureau. This means there will be 46,200 new job openings during that time.

FACILITY AND ENERGY MANAGEMENT

This certificate program, based on a foundation in facilities management, will teach students how to manage the use of energy in commercial and residential buildings. The required courses total 18 credit hours and focus on renewable energy and sustainability.

Median wages for related careers such as administrative service managers, supervisors of mechanics and installers and repairers average around \$30-\$40 per hour, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The bureau also estimates a 12 percent increase in the number of related jobs between 2012 and 2022.

HVAC ENERGY MANAGEMENT TECHNICIAN

In this advanced certificate program, students will learn about the operation of HVAC equipment and techniques that are used to reduce energy consumption. The required courses total 20 credit hours.

The median wage for HVAC jobs is \$43,640 per year, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

HVAC jobs in Michigan are expected to reach 10,480 in 2018, a 19.6 percent increase from 2008, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget.

ENGINEERING DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

Students will learn how to use engineering software and production methods to design and create products in this certificate program. Courses total 18-19 credit hours and will focus on product design processes and engineering and design concepts.

The median pay for positions in related fields ranges between \$50,980 and \$57,850, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget. The department also predicts up to nine percent increases in related positions between 2008 and 2018.

2014 COMMENCEMENT:



The 2014 Washtenaw Community College commencement took place at Eastern Michigan University's Covocation Center on Saturday, May 17. DAVID ARTUSHIN | WASHTENAW VOICE

Yes, e-cigs are banned, too

After Campus Safety and Security personnel found several students smoking e-cigarettes in the Student Center last spring, the college's Ombudsman Larry Aeilts sent out an email clarifying the school's policy on smoking.

WCC's no-smoking policy includes "any smoking device that emits smoke, vapor, mist, etc.," Aeilts wrote, along with traditional tobacco cigarettes and non-tobacco cigarettes, such as herbal cigarettes.

Anyone caught smoking on WCC property is subject to a ticket from Campus Safety and Security, according to the policy.

– Natalie Wright



"No more E-Cigarettes inside the school means cleaner air!"

SANAA NAEEM | WASHTENAW VOICE

WCC lowers residence credit criteria, changes student conduct code

Students now only need to complete 50 percent of their credits at Washtenaw Community College ("residence credits"), rather than 75 percent, to receive their certificate or advanced certificate.

The change was made by the Washtenaw Community College Board of Trustees on June 24, when they unanimously approved the college's new Certificate Structure Policy and Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct Code.

> An exception to this requirement was also added for students completing certificates as a part of the MACRAO agreement or the new Michigan Transfer Agreement.

Significant changes were also made to the college's Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct Code. The changes can be found in the board's meeting archive, under Tab F of the May 27 meeting.

– Natalie Wright

WTMC receives accolades from governor, others

Washtenaw Technical Middle

College has earned numerous awards and accolades for the school's strong academic performance in 2014.

As recent criticisms of Michigan's public charter schools have raised major questions about the effectiveness of these institutions, Washtenaw Technical Middle College is being hailed as an exemplary model for the public charter school system.

In 2014, WTMC was given the "School of the Year" award by the University Musical Society for arts and theatre education, a top 5 percent "Reward School Status" by the State Department of Education and the "Governors Education Summit Award" for "innovation and collaboration."

schools in the state in a study published by the *Detroit Free Press*.

"That was extremely exciting to see," Jim Cockles said. "Having our school, our students and our staff being recognized for all the

WTMC also was recently ranked in the top 1 percent of public charter

hard work and everything they do."

Cockles is a counselor at the middle college and said that all the recognition that WTMC has received as of late is proof of the good that can come from charter schools.

– Jon Price

Students take gold at SkillsUSA

College students Michael Bustamante and
Dan Ritenour, each won the gold medals for Collision
Repair and Automotive Refinishing, respectively, in this year's
SkillsUSA Michigan State Leadership and Skills Conference.

Other WCC students who medaled in the competition were Ashley Thomas, who took second place in Automotive Refinishing, and Chris Martin, who received third place in Collision Repair. Amy Fell (Collision Repair) and Trey Trotter (Automotive Refinishing), both placed in the top 10 statewide in their divisions in the competition, held in Grand Rapids in April.

Ritenour eventually placed seventh in the nationwide SkillsUSA competition. "It's tough," lab instructor Jay Mosquera said. "The competition is really

"But the students who get involved in SkillsUSA, 100 percent of them, have been successful in their careers outside of here."

SkillsUSA is an organization made up of more than 320,000 students, instructors and industry professionals who help train technical and skilled employees for the workforce.

For more information, visit http://www.skillsusa.org/about/.

– Jon Price

MOLD FOUND IN LA BUILDING

"Unacceptable" levels of mold were detected in the Crane Liberal Arts and Science building, according Associate Vice President of Facilities Development and Operations, Damon Flowers.

Flowers said staff members who were working in rooms LA 138, LA 148A and LA 136B have been temporarily relocated while the school works to "complete the evaluation and make corrective repairs."

Classes that were held in the area (LA 138 and LA 146) have been relocated as well.

No mold was detected in the second or third floors of the LA building.

Learning Support Services and part-time faculty employees working in LA 130 will also be relocated for repairs. However, an air quality test has determined that the levels of mold in this area are acceptable for occupancy.

"In addition," Flowers said, "we immediately isolated and sealed the rooms and ventilation systems in these areas."

The work is expected to be finished in time for the fall semester, which starts in late August.

– Jon Price

WCC artists showcase work at art fairs

Staff Writer

Every summer the streets of Ann Arbor are lined by white tents where more than 1,000 artists showcase their work to hundreds of thousands of visitors who curiously wander.

The displays, which represent four different fairs that happen simultaneously each year (Ann Arbor Street Art Fair - the original - the State Street Area Art Fair, the Ann Arbor Summer Art Fair, and Ann Arbor's South University Art Fair), showcase a variety of art forms, from photography, sculptures and paintings to glass, pottery and more, artists of all ages display their work.

Each year, eight students from colleges in southeast Michigan are selected to showcase their work at the Student Booth. This year, students Rita Perrone, Barbara Tozier and Sophia Zhou of Washtenaw Community College were among the students selected.

"I saw a poster down near the fire department and it said that college students in Michigan were eligible for entry. I gave them four electronic

BY ADRIANNA VELAZQUEZ copies of my work and a few months later they called and asked if I wanted to display my work," said Tozier, 49 of Ann Arbor.

> For consideration, students are encouraged to apply for the New Art, New Artists mentoring program. The program offers college students the opportunity to sell their artwork as an Art Fair Artist while providing them the guidance to do it successfully.

> Each student is mentored by a career art fair artist and are given the opportunity to exhibit work without incurring fees most other artists pay. The program provides students with artistic exposure and firsthand

> Tozier displayed photography, something she claims she's "cut out" to do.

"The primary idea behind the images that I have is called 'everyday abstract," she said. "I typically photograph things, like stuff you might put on your table. I'm showing closeups, some unusual abstracts of plants, glass, just the sort of things you might have in your yard."

Zhou, 24, a graphic design student from Ann Arbor, explained her

interest for photography became evident after being introduced to it in high school, when she took a traditional photography class.

"I'm not even in the photography program, but photography is something I've been doing as a hobby for many years," she said. "This is my first time doing something more serious with it for the public to view.

"The medium itself is intuitively realistic. I like playing off of that and creating more surreal images with a surreal medium. You think it's supposed to be real, but it's surreal because you're creating it, and I think I like that the most."

The reputable art programs offered by the college have produced artists who have been given the opportunity to show their work to the public, what students anticipated the most.

In an interview before the fair, Tozier said she was looking forward to showing her work to people who may not see photography the way she does.

"I'm interested to see how my photography is seen by the wider world," said Tozier. "I'm really looking forward to see how people react to my work that I've never met."







