



## Faculty union boss: Keep our students at heart

*President of the Washtenaw Community College Education Association Union, Jennifer Baker, talks about how educational unions are different from others and reflects on the importance of a strong and stable union that is focused on student needs in an interview with Voice Editor Maria Rigou.*



**Washtenaw Voice: What is the state of the faculty union today? If you had to complete the sentence, the faculty union is. . . what?**

**Jennifer Baker:** Well, I would say that the faculty union is very strong currently. I am privileged to work with a really talented group. They're very student-focused, they're a dedicated group of people. . . You know, we are the largest full-time employee group at the college, and we are also the most stable.

It's pretty rare when a full-time faculty member moves on to another position. Most of us dedicate our entire professional lives to instruction. So yeah, it's a great place to be... (I would say it's) strong and stable. It's good for the college.

**WV: Last academic year was a year of tense relationships. How is the relationship with the administration today?**

**JB:** I would say that it's pretty stable right now. In our meetings with the administration we're encouraging transparency in college initiatives and we're hoping to see more of that. Obviously inclusion of faculty input on things that are meaningful and important to students, anything that has to do with students. I mean, the faculty are the group that faces off to students and has the most direct impact.

**WV: How does the current relationship differ from the relationship with other, previous administrations? I imagine that no relationship is perfect...**

**JB:** Sure, sure. It's interesting... I would say that, historically, our union has had a pretty non-traditional relationship with the administration and by that I mean... a lot of management-labor relationships are characterized by kind of an adversarial approach, and it's not been our history at all at Washtenaw. We've had a very good cooperative and collaborative relationship historically with the administration.

So it's been always a lot about sitting down and problem-solving and focusing together on student success. I think that's one thing that ideally differentiates educational unions from perhaps other unions in the private sector, is that we absolutely can and should have the common goal of the student at heart.

BAKER Q&A  
CONTINUED A6

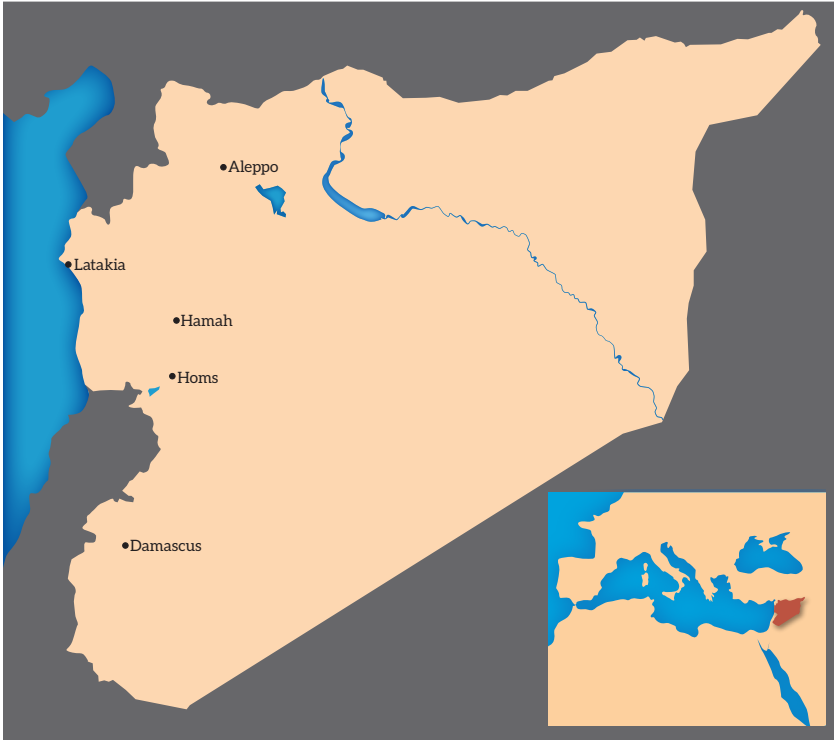


ILLUSTRATION BY PETER HOCHGRAF THE WASHTENAW VOICE

### FAST FACTS ON SYRIA

**Capital:** Damascus  
**Population:** 22,530,746  
**Primary Export:** Oil  
**Top Religions:** Sunni, Alawite, Druze  
**Largest Cities:** Aleppo, 2,132,100; Damascus, 1,711,000; Homs, 652,609; Latakia, 383,785  
**Life Expectancy:** 70  
**Monetary Classification:** Lower middle income

Sources: International Monetary Fund, World Bank, National Geographic, Culture Grams and the Syrian Census

#### Cool Facts:

Syria is roughly the size of Florida. The average summer temperature is 100 degrees Fahrenheit in the desert and 10 degrees cooler along the coast. Aleppo, the largest city, and Damascus, are two of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. Syria has been led by many different rulers, including: Alexander the Great in 33 BC, the Roman Empire in 64 BC, the Ottoman Empire in 1516, and France from about 1920 until 1945.

## Syrian conflict not so distant for some Washtenaw students

Some want U.S. intervention, others not so sure

By DAVID FITCH  
Staff Writer

Omar Alazem is no stranger to the atrocities of the Syrian conflict. And he says that it is not solely the responsibility of the United States to be of help to those suffering.

"Some people say, 'It's none of our business. We're not the world's police,'" said Alazem, 17, the son of Syrian-born parents and a math and science major at Washtenaw Technical Middle College. "But as humans we should help each other."

Clint Ward, a 43-year-old business major, is no stranger to fighting those battles when America has gone to war in that part of the world in recent years. The former Marine and veteran of the Gulf War in 1991 says that the cycle of United States intervention is one that cannot indefinitely continue.

"You can't go around picking all these fights and keep expecting the same people to do your dirty work for

you," he said. "That's not fair. That's not right."

But when a dictator launches a chemical attack on his own people – as Bashar al-Assad was accused of doing on Aug. 21, when more than 1,400 Syrians died – somebody has to do something, Alazem says.

"If someone is being killed, I don't think it's right just to stand by for 2½ years when a whole country is in civil war and innocent people are being killed and women being raped and children are being gassed," he said. "I don't think it's right to stand by and watch like the whole world has been doing. . ."

Nor does Fahad Ottaifa, 17, an auto body repair major and native of Yemen who has close ties to those under attack in Syria.

"I know a few friends that live in Syria, three of them moved out of Syria and went back to Egypt," said Ottaifa, a WTMU student from Ypsilanti. "But two of them are still in Syria and one of them is completely paralyzed because of the bombings."

SYRIA  
CONTINUED A6

## WELCOME DAY



CJ SOUTH THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Hundreds of students strolled Community Park during Welcome Day, sponsored by Student Development and Activities on Sept 10. Here they line up for pizza, one of many freebies offered up by dozens of college departments and local businesses.

## Windows 8 upgrade: frustration, confusion

By ALAINA O'CONNOR  
Staff Writer

If you walk into the Computer Commons and log on to one of the PCs, you may notice something different.

"When I first came in here I was confused," said Danielle Sataya, a 24-year-old business student from Ypsilanti. "I'm not really good with computers, so there's definitely been a learning curve for me."

Sataya's sentiments are typical among students, faculty and staff members who are confused, and in some cases frustrated, by WCC's migration to Microsoft's Windows 8 operating system.

"I'm not a fan of Windows 8," said Tyler Brown, 20, a liberal arts transfer from Ann Arbor. "I don't really use it except in some of my classes."

When asked if the operating system affected his ability to do class work, Brown said, "at first it was kind

of confusing. I'm a Mac person, but I haven't had any major issues so far."

Others wondered about the timing of the transition.

"I'm surprised they upgraded when they did," said math instructor David Wilson, 37, of Ann Arbor, also a Mac user. "Personally, I would have waited on the conversion."

"A major issue for me is the way Windows 8 handles .pdfs. When I save a .pdf from a Mac and try to open it here on a Windows 8 computer, it just

isn't happening. So, that's frustrating," said Wilson.

"Most people get a little nervous when using something new, especially when it comes to technology," said David Robinson, a 41-year-old IT contractor from Ann Arbor. "But, like anything else, the more you use it the easier it gets."

One of the main complaints of the

WINDOWS 8  
CONTINUED A5





WHAT DO YOU SEE?

**Walsh grads see great old brands up to new tricks.**

We love our pets. In 2012, Americans spent \$53 billion on pet food, supplies, over-the-counter medicine, vet care, and designer products like Paul Mitchell dog shampoo, Omaha Steaks pet treats, and Harley Davidson collars. What pets are most popular? Freshwater fish, then cats and dogs and birds, oh my.

**Walsh grads see business in everything, and impact great companies everywhere. See more at [livebreathebusiness.org/DogTreat](http://livebreathebusiness.org/DogTreat). Classes start September 25.**

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**COLLEGE experience!**  
**with Student Development and Activities**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Making Strides: Breast-Cancer Awareness Walk**

Raise money and awareness for breast-cancer research. Sign-up for our team: WCC Wolfpack. The walk will take place on WCC's campus on Saturday, October 26 at 9 a.m.

<http://tinyurl.com/WCCMakingStrides2013>

**Moving Planet Day**

Pledge to ditch your car in lieu of earth-friendly transportation.

Pledge here:

<http://tinyurl.com/MovingPlanet2013>

And then drop by Student Activities on Tuesday, September 24 to receive a free goodie bag if you have followed through on your pledge.

**Free Cider and Donuts**

Celebrate Fall with this tasty treat!

September 26  
Noon-1 p.m.

SC Community Room

**Ticket: Greenfield Village and Henry Ford Museum Trip**

Friday, October 18  
Only \$15

Go back in time and learn about important milestones in our history! Ticket includes van transportation, both museum admissions, and lunch at Mongolian BBQ!

**Ticket: Miss Saigon**

At Fisher Theatre  
October 3  
8 p.m.  
Only \$30!

Available at the Cashier's Office, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the SCB, M-F, 8:30 am.-4:00 p.m.

**Talent Show Auditions**

Wednesday, October 9  
6 p.m.-9 p.m.

Towsley Auditorium  
Do you have talent that you want to show off? Prove it as the Talent Show auditions! Sign up at:  
<http://tinyurl.com/WCCTalentNOV2013>

**Lunch with the President**

Win lunch with WCC's President, Dr. Bellanca. Lunches will be at various times throughout the semester. Sign-up here:

<http://tinyurl.com/wcclunch>  
contest

**Upcoming Sports Opportunities!**

Tryout for a team:

- Basketball (men's and women's)
- Ice Hockey (coed)
- Running (coed)
- Wrestling (coed)

Or register for various intramural sports:

- Sand Volleyball
- Kickball
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Quidditch
- Badminton
- Golf
- AND MORE!!!

For all information and registrations stop by SC116, call us at 734-973-3720 or email [elemm@wccnet.edu](mailto:elemm@wccnet.edu)

**Keep in Touch! Instagram: WCCSDA, Facebook: Washtenaw CC and <http://tinyw.cc/sda>**





The Health and Fitness Center needs a new temperature control system — soon.

# HFC faces shutdown without new \$150K temperature control system

By NATALIE WRIGHT  
Features Editor

The Health and Fitness Center could see “downtime” if a new temperature control system is not installed soon, warns Damon Flowers, vice president of Facilities Development and Operations.

The building’s Honeywell system is programmed to restrict the college’s facilities staff from making necessary changes and requires a billable visit by one of the company’s technicians, Flowers explained to Washtenaw’s Board of Trustees at its Sept. 10 meeting.

The pressing issue, he said, is that

there are only two of these technicians trained on the building’s particular system, which is “becoming functionally obsolete.”

So when something goes wrong, it can be hard to get a visit from them right away. If the issue is not addressed soon, the building may have to be shut down temporarily at some point, he said.

The proposed solution is to install a new system by Siemens – a system that the WCC’s staff can control. This system, which is already installed in several other buildings on campus, is accessible and changeable, and the facilities staff is already trained on it, Flowers said.

The project’s \$150,000

budget would come out of the Deferred Maintenance Fund.

When asked by the board why administrators didn’t foresee these issues when the system was installed seven years ago, Flowers said that they had relied on the “expertise of the builders” in choosing a system.

The switch between systems would be gradual, so as not to interrupt the building’s activities, he said.

Siemens would work in three phases, replacing seven different systems within the building, including the boiler system, air-handling units and the hot-water system, according to the company’s proposal.

The contract will be presented to trustees for action on Sept. 24.

# Not all high school graduates are ready for college, ACT says

By MARIA RIGOU  
Editor

A third of this year’s high school graduates are not ready for college-level classes, as reported by American College Testing, the testing company that administers ACT and ACT Compass tests nationwide.

But according to Linda Blakey, vice president of Student and Academic Services at Washtenaw Community College, this is nothing new.

“We’ve always had a fair number of students who come to enroll to college and aren’t ready for college (level) classes,” Blakey said.

The company’s annual report showed that 31 percent of all high school graduates tested were not ready for any college coursework requiring English, science, math or reading skills. The other 69 percent of test-takers met at least one of the four subject-area standards.