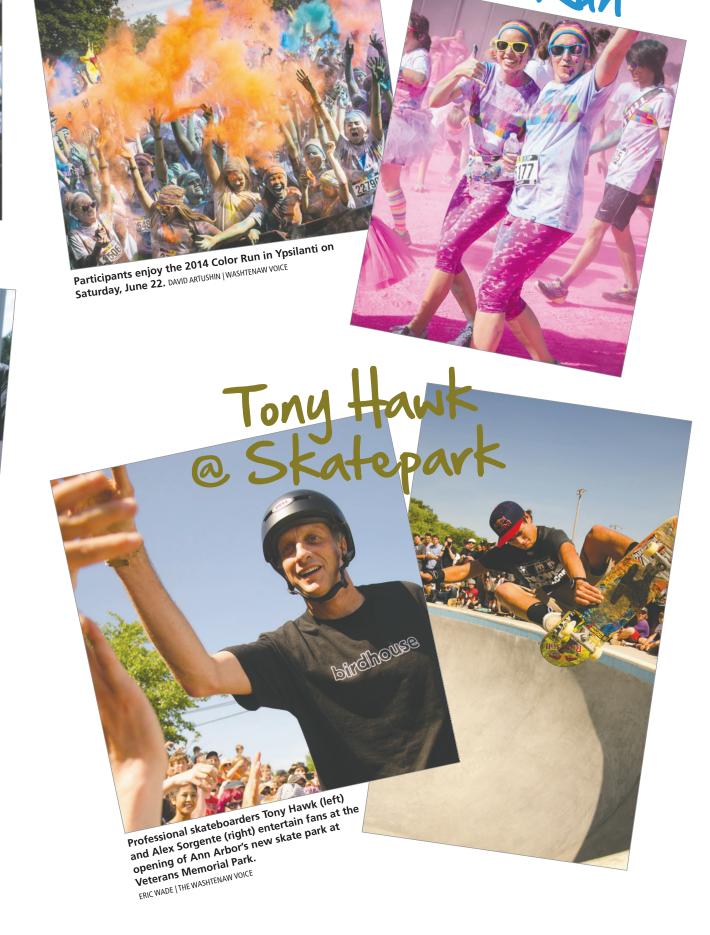
Rita Perrone (top), Barbara Tozier (bottom left) and Sophia Zhou (bottom right) all of Ann Arbor, recent graduates of WCC's photography program, pose with their artwork on display at the new artist tent located on Washington St. near Ingalls Mall on opening day of the 2014 Ann Arbor Art Fair. DAVID ARTUSHIN | WASHTENAW VOICE

Summer Snapshots!
Car Craise
Color Run



Many spectators turned out to view a variety of classic cars during Ypsilanti's weekly Classic Car Cruise, held every Thursday night during Summer in Depot Town. DAVID ARTUSHIN I WASHTENAW VOICE





B SECTION JULY 21, 2014

Folk school teaches a simpler way of life

BY M. M. DONALDSON
Staff Writer

A selection of low-tech classes has gained popularity at Washtenaw Community College. From "Backyard City Chickens" to cheese making, the Community Enrichment program is expanding the selection of classes offered through a partnership with the Michigan Folk School.

"Nature is our best teacher," said Jason Gold, who owns and operates the Michigan Folk School with his wife Julia. Just a few miles north of the WCC campus, WCC students are receiving hands-on instruction with blacksmithing workshops and beekeeping.

The partnership between WCC and Michigan Folk School started in 2012. At that time, WCC instructor Nate Ayers was teaching a permaculture course through Life Long Learning. The classroom lacked the ability to do practical applications, and Ayers approached Gold to host the class at their farm.

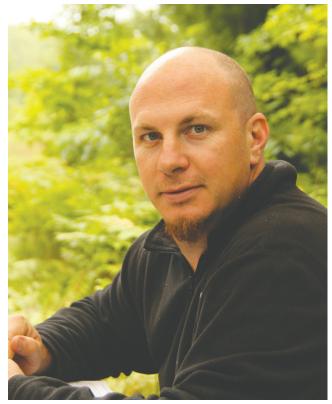
Gold has adopted permaculture as a new way of life that uses old concepts. Calling it gardening is too simplified, Gold stated, when it is a part of the larger idea of looking to the natural environment for solutions to needs.

Sitting down and enjoying a few minutes of a cool and clear morning, Gold gives the example of staining the deck boards under his feet. He describes how in nature, cedar has natural preservatives, and man has found that painting the deck boards with goats' milk will mimic this.

When man imitates what nature teaches, he explains, it is known as "biomimicry."

Gold watches his young daughters return from a walk with the two goats born earlier in the spring. The kids, two-legged and four-legged, romp as they travel across the yard.

On several occasions, Gold has referred to his family as homesteading. To him, that means everything in their home and on the farm serves a function. Even Max, a Greater Swiss Mountain and Bluetick Coonhound mixed dog, is responsible for patrolling the homestead perimeters and



Jason Gold, owner of the Michigan Folk School. COURTESY PHOTO

keeping predators away from livestock.

Gold has been valuable as Anne Stevenson, program development manager with WCC Community Enrichment department, looks to community experts to find out what people are asking for.

"There is a current interest with food and herbs," Stevenson said. "(Michigan Folk School) provides hot button topics that people are interested in."

As interests have changed, so has instruction. Stevenson sees it as mov-

Spend less time earning money and spend more time living

– Jason Gold

ing away from the traditional lectures and class work.

"Studies show interactive modes of teaching where students have a chance to be a part of the conversation, learning rates and enjoyment," Stevenson said.

"The classes have been very successful, and the students have been excited," she said. With the current community interest in food going beyond reading a recipe, the CE classes allow people to learn new skills in horticulture and animal husbandry.

Stevenson believes that it is important to explore and try new things. She describes her department as being

"formerly known as Life Long Learning, and that is what the Community

they have higher Enrichment classes are all about."

The Golds decided to create the Michigan Folk School after visiting the John Campbell Folk School in North Carolina.

He embraces the term "folk skills" to describe skills that are no longer needed for survival. American culture considers skills such as blacksmithing on the scale of crafts or hobbies.

Gold scoffs at such terminology as "artisan" to describe things, making them sound more grandiose than they are.

He perceives his classes or any teaching of folk skills as a sharing of knowledge, where the students are able to trade information with the instructor also.

Through this type of instruction, Gold said people are "learning how to communicate with others and be able to express ideas to others."

Communication leads to camaraderie and relationships that last for Gold.

In his home, he feels that a simple jar of jam is more than preserves to spread on toast. He states, when he opens a jar, he can recall memories of the cultivation, harvest and preservation of the fruit, all things the whole family participated in.

"Spend less time earning money and spend more time living," Gold said, as a way to develop a healthy family and a healthy society.

Stevenson said she continues to look for classes that serve the community, such as the classes CE offers with the Michigan Folk School. She states that Pinterest is a helpful tool, giving her a snapshot of what topics have a high interest.

The most important tool used though, are the student evaluation forms.

The CE department uses the feedback to find out what other classes students would be interested in attending.

"Our hope is to provide opportunities to learn new things through quality programs and classes, good instructors," Stevenson said. She asked an assistant for a sampling of student evaluation forms from the Michigan Folk School to review. They tended to have positive remarks.

"Jason's enthusiasm is infectious.

See **JASON GOLD**, Page B4



Futbol at Big House to fill World Cup void

Real Madrid vs. Manchester United game is keeping the soccer hype alive in Ann Arbor

BY EJ STOUT

Managing Editor

The world's two most valu-

able sports franchises will meet at the Big House on Aug. 2, giving Americans an extra helping of futbol after feasting on the World Cup this month.

It's no surprise that organizers expect this match between Manchester United and Real Madrid to set the record for U.S. soccer attendance, breaking the previous record of 101,799, set in 1984.

U.S. soccer fans displayed an unprecedented outpouring of support during this year's World Cup tournament, a sentiment that has been applauded by the international community. Newcomers to the sport have enjoyed the excitement and are looking for ways to foster their new passion.

James A. Birk, 25, a Washtenaw Community College general studies student from Ypsilanti, has seen a drastic change in the level of support from stateside fans.

"From 10 years ago until now, it went from non-existent to people getting off of work to watch the World Cup," he noted.

DECENT EXPOSURE

On the heels of the World Cup comes the Guinness International Champions Cup (ICC), a 12-city tour of European club teams meeting on American soil.

Now in its second year, the ICC is composed of two groups of four teams. Each to play in

a round-robin style tournament. The leader from each group will face off on Aug. 4 at Sun Life Stadium in Miami.