Percentage of 2013 ACT-tested high school graduates meeting college readiness benchmarks by subject

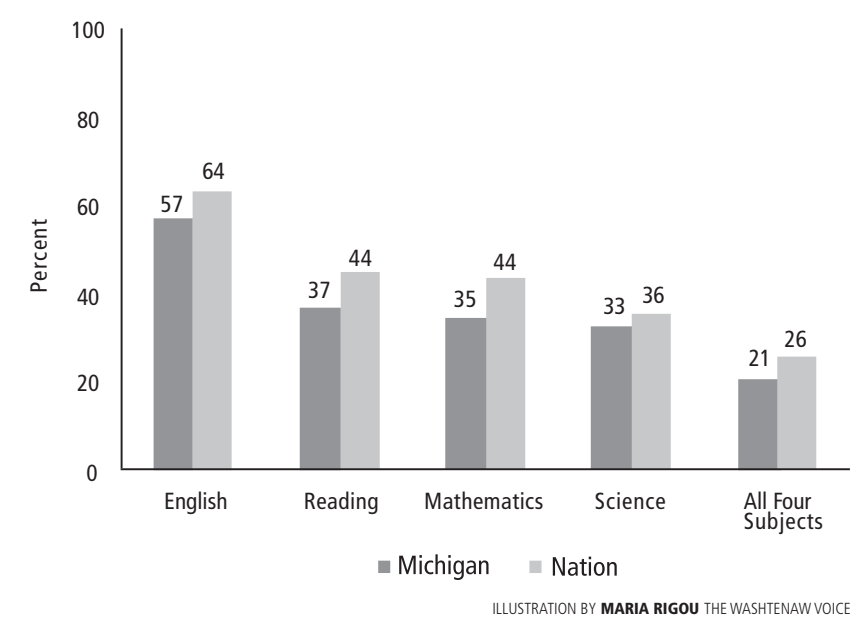


ILLUSTRATION BY MARIA RIGOU THE WASHTENAW VOICE

ACT  
CONTINUED A6

# WTMC in full stride this fall

By DAVID FITCH  
Staff Writer

As the Washtenaw Technical Middle College charter program heads into its next year of operation, spirits are high.

If you have ever seen students on campus who looked too young to be in college, then they probably were one of the about 500 WTMC students enrolled this fall.

WTMC, a charter school on campus operating out of the TI building, offers an alternative to “regular” high school for area students. Washtenaw Community College provides space for and works with the program as WTMC’s chartering agency. WTMC seeks to prepare students for and eventually transfer them into WCC courses.

Traditionally, WTMC has accepted students who are entering into either 10th or 11th grade. But that has changed.

A new program for ninth-graders launched last year. Carl Covert, the dean of WTMC, expressed satisfaction with some “great results” from the program. He reported that after a year in the program, 30 percent of ninth graders are ready for college work, compared to the only 7 percent who were ready at the beginning of the year.

Sam Rosewig, longtime WTMC

counselor and teacher, is one of four teachers assigned to the ninth-graders.

“We have ninth graders who are very mature, and they are ready within a year to start taking a college class or two,” he said.

He reported no major disciplinary issues in the initial year.

This year, the ninth-grade program has nearly doubled in size from 28 students last year to 56.

The larger WTMC program is also doing quite well, according to Covert.

Covert reported that the program was acknowledged for the reading and writing skills of the students. Students demonstrated higher than 90 percent proficiency, one of the highest rates in the state, according to Covert.

“Our students are really all doing well,” he said.

The program continues to put trust in students to make right decisions on campus. It seems to be paying off.

“I really enjoy being in a college setting rather than in a high school... It’s a better learning experience,” said Mimi Olsson, 16. Olsson, a liberal arts major from Ypsilanti, is in her third year in the WTMC program.

Ethan Rodgers, 15, is in his first year at WTMC. Rodgers, of Saline, is undecided in his major. He expressed satisfaction with the program thus far.

“It’s great, he said. “I love how it’s really respectful.”

So far, so good.

WTMC’s mentality towards students is, potentially, one reason for the success.

“Something that we’ve known for a long time at WTMC is that your chronological age doesn’t directly or necessarily relate to your academic age or to your social age or to your maturity,” Rosewig said. “We want to have an education for people that takes them at the pace that they need.”

Additionally, WTMC’s relationship with WCC is “excellent,” according to Covert.

“They work to support us. They work to help us... They’re really working with us to support our growth,” he said, adding that he attributes this to the fact that WTMC students are a positive part of WCC.

“Of any cohort on campus, WTMC students are the most successful, said Covert. “Students have a success rate between 95 and 97 percent in their college classes... I think it’s a very positive relationship in both directions.”

“I’m also proud that we are able to be open to all students. This isn’t a program that’s just for the advanced student or the elite student,” said Covert, adding, “It’s a heterogeneous group of students, and they are all successful here.”

David Fitch is a third year WTMC student. Contact him at [dfitch@wccnet.edu](mailto:dfitch@wccnet.edu), and follow him at @DavidFitch2.

# SNIPS

## Free dental services for students

The Taft Clinic held at University of Michigan Dental School offers free limited dental services to students.

Taft Society has partnered with the Dental Assisting Program at WCC to help obtain pre-screened patients.

The next screening day will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 2, from 1-5 p.m., and will serve as an opportunity for determining eligibility for the Taft Clinic. Appointments are required and can be obtained by calling Tina Sprague at 734-973-3337.

## Foundation Scholarship deadline

The WCC Foundation Scholarship deadline for the 2014 Winter Semester is Oct. 10.

Applications are to be submitted online under MyWCC account. Students must have a completed application submitted by the deadline.

In addition to the application, students must submit a letter of recommendation. For more information on these scholarships, visit [www.wccnet.edu/foundation](http://www.wccnet.edu/foundation).

## WCC/Chinese colleges sign agreements

The Chinese delegation visit in late June ended with the college signing two “memorandums of understanding” with Rizhao Polytechnic and Zhengzhou Railway Vocational Technical College in China, college officials told Washtenaw’s Board of Trustees recently.

Even though the MOUs are “loose letters of agreement between the colleges,” the college is hopeful that this will open a new window to opportunities for students, staff and faculty, said Julie Morrison, executive director of Planning, Institutional Effectiveness and Accreditation.

The two colleges that signed the agreement are similar in programmatic details to WCC. Morrison explained that it made sense to have exchanges with those colleges, if the opportunity presents itself.

“This is a positive thing for the college,” said Morrison. “The options are there, there are a lot of things we could do (if this develops further).”

## Willow Run Airport receives grant

The Wayne County Airport Authority will receive a \$12 million federal grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation that will go towards renovating part of the runway at Willow Run Airport.

The airport has already been awarded with \$9 million to begin work on the renovation. This additional funding will be used to complete the runway repaving, according to a joint news release from U.S. Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow and U.S. Reps John Dingell and John Conyers, Jr., all Michigan Democrats.

Willow Run Airport is a leading air cargo and general aviation facility and contributes \$85 million to the regional economy and supports 1,500 jobs across the state.

# CAMPUS EVENTS



## MONDAY, SEPT. 23

**LinkedIn Workshop** will cover the basics of building a LinkedIn profile. View examples of profiles and learn from their success. From 10-11:30 a.m. in ML 124.

## TUESDAY, SEPT. 24

**Resume Development Workshop** will help students develop a resume that will project a positive image of them to an employer. From noon-1:30 p.m. in ML 120.

## WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 25

**Interview Skills Workshop** prepares students on how to successfully interview using appropriate skills and behaviors. From 10-11:30 a.m. in ML 120.

## THURSDAY, SEPT. 26

**Job Search Workshop** provides information on the job search process and how to approach it. Participants will be provided with information about WCC’s online job search. From 3-4:30 p.m. in ML 124.

## TUESDAY, OCT. 1

**University of Michigan-Flint Visitation**

From 10 a.m.-2 p.m. a representative will be on the first floor of the Student Center to provide information and answer questions for students interested in transferring to this university.

## WEDNESDAY, OCT. 2

### Fall Transfer Fair

The Fall Transfer Fair will take place on the second floor of the Student Center from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. It will have representatives from over 50 colleges and universities from around the country.

## Friends of Bill

This AA group geared toward WCC students takes place every Wednesday in LA 268 from noon-1 p.m. and is open to anyone. Students are encouraged to share their stories of strength and hope with other on the path to recovery. For more information, contact Eleanor Brundage at [ebrundage@wccnet.edu](mailto:ebrundage@wccnet.edu).

## FRIDAY, OCT. 4

### Highway to High Demand Jobs Workshops

will take place from noon-2 p.m. in the Towsley Auditorium. The workshop will feature a panel of professionals who will discuss the fields of welding and fabrication, among other things. To reserve a spot, call the Student Resource and Women’s Center at 734-677-5105 or stop by the front desk, SC 287.

## Passionately Pink Discussion/Box Lunch

In support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, WCC’s Student Resource and Women’s Center will host a discussion featuring experts and a breast cancer survivor to discuss breast health and healthy lifestyle choices, among other things. From 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. in SC 316. Free lunch to the first 30 people who RSVP by calling 734-677-5105.

# SECURITY NOTES



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

## Motor Vehicle Theft

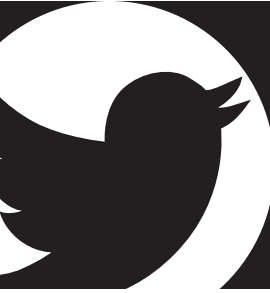
A car belonging to an instructor and parked near the BE building was stolen at about 6 p.m. on Sept. 9, according to Campus Safety and Security. The case has been reported to the Washtenaw County Sheriff’s Department.

## Lewd Behavior

A couple caught having sex at about noon on Sept. 11 was asked to stop and leave the campus, according to CSS.

## Larceny

A student reported the theft of a textbook after leaving it momentarily on a bench in the lobby of the BE building near Room 158. The incident was reported at 6 p.m. on Sept. 17.



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EDITORIAL

Where is our outrage about children and guns?

Why is it, we wonder, that people are *still* dying in mass shootings in the United States?

Inspired by a student’s response for this issue’s Take 5 (please see page A5), we suddenly had to ponder.

Why is it that the U.S. is so intent in showing Syria that it did wrong when there are still Navy Yard shootings and kids dying in a Connecticut elementary school?

Every single thing on this planet can be fixed, except for senseless death. According to a study conducted by the *American Journal of Public Health*, the United States has higher rates of firearm ownership than other developed nations, and also higher rates of homicide. In 1995, it was estimated that the number of firearms available in this country was 223 million.

Most recently, in 2007, it was estimated that of every 100 people, 94.3 had guns. The United States leads the world in that ranking.

Next is Serbia, with 58.2 guns per 100 people. Serbia was involved in a seriously harmful civil war recently.

How is it possible that gun ownership in the United States outnumbers the second country in the ranking by almost double?

And how is it even possible that Congress is not doing anything to fix things?

Innocent people are dying every day. Just last week, 13 were killed at the Navy Yard in Washington, D.C. In December, six adults and 20 children died in Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn. And in 1999, 12 students and one adult were killed at a Colorado high school.

All of this is happening because there are lax controls on gun ownership in the United States.

This doesn’t necessarily mean that people are using guns irresponsibly. This means that virtually anyone can get a gun in this country, and can use it in any way.

Are these shootings not enough for Congress to look for a tougher control? Are the lives of countless civilians not important enough?

It doesn’t seem so, because Congress is still debating whether or not the U.S. should go to war with Syria over 1,400 killed by chemical weapons, of which 400 of those were children.

Did they ever stop to think how many children die in this country every year to bullets fired from guns of irresponsible gun owners?

The answer is shocking: More than 4,000 individuals aged 19 and younger die each year in gun-related cases.

What do we do? Do we go to Syria and condemn those who kill 400 children, risking killing even more innocent lives? Or do we start at home, working on legislation that will even begin to address responsible gun ownership?

We think the answer is easy.

It starts at home.

CORRECTIONS

In our Sept. 9 Q&A on Page One, Dr. Bill Abernethy should have been identified as a former Marine corporal.

Also, we failed to credit several photos we used to preview fall TV shows and music releases. Credit should have been given to: [http://www. popsecret. com](http://www.popsecret.com); <http://www. einsrevolver.com>; <http://www.dallasobserver.com>; [http://www. nydailynews.com](http://www.nydailynews.com); <http://www. beyondhollywood.com>; <http://www. totalfilm.com>; and <http://www. stuffpoint.com>.

THE WASHTENAW VOICE

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

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Voices

On how to park, or else



MARIA RIGOU

I am an angry driver. Very angry.

And I am not ashamed of this, because for other people it is quite amusing. I curse, yell and scream. In some occasions, I honk. Really loudly.

But I have gotten better with the years, and now I don’t mind it as much when the driver in front of me is a total idiot about driving.

I now have a new perspective behind the wheel: I’ve become an angry parker.

Especially at WCC.

Washtenaw Community College is not a place you can just pull into and park comfortably. If you are running late to class, especially the first couple

of weeks of the semester, just go home. It is practically impossible to find a reasonably close parking spot, and if you do you probably have to walk to class and risk being really late, because that spot is so far away.

WCC has had parking problems for a while now, or so I hear.

With the peak in enrollment a few years ago after the economic decline of 2008, WCC saw a huge amount of cars coming to campus. In 2011, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved plans to build a parking structure right behind the LA building.

The structure is now home to 473 parking spots and the Campus Safety and Security office. Maybe this was a temporary solution to a bigger problem.

You see, I think the biggest problem area is something I like to call “mediocre parking.”