But, before the final match, Ann Arbor will play host to the two powerhouse teams when they face off at the Big

House on Aug. 2. According to *Forbes*' list

See ICC, Page B3

From heaven to hell

The 2014 World Cup through the eyes of a Brazilian soccer fan



I was born and raised in Brazil. I grew up watching soccer. My whole life, I always wanted to go to a World Cup. And when the Cup finally happened in my country, I wasn't there.

Since it was announced that the World Cup was to be played in Brazil, all the pride and expectations turned to suspicion and doubt. Construction delays, strikes, protests and violence were plausible reasons for this mistrust.

I went home to Brazil for a brief visit two weeks before the World Cup started. These manifestations were still happening; people were unhappy with the government and all the money spent to remodel the host cities preparing for the Cup.

But after the first game's kickoff, the whole nation put aside all the problems and conflicts. Futbol (OK, soccer, for my American friends) became so absorbing that suddenly all the emotions and pride of a nation were back.

It was the time to wear the yellow jersey, put flags on our cars, get together with our friends in front of the television and extend the flag in front of our windows. When our anthem

See **WORLD CUP**, Page B3



The outdoor patio at Good Time Charley's on S. University Ave. was a popular place to view the EUA vs. Belgium World Cup game on Monday, June 23. VIVIAN PEREIRA | WASHTENAW VOICE

Could You around the country - and why not say BY VIVIAN ZAGO the world? – it is exciting to spend a Staff Writer lather... few days exploring the land. National Road trips are a favorite American or amusement parks, roadside attracpastime. The experience to get in a tions or scenic drives – which one car and be "on the road" still attracts would you choose? And why?

lots of people - especially during the

The first North American road trip happened in 1903, when a couple and their dog drove 63 days from San Francisco to New York.

With so many options spread all

If that is what you're looking for this summer, be prepared to make some fond memories along the way. Pack your bags and take a look at what some Washtenaw students think about these popular driving adventures.

How would you plan your perfect trip?

TONY RICONENO, 21, ANN ARBOR, CONSTRUCTION **MANAGEMENT**

Mu-En Chen, 19, ANN ARBOR, BUSINESS

RITA NIEMELA, 23, ANN ARBOR, CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Aya Aziz, 18, ANN ARBOR, LIBERAL ARTS

Melvin Parson, 50, **DETROIT, HUMAN SERVICES**

FOR YOUR ULTIMATE ROAD TRIP, WHERE ARE YOU GOING? out at the beach."

"Probably to Florida to hang

"I would go to California. It's nice weather there, nice food, and maybe I can see some celebrities in the street."

to some place in South America because I've never been there yet. And if I have enough time, I would be more than glad to drive there."

"That's a hard one. I would go

definitely start in London, go around to Germany, especially concentration camps, see older remains of history sites."

"I would get to Europe and

"I would go to all American League baseball parks in the U.S., starting in Boston."

WOULD YOU RATHER TRAVEL WITH ONE PERSON OR A CAR **FULL OF PEOPLE?**

"With a car full of people. I get annoyed with just one person. I would take my three best friends."

"I'd like to travel with more people, my friends, because more people means more ideas that we could talk about."

"It depends, but probably with a lot of friends."

Backpack across Europe, sounds like a plan. I would take my parents to a family vacation."

"I would listen to my favor-

"In a car full of people.

"It would be a van full of people, full of my friends."

WOULD YOU RATHER LISTEN TO YOUR FAVORITE MUSIC OR **KEEP THE RADIO PLAYING?**

"I probably would listen to my iPod instead of the music from the radio. I would listen to old-school rap and maybe a little of country music, too."

"Sometimes I'd rather listen to my favorite songs, but sometimes keeping the radio playing is fine. I like quiet, like country music that is relaxing and not loud."

dio. It's part of the culture, listen to their type of music along the way."

"Whatever plays on the ra-

ite songs, Arctic Monkeys and something more soothing. It depends on the weather."

"I would rather listen to Sirius radio. Then you can plug in whatever music or radio you like. For me, it would be R&B all the way."

WOULD YOU RATHER PLAY **GAMES THE WHOLE TRIP OR** TALK?

"I would play car games, like the one where you say a word and the other person has to guess which song is that."

"Both. During the car games, you can still talk, so it would be fun."

"Anything. Since it's going to be a long time to get there, we would have enough time to play, listen to the radio, talk or even watch some DVDs if we have a laptop."

the two But if I have to choose one, I would say car game. All of them are fun."

"I would go with a mix of

"I would rather talk and listen to the radio. I think I am a little more mature to engage a conversation."

Would you rather run out

"Have a flat tire. It's easy OF GAS OR HAVE A FLAT TIRE? to fix."

"Run out of gas. I don't know how to change a tire."

"Have a flat tire. I can always change that."

"Run out of gas. Well, depends on the distance, because if I run out of gas, I could go to a gas station and get some"

"Twenty hours straight. So I

"Sleep in a hotel. For com-

"I would rather have a flat tire. It's easy to fix."

WOULD YOU RATHER DRIVE PLE OF DAYS?

"I don't mind driving 20 **20 HOURS STRAIGHT OR DRIVE** hours straight. We could get rather get there."

"Ten hours per day. So I can op, look around. I like to drive. **10** HOURS A DAY FOR A COU- there faster. It's tiring, but I'd but it would be nice take turns." But if I have plenty of time,

"If I was trying to get there soon, then 20 hours per day. I would do 10 hours a day to check out the places."

"In a hotel or at somebody

can get it all out of the way and enjoy my time there."

"Ten hours per day. Twenty hours straight seems a little too much. And we would split the driving, also."

WOULD YOU RATHER SLEEP IN THE CAR OR STOP AT HOTELS?

"Sleep in a hotel with a pool or something, continental breakfast."

comfortable. After driving 10 hours, we would be pretty tired. It would be nice have a place to stay."

"Sleep in a hotel. It's more

else's, but I can't sleep in the car. It doesn't work."

fort, for food, for shower, to be warm."

"In a hotel. I am not an outdoors man. I need comfort, with a nice bed, somewhere with running water and electricity."

WOULD YOU RATHER EAT STOP FOR FOOD?

"Stop to eat food. In a long **SNACKS THAT YOU PACKED OR** trip like that, stopping at a different places to eat. Otherwise who wants to eat sandwiches the whole day?"

"I would definitely stop to eat on the way. Every place makes different food, and they taste different. I would like to try that."

"I would stop to buy food. It's part of the traveling, to taste whatever the people from different places are eating."

"Definitely stop to buy some food. I think I will pack just little snacks, maybe some water, chips, but definitely try everything around."

"Definitely stop in each place and eat some of their food, join some of the culture, tasting how their foods are."



Toledo Museum of Art celebrates long history of video games

BY VIVIAN ZAGO

Staff Writer

TOLEDO, Ohio - Video games have come a long way in the last four decades – and the proof is in an interactive display called "The Art of Video Games," at the Toledo Museum of Art.

Visitors can play five different games, like Pac-Man and Super Mario Brothers. The exhibition focuses on attractive visual effects and the creative use of new technologies.

"It was fun to see the interactivity," said Peter Hochgraf, 25, from Ann Arbor, a graphic design student at Washtenaw Community College and one of nine students from the college's Animation Club who visited the museum recently.

The exhibit includes 20 video consoles that span the ages from Atari to GameCube to Xbox to Wii.

"It was cool that it was really interactive. They could have shown up a little more where we were, where we are now, but still was pretty good,"

said Aric Pasciak, 22, of Ann Arbor, a 3-D animation student.

With a graphic timeline outlining the evolution of the games, it's possible to see the how much they've changed since 1970.

Chris Melissinos, 44, the curator of the museum, considers video games as more than something to play.

He expects that people leave the exhibition "with an understanding that video games are so much more than what they first thought. They may even be art," said Melissinos. He also hopes that some visitors will encounter a game that transports them back to their childhood, which indeed

"It was interesting to see the timeline of the games and remember some of the old games," said Hochgraf.

"It was a huge revisit to the childhood. That was fun," said Pasciak.