What happens when people don’t know how to park? Or when motorcycles park in the car-parking areas?

In a place where the supply of premium parking spaces is extremely low and the demand surpasses the

supply, you need to start thinking of your neighbor.

I recently encountered a parker that had tried to park backwards and failed, horribly, in the attempt. She was occupying more than one space, making it impossible for another car to park in the space that she had left between her car and the one to her right.

Fortunately, I was able to find another space nearby, but I left a nasty note, because she only thought of herself.

What I am trying to say is: Please, when you are parking, think of the person who is running late and would greatly appreciate it if you parked in your designated areas. And if you don’t know how to park, there are plenty of videos on YouTube that explain the concept extremely well.

Do good to your community and learn how to park.

Or else. . .

You might meet my wrath.

Contact Editor Maria Rigou at [drigou@wccnet.edu](mailto:drigou@wccnet.edu), and follow her at [@mariarigou](https://twitter.com/mariarigou).

Having the courage to disconnect – to reconnect



ALLIE TOMASON

The ways in which we interact with each other have changed significantly in the last five years. Instead of picking up the phone or going over to someone’s house, we now have virtual relationships, rather than personal ones. When I had this realization, it made me scream with my hands raking through my hair in frustration: “We are in social media hell!”

Take Twitter, for instance. Please. Everyone from celebrities, politicians, journalists and anyone else with a keyboard is tweeting, and in 140 characters or less the world goes crazy. And incidentally, whose bright idea was the hashtag, anyway? Like we care.

I could go on and on about the various social networking sites available, but we all know the granddaddy of

them all is Facebook.

Facebook rules the world. It has the power to bring people together and rip them apart (as we have seen in the media). It can be used as a tool to share news and keep in touch with loved ones far away. It also pulls people into what seems addictive behavior—posting the most mundane things—like every move they make.

I recently deactivated my account because I found myself in that state of compulsion to troll other people’s lives. Sometimes this is a very bad thing—especially when you see things you don’t want to see.

After about a week, I told a friend about what I’d done and she said, “I’m not brave enough to do that.” I thought about her response for a while. What does being brave have to do with it? What about it makes it so addictive that we spend hours and hours on end with it?

I asked friends, students, and teachers, but no one had a solid answer. I got responses like, “keeping in touch with family and friends,” “playing games,” “passing time,” “venting,” and my favorite “I hate Facebook,”—even though that person still has an

account.

Then it hit me. All of these things still give us a sense of connection. When my friend said she wasn’t brave enough, what she was really saying is that she was afraid to be disconnected.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, a French philosopher and Jesuit priest, said: “We are one, after all, you and I. Together we suffer, together exist, and forever will recreate each other.”

There is truth in his statement if we can be open enough to see it. It’s true that we are interconnected through the web of signals called the Internet. We can reach anyone in the world, but it is important to realize the necessity of face-to-face interaction as well.

While we are connected in cyberspace, we miss out on the things that make us smile and warm our hearts far too often, like the touch of a hand, the sound of laughter or the pleasure of someone’s physical company.

What I’m trying to say is, unplug and renew relationships. Go for a walk or learn something new. Be brave.

Contact Managing Editor Allie Tomason at [atomason@wccnet.edu](mailto:atomason@wccnet.edu), and follow her at [@alliethekat](https://twitter.com/alliethekat).

Voice Box

INTERVIEWS AND PHOTOGRAPHS ALAINA O’CONNOR STAFF WRITER

In light of the conflict in Syria, we were curious to know exactly what people on campus think. So we asked. What are your thoughts on the conflict in Syria? Do you think the U.S. or Russia should intervene?

ASHLEY PARKER  
23, liberal arts transfer, Westland



“I think we should intervene in Syria. They’re using chemical weapons on innocent people and I think that it’s our duty to bring it to an end.”

ALI ALSHEMANI  
16, WTCM student, Ann Arbor



“I don’t support U.S. involvement in Syria. In my opinion, this is just another Iraq. It’s not about the chemical weapons, it’s about the oil. Syria is a strategic country in an oil-rich region of the world. Americans only want what they can’t have, that’s why we support radical regimes.”

PAULETTE DAVIS  
67, former WCC student, Saline



“It would be great if they got rid of the chemical weapons, but we’re up to our ears in debt. I don’t think that we can afford to get involved in another conflict.”

JEFF GODBEY  
50, business/finance, Howell



“That would be great if Assad handed over the weapons to Russia, but it’s a touchy subject. The U.S. needs to stay out of it. The Russians might turn on us if we send troops to Syria.”

ANDREW BURTON  
34, AHA rep, Ypsilanti



“I do think the U.S. should intervene in Syria. I was overseas in the aftermath of 9/11. Being immersed in other cultures taught me that what makes America great is that we act on behalf of others. We need to stop asking, ‘What’s best for us?’ Instead, we need to do the right thing. The Russian option would not have appeared if we had not threatened action.”

DANA ALLEN  
20, liberal arts, Battle Creek



“We should have a hand in certain conflicts, especially when they involve attacks on innocent people. But, I don’t support the military getting involved in another war. I think we need to work with other countries to come up with a solution. Possibly the U.N.”

SPIKE LARR  
20, psychology, Ypsilanti



“From what I’ve read, I think it’s better that we tread lightly. I’m not a war supporter. I prefer diplomacy, but what happened was devastating. Not sure that military intervention is the best choice. We should handle things at home first. With Russia’s intervention, we may have averted an open-ended conflict.”

LA TOYA THOMAS  
21, health sciences, Ypsilanti



“I’m torn. No matter how it works out, if it goes badly we’re creating more problems in the Middle East. I just don’t see anything good coming from this. Based on what I’ve heard about our budget situation, we really don’t have the money for another conflict even if it is just drone strikes.”



# In the market for a new computer? Read this



CHRISTINA FLEMING

I get this question a lot from family, friends – and people I just met when they find out what I do: What kind of computer should I buy?

So I thought I would put it down in writing. It’s actually a pretty big question because everyone uses their Mac or PC a little differently. Sure there are many common tasks we all do, but there are enough variations that for a lay person it can be a bit intimidating selecting a product.

First, determine your budget. That will define pretty quickly what you can buy. In my experience, a PC or laptop is really only good for four years at best. I have PCs that go beyond that, but as they age, you do begin to replace hard drives and memory.

Furthermore, the latest software will not run well on an aging PC. If you are able to set aside \$500 a year for your computer fund, then a \$2,000 budget will get you a very nice computer now with all the newest accessories. So no matter your budget, keep in mind that you’re going to need to average that over about four years.

Do you need to be mobile? Are you a laptop or desktop kind of person? Laptops will cost more because of the miniaturization, and they tend to get pounded on more because we can carry them wherever we want.

If you really just need to check your email wherever you go, then your mobile device will probably be sufficient – and you can go with a desktop. If you are a traveler, then a laptop may be more your style.

Do you prefer a Mac or a PC? Macs still tend to be a bit pricier than PCs, but I sure do love mine. As a techie, I’ve got all the flavors between Macs and PCs, desktops and laptops. But you need to know what your comfort level is with usability.

If you use a PC at work, then a PC at home makes sense. Not everyone can switch back and forth between the interfaces. I tend to catch myself trying to remember different functions between the platforms.

If you are set on a laptop, whether Mac or PC, my general recommendation is for you to buy as much processing power as you can as well as the biggest screen size you can afford.

The motherboard of a laptop is very hard to replace over time. If you want to extend the life of your laptop buy as much processing power available today because you can always add memory and change the hard drive later on.

Also, it’s impossible to upgrade your screen size. I recommend you buy as much as you can afford. I always get at least a 17-inch because I’m one of those people who have multiple apps and windows open. The larger

real estate will be better for you if you are a multi-tasker. For many others, though, a 15-inch screen may be fine.

If you are a gamer, then there really is nothing better than a desktop. You will always be able to buy more processing power and have better cooling for running high-end games.

As far as brand names go, you do have choices. For a Mac, however, there’s only one choice: Apple. My favorite laptop in a Mac is the 17-inch MacBook Pro. You can upgrade hard drives and memory in Macs, so buy as much processing power as you can afford now.

For a PC, I have brand loyalty to Dell. I’ve just always had the best of luck with them. I’ve used many brands, from HP to Sony to Acer and others. I keep coming back to Dell.

Yes, I have had a stinker in the past from Dell, but thankfully the company quickly recognized the problem and got rid of that model from its product line. For a laptop I have always had a Latitude or Precision from the business-class line. I tend to choose those because they are powerhouses for what I do. I have also had Inspirons, but remain partial to the Latitude or Precision.

I have emphasized here the need to buy as much processing power as you can from the start. I would also add to my recommendation that you buy a genuine Intel. You want at a minimum the i5 by Intel, but an i7 Quad Core sure would be sweeter. It will again depend on your budget.

Also, a Quad Core (four processors) is better than a Dual Core (two processors). Buy Quad if you can.

So what do I have, you ask? All of them, it seems.

My house is a hotel of various Macs and PCs, laptops and desktops. I like to be mobile, so I primarily use a laptop. I have a MacBook as well as a Dell PC. My husband has a Dell Mini, which is perfectly fine for Web browsing and email.

If I had an unlimited budget, keys to a candy store and could ride a unicorn pooping rainbows, I would buy a new MacBook Pro with Quad Core i7, because I could always install VMWare Fusion to run Windows and do my developer work on it.

For the home office, I would buy a new Dell XPS with the latest i7 processor and a sweet 24-inch flat screen.

But that’s just me.

*Christina Fleming is The Voice’s assistant online editor. Contact her at cfleming@wccnet.edu.*

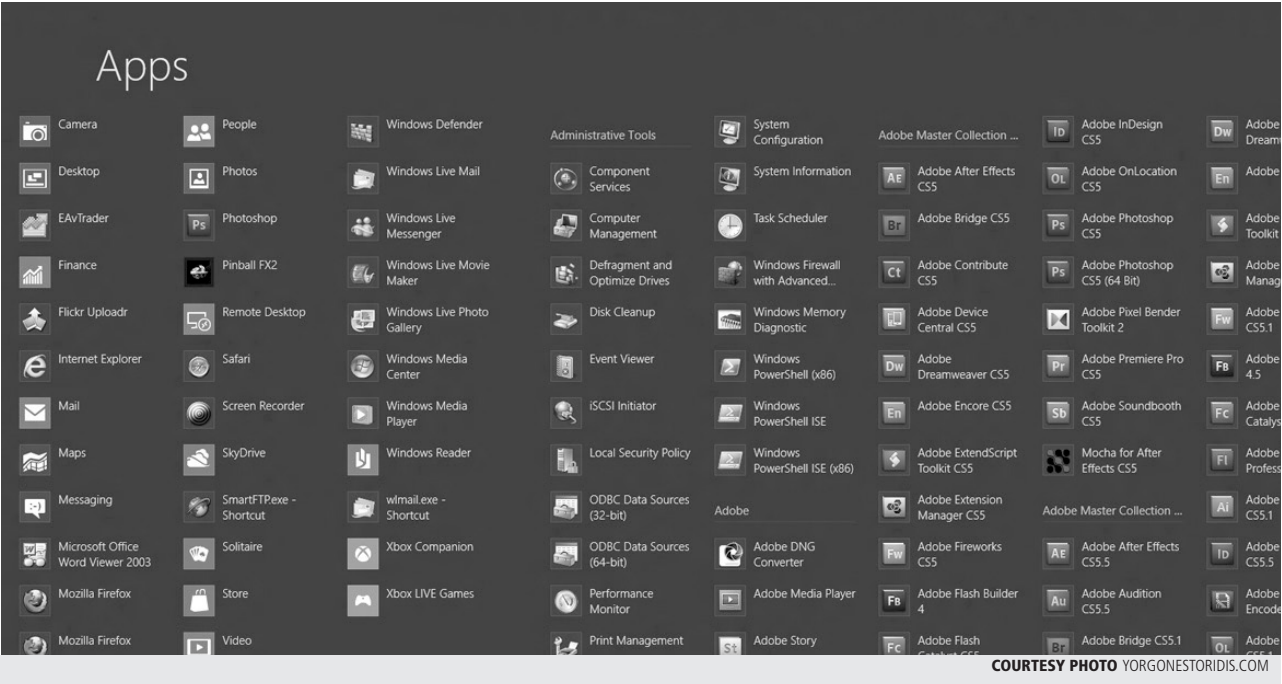
When looking for a bargain computer the best finds are refurbished units direct from the manufacturer.

At Dell.com, look for the link called “Dell Outlet” here: <http://goo.gl/iy482R>

The Apple shop has a category called “Certified Refurbished” as seen here: <http://goo.gl/KbeoPs>



KELLY BRACHA THE WASHTENAW VOICE  
One lane of Huron River Drive near the front of the TI building was closed briefly on Friday when a car was hit as it pulled out of the parking lot. There were no injuries.



WINDOWS 8 FROM A1

new Windows 8 operating system is the interface. Microsoft replaced the traditional menu with a more metro-style interface upon start-up, which is confusing for some.

“Microsoft designed the Windows 8 operating system with tablets and mobile devices in mind,” Robinson said. “The touch-screen interface is definitely cool, but it’s confusing for traditional PC users.”

Even director of user-support services Kimberly Tom, who is overseeing the college’s migration to Windows 8, was apprehensive to the new operating system.

“When I first saw it, I thought it was too big a learning curve for what you get, but the more I delved into it, the more I liked it.

“Our first big push of upgrades came in July. Then our mass upgrade was on Aug. 9, right before the UA came to campus. It was the only date that a lot of the rooms became available.”

What changed Tom’s mind about the new operating system?

“The main feature that makes Windows 8 much better than Windows 7 is the security,” Tom explained. “Before, if there was a virus that infected the master boot record, you were screwed. Now, the MBR is protected.”

There’s more.

“Windows 8 boots much faster than 7, which is great in a classroom setting. You don’t have to wait forever for the machine to start-up.”

Tom points out that the college did a lot to prepare faculty, staff and students for the change.

“We had the IT computing expo event last April to try to prepare everyone for some of the changes,” said Tom. “We made sure to let people know what was coming and what they needed to do to prepare.”

The college also added quick start guides next to computer terminals and offers training sessions for faculty and staff.

When asked why WCC doesn’t offer these same training sessions for students, Tom said, “students tend to be more resilient.”

For those still mourning the loss of the desktop start-up, there may be a solution in sight. Microsoft plans a Windows 8 update scheduled for Oct. 17, in what its calling Windows 8.1. Some of the old features will return.

“I think that Microsoft realized that Windows 8 had certain shortcomings,” said Robinson. “One of the things I know for sure is that they are allowing users to chose to have their computers load the traditional desktop upon start-up.”

This is great news for some PC users like Marlena Calmeyer, 24, of Ypsilanti.

“I’d like to see a return to the old start-up,” said Calmeyer. “The new one is just too much. It’s hard to navigate.”

The college is prepared for Windows 8.1 and has already started testing out the latest features.

“There are always good things and bad things about upgrades,” said Tom. “But, we’re a higher education

institution and we need to keep up with what’s going on out there.”

For more information of upcoming Window 8 training sessions, visit: <http://www4.wccnet.edu/departments/its/usersupport/training/training-schedule.php>

## WINDOWS 8 KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS

Windows key	Switch between Start screen and the last accessed application
Windows key+ C	Access the Charms
Windows key+ Tab	Access Start Taskbar
Windows key+ Q	Access the Apps Search onscreen
Windows key+ Z	Brings up the App Bar when you have a Windows 8 App running
Windows key+ E	Open Computer (File Explorer)
Windows key+ X	Access Windows Tool Menu
Windows key+ D	Show/Hide Desktop
Windows key+ L	Lock Computer
ESC	Close a Charm
Control + Mouse	Activate the Semantic Zoom on the screen

# TAKE FIVE

BY ALAINA O’CONNOR  
Staff Writer

The Student Center has a relaxed vibe on Friday afternoons. The hustle and bustle that generally characterizes this central hub of Washtenaw Community College student life was winding down from a long week.

Here at *The Voice*, we are always listening and always looking for answers. Who is out there? What is on their minds?

In an effort to get to know the students of WCC a little better, we find random students to “Take 5” – and ask them a few questions.

When we spotted secondary education student Yared McGhee-Tefera, 19, from Lansing, joking around and making weekend plans with friends, we immediately knew he’d have something to say.

**Washtenaw Voice: What do you think your life will be like 20 years from now?**

**Yared McGhee-Tefera:** Better than today. Married with two kids and teaching a class of 30 in the field of high school physics. Go on a couple of vacations around the world – I love to travel. Probably a master’s degree.

**WV: It’s been 12 years since the 9/11 attacks. What do you think the U.S. has learned?**

**YM-T:** I think the U.S., when it comes to terrorism, has really cracked down. I know that they’ve stopped a lot of attacks, but at the same time, the U.S. hasn’t been able to stop attacks from the inside – a lot of school shootings. They focus a lot on foreign affairs and it feels like they’re missing what’s going on at home. A lot of resources need to be focused at home instead of overseas. If we have a strong infrastructure and strong security in this country, then we can start worrying about other countries. First, it starts at home.

**WV: What’s your favorite movie?**

**YM-T:** My favorite movie is “Blood Diamonds” with Brad Pitt. *(Editors note: Actually, Leonardo DiCaprio starred in that movie.)* I also like “The Help” with Viola Davis.

**WV: What is your favorite class or teacher at WCC?**

**YM-T:** Favorite teacher is Aaron Anderson for English 111 Composition I. He’s just a really good teacher, very personable. He just helped me to develop my writing. Before I came to this school I was just an OK writer. Now... I’m not going to say really good, but



JAMES SAOUD THE WASHTENAW VOICE

I’m alright. My favorite class is English and writing. I like a lot of poetry, too.

**WV: What’s one thing you’ve learned so far this year?**

**YM-T:** This year? To save more money (laughs). Tuition just keeps getting worse and I want to transfer to Eastern, so I’ve got to save a lot of money.

**WV: “Star Wars” or “Star Trek?”**

**YM-T:** “Star Wars” all day! That’s my stuff. I know everybody and everything about “Star Wars.”



## Add the Washtenaw Voice on Facebook



SYRIA FROM A1

The escalating conflict left Ottaifa and others hungry for news from friends regarding their safety and what they are enduring.

“The last time he heard from him was 4-5 months ago and he was OK. I’m still waiting on a call from him just see how the situation is there,” Ottaifa said. “I’m still not sure how he’s doing.”

A SOLUTION IN SIGHT?

Meantime, the world awaits a potential diplomatic solution, with Russia stepping in to help negotiate a way for Syria to give up its chemical arsenal to avoid an attack by the United States.

Bombs aren’t the answer, said A.S., an 18-year-old Syrian who just moved here from Damascus in July.

“This is not a way to help,” said A.S., who asked that his name not be used because he is fearful for his safety and that of family members who remain there.

Still, he wrestles with the same feelings that most Americans have about U.S. intervention.

“What I see in the future is that we should wait,” he said. “We are so close to 2014. We could stop all the bloodbath that is happening.”

In 2014, he notes, Syrians hope they can affect change in a democratic election.

Until then, A.S. said, rebels and government forces will continue to fight – and it will be hard to tell the good guys from the bad guys. Both are violent and corrupt.

And the troubles of the Syrian people did not begin under Bashar al-Assad. The situation was arguably worse regime of al-Assad’s father, Hafez.

Then-President Hafez al-Assad was the leader of Syria during the time of the “Hama massacre” in which 10s of thousands of people were killed (numbers vary widely) when the government quashed a rebellion.

“And it was never talked about, not documented, none of that,” Alazem

said. “And if anyone ever talked about that afterwards, they would get in trouble.”

Neither side is without their sins, A.S. says.

“I’m not saying that the regime is good. I’m not saying that there weren’t innocent people killed, women. I’m not saying that at all,” he said.

“What we built in 30 years is gone in two years,” A.S. said. “I’m not saying that there is not corruption of the regime... There is corruption everywhere. (Both sides) should look at themselves before looking at us.”

Meanwhile, he keeps in close contact with his family in Damascus, talking to them nearly every day.

“It’s not safe... but it’s better than before in Damascus. They are taking control,” he said. A.S. even speculated, as many have, that the rebels actually used the chemical weapons and blamed it on the Assad regime to inspire the world’s reaction against the Syrian government.

So a conflict that began “with a true call of freedom ended up with a conspiracy of terrorism,” A.S. said. “To me, as a Syrian, I believe that all Syrian people and even the world should support the Syrian Arab Army against terrorism.”

Which is why people like Ward – American soldiers who wind up fighting these battles on behalf of, or against, corrupt Middle Eastern regimes – wonder why.

“At the end of the day, it pains me that we will be the international police when it suits us, and we won’t be when it’s genocide through rape,” Ward said. “Why don’t we go into Rwanda?”

‘IT’S REALLY INHUMAN’

Ward believes that the proposed U.S. plan to strike without deploying

troops was not a logical solution, and probably not even the full truth.

“You don’t blow up somebody’s airport and not take it, not put boots on the ground,” he said.

The proposed solution being negotiation by largely by the United States and Russia for Syria to surrender its chemical weapons is only a partial one, Ward contends.

“They might get some of the real bad stuff. They might get a percentage of the (nerve agents),” he said. “That’s a pretty big deal,” he said.

That’s a good start, he added, but it doesn’t fix the problem and it might end up making it worse.

“That’s my worry—that you are poking the wasps’ nest. And at the end of the day, it’s not the politicians that are going to be pulling out their draft number,” he said.

Whatever the solution, it cannot come soon enough. That was evident in the grim tone when Ottaifa, usually jovial, spoke of the Syrian conflict.

“One attack where they did it was when they were praying. Another attack was during one of the protests,” he said. “A lot of people died. A lot of people were injured.

“When they use (chemical weapons) they’re not just aiming for a certain gender. It’s everyone. You see a lot of casualties among children. It’s really inhumane if you ask me.”

Who should lead the effort to stop it?

“I think the whole U.N. (United Nations) or world should be a part to help in whatever way because it doesn’t matter that it’s a different country,” Alazem said.

“In the case of Syria,” Ottaifa said, “it’s the military and the government against its people. I don’t know about you, but I can’t defend myself against chemical weaponry.”

*“I think the whole U.N. (United Nations) or world should be a part to help in whatever way because it doesn’t matter that it’s a different country,” -Omar Alazem*

BAKER Q&A FROM A1

WV: What is your role? What are the responsibilities of the president of the faculty union?

**JB:** Well, the key role of the president of the faculty union is to be the spokesperson for the faculty and to facilitate communication in both directions between the faculty and the administration. It’s a role of addressing problems that come up and creatively try to sit down and solve problems with members and the administration, again, with the forefront being student focus: what’s best for the student in this given situation.

WV: How does your role as an educator benefit the role of president of the faculty union?

**JB:** That’s a good question. That’s a really good question. I guess I think that my role as an educator is to always figure out how to serve my students best. And so that has to do with taking the time to understand who they are and what their needs are and how to help them reach their goals as students.

I think there are similarities there in taking time to understand the membership, understand the concerns or the problems that the members face in any given area, to help the members stay focused on student success, to help them stay focused, even when there are problem, to stay focused on why they are here. Why they love their jobs. . . And that’s really about being with students, about spending time and getting to know them and figuring out how to serve them best.

WV: What are the benefits of having a faculty union? What are the challenges?

**JB:** The benefits to the faculty are, I think, pretty obvious in terms of job protection, in terms of good compensation, in terms of... We have a very

strong contract that provides us with excellent compensation for the work that we do with students. I think that one of the things that is a huge benefit to students, and to the college in general, is that our contract protects members in a way that allows them to speak out on behalf of student interests, and so that’s an important piece that helps keep the institution very strong and very healthy in terms of its growth, it’s movement forward with new technologies, new learning modes, new learning time frames.

All of those things we are currently in the process of seeing change in.

It’s important for the faculty who face off to students every day to be able to contribute positively to those changes, and that sometimes means speaking critically about things that they may not see in being in the best interest of students.

I think it’s pretty fair to say that the right-to-work legislation has been a pretty big blow to unions in general in Michigan, and so we have concerns about how that will affect our membership. It won’t affect our membership until our next contract; it’s when the right-to-work will kick in for us. So I think that’s one challenge.

I guess kind of hand-in-hand with that I would say that the right-to-work legislation has come out of a perception of unions that is so counterproductive to the positive things that unions provide, especially in educational environments. Because the... kind of preconceived notion that unions are simply out for their own good, their own... there’s a lot of kind of what I would consider misconceptions about unions in general, that, for

us, I mean we don’t see ourselves in that way whatsoever, and we haven’t operated that way historically in this institution.

So those perceptions are challenges that we face. I think that there are always challenges in terms of the issue with resources... that any institution faces, and really coming to grips with how to best use the resources in the college for the best benefit to students.

WV: Michigan is now a right-to-work state. How has this affected union membership to date, if at all? How do you expect it to change in the future?

**JB:** It hasn’t yet, and we don’t really know how it will affect the membership. It’s hard to tell at this point. I would like to believe that it won’t affect us much, but I don’t know... It’s important, regardless of the right-to-work legislation, it’s going to be important for us to...

We have a responsibility to keep our membership strong and represented in the ways that they and to be represented. I think Washtenaw is an incredibly good example of how unions can work productively with administration or with management to make an institution stronger. I think that, in a nutshell, is what we’ve done and who we are.

I hope that we will see a stronger movement in our ability to do that again, in light of the difficulties we had last year, the incredible amounts of change we’ve had in administrators. I hope we can move back to that position of cooperation and working together on students’ behalf.

WV: From the faculty’s perspective, what is the importance of the role of VP of Instruction? How has the relationship evolved in the transition from Stuart Blacklaw to Bill Abernethy?

**JB:** The role of the VP of

ACT FROM A3

In the state of Michigan, however, scores are significantly lower than in the rest of the country.

“Michigan is one of the 12 states that test every high school junior whether they have college aspirations or not,” said Katie Wacker, spokesperson for ACT. “The results are going to be lower because (almost) everyone is tested.”

The report’s findings suggest that many graduates will struggle when taking college-level courses and sometimes have to take remedial classes – often without earning credit – to catch up with their peers.

WCC, however, has a fairly large developmental program that helps students with their remediation in order to succeed in the classroom, explained Blakey.