"It was pretty cool. I liked the fact that they have interactive games and different eras, starting with Pac-Man, then Super Mario, and they let you play

some of them," said Tom Reed, 22, of Ann Arbor, president of the Animation Club. "They showed completely different time zones and how the games were developed."

All the games have in common elements of illustration, orchestration and narrative.

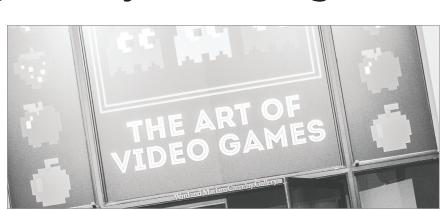
But some visitors felt something was missing from the exhibit.

"I was disappointed there wasn't more concept art. I would like to see more of the work behind the scenes," said Anna Hudzik, 25, of Ann Arbor, a computer animation student.

Hudzik also thinks that, since it is a museum, it could have showed more of the art behind video games.

"It was nicely presented to the public the way they did, but there isn't as much depth as I wanted to see," she said.

Hochgraf added,"It was interesting. Not quite what I expected. Since they call it Art of the Video Games, I was expecting more about concept art, how the games were made and things like that."



Visitors to the Toledo Museum of Art learn more about their favorite video games in The Art of Video Games, a temporary exhibition that will run through late September. VIVIAN PEREIRAI WASHTENAW VOICE

WHAT:

The Art of Video Games exhibition

WHERE:

Canaday Gallery at Toledo Museum of Art

> **HOW MUCH:** Admission is free

WHEN:

Tuesday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday, Friday: 10 a.m. to 5p.m. Saturday, Sunday: noon to 5 p.m. through Sept. 28

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

visit http://www.toledomuseum.org or call 419-255-8000

Student becomes Master, of Arts

Staff Writer

Before she was a professor of English and literature at Washtenaw Community College, Hava Levitt-Phillips was a 26-year-old freshman at the same school, waiting tables and weighing her options.

Her mother had worked as a teacher in New York City's Spanish Harlem, and her father was a retired physicist who worked in research and development at Ford Motor Company.

"I had come from really smart people who had done really college-y stuff," Levitt-Phillips said, "and I had put it off."

The WCC instructor had spent most of her early 20s traveling, waiting tables and tending bar.

"I loved my work; it was wonderful," Levitt-Phillips said. "You met so many people waiting tables and become a part of their lives in a nice way. After a couple of years, I really realized, man, I need some more shit to do with my brain."

With that epiphany, she enrolled at WCC, and from the very beginning, she had her sights set on a career in education.

"I had known from high school that I wanted to be a teacher," Levitt-Phillips said.

She attributes her love of learning and teaching to one of her earliest educational experiences at Ann Arbor's Community High School.

"When I went to Community,"

BY JON PRICE Levitt-Phillips said, "for me, it was an extraordinary experience.

> She said close relationships with instructors and small class sizes encouraged her to be herself and inspired her later in life to further her education.

> "It was a really great place to think interesting thoughts and asking interesting questions and do different, weird stuff," she said. "Teachers would really see what was valuable in that and support you in it. For me, that has always been so important."

> Doing things differently is something the 41-year-old lit teacher prides herself in. Students in her classes seem to appreciate her fresh approach to teaching. After finishing her bachelor's and master's degrees in English literature and writing at Eastern Michigan University, her journey came full circle when she returned to WCC to share her unique perspective on education with her students.

> "Hava typically gave the class creative freedom for most of the projects," said Meija Knafl, 17, who is majoring in biology. "She allowed people to come up with ideas and pitch them to the class to choose from."

> According to her students, they play a very active role in classroom discussion and the direction of the course. But for Levitt-Phillips, it's all part of a bigger lesson.

> "I believe an alive, working classroom is just key to the success of the work," she said. "I cannot teach in the sort of stand-in-the-front and talk by

myself. I mean, I could talk for days, as you know, but to be a lecture-only instructor is not a fit for me."

Students aren't the only ones who have taken notice of her effectual, yet alternative method of teaching.

"I've been deeply impressed with her energy, insight and enthusiasm," said Maryam Barrie, a fellow faculty member in the English department. "She is an enormous asset to our department, and, from the things I have heard from her students, a true gift in the classroom."

She married her husband, Sidney Levitt-Phillips, in 2006, and three years ago, the couple had their first child, Felix. Levitt-Phillips said she believes having her son has enriched her life and, in turn, made her a better educator.

"I think this is who I've been," Levitt-Phillips said, "and I think when I was waiting tables I was always hassling my kids who were waiting with me. They were probably like 'Jesus, what is wrong with this woman? I do not need a mother, and she is not old enough to be it."

The young people she works with now seem to have a better appreciation for the enthusiasm she brings to work with her.

"She was considerate, passionate and open to fresh ideas," Knafl said of her Introduction to Literature course. "I'd recommend this class and this teacher to anyone who enjoys writing, reading or sharing their ideas."



Hava Levitt-Phillips with former student CJ Snow at graduation. CJ SNOW | COURTESY PHOTO



WV: What is the most rewarding part of your career?

HLP: I mean, I'm a huge, fat nerd, man, I seriously get to do stuff that I really, really love, and that, I think, is important and helpful and good for the world. I get to do it with really, really delightful people, and I don't clean up any more puke, for the most part, and my shoulder doesn't hurt all the time from waiting tables.

WV: How do you spend your time when you're at home or away from work?

HLP: I really am just one of those tragic older parents. Just hanging out with my kid, like for real. We go to the park, we sit on the floor and we paint. We go to the water park. We went to the carnival, which was sweet. We blew up fireworks. Whatever,

WV: Now that you're a parent, do you see parallels between your teaching methods at home and in the classroom?

HLP: What's really important to me, for Felix, is really in a lot of ways the same thing I'm trying to do with my students. It's not what we teach; it's not the instruction we give,; it's not the dates or an author's name, it's not the meaning or motif. It's the experially smart, really caring. WCC fed me and kept me warm and ence. I provide opportunities to do stuff; I provide opportunities helped me grow, you know? to experience uncertainty. As a teacher, I provide opportunities to be uncomfortable; supported, but uncomfortable. With ambiguity, I do the same thing with him.

WV: What advice would you give to a young person who wanted to major in literature?

HLP: Dude, if you love it like that you should be doing it. In my experience, when we try to make ourselves do things we do not love, we do not do them well. I know a lot of people who took the classes they felt they should and wound up in careers they couldn't stand. Then they had to go back and change it all up later anyway.

WV: Do you feel that being a former student at WCC helps you relate to your pupils?

HLP: As a student/person, WCC was such a wonderful, supportive home for me. This is the place where I got to come back to school, rediscover my own brain, figure out that I could hang, academically speaking, and just figure out what I loved enough to work hard at. At every turn, I met instructors who were just devoted teachers, really high-level practitioners, re-

All this makes it just a huge honor to be able to come back here as a teacher, to do what I can to continue the tradition of excellence in caring and academics that supported me as a student. I'm not sure that it makes it easier for me to relate to my students, per se, though.

WORLD CUP, From B1

was sung in the chapel stages, we all remembered why we are known as the country of soccer.

Brazil was the only country to have competed in every World Cup, and we've already won five times. It was when the semifinal arrived, however, that we saw our dream of the sixth championship finish when we suffered a humiliating loss to Germany.

Five German goals scored in 30 minutes. A 7-1 loss by Brazil in front of their home fans. It was the worst possible nightmare watched by a stunned

crowd. That is what Brazil will always remember of this particular World Cup. It took only 93 hours to cause a sports trauma like no other. First, Neymar was out due to injury. Second, the Brazil-Germany game produced the biggest surprise in World Cup history.

And then, the loss of the third place game to the Netherlands. Everything went so terribly wrong.

On the other hand, this World Cup made some history by itself. There is no doubt that the 2014 World Cup was won by the best team. Germany was the champion for the fourth time with a goal in the 113th minute – one of the best games of the tournament. It was the first European team to win a World Cup in the Americas.

It was an interesting experience to watch the games in another country. It was nice to see people from other nationalities supporting and cheering for Brazil.