“Four-year universities... don’t generally offer classes to help students get college ready,” said Blakey. “They assume that students are going to come in and be ready for college classes.”

Under ACT’s definition, students are ready for college-level classes if they have a 75 percent chance of getting a C or a 50 percent chance of getting a B, based on the results of the ACT test, which are measured on a scale from 1 to 36 points.

In Michigan, a little more than 120,000 students took the ACT, representing nearly 100 percent of the graduating class. Of these students, 57 percent met the English benchmark, 33 percent met the benchmark for success in science, 35 percent of the graduating class met the mathematics benchmark and in reading, 37 percent met the benchmark.

Only 21 percent of the 120,451 Michigan students who sat for the

test met all benchmarks, which means that only 21 percent of the graduating class of 2013 is ready for college-level courses.

“The readiness of students leaves a lot to be desired,” said Jon Erickson, president of ACT’s education division to the *Associated Press*.

However, for students at WCC, it isn’t hard to catch up.

“We have developmental reading, writing and math classes... or what would be considered basic skills,” said Blakey. “We also offer classes that ... are not college-level. We have a chemistry class that, if you haven’t taken chemistry in high school, there is a class that preps you for taking the college class. We have a few classes like that as well.”

WCC also offers free tutoring in all subjects, not only for those that are considered basic skills. There is also a writing center on campus, that helps students who have writing questions, regardless if they are taking composition classes or not, explained Blakey.

“An indicator if a student is going to be successful (in college) are the soft skills,” said Blakey. “There is the knowledge but then the soft skills are a key component.”

Blakey defined soft skills as the ability to maintain a college class despite of the knowledge of the content. For example: Is the student going to class? Is the student getting to class on time? Are they taking notes? Do students know how to study, manage their time and take responsibilities for their assignments?

“There are a lot of students that come out of high school that don’t have soft skills,” said Blakey. “(These scores are) only part of the story.

“(It is a) combination of... not just the score (of the ACT) but (if) you have the other skills that make you successful in college.”

*Only 21 percent of the 120,451 Michigan students who sat for the test met all benchmarks, which means that only 21 percent of the graduating class of 2013 is ready for college-level courses.*

Instruction is absolutely a critical role and, ideally, the vice president of Instruction doesn’t mediate, he facilitates and leads the deans and the faculty to perform their best work. He recognizes each individual’s area of expertise, their experience, their commitment to the college, and ideally he is motivating all of those individuals to do their best work, to serve students in the best way we know how.

So I see it a lot around facilitation and motivation. I think those are really important roles. The leadership role is important in setting the direction of where the college is going programmatically for students, that’s a key issue. I think that the biggest thing that a very strong vice president does is, he recognizes and uses the expertise of the faculty and the deans.

Bill’s working very hard to understand the position that he is in. We’re meeting weekly to address ongoing things that are coming up, and that’s been productive.

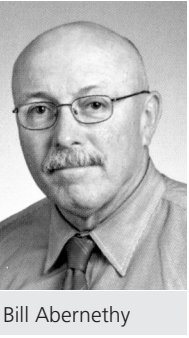
**WV: How does the fact that Abernethy was once a faculty member here influence his relationship with the union?**

**JB:** I don’t know, you’d have to ask him I guess. I think it is a huge advantage to have a vice president who has had strong experience in instruction.



Stuart Blacklaw

**JB:** I think that I would like to see the college community encourage more discussion and professional development and leadership in general. It’s a really interesting question because I don’t spend a lot of time



Bill Abernethy

thinking about the differentiation between women leaders and men leaders even though there are certain key differences... There have been strong women leaders as I am thinking – across the faculty, across the administration, in the union. There have been strong women leaders running throughout the college, I think. And I’m happy and pleased to see that, but I do think that we could, as a college, probably do a better job of looking at how to encourage and promote strong leadership skills in women and men, among the faculty, among the administration, among the support staff. In all areas...

And I think about this in terms of the most important skills that students really need to take away from any degree, any educational endeavor that they get into, they boil down to similar things and those things have to do with ... those things are being able to communicate well in person and in writing, being able to work in a team environment, being able to respectfully have difficult conversations, being able to think critically and problem solve and be open minded.

These are the things that I think women leaders do, perhaps maybe more naturally... I don’t know, I would hesitate to say it, I don’t know if it is a female-male trait. Those are strong skills that we want our students to have, and they are strong skills that more leaders have.



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HEALTHY VOICE

Another in a series on local farmers markets

By M. M. DONALDSON  
Voice Correspondent

This installment of reviews of local farmers markets gets out of the city and visits the further reaches of the county.

Chrysanthemums are starting to show up at the markets, and pumpkins will be next. There is a plentiful selection of produce in the summer, but in the fall there is an abundance of wonderful things that can be canned, frozen or dried to last through the winter months.

BUSHEL BASKET FARMERS MARKET

Chelsea Community Hospital  
14700 E. Old US 12, Chelsea  
Wednesdays, 2-6 p.m.  
<http://goo.gl/QLKzjG>

The weekday market is located on the Chelsea Hospital grounds. Follow the signs to the Professional Building & Wellness Center (the little famers market signs have been known to hide behind bigger things).

About a dozen vendors offer a variety of vegetables, but one booth offers a vegetarian's delight. Locally hand crafted hummus and seitan, a wheat-based protein seasoned with meaty flavors, are available for sampling (the curry lime hummus woke



Michigan apples are easy to find at farmers markets this time of year.  
M.M. DONALDSON THE WASHTENAW VOICE

up taste buds fatigued by pounds of plain ole hummus). For omnivores, there are meats, eggs and cheeses to go with simple tomato salads or peach pie.

CHELSEA SATURDAY FARMERS MARKET

120 Park St., Chelsea  
Saturdays, 8 a.m.–noon  
<http://goo.gl/O5IGA7>

Located in the First United Methodist Church parking lot across the street from the Purple Rose Theatre, there is plenty of street parking.

This market has a street fair vibe with the live music and a few booths of antiques and pottery for sale. Watching a guy juggle a watermelon while he is riding his bike is unexpected entertainment.

Plenty of fresh fruits and veggies are available, along with meats and cheeses. A selection of baked goods is also available, with a package of homemade madeines, too cute to pass up as a walking treat.

DEXTER FARMERS MARKET

233 Alpine St. and Main St., Dexter  
Tuesdays, 3–7 p.m.  
Saturdays, 8 a.m.–1 p.m.  
<http://goo.gl/Yg1iko>  
Just east of the bridge crossing

Mill Creek, a covered sidewalk protects market-goers from rain or too much sun, but leisurely strolls have been pleasurable with this summer's weather.

In its eighth season, the weekday market hosts approximately half-dozen vendors who offer locally grown sweet corn, tomatoes, summer squashes and baked goods (the zucchini bread looks delicious).

On Saturdays, the market offerings triple in size, with the addition of locally created chocolate (the rustic chili pepper chocolate bar is the ticket to my new happy place), homemade breads and pastas, granolas paired with jams, and locally grown nursery stock also available with a large selection of produce.

SALINE FARMERS MARKET

Saline District Library  
555 Maple Rd., Saline  
Tuesdays, 3-7 p.m.  
Ann Arbor Street and  
Michigan Avenue  
Saturdays, 8 a.m.–Noon  
<http://goo.gl/TpO9HA>

Watch for the Burma shave signs leading to the farmers market on Tuesdays.

Located in the parking lot behind the Saline District Library, there is plenty of parking that is easy to get in



Honey bears optimistically wait in line at various local markets.  
M.M. DONALDSON THE WASHTENAW VOICE

and out of. A word of caution, as it is adjacent to the Saline Middle School, which lets out at 2:45 p.m.

There are about a dozen vendors with large selections of produce, fresh breads and sweets. One vendor is dedicated to garlic, while another one hawks giant kohlrabi. Normal size of this root veggie is similar to a baseball, while half of this particular cultivar, averaging about eight inches across, fed a family of four (in cheese sauce, of course).

A very extensive assortment of honey offered a taste-bud numbing selection of flavors. The idea of chocolate honey is intriguing (I didn't dare try after coming down off a sugar bender earlier in the day).

On Saturdays, the Saline farmers market is located downtown, in the parking lot on the southwest corner of U.S. 12 and Ann Arbor-Saline Road. The market hosts over a half-dozen vendors who are strictly produce. If the apples and peaches coming into season aren't tantalizing enough, fresh flowers liven up the tables full of tomatoes and summer squashes. Huge heads of cabbage begging to be turned into sauerkraut dwarf the regular sized cabbages good for coleslaw.

Non-produce items include fresh roasted coffee beans, coffee cakes and maple syrup to tease the taste buds via the olfactory system. Handmade

soaps and fun aprons are great accompaniments.

MANCHESTER FARMERS MARKET

First block of Adrian Street, south of Main Street  
Thursdays, 3:30-7p.m.  
<http://goo.gl/ZhUaBa>

Challenges have developed for this market in this first year of having its ownership being transferred to the Manchester Chamber of Commerce. Ruth VanBogelen, farmers market committee member, is very apologetic for the confusion in advertised schedules, but cites the growth of the market has created issues for which they were not prepared.

She said the committee's goal is to provide more outreach and advertising of schedules for next year's market.

The Manchester farmers market has received funding from the Chelsea Wellness Foundation to provide \$1 coupons for produce at the market. Coupons are passed out at various events, senior dining sites and also at the market.

About half of the vendors provide produce with the other half providing baked goods and crafts. Music and assorted festivals also attract shoppers. Parking near the market is plentiful.

Contact M. M. Donaldson at [mmorrisdonaldson@wccnet.edu](mailto:mmorrisdonaldson@wccnet.edu).



Students enjoyed Welcome Day festivities even in sweltering heat on sun drenched late summer day.  
CJ SOUTH THE WASHTENAW VOICE



Students had the opportunity to make interesting wax molds of their hands  
CJ SOUTH THE WASHTENAW VOICE



Businesses and organizations from all over Washtenaw County came to meet students.  
CJ SOUTH THE WASHTENAW VOICE



## We're at a crucial moment in human history, says climate 'de-crocker'

By ROBERT CONRADI  
Voice Correspondent

Videographer Peter Sinclair entertained, informed and challenged a room full of enrapt listeners recently at the University of Michigan. Sinclair is a spokesman for global climate change, perhaps best known for his website, Climate Denial Crock of the Week.

His Sept. 11 presentation was sponsored by the Erb Institute at U-M, which regularly features forums on creating sustainable societies and businesses. Many of these meetings relate to the threat of global warming.

Sinclair became involved in the climate debate when he realized that science was losing in the forum of public opinion. Sinclair, with experience in communications, graphics, animation and cartooning, has energetically applied his skills to communicating the reality of climate change. His videos combine humor and folksiness with scientific fact to create short, poignant messages that are accessible to all.

He chose to debunk the pseudoscience of climate-change deniers one "crock" at a time. The website Climate Progress calls him "our favorite climate de-crocker."

The message Sinclair wants people to understand is that climate change is real, it is ongoing, and it is primarily caused by humans. To call attention to the message, he applied the wisdom of P. T. Barnum.

"If you want to draw a crowd," said Barnum, "start a fight."



ROBERT CONRADI THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Videographer Peter Sinclair answers questions from audience members at the Sept. 11 Erb institute forum at U-M.

Sinclair chose for his foe Anthony Watts, a prominent spokesman attempting to cast doubt on climate science. He posted a video on YouTube gently poking fun of Watts with background music reminiscent of Inspector Clouseau.

Within 36 hours, YouTube took down the video in response to a protest by Watts. It then became known as "the video that climate deniers don't want you to see." The number of viewers soon skyrocketed.

In a debate on Fox news, Sinclair's opponent attempted to undermine certainty in global warming with the humorous line, "Where do you stick the thermometer to take the

temperature of a planet?" Sinclair realized that there really is an Earth thermometer. It's the ocean.

Just as fluid in a thermometer rises and falls with temperature changes, so does the ocean. The ocean level has been steadily rising. In fact, the ocean absorbs more than 93 percent of the excess heat trapped by CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gasses.

Sinclair also spoke of the Arctic Sea ice as an indicator of warming. Satellites can track both the area and depth of sea ice, and it has shrunk in volume by 75 percent in the last several decades.

A further indicator of global warming is an increase in extreme weather

events. The insurance industry has been closely following this and sees a distinct upward trend. Sinclair pointed out that while frequency of geophysical events like earthquakes and volcanoes have remained fairly constant, climate events like storms, droughts and floods are increasing dramatically.

The greatest near-term threat of climate change may be its destabilizing effect on societies. Existing animosities are increased by climate catastrophe.

"Extreme events like this in the developing world where the infrastructure is fragile and people are more exposed are going to cause instability,"

Sinclair said.

"Climate change is a threat multiplier."

In spite of the doom and gloom, Sinclair remains an optimist that many of the more severe effects of climate change can still be avoided – if we act quickly. Alternative energy technologies already available can have a positive impact. But people and governments need to act.

"We are at an unprecedented moment in history when the things that we do, the decisions that we make now in our lifetime will crucially impact generations for the next 100,000 years," he said. "There's never been a moment in human history like this."

## Unintentional garden sprouts, meets its end

By DAVID FITCH  
Staff Writer

When Washtenaw Community College Recycling Manager Barry Wilkins decided to begin composting food scraps from around campus, he didn't realize that the soil would be *that* good.