With all the diversity that we encounter here in Ann Arbor, I discovered that, yes, Americans love soccer

Some called this the best World Cup. As a Brazilian, that's difficult to

accept. But it was a relief to see that the Cup that happened in my country was well organized, and the Brazilian people were welcoming. On the top of all that, the soccer was attractive and dynamic.

I don't know how long it will take for us to recover and get over this World Cup, but I'm proud that my country pulled off a magnificent tournament.

Now, it's time to go back to real life.

ICC, From B1

of the 50 Most Valuable Sports Teams in 2013, Real Madrid and Manchester United top the list at No. 1 and No. 2, respectively, with total club values both exceeding 3 billion U.S. dollars. The highest valued American sports team was the New York Yankees, estimated at a mere \$2.3 billion.

Ann Arbor resident Ahmad Aggour, Ronaldo 27, feels that the support shown dur- (Portugal), ing the World Cup will translate into this European matchup.

"The World Cup obviously only brings hype to soccer a little bit in the U.S. once every four years," he said, "but having the Man. U. and Real Madrid game ... it will help keep the momentum going."

GROWING STAR POWER

By now, observant fans may recognize a few familiar faces. The new manager of Manchester United is Louis van Gaal, who led the Netherlands national team to a respectable thirdplace finish in the World Cup.

Also traveling with United for the ICC will be striker Wayne Rooney (England), midfielder Juan Mata (Spain), and goalkeeper David De

Gea (Spain). Noticeably absent from the roster is striker Robin van Persie (Netherlands), who has been granted a vacation after his team's deep run in the World Cup.

For Real Madrid, fans hope to see The World Cup internationobviously only brings al sensation Cristiano hype to soccer a little bit in the U.S. once every four years, but havstriker Karim ing the Man. U and Real Benzema Madrid game ... it will (France), dehelp keep the fender Sergio Ramos (Spain), momentum going. and goalkeeper

United plays in the English Premier League (EPL), the most-watched soccer league in the world, and is the most successful team in the league's history with 13 league titles.

Iker Casillas (Spain).

Aggour, however, will be sporting his Real jersey during the game.

"It's an iconic club - so is Man. U.," he said, "but I've always been a fan of the Spanish style of play."

Real plays in the top division of

the Spanish league system, known as "La Liga." Real has also won the most titles in its league with 32, but even more impressive is its 2014

> tle, making it the first club to win the prestigious inter-league tournament 10 times

UEFA Champions League ti-

- an achievement known as "La Decima."

BIG HOUSE, **BIGGER STAGE**

Ann Arbor seems eager to serve as an epicenter for the growth of the country's

- Ahmad Aggour support. The match on Aug. 2 was one of the first games on the ICC tour to sell out – which no venue was able to do last year - and it is by far the largest stadium with a listed capacity of 109,091 seats. Tickets for the game sold out just half an hour after they went on sale to the public.

> "I think it will be treated like a (University of Michigan) football Saturday," said Aggour. "Even people who don't have tickets – I'm sure

they at least want to be around the environment, even if they're not a fan of the game."

Birk disagrees and thinks the match will attract a more distinct crowd than what the college town is used to hosting.

"I think we're drawing from a greater population base than a traditional game." He believes that fans will not hesitate to travel from hubs such as Chicago and Columbus to catch the historic game.

WURST OF THE BEST

Favorite soccer hangouts, such as Conor O'Neill's, The Arena, and both local Buffalo Wild Wings locations, have hosted full crowds for the World

However, your best bet on Aug. 2 may be to try just outside of Ann Arbor - where the crowds and chaos won't affect your ability to take in the match.

Kelli Harden-Klenotic, manager of The Wurst Bar in Ypsilanti, said that, after the success of the World Cup, they will definitely be showing the game.

"We usually don't have the sound on TVs, but we did for every game," she said.

As for future soccer games, Harden-Klenotic said, "The World Cup was the first time we ever had people calling for soccer ... in four years, they'll definitely be calling me again."

2014 Guinness International **Champions Cup**

WHO:

Manchester United vs. Real Madrid

WHERE:

Michigan Stadium, Ann Arbor

WHEN:

Aug. 2, 4:06 p.m.

HOW MUCH: Tickets ranged from \$45-189, but are only available through resale sites now

WHERE TO WATCH: The Wurst Bar – 705 W. Cross

St., Ypsilanti

'Extinction' breathes new life into 'Transformers'

BY JAMES SAOUD Managing Editor

When Michael Bay's first "Transformers" movie was released in 2007, it was obvious he had created a franchise that would be incredibly lucrative for years to come.

Seven years and three box office hits later, Bay is still cranking out these massive, explosive and digitally enhanced blockbusters.

The only problem is, they haven't been very good.

"Transformers: Age of Extinction" marks the beginning of another trilogy of Transformers movies. With a new cast, including Mark Wahlberg, Stanley Tucci and John Goodman (voicing one of the new Autobots), it's safe to say Bay has made some very unexpected improvements on the series.

Though "Extinction" is far from flawless, Bay has taken out some of the more annoying aspects of the original trilogy, particularly the obnoxious and immature humor that flooded the first three.

This is also the first Transformers

WATCH DOGS

movie (actually, the first Michael Bay movie) that manages to feel somewhat self-aware.

The biggest flaw of the first three films was that they seemed to take themselves far too seriously for movies based on an '80s toy line.

However, this time around, the cast and filmmakers seem to actually be enjoying themselves as opposed to going through the motions and just trying to make the next summer movie extravaganza.

This was the first time a Transformers movie felt fun.

As I mentioned before, "Extinction" is not flawless. And it's hard to ignore the fact the film is nearly three hours long.

Though it is more fun, that does not justify it running so long. Especially with the lack of plot and character development that these movies require.

People pay to see these kinds of movies to see robots beat each other up. And that's fine. While this may be the first time Bay realizes that is why people go see his movies, he doesn't seem to understand that we never asked for three hours of it.

If these movies ran an hour and 35

minutes or so, they would be far more enjoyable, but by the end of the film, I felt exhausted and dizzy. Certain points of the film felt like a 7-year-old's toy chest was being dumped on my head. Though I mean that as a negative point, it's hard to not think that's the effect Bay was trying to convey when you have cars and buildings and giant transforming robots coming toward you in IMAX 3D.

"Age of Extinction" may not be perfect, but it's nice to see these films heading in a positive

C+

direction after the first three seemed to just be getting worse and worse.

Yeah, it's still stupid. Yeah, it's still too loud.

And yeah, it's still way too long. But at

least in the newest installment the Transformers series manages to recognize itself for what it is: stupid, loud and unnecessarily massive.



TRANSFORMERSMOVIE.COM

Long-awaited game faces the hype

BY JAMES SAOUD Managing Editor

When Ubisoft announced "Watch Dogs" nearly four years ago, gamers around the world were eager and excited to get their hands on a

B

Rating: M

Genre: Action/Open World

Developer: Ubisoft

game that looked as if it should be titled along the lines of "Grand Theft Auto with

Computers." After multiple delays in development, Ubisoft finally released "Watch Dogs" in May. The game was

plagued with an unachievable hype due to its extended development time, and upon its initial release many eager fans were left feeling underwhelmed.

This game also faces the unfair comparison of pairing it next to "Grand Theft Auto V," released last year. Though it shares a similar bigcity setting, open world gameplay options, and features a few similar missions (lots of shootouts and car chases), it really is something different altogether.

"Watch Dogs" is set in Chicago in the near future. Chicago is hooked up to a singular operating system that seems to control nearly every aspect of its infrastructure. Though the premise is silly and unbelievable, being able to manipulate this infrastructure is actually the game's biggest asset.

However, the game starts slowly. The storyline is introduced bit-by-bit, and it's hard to go even 15 minutes before the game starts telling you "how" or "why" you should be doing something. This feels fairly intrusive on the developers' part at first, especially for gamers who like to figure things out on their own. However, as the game continues it becomes evident some of these intrusive tutorials were crucial for later gameplay.

As the story continues, it only feels less and less developed. A lot of characters that seem important never show up again and the abrupt ending feels like a massively missed opportunity

Aside from the disappointing storytelling in "Watch Dogs," the actual gameplay is wonderful.

The best parts of the game are the missions and interactions that happen aside from the game's storyline, and because the game features an entirely open world, you can enjoy these side missions whenever you'd like.