The stash of rich dirt that was created by the addition of a composting program on campus has yielded some unexpected crops, including melons, gourds and pumpkins. Wilkins says that the composted material contained the seeds that produced the plants.

No one would have predicted that the produce would grow with such vigor.

"Any time you can get plants to grow out of stuff that's laying on the ground, that's some pretty rich stuff," Wilkins said with satisfaction.

And he has good reason to be happy. The newly established food scrap composting program, organized by Wilkins, has been a success, and is not only keeping food out of the waste

stream, but also yielding rich, nutritious soil that can be used across campus.

The process is simple: collect and throw extra bread, lettuce, banana peels, etc. as well as a "bulking agent" (woodchips) into an enormous "Earth Tub" composting bin, turn, wait, let bacteria work and collect the soil. Wilkins and Recycle Technician Leslie Gibson are the sole operators of the program.

However, the unintentional garden was not to last forever. Wilkins said that the garden surrounding the compost was recently cut down. There was really no use for the melons, according to Wilkins, who was wary of eating them.

However, the garden *was* a source of food for one – a chubby groundhog that Wilkins spotted at times.

"He ate up one pretty good-sized melon," Wilkins said.

The groundhog will have to find something else to eat, but the fact remains: The composting efforts are working well – at least well enough to grow some accidental produce.



DAVID FITCH THE WASHTENAW VOICE

An unexpected garden containing melon, gourd and pumpkin plants sprouted up around a stockpile of composted soil.

## REJECTED WOOD GETS NEW CHANCE IN GALLERY ONE EVENT



KELLY BRACHA THE WASHTENAW VOICE

**Above:** WTMC students James Smith, 17, and Joe Kennedy, 17, both from Ann Arbor took an interest in the various wood samples brought in by the Urbanwood Project, a partner of the Southeast Michigan Resource Conservation and Development Council.

**Below:** Trevol's Wood Products, in North Adams gave a unique demonstration on how salvaged lumber is cut using a specialized and portable sawmill in front of the SC Building.

READ MORE ABOUT THE URBANWOOD PROJECT ON PAGE B4







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# ‘Cars and Bikes’ funds education



KELLY BRACHA THE WASHTENAW VOICE  
Automotive repair student Andy Renton, 20, from Bloomfield Hills, showcased his 1998 Cadillac with a swapped engine for a 1JZ-GTE Toyota.

By ALLIE TOMASON  
Managing Editor

Car and motorcycle enthusiasts came from all over Washtenaw County Sept. 14 to participate in the Tenth Annual Cars and Bikes on Campus Show.

Awards were presented in 15 categories overall, and the turnout was pretty good according to Justin Carter, automotive service instructor and coordinator of the event.

Originally, Bill Figg, a former Washtenaw Community College welding instructor, started this event for the WCC Foundation’s Vocational Education Excellence Fund.

“We wanted to keep the tradition going. We didn’t want to let the show die,” Carter said.

The event, normally held on the first Sunday in October, was moved this year in hopes of better weather.

Along with the various autos and bikes on display, the show provided activities for everyone.

Face-painting and a craft table for children, a silent auction, pin-striping demonstrations and classes, a motorcycle dynamometer shootout and

demonstration, and a live band were all part of the event. WCC’s Orchard Radio was also on hand to provide mood music.

The pin-striping demo was a new addition to the show and was provided by Jeremy Seanor, 26, of Pittsburg, Pa. As an expert in the art of pin-striping he was invited to show off his skills and provide education.

“I was asked to come and do some panels to auction off for the Foundation and for students to come up and see what I do and ask questions,” he said.

The Childcare Professional and Early Childhood Education program provided the craft and face-painting tables.

“This is our second year doing this. We get our craft supplies from the Scrapbox, located in Ann Arbor,” Sally Adler, childcare professional and early childhood education instructor, said. “We like to stick with the theme.”

“Along with fun for the children, we also have educational materials for the parents in the form of printed

CARS & BIKES  
CONTINUED B6

# A ‘free lunch’ can be the meal of a lifetime

By DAVID FITCH  
Staff Writer

For 21 year-old Azzam Aziz, a computer science major, the Washtenaw Community College Foundation scholarships he received provided the financial boost that launched his career.

Aziz, of Saline, says that the money let him put time that he would have forced to work to make ends meet into building skills for his career.

In fact, those scholarships went even further. Aziz was able to accept an unpaid internship working on building a website for Quicken Loans. His work on the project was noted, and he was offered a paid position at a sister company of Quicken Loans, called TitleSource.

Aziz excitedly recounted getting the call from the CEO of TitleSource, the company for which he still works.

“When the CEO calls you, you know there is something there!” he said.

Aziz has received funding from the foundation for the past four semesters and is now completing his degree and

working full-time.

For many students like Aziz at Washtenaw Community College, coming up with tuition is a challenge. Many must balance career, classroom and family. Paying for college is a burden most cannot handle alone.

The WCC Foundation strives to give students the money that they need to get through college. The foundation operates as the college’s “fundraising arm.”

Last year alone saw 1,300 students apply for scholarships, of which, 988 received funding, which came to a total of just less than \$600,000. Applications are accepted for scholarships in all semesters.

According to WCCF Scholarship and Alumni Coordinator Alicia Schuster, the evaluation of applications involves several elements including financial need as well as academic merit. Students’ financial need information is provided via FAFSA, or the Free Application for Student Aid. GPA information as well as students intended major are examined, as well as a statement of why a student needs

aid. Finally, a letter or recommendation is required.

The applications are reviewed by a team of people comprised of Schuster and representatives from the Student Resource and Women’s Center, the counseling department, Student Development and Activities, as well as one from the Financial Aid department.

After being reviewed by the team, applications are then evaluated by a committee comprised of WCCF board members, two community liaisons and a member of the WCC Board of Trustees.

Justin Furman, 21, of Canton, also received help from the WCCF, and it impacted him in big ways. Furman, a technology management major from Canton, received multiple WCCF scholarships over the course of his years at Washtenaw.

“That has been a tremendous help,” he said. “Yeah, it’s nice that I don’t have to pay for tuition and whatnot. That does help, but on top of that, there’s room and board. There’s gas that keeps on increasing...”

The help from various people and departments, including, in no small part, the WCC Foundation, helped nudge Furman closer to his career.

Furman was hired two weeks ago by a company called Rausch Industries for a full-time position doing something he loves.

“I get to paint parts for the new Mustangs, work on Disney World stuff... It’s been a blast.”

Furman now hopes to become an automotive refinishing instructor.

Surprisingly, the only thing standing between many students and being considered for school funding often is the application. Schuster estimates that she receives around 1,600 applications, but of those, hundreds are incomplete. And the application, according to Schuster, isn’t anything too difficult.

“I think that it’s a really easy application. If you went onto your MyWCC and you went to apply, the application would take you maximum of 10 minutes if you write your essay beforehand,” she said. “So, why not apply?” And Furman would agree.

“It is so easy! It’s unbelievable and it’s sad how people just don’t want to take a half an hour out of their day and get an \$800 scholarship... It’s just amazing,” he said.

Schuster says that the essay can be the key to being awarded a scholarship.

“Write a really compelling essay. The essay is weighted and can be the deciding factor of a ‘yes’ or a ‘no,’” she said. “It’s amazing how many essays I see that have the text talk or no capitalization or something as inane as ‘I’m a really good student.’ You know, I see a lot of really good students. I’m sorry.”

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# ‘Lite Bike’ event highlights ‘bike culture’ in A2

By ALAINA O’CONNOR  
Staff Writer

Despite the rainy, dreary weather, as many as 30 cyclists decorated their bikes and themselves with strings of bright lights and participated in an event designed to bring awareness to bike safety when riding at night.

“Even with the rain, I still had people calling me wanting to be a part of the event,” said event organizer Krysia Hepatica, a 29-year-old graduate student and Bike A2 executive director from Ann Arbor.

“We started Bike A2 in March with the intention of helping the city grow its biking culture,” Hepatic explained. “Now, we see ourselves as a public relations group for biking and the people who ride them.”

Bike enthusiasts, casual riders and curious spectators gathered in front of the Washington Street parking structure on Sept. 15 to witness something completely illuminating.

“We have a good turnout,” said Ann Arbor resident and Bike A2 board member David Goldwyn, who moved from Chicago 11 years ago. “Ann Arbor has such a strong biking community, and we have a great group of people here.”

Bonnie Lynn Paige, a 21-year-old violin teacher from Ann Arbor, decorated her bike with white Christmas lights. She wore glow-in-the-dark bracelets and bright red lipstick.

“So the cars can see me better,” she joked. “I’m not a huge cyclist, because I’m slow. But, I love to ride.”

The most colorful of the bunch came from a group of three women with glow-in-the-dark painted faces,

neon wigs and brightly colored lights strung around their bikes.

“We’re not really bike enthusiasts,” said Carol Charles who owns a cleaning business in Ann Arbor. “We’re light enthusiasts.”

Ann Arbor bike shop Wheels in Motion kicked off the event with a bike safety demonstration and Monterey, Calif.-based company Lights and Motion donated its micro-USB bike lights for the event.

The group was careful to balance a critical mass style ride, where cyclists flood the streets in an effort to make motorists think about traffic on public roadways, while at the same time obeying traffic laws.

“We don’t want to piss off the city council,” Hepatica said.

After an hour riding the streets of downtown Ann Arbor, the tired cyclists returned to the kick-off location for a beer sponsored by Arbor Brewing Company and a musical performance by Lights Out for the Territory.

Hepatica was inspired by Dlectricty, a contemporary light art festival featuring artists showcasing illuminated works of art.

“There was a small part of the festival where cyclists decorate their bikes with these amazing lights,” Hepatica said. “I really liked the idea and thought it would be really cool to do something like that here.”

Hepatica admits she was nervous to try something like this, but found Bike A2 board members supportive of her efforts.

“When it came time to do this, I

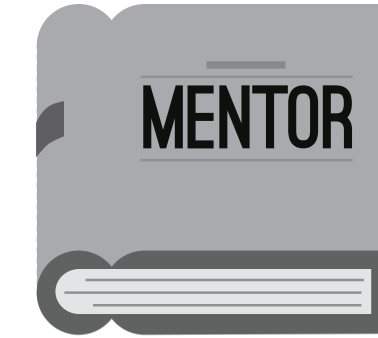


ALAINA O’CONNOR THE WASHTENAW VOICE  
Above: Colorful bikes like this one lit up Ann Arbor to promote the cities growing bike culture.

LITE BIKE  
CONTINUED B6



# New math instructor Dave Wilson brings it ‘home’



Once a struggling student at WCC, now he’s ‘Dr. Dave’

By DAVID FITCH  
Staff Writer

Volunteering to host an “Algebra and Trig. Boot Camp” on a late-summer Saturday morning wouldn’t be the first choice for most people to spend a chunk of their weekend.

But there was a need and Dr. Dave was there for the students.

Newly minted Washtenaw Community College instructor Dr. David Wilson once walked the halls of WCC as a student. He returned last May to stand at the front of the class as a teacher.

At his boot camp, students worked intently at the boards on the walls of LA 276, searching for ‘x,’ factoring, and discussing problems. The vibe in the room was surprisingly positive.

Wilson bounced around the room helping confused students factor and divide. His neatly braided ponytail swung at his back. A classy tie chain completed the visage of professionalism with individuality and care.

So what inspired Wilson (Dr. Dave

to his students) to organize such an event? His answer was simple and forthright: These students needed the help – and he once walked in their shoes.

After graduating from Huron High School in 1994, Wilson enrolled at WCC unsure as to what his future might hold.

“I graduated with a 2.0,” he said. “I was bottom of my class, a struggling student.”

Community college seemed like a logical next step.

“I enrolled in Washtenaw Community College because I had no idea what I was going to do, what I wanted to be. I mean I knew I wanted to do chemistry,” Wilson said. “I liked the idea of engineering, so I thought, ‘Hey chemical engineering! Why not?’”