Particularly fun are the missions that include cleaning out gang hideouts, preventing hold-ups and robberies, and chasing down old men who run an underground human-trafficking circle in Chicago.

Though the game could have never lived up to the impossible expectations that gamers thrust upon it, it does feature some very memorable moments and many unbelievably fun missions.

GOLD From B1

hat he invited us to his home to taste bread made in his earth oven - was very generous and a real treat," is how one participant described the experience in the "Earth Oven Workshop."

A success for Stevenson would be if the excitement pushed a CE student to take credit classes to go more in-depth with the subject matter.

"WCC has been extremely flexible," Gold said. "Not a lot of places would embrace foreign words like permaculture."

The word and the concept are not as arcane as Gold expresses.

In the Technical Industrial building on the WCC campus, a permaculture exhibit is on display in the hallway across from The Washtenaw Voice newsroom. The presentation interconnects the relationships between food, energy, water, infrastructure, transportation and waste.

WCC students earn Emmy nominations

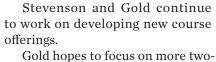
The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences student production nominees were announced on April 17 and Washtenaw Community College's Digital Video Production Department received nine nominations.

Nominated students were: James Militzer, Mike Chu, Jeremy Liesen, Mike Kelly, Shane Law, Ben Armes, and Justin Erion.

Liesen and Erion were both nominated for two awards.

The winners will be announced on May 17 at the Detroit Public Television studios in Wixom.

- James Saoud



part courses, in which participants build on their skills. Gaining the knowledge in a structured class is important, but having access to instructors afterward is just as important, as Gold states, "learning continues after class."

Fall brochures for Community Enrichment will be available mid-August.

Class schedules and registration will be available online July 21.



The Jazz Ensemble played at Baker's Keyboard Lounge in Detroit. VIVIAN ZAGO | WASHTENAW VOICE

WCC Jazz Ensemble delights Father's Day crowd at Baker's Keyboard Lounge

BY VIVIAN ZAGO Staff Writer

Washtenaw Community College's Jazz Ensemble made an encore appearance, by popular demand, at the world's oldest jazz club in Detroit, Baker's Keyboard Lounge,

in a Father's Day celebration. This was the second time that the band played at the same place where great jazz masters like Myles Davis, Wes Montgomery, Ella Fitzgerald

and many more performed before. "After the first time they played here, even my staff was asking for them to come back," said Randall

Mosley, manager of Baker's. The idea is to showcase up-andcoming student jazz musicians, ac-

cording to Mosley. John Lawrence, chair of the WCC Performing Arts Department,

is also the instructor responsible for making the performances happen. Lawrence believes that this partnership between the school and the

club will be rewarding for music

students.

"It is a great opportunity for the school, for them to develop their skills and try out in front of the audience," said Lawrence.

The band is composed by four students enrolled in the Music Production Engineering certificate program at WCC.

"They represent the school, not only in Washtenaw County, but also in the Detroit area," said Lawrence. "I'm really proud of these boys."

The guys met in a business class. After a jam session at the Student Center, Lawrence invited them to play together.

"These guys are the top of the class," said Lawrence.

Shawn W. Donaldson, 39, is the band's guitarist, recording artist and arranger. Donaldson is visually impaired, but this didn't stop him. He started to writing music at the age

"I love jazz, and I am very happy for this opportunity to play here," said Donaldson.

William Bennett, 21, is the pianist. He has been playing piano since age 2 and composing since age 5.

Playing professionally since the age of 12, Bennett performs in many styles, from classical to rock and roll.

"I am much honored to be able to play here, where lots of important people played before," said Bennett. Paul Goff-Stoner, 26, is the band's

drummer. Goff-Stoner has been studying the drums for 14 years. For him, it's really cool to play on the same stage as Myles Davis and others played before.

"The sky is the limit," said Goff-Stoner, hoping that the band will continue to improve and play professionally one day.

Rafael Freitas, 29, from Brazil, is the bass player. He graduated this year in Music Production Engineering. He start to play guitar at age 13, but has only been playing bass for four years.

Freitas believes that what makes the performances special "is the mix between the Brazilian and American

music." "It is interesting for me, being from another country and having this

connection," said Freitas. "Everyone has its own style and tone, but, at the end, everything fits perfectly.

"It is nice to play at the same stage of my idols. I just want to thank WCC and John Lawrence for this amazing opportunity."

The boys added business with passion for the music, making the audience pretty happy with the concert.

"I was impressed. They are smooth, obviously talented," said Mosley. "The customers love them. People like to see young people doing well."

"It's my first time here, and I love them," said Baker's patron Pat McLamore, from Detroit.

"They certainly are playing what the audience wants to hear," said Joe Altman, 36, from Ann Arbor. "It's pure jazz."

Solange Barnard, Rafael Freitas' mother, was really proud of her son.

"Fantastic," Barnard said. "I am the No. 1 fan.'

Added Mosley, "They were

New Digital Painting course aims at developing stand-outs

BY EJ STOUT
Managing Editor

As the graduate pool becomes more saturated with creative applicants, it becomes increasingly important to diversify one's talents and stand out from the crowd.

This semester saw the introduction of a new Digital Painting course offered in the graphic design program.

As instructor John Dinser considered the advanced Photoshop practices he was prepared to teach, he realized he was interested in developing much more than just technical prowess in his students.

The hybrid course utilizes concepts and techniques from traditional painting and applies them within a digital format.

Typically, classes in art or design are entirely separate disciplines at Washtenaw Community College. With a background in both traditional painting as well as commercial illustration, Dinser hopes to bridge that gap.

"It's all about design as well. Instead of designing stuff with type, you're designing shapes, images," Dinser said. "It all fits together like a puzzle.

Sometimes students think it's two different things ... it's the same thing. You're designing an image that's made up of basic shapes that ends up being redrawn and redrawn and redrawn, until they turn into characters or backgrounds."

Ben Ellsworth, 19, a graphic design student from Saline, was eager to enroll in the new course.

"It gives us a really unique chance to think about concept and real-world application, which I think the whole graphic design program has done very well," Ellsworth said. "But this is unique in that it's an illustration class rather than just a graphic design class. It's a different way of approaching things."

Ellsworth, who has had previous experience with Photoshop, says that the greatest takeaway has been Dinser's focus on strong concept development.

"He does this because he's really trying to push that it's the quality of thought over the quality of work ... what will make you stand out is your ideas," he said.

Fellow graphic design major Marc Pardo, 18, notes that the painting aspect should not intimidate anyone, regardless of background.

"One of the biggest benefits is going into this class and being able to start painting at any skill level," the Ann Arbor resident said. "Even if you aren't good at drawing ... you can still make use of the skills you have."

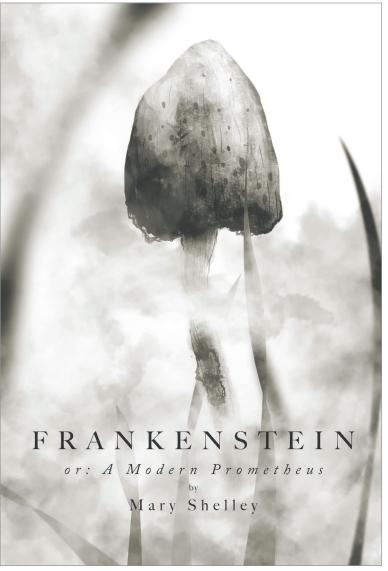
Despite being a non-required course with early start times over the summer, the digital painting class attracted a dedicated group of students. Both Pardo and Ellsworth feel that the class is very comfortable, easy going and free from judgment.

Unlike many graphic design courses, Dinser has implemented class critiques earlier in the concept development stages.

"It's that critique in the middle that really helps," Ellsworth said, "because otherwise people will be moving into Photoshop with a bad idea."

Overall, it is Dinser's focus on initial concepts rather than technical renderings that has stuck with his students the most.

"That the first idea isn't the best idea," Ellsworth said. "And you have to think of a lot of ideas before you can throw on the crap and get a good one."



Book cover design for "Frankenstein," illustrated by graphic design student Ben Ellsworth. The piece uses the imagery of a mushroom to illustrate the grotesque idea of life that is born from death. BEN ELLSWORTH | COURTESY ILLUSTRATION

Photoshop: Learn it at home, or in the classroom?



SANAA NAEEM

Go at your own pace, find your own style

If you had the choice to take a class to learn something or figure it out for yourself, which would you choose?

I ask because there's a new Photoshop class at Washtenaw, a class that teaches digital painting. That's not the intended use for the thing, but artists have been using Photoshop to color their pictures for well over a decade. Now there's an official class at WCC to teach you the whats and hows. As someone who is self-taught in the use of Photoshop, I would say you're better off figuring it out on your own.

The most obvious reason is that you save money by not taking a class and paying for expensive books, but there's more to it than that. Teaching yourself Photoshop (and by extension, many other skills) opens up a whole hall of doors.

For one, your pace is *the* pace. If you need to take your time with a certain technique, take it. There's no rush and no deadline. You won't have to speed through an assignment, which might affect your comprehension of the topic.

In fact, sometimes we can remember things better when we find them out for ourselves as opposed to being told them. Of course, a person will

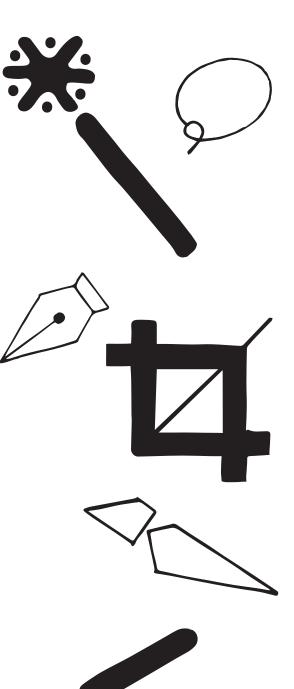
remember and forget some things, but the essentials will stick, most likely. Here's another thing DIY could be the perfect companion to developing a personal style. Without set rules, you're forced to make your own. Playing off your strengths and weaknesses, exploring whatever influences you and putting it all together is a method that breeds uniqueness I would say, much easier than most constructed syllabi would.

Last but not least, there's something amazing about discovery. There's much to be said for figuring out a trick after struggling, but the accidental findings can be especially rewarding.

Discovery through mishaps and play beget fulfillment more often than not. That "What does this do? Hey, that works" moment along with the "I finally got that thing to work" moment can be some of the most gratifying events of an artisan's evolution.

It's probably appropriate to add that I haven't been to this class, nor have I seen much about it. For all I know, it's a great, reasonably flexible class that's a good deal for the growth of digital colorists.

This is only my subjective take on the matter. That being said, I think these points are worth a thought, and I hope you'll think through them and more when you're considering classes in art and design.





EJ STOUT estout@wccnet.

Classroom mirrors real world work

The path to success is never paved – particularly when that path meanders through creative or artistic endeavors. But regardless of how you define success, at some point you still must decide how to pursue it.

Many artists rely exclusively on teaching themselves without pursuing outside sources. While there is always the need for self-initiation, many have not considered the key benefits of spending the extra time and money to access traditional education.

First, you are investing in a community of peers. Surrounding yourself with like-minded people is a strong step toward fostering any passion.

It is important to find and connect with people who share the same values and goals as you. Without a circle of peers to view and critique your work, how do you expect to grow and progress?

Furthermore, once you have gained the respect of other artists, you now have a built-in network to help you expand your craft within the industry.

Second:,you expose yourself to real world situations. As a self-taught artist, you work by setting your own boundaries. Sizes and colors and emotions are dictated by nothing other than your current mood. While this might help on one's path of self-exploration, it is unrealistic in terms of real-world client projects.

Sure, the assignment from your instructor may seem tedious – you can only use a limited color palette, and you're required to present three draft options before moving forward. But those are exactly the type of limitations that clients will impose on you. You should thank your instructor for the practical constraints.

Being forced to work within boundaries is a reality that one does not encounter as a self-taught artist. Understanding how to creatively use obstacles to your benefit is an invaluable skill that defines success for many in the creative industries.

Finally, instructors serve to shape your growth as an artist.

No matter what stage you're at in the learning process, there is always someone who knows more than you. It is only through continued discourse with mentors that you are able to soak up new wisdoms as an artist. While these mentors exist in many forms, one would be foolish not to take advantage of those who are willingly offering their services for your success.

Allowing yourself to seek out new techniques and time-tested concepts may be the very curiosity that propelled you to enter a creative field in the first place. Don't sacrifice the opportunity and challenge of traditional education for the comfort of your own home.

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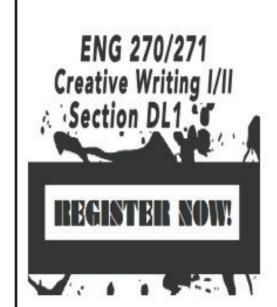
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A thing of beauty is







COM 130: Introduction to Mass COMMUNICATION

COM 150: Introduction to Radio

COM 155: SCRIPTWRITING FOR **BROADCAST ARTS**

COM 160: VOICE AND ARTICULATION

Semester!!!

the Fall **201**4

WHY DO THEY HATE US?

From the KKK to the Weather Underground to the Order to ALF and ELF to Al-Qaida and Al-Qaida wannabes, terrorist have threatened and used violence against innocent people to obtain political objectives.



DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM CJT 170

TUESDAY & THURSDAY 2:00-3:25 P.M.

This course will look at the roots, including psychological, sociological, religious, and cultural, of terrorism, as well as the groups and lone wolves.

We will study how and what terrorists strike, and how the good guys have hit back, and what can be done to neutralize terrorists.

CAN THEY DO THAT?

Are you thinking about Law School?

For more information stop by LA130 or contact Allison Fournier at aefournier@wccnet.ed

IS THAT LEGAL?

Register for Fall of 2014 EVERYDAY LAW, CJT 154 Monday & Wednesday 12:30-1:55 p.m.

ISN'T THERE A LAW AGAINST THAT?

Want to know more about what your rights are?

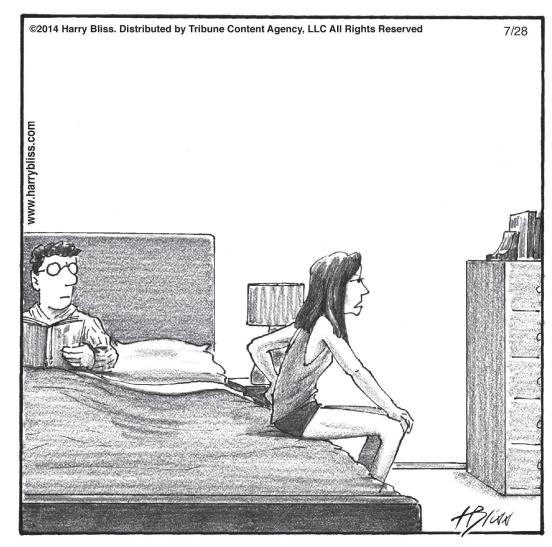




Everyone welcome! Register today for Fall classes!

- WCC has top-flight instructors, the most up-to-date facilities, and the lastest technology. The ΛBR [Λuto Body Repair) program offers classes in refinishing, metal work, collision repair, customizing, and frame repair.

- WCC also offers certificates in CRT (Collision Repair Techonology) which prepares students for working in the collision repair industry and CCC (Custom Cars and Concepts) which prepares students for building custom / concept cars.



"Ugh. My hip hurts, my lower back aches, and my wrist is killing me. Stupid yoga!"