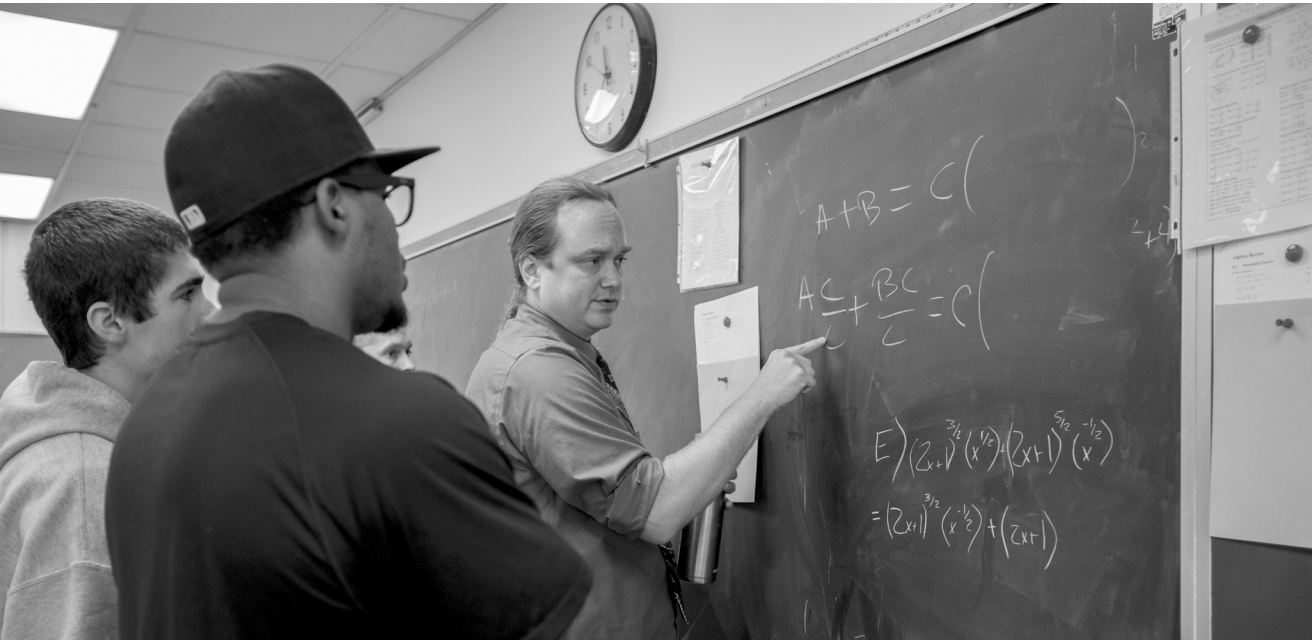
Wilson recalled first entering WCC unaware of what was in store for him there.

“When I got here, I sort of thought of it like high school 2.0, to be honest, and I realized pretty quickly it wasn’t,” said Wilson. “I sort of went from enrolling in school to committing to college, and when that change happened, I realized that I could pretty much do anything – and for me that was phenomenal.”

After attending Washtenaw, Wilson transferred to Michigan Technological University, where he majored in physics and math.

“I was nervous when I went up there that I wasn’t going to be ready. And I ended up pulling a 4.0 for a while,” said Wilson. “I was excited that WCC had prepared me to go on.”

From Michigan Tech., Wilson continued on to the University of Washington, and finally to the



KELLY BRACHA THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Math instructor David Wilson helps students with an equation during his Saturday algebra and trigonometry boot camp.

University of Michigan, where he earned a master’s degree, and then a PhD in physics. After working for a time on post-doctoral research at U-M, Wilson craved a change.

“I realized that I wanted off the academic treadmill,” he said, adding, “When I really, critically evaluated what I enjoyed about the past decade of my life, it was about teaching.”

When Wilson saw the openings for a part-time teaching position at Washtenaw, he was excited. He applied and was soon teaching at his alma mater.

“In many ways, being here at WCC now feels like coming home. I’m loving it,” he said.

“NLF...Numbers, letters, function,” Wilson explained to a boot-camp student, “Numbers cancel numbers, letters cancel letters, functions cancel

functions.”

Wilson was encouraged when his Algebra and Trig Boot Camp drew a crowd of about 30 students instead of the 12 or so he expected.

“I feel like he teaches math in a unique way,” said Tegwyn John, an 18-year-old math and science major from Ann Arbor.

“I see that he’s passionate about students learning calc(ulus),” said 20 year-old exercise science major, Deyanco Hardwick of Ann Arbor, who is taking Calculus I with Wilson.

Wilson has been teaching math at WCC since May, and he has to say he is enjoying his homecoming is an understatement.

“I love it here. I love the students here. Because this is where I was,” he said. “I was 18. I didn’t know what I wanted to do.”

“He’s very energetic. He’s very enthusiastic,” Dean of Math, Science, and Health Martha Showalter said of Wilson. “I found him to be someone who was very passionate about teaching.”

Wilson hopes to return the favors that he was done while at WCC and studying under instructors like Mohammed Abella and George Kapp.

“The instructors took time to talk to me,” said Wilson. “Because they took the time to work with me, I’m now trying to take the time to work with the next generation.”

And for that next generation, Wilson has words of encouragement and admonition.

“Deciding to go to school is a great

DR. DAVE  
CONTINUED B6

# Art from reclaimed wood



JAMES SAOUD THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Crytal DeVee’s ‘Mother of Trees,’ created from scavenged wood.

By ALLIE TOMASON  
Managing Editor

Gallery One and the Urbanwood Project of Ann Arbor have joined together to bring a unique art exhibit to Washtenaw Community College. The exhibit displays a variety of artisan pieces made from reclaimed wood and will run from Aug. 28 to Oct. 18.

About 10 artists are featured, as well as some example pieces of tree damage and an educational video depicting damage done by the emerald ash borer, according to Anne Rubin, director of Gallery One.

“The thing that I am very pleased about with this show is that there’s is a huge variety of experience from students to really experienced woodworkers,” said Rubin.

There are various types of objects such as a utilitarian table, a turned bowl, carved sculptures that give the show an interesting appeal. And different methods and tools, such as wood turners, chainsaws and chisels, create all.

One particular piece, sculpted by the artist Amy Yamasaki, which Rubin described, is made from the trunk of a walnut tree and carved with a hammer and chisel.

“She goes in and she takes out all the diseased parts, after she does that she takes a look at some of the sound parts and starts making decisions about

form,” Rubin said pointing at the piece. “You can see the chisel marks, here.”

Another piece, near the gallery entrance, is called The Music of Chance. It is reminiscent of something out of Alice’s Wonderland. It’s made with reclaimed piano keys, playing cards and a real butterfly, which gives it its whimsical flair, contained in what looks like a shadowbox with two doors.

“He is thinking in terms of musical things,” Rubin said, of the artist.

This is the first time that an exhibit has been sponsored at Gallery One in collaboration with a community organization. And it has brought a positive, sustainable vibe to the college, Rubin said.

“In my opinion, this is an outstanding opportunity for us to showcase some excellent work, and I appreciate the partnership that we have developed with the Urbanwood Project,” WCC President Rose Bellanca said.

As part of the exhibit, Jeff Tervol, owner of Tervol’s Wood Products located in North Adams, conducted a wood cutting demonstration. Wednesday afternoon Tervol brought his portable sawmill to the campus and reduced an entire spruce trunk into lumber.

“We are one of seven sawmills that participate in the Urban Wood Project,” Tervol said. “Some of our products (ellipses) are even used in the exhibit.”

The Urbanwood Project is part of Recycle Ann Arbor and the Southeast Michigan Resource Conservation and Development Council’s efforts to encourage more recycling of dead urban trees, especially those killed by the emerald ash borer, according to the project’s website.

Jessica Simmons, coordinator of the Urbanwood Project, said that the hope is that this project will inspire people to create new markets for this natural resource.



JAMES SAOUD THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Jonathan McMurray’s ‘Mother Universe,’ Maple, mixed media.



JAMES SAOUD THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Amy Yamasaki’s ‘Longitudinal Resilience,’ carved from Walnut with a concrete base.

# Gallery One introduces ‘Exquisite Corpse’ game

By ALLIE TOMASON  
Managing Editor

Gallery One will open a new exhibit at the end of October called “Expanding the Line.”

“Every year we choose a particular topic, and we do a series on that. This year we are going to be talking about drawing,” Anne Rubin, director of Gallery One, said.

The artists featured will be Gerome Kamrowski, Larry Cressman, and Charlie Kanwischer. Rubin said that the game “Exquisite Corpse” would also be introduced to the gallery this fall.

“The Exquisite Corpse was actually started as a poetry movement. Then it turned into a visual arts movement as well,” she said.

“So we’re going to have a sort of mini-studio set up where people can come in and play Exquisite Corpse, either verbally or by drawing.”

The game is played with paper and a drawing or writing utensil. For the drawing aspect of the

game players draw a picture. Then they fold the paper over so that just a small amount of the drawing shows. The next person does the same.

The written game is done similarly, except with words.

Rubin said that the drawings will be revealed every Friday during the show and the writing will be revealed two days before the closing of the event on Dec. 11.

## EXQUISITE CORPSE

**What:** Part art exhibit, part game show  
**Who:** Featured artists Gerome Kamrowski, Larry Cressman and Charlie Kanwischer.  
**Where:** Gallery One, ground floor in the Student Center  
**When:** Oct. 30-Dec. 11  
**Info:** 734-477-8512

## GALLERY ONE HOURS

Mon.-Tue. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Wed.-Thur. 10 a.m.-8 p.m.  
Fri. 10 a.m.-noon





COURTESY PHOTO EASYASTHEOCEAN.COM

# MGMT: Self-titled and self-conscious

By JAMES SAOUD  
Video Editor

Mainstream pop music is recurrently referred to, with clichéd branding, as “ear candy.” Surprisingly, this timeworn terminology fits psych-pop duo MGMT’s new self titled album almost faultlessly, except this candy is drenched in LSD.

MGMT, best known for 2007’s mega hits “Time to Pretend” and “Kids,” established with its second outing, 2010’s “Congratulations,” that it was treading new water.

“Congratulations,” an album as colorful and bubbly as it was sad and confusing, was hardly a step forward for the duo – more of a step sideways. For their new album, the band teamed up with producer David Fridmann, the psychedelic-rock icon best known for his work with The Flaming Lips, for a second time after Fridmann led them to success with their debut, “Oracular Spectacular.”

However, with “MGMT” the band once again takes a step to the side, forgetting entirely about the mainstream aspirations it (supposedly) never had.

“Alien Days,” the album’s opening track, acts like a logical next step after “Congratulations,” giving us a

temporary moment of familiar outlandishness from the band. With “Alien Days” and the bands cover of Faine Jade’s 1960s hit “Introspection,” we get what may be the highest highs the first half of “MGMT” has to offer.

That is until we reach the album’s single “Your Life is a Lie,” a song as fun, noisy, and despondent as anything the band has ever created. The two-minute psychedelic pop/punk number acts as the grand finale for the first batch of songs, as well as a fleeting inauguration for the album’s second, much stranger, half.

Side B opens with “A Good Sadness.” The song lacks much dynamism, while just sort of floating in the empty space between your speakers and your ears. The pop tendencies are obvious and reminiscent of “Kids,” but lacking the hook that made that song memorable.

With the album’s next track “Astromancy,” it’s hard to dismiss a huge influence from MGMT’s peers and critically acclaimed indie-rock outfit Animal Collective.

Thankfully, the next song, “I Love You Too, Death” is unmistakably an MGMT song. It starts out sounding remote and cold, but somewhere this six-minute long track morphs into a

Genre: **Psychedelic-rock/ Synth-pop**  
Length: **44 Minutes**  
Grade: **B-**

# Gervais tastelessly misses the mark with ‘Derek’

By ERIC GARANT  
Staff Writer

“Derek,” the new straight-to-Netflix series by “The Office” creator Ricky Gervais, represents a pretty dramatic and not very successful departure for the British comedian.

Gervais, as Derek Noakes, plays a mentally challenged man who works in a nursing home. It is not made clear what exactly is wrong with Derek. One character suggests he might be autistic. At the very least, he seems to have learning disabilities.

Gervais’ portrayal includes walking in a hunched way, taking small, rapid steps and opening and closing his mouth without apparent reason. It’s hard to say whether Gervais wants us to think that this is funny.

The lack of quality dialogue for Derek and the way that his odd mannerisms are shot, seems, at times, to

suggest that he does. If that is the case, it’s a miscalculation, and a tasteless one.

“Derek” is not just a simple comedy. That’s important to the show being even mildly watchable, because it isn’t all that funny.

Derek is an extremely kind person, a true innocent. The show uses him to highlight how important kindness is: Derek might not be a rocket scientist, but he’s still a good and valuable person that others enjoy being around.

In this aspect, “Derek” is often sweet, though its messages are never particularly deep. Its sweetness does help the viewer get past some of the show’s more sophomoric humor, though, of which there is quite a bit.

Derek rooms with Dougie (Karl Pilkington), whose friend, Kev (David Earl), is disgusting in just about every way that a person can be. I have no problem with crudeness, but

crudeness in and of itself is not funny. Earl’s character is written with no wit, given no opportunity to bring his gross material to life.

Pilkington, as Dougie, is the show’s saving grace. Dougie is 40 years old, wears nerdy glasses, and is completely bald except for the edges of his head. His relentlessly bleak attitude is fertile comic ground, and almost all of the first three episodes’ best jokes are Dougie’s.

The third episode ends with a montage set to Radiohead’s “Bones.” And after roughly 70 minutes of the continuously disappointing “Derek,” some Radiohead sounded pretty good.

Genre: **Comedy/Drama**  
Length: **~25 minutes**  
Grade: **D**



COURTESY PHOTO INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Ricky Gervais as the mentally challenged Derek Noakes.

# Affleck, strong performances keep ‘Bodies’ afloat



COURTESY PHOTO STUFFPOINT.COM

Rooney Mara and Casey Affleck as doomed lovers Ruth Guthrie and Bob Muldoon.

By ERIC GARANT  
Staff Writer

“Ain’t Them Bodies Saints” both suffers from and yet depends upon the inevitable comparisons it draws to the early work of Terence Malick.

Malick’s first two films, 1973’s “Badlands” and 1978’s “Days of Heaven” were both about people trying to live while on the run from the law. Both included prominent shots of the wilderness and featured stories that moved ponderously.

This gave the films a strangely powerful effect wherein their human dramas were simultaneously both enhanced and rendered kind of trivial by the scope of nature. I don’t know if that makes any sense in print, but it makes sense on the screen.

“Ain’t Them Bodies Saints” follows in a lot of these footsteps, and it depends upon these past films to lay the groundwork for the viewer. Without them as touchstones, this film could not exist.

It suffers from the comparisons because its central relationship is never as compelling as those of the Malick

films. In Malick’s work, the couple is on the run, and we see their dependency on each other.

In “Ain’t Them Bodies Saints,” it’s just Bob (Casey Affleck) who is on the run. He took the heat for Ruth (Rooney Mara) when she shot officer Patrick Wheeler (Ben Foster) during a stand-off after a robbery.

Bob asks her to wait for him, and writes tender letters from jail. Just before the stand-off, Ruth had told Bob that she was pregnant. Bob soon escapes and begins a perilous quest to reconnect with her.

This is occasionally poignant stuff, and Affleck’s performance is a strong one. He has a way of suggesting great depths of feeling with his rather unique delivery. That Bob needs Ruth is not hard to accept.

But what of Ruth needing Bob? When Bob goes away, Skerritt (Keith Carradine), a shopkeeper who seems like he’s got his hands in a good amount of dirt, begins taking care of her financially. And the extremely decent-seeming Patrick begins stopping by. He has recovered from the gunshot, and he doesn’t seem to be holding grudges.

It’s possible that he’s just interested in putting Bob back behind bars, but Foster’s performance suggests a genuine interest in Ruth and her young daughter, Sylvie.

Why does Ruth need Bob? Better yet, why should she *want* Bob? Bob is charming, and his letters are achingly romantic. But he’s nothing but trouble, and as sensible as Ruth is in other ways, she should know it.

In “Badlands,” Sissy Spacek’s Holly is young and dim, and has no place in the world. Martin Sheen’s Kit is handsome and exciting, and acts like he knows what he’s doing. When she goes with him on their doomed trip, it makes sense. I never had the same feeling with “Ain’t Them Bodies Saints.”

Still, it is not a bad film. There are some memorable moments, and the performances are exceptional. Affleck is one of the most interesting character actors in the business right now, and his work in this film is worth seeing.

Genre: **Crime/Drama/Romance**  
Length: **96 minutes**  
Rating: **R**  
Grade: **B-**



COURTESY PHOTO ACESHOWBIZ.COM

Bob’s letters stoke Ruth’s romantic fire.



# Booming numbers bolster club baseball team



By ERIC GARANT  
Sports Writer

After struggling to keep enough players to field a team in 2012, Washtenaw Community College's club baseball team found itself with a large surplus this semester.

In a reversal of its initial stance, the club sports department recently allowed the team to make cuts, trimming its roster from a logistically impossible 41 to a more manageable 24.

"Talking with Erica, I would have loved to keep them all, but not even a big-league team carries that many guys," coach Jeff Rhein said, referring to Club Sports Coordinator Erica Lemm.

Rhein previously spent three

years coaching high school baseball in Bloomfield Hills and Ann Arbor, and three years in the college ranks at Shawnee State University in Ohio.

"At the beginning, when I got hired on, there weren't going to be any cuts," Rhein said, adding that it would have been impossible to predict that so many students would come out for the team.

"We started out with like 13 guys," veteran player Alex Aldridge, 24, an engineering major from Milan said in reference to last year's squad.

Rhein said he believed the team finished the year with just eight players.

No one seems to know what caused such a spike in enthusiasm for baseball over the summer, but there are high hopes for this year's team, both from

within and without.

"This is the most talented team I've ever seen at WCC," Lemm said. "They definitely have the talent, knowledge and work ethic to be very successful this year."

"There's always strength in numbers," Rhein said. "We've got good hitters, good pitchers, good fielders."

"I'll think we'll be good, as long as we really come together as a team," centerfielder Haddon Pakala, 19, a business major from Ypsilanti, said.

WCC's team is not affiliated with any conference, which allows it to play a diverse schedule that includes several universities' club teams.

The team began its season on Sept. 21, away against Lourdes University. Its first home dates are Sept. 25, at 5:30 p.m. against Eastern Michigan University, and Oct. 2 at 4:30 p.m. against the University of Michigan.

With so many students interested in playing baseball, would the college consider carrying two teams in the future?

"No," Coordinator Erica Lemm said. "We'll just have one team per sport."



Gardner fumbles during last season's game against Ohio State.

## Michigan, QB Gardner faces a crossroads after Akron debacle



ERIC GARANT

After a huge, prime-time victory over Notre Dame, the Michigan Wolverines were flying high. They appeared to be clear favorites to win the Legends division and strong contenders to reach a BCS bowl. Quarterback Devin Gardner was gaining steam as a Heisman trophy candidate.

Then Akron came to the Big House.

Favored by 37 points, the Wolverines needed the Zips to fail to score on two plays from inside the 5-yard line in the game's final seconds to escape with a victory. Though no Wolverine will remember the game proudly, none should be as anxious to forget it as Gardner, whose decision-making was nothing short of disastrous.

What to make of this team, and especially its starting quarterback? Was the near-catastrophe of Sept. 14 an anomaly or an omen?

And how many times does this program need to learn the lesson that it cannot just show up at Michigan Stadium on Saturday and roll over its opposition?

True, the regime has changed since the unfathomable loss to Appalachian State in 2007 and what would have otherwise been an unfathomable loss to Toledo in 2008. Coach Brady Hoke and Co. should still have learned from their predecessors' mistakes.

"This isn't high school," All-America tackle and team captain Taylor Lewan said at a news

conference a few days after the game. "Everyone is good."

This, it would seem, is a message the team could have used before the Akron contest.

"We let (the expectations) get to our head," tackle Michael Schofield said. "Every team that we face, they're playing Michigan. They're going to bring their best."

It was clear that the team has taken the near-loss to heart. Hoke put his players through a padded and helmeted practice on the Sunday following the game.

"We want to improve every time we take the field," Hoke said. "Since we missed that day (the day of the Akron game), we made up for it (on Sunday)."

"We were all upset," linebacker James Ross III said. "We didn't give our best effort throughout the week. We want to go back out there and show what we're really made of."

These are the types of things Hoke and his players have to say, and they represent the types of things they'll need to do. There is no ambiguity about the expectations at Michigan; winners are glorified, losers are cast aside.

But improving its preparation and effort will not guarantee the team success if the man under center plays as he did against Akron. It is easy to believe that the team will do better in most aspects of the game than it did against the Zips; the opposite is barely possible.

Assuming that Gardner will make similar strides requires a bit more faith. His mistakes against Akron stemmed from trying to do too much. Will he be more patient and trusting as the schedule gets harder? For the winningest program in the history of college football, this is a key question; the fate of its season hinges on the answer.

Contact Sports Writer Eric Garant at [egarant@wccnet.edu](mailto:egarant@wccnet.edu) and follow him at [@garanteric](https://twitter.com/garanteric).

### CARS & BIKES FROM B3

brochures about car and bike safety for children," said Briana Rolfe, 24, and a childcare professional student from Ann Arbor.

Instructor Shawn Deron performed the Dyno Shootout in the motorcycle lab.

"As long as a rider or owner operator has a motorcycle and they signed up for the show, we do a free dyno run or dyno shootout, which qualifies them for a trophy in one of four classes," he said.

The trophies were all custom made with contributions from the various programs, and were sponsored by community businesses.

The participating programs that helped to pull it all off were Auto

Body, Welding, Automotive Service, Motorcycle, Childcare Professionals, Music and Advanced Manufacturing.

Additional events held to raise funds for the WCC Foundation are the annual Mardi Gras dinner, golf outing and silent auctions.

Mardi Gras is in February at the ML building and showcases the college's culinary students' work. The golf outing is annually in August at Fox Hills, located in Plymouth. And the silent auctions run through the month of September.

## Cars and Bikes show award winners.

### 2013 CAR WINNERS

- Best in Show:** *Jeff Matauch*, 1954 Chevrolet 3100 Pickup, sponsored by Hagerty
- Best Truck:** *Ken Weddington*, 1952 Ford Pickup, sponsored by Extang
- Best Import:** *Marty Gibson*, 1966 Volkswagon Beetle, sponsored by Painters Supply
- Best Domestic:** *Al Johnston*, 1967 Chevrolet Camaro, sponsored by Collex Collision
- Best Street Rod:** *Rocky Santavy*, 1937 Ford, sponsored by The Weavers
- Best Custom:** *Ron Christ*, Dodge Humpback Panel, sponsored by Gene Buttman Ford
- Best Interior:** *Jim Lake*, 1937 Willy's Coupe, sponsored by Auto Value
- Best Paint:** *Al Rose*, 1960 Ford Ranch Wagon, sponsored by Transtar

### 2013 MOTORCYCLE WINNERS

- Best Custom:** *Dwayne Henderson*, 2012 Harley-Davidson Road Glide
- Best American:** *Roy Finley*, 2009 Harley-Davidson Street Glide
- Best Metric:** *James Kern*, 1998 Suzuki GSXR 600

### 2013 DYNO SHOOTOUT WINNERS

- American Stock:** *Sam Ayyash*, 2013 Harley-Davidson Road Glide, 75.45 Hp
- American Unlimited:** *Dwayne Henderson*, 2012 Harley-Davidson Road Glide, 136.15 Hp
- Metric Stock:** *Dennis Grimard*, 2011 Honda CBR 1000RR, 149.98 Hp
- Metric Unlimited:** *Matt Sproll*, 2007 Honda CBR 1000RR, 187.7 Hp



KELLY BRACHA THE WASHTENAW VOICE

The awards were created by a collaborative effort of the Welding department and Automotive department.



KELLY BRACHA THE WASHTENAW VOICE

WCC automotive repair student Fedel Amer, 27, of Detroit, rode in on his 2007 Suzuki GSX-R 750 to the Car and Bike Show.

### LITE BIKE FROM B3

told her, "Go for it!" said Goldwyn. "She's been kicking butt and taking names ever since."

Hepatica is optimistic about the impact that the bike community is having in Ann Arbor and the surrounding areas. She points to the community bike-sharing program that was approved by the Ann Arbor City Council in early August.

"It's really cool. You just check out a bike by swiping your credit card, do your business around town,

and check it back in at any station location," said Hepatica.

So, what's next for Bike A2?

"We want to strengthen and grow the biking community in Ann Arbor that already exists and make it a better place for everybody," said Hepatica.

"We're not trying not to duplicate other groups' efforts. We just want to work with everyone for the common good."

For more information, visit <http://www.bikea2.org>

### DR. DAVE FROM B4

first step, but committing to your education is essential," he said. "And that really is a big difference... It's a lifestyle change that you have to be willing to make."

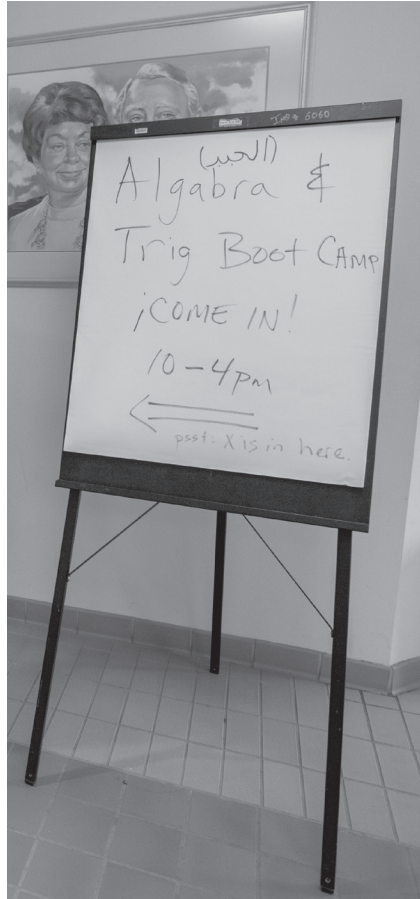
And, as in the classroom, Wilson values honesty at the risk of wounded pride.

"A lot of people have an idea that this is what they want to do, or maybe they want to do this," he said. "They kind of keep buried inside. They don't tell people because they are afraid of ridicule."

As one who began without much direction at Washtenaw, Wilson can speak to the "major-less" student as well.

"I would say talk to your friends about what you want to do. Talk to your family about what you want to do. Be honest," Wilson said. "You've got to take that risk. Talk to your instructors about you want to do."

"Get out there instead of just keeping it as this dream in the distance and then never knowing why you don't attain it. Start at a place like Washtenaw."



KELLY BRACHA THE WASHTENAW VOICE

LA 276 was transformed into a trigonometry and algebra haven for students to come and practice their math skills, on a recent Saturday.



**Radio Disney Road Crew**  
Represent Radio Disney and The Walt Disney Company brand. Maintain familiarity with Radio Disney programming, music, local hosts, national promotions, Disney Channel, Disney XD, Disney Junior and other partners. Review event details prior to event and upon arriving on-site. Load/unload station vehicles. (requires lifting). Complete on-site event setup. (sound system, signage, backdrop, prize table, ensure cords are safe and taped down, table is neat, perform sound check, etc.). Engage audience (invite select audience on stage for activities, administer contests, distribute prizes, assist guests with register to win prize, etc.)





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