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ACROSS

- 1. Put some pizazz in
- 6. Florida resort, familiarly
- 10. _ America Competition 14. Speedy Amtrak train
- 15. The Bard's river
- 16. "A time to cast away stones" Bible bk.
- 17. Illegally imported goods
- 19. "Star Wars" princess
- 20. Come up
- 21. Dada artist Jean
- 23. Director Affleck
- 24. Mercedes sedan category
- 26. Squatting exercise 28. Illuminated
- 29. Author Victor
- 31. Hard to find
- 32. BLT spread 34. Marshy wasteland
- 36. Rage
- 37. Enchant
- 40. 2014 French Open winner Rafael
- 43. Opposite of pass
- 44. Fraternal gp. with an antlered ani-
- mal in its logo 48. Brought to mind
- 50. Cruise stop
- 52. Delta rival: Abbr.
- 53. Wanderer
- 55. Irritable
- 57. Braz. neighbor 58. WWII mil. zone
- 59. Cobbler's supply
- 60. Christian of fashion 62. Tuxedo accessory
- 66. What Clearasil treats 67. Norway's capital
- 68. Davis of "Thelma & Louise"
- 69. Requirement
- 70. Situation to be cleaned up
- 71.Okays

- 1. Calif.'s ocean 2. Author Umberto
- 3. Football ref's call
- 4. Extreme
- 5. County counterpart in Louisiana 6. Slugger Ruth

DOWN

- 7. Eggs in a clinic
- 8. Sir Arthur __ Doyle 9. Guitarist Segovia
- 10. Diner owner on "Alice"
- 11. Titanic sinker 12. Chemistry or physics
- 13. Libel's spoken equivalent
- 18. Take for granted 22. Nut in a pie
- 24. Shade tree
- 25. Covert govt. group
- 26. Drink brand with a pitcher for a
- 27. Quaint weekend getaway, briefly
- 30. 18-hole outing 33. Honshu port
- 35. Score-producing MLB stats
- 38. Academy frosh
- 39. "Haven't made up my mind yet"
- 40. Reno resident
- 41. Greed
- 42. Danged
- 45. Chases after
- 46. Shade tree
- 47. Tarzan portrayer Ron
- 49. __bubble: Internet stock phenomenon
- 51. Get-up-and-go 54. Hopeless
- 56. "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?"
- playwright Edward
- 59. Managed care gps.
- 61. Chianti color
- 63. D.C. United's org.
- 64. Opposite of SSW
- 65. Opponents of defense lawyers: Abbr.

CLASSIFIEDS

Students and WCC employees: Classified ads in *The Voice* are free. **Local business owners:** Looking for help? Post your free help wanted ads in *The Voice*.

Send ads to thewashtenawvoice@gmail.com.

Note: Deadline for the August 25, 2014 issue is Tuesday, August 19, at 5 p.m.

FOR SALE

HARLEY-DAVIDSON ROAD KING, **1994,** with just 7,500 gently ridden original miles. Completely original except for a few really nice add-ons. Perfect condition. \$10,500 or best offer. Call: 989-390-9860. **SERVICES**

VOLUNTEER TUTORS: Washtenaw Literacy needs volunteers to tutor adults in basic reading, writing, math and English as a Second Language. If in Help change lives – one word at a time! Contact info@washtenawliteracy.org or call 734-879-1320.

NEED HEALTH CARE? Are you between the ages of 12-22? Contact the Corner Health Center at 734-484.3600 or visit online at: www.cornerhealth.org.

HELP WANTED SEASONAL PART-TIME POSITIONS

AVAILABLE: Canton Leisure Services is now hiring for seasonal part-time positions that start in April-June 2014. Positions may include: lifeguards, summer camp counselors and supervisors, therapeutic recreation camp staff, special events coordinators, park laborers, Pheasant Run Golf Course staff, Canton Sports Center staff and more. If you enjoy a fast-paced,

exciting work environment, don't miss this opportunity to join a great team this summer! Students, here's your chance to gain valuable work experience in your field of study. Apply today at www.canton-mi.org/ humanresources/jobs.asp. For more information, call 734-394-5260

Below is a sample of recent employment want ads which have been posted with WCC Career Services. Students are invited to read these ads and to contact Career Services to find out how to apply for the openings. Career Services is located in ML 104. For more information, phone 734-677-5155, email careers@wccnet.edu, or visit www.wccnet.edu/careerconnection/.

MEDICAL ASSISTANT. Assists in the examination and treatment of patients. Responsibilities include tracking patient information, documenting to the electronic medical record, assistance with office procedures and testing, administering medications and providing patient and caregiver education. Greets and escorts patient and other guests to examination room. Measures appropriate vital signs, such as pulse rate, temperature, blood pressure, weight, and height records information, and

obtains information regarding the reason for the patient visit. Performs diagnostic tests, venipuncture, and administers prescribed medications as directed.

ENTRY-LEVEL WELDER. Steel fabricating and erection company interested in entry level welders for full time positions with on-site training. Must be a welding program graduate.

CHILD CARE ASSISTANT. The Rec&Ed School-Age Child Care Program is hiring child care assistants at multiple AAPS elementary school locations. Seeking reliable, caring adults who have experience working with K-5 children.

LIFEGUARD. The Howell Area Aquatic Center is seeking certified lifeguards for part-time employment. Competitive pay and flexible hours, Monday through Sunday.

SECURITY OFFICER: Valor Security Services at the Briarwood Mall is seeking applicants for a part-time Security Officer position. At least 18 years of age, valid driver's license, flexible scheduling, clean motor vehicle driving record, pass a local/ national background test, pass a drugscreening test. Must have a high school diploma or GED.

CNA, HHA, CAREGIVER. Seeking compassionate HHAs (Home Health Aides) and CNAs (Certified Nursing Assistants) to care for our clients in their homes in Washtenaw and Livingston Counties. Work as many or as few hours as desired. Services include companion care (meal preparation, light housekeeping, safety and companionship, shopping and special outings) and personal care (bathing, feeding, dressing assistance and medication reminders).

REGISTERED/CERTIFIED DENTAL ASSISTANT. Seeking a full-time dental assistant to join our team. The dental assistant will be responsible for maintaining exceptional patient care, four-handed assisting, chart writing, supply ordering, patient follow up, OSHA and MIOSHA standards.

BARISTA. High energy baristas who love people needed for part-time positions. Greet customers, take orders, prepare food and beverages, maintain the facility, and make sure customers have an exceptional experience.

GRAPHICS AND MARKETING COORDINATOR. Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea is seeking a design savvy, enthusiastic, and diligent individual to create, implement, and manage graphics, marketing strategies, and operational materials for our stores, products and franchise objectives. This position will produce materials that support our existing brand strategy and designs.

PRODUCT ENGINEER. Provide ongoing production support to customers. General engineering knowledge necessary for product engineering work, including

statics and strength of materials. Create and revise drawings and design calculations. Coordinate with the test lab to accomplish required approval testing. Prepare reports for customers. Meet with customers and manufacturing plant personnel to transfer information.

ASSEMBLY. Responsibilities include part-quality inspection, sub and complete product assembly build, final product inspection and order packing. Qualified candidates will be quick learners with a high school diploma, technical aptitude and strong attention to detail.

AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIAN. Unique opportunity with a Tier 1 full-service provider of automotive vehicles, parts and engineering solutions. This is a full-time position with pay commensurate with experience and certifications. Time-anda-half starting after forty hours. Chosen mechanic will be working on new vehicles in a state of the art facility.

REHABILITATION ASSOCIATE. Work with our diverse clientele who have all acquired a traumatic brain injury. As a result of their injuries, our clients have a wide range of needs. Assist in any aspect of rehabilitation and care. Some job duties may entail assisting in personal care such as meal preparation, feeding, bathing, toileting and changing our clients who face challenges in performing these tasks alone. Also supervise clients with community interactions such as recreational events, appointments, school, church and vocational job placements.

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ARYGROVE COLLEGE

On Monday, August 18, 2014, Marygrove College is hosting an Open House Event for New and Transfer Students and *we want you to attend!*

This event will give you the opportunity to walk our campus, meet our admissions staff, and learn about all the **financial aid and scholarship opportunities** available to you:

- Did you know that **you may qualify for 60–100 percent of your tuition in gift aid?**That's financial aid you don't have to pay back!
- Students with financial need and a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 qualify to receive up to 100% of their tuition costs in financial aid **WITHOUT ANY LOANS**.

Two time slots available for your convenience: 9 a.m. to Noon - OR - 1 to 5 p.m.

Signing up for the event is easy!
All you have to do is stop by our website...

Marygrove.edu/transfer2014

Fill out the RSVP form – and we'll take care of the rest!

We look forward to meeting you!

NEW & TRANSFER STUDENT @PEN HOUSE