

# THE WASHTENAW VOICE

A NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD NEWSPAPER

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

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## MOLD NEWS



## News about the mold in LA building has spread; so has scope of clean-up effort

By NATALIE WRIGHT  
Editor

While the mold discovered on the first floor of the Crane Liberal Arts and Science building has not affected the air quality, the levels on the building's drywall are serious enough to spur what Vice President of Facilities Management Damon Flowers called

a "massive" clean-up effort.

The mold removal and related projects will cost \$500,000 and will take until May 2015 to complete, nearly a year from when the mold was discovered. Flowers told the WCC board of trustees at its July 22 meeting that he hopes the college's insurance will cover some of the cost.

In order to remove the infested

drywall, those areas of the building need to be cleared out. Deans' offices, faculty offices, the part-time faculty commons and learning support services all need to be relocated.

It is not as simple as moving people into an empty classroom, Flowers said.

"It's not like we have a ton of surplus space," he said. "These moves are creating other moves."

While there is some room for the deans' offices in the Gunder Myran building, the other offices

require quite a bit more space. The college has chosen to use SC 105 – the Community Room – as a temporary space for faculty offices and Gallery One as a space for learning support services, Flowers said.

But before these spaces can be taken over, there's a significant amount of work that must be done, he said.

"There's a lot of infrastructure that's being put in – a lot of electrical

See **MOLD**, Page A3

## Eight candidates eye trustee openings

By NATALIE WRIGHT  
Editor

Three Washtenaw trustees will reach the end of their terms this winter, and two of them, Board Chair Anne Williams and Vice Chair Patrick McLean, are not seeking re-election.

Mark Freeman, secretary of the board, is the only incumbent running. He will face off against seven other candidates on the Nov. 4 ballot.

The space on the board is more hotly contested this year than it's been in decades – and possibly ever. Eight candidates have filed for three seats – more than have run in an election since 1980 – as far back as digital records go.

The roster shows that faculty and students are eager to secure a voice on the board amid conflict between the faculty and the administration.

Two former faculty members, three former students and two current students have all thrown their hats in the ring.

At a trustees meeting on July 22, the same day as the deadline for candidates to file, McLean explained his decision not to run.

"I'm not interested in serving just for the sake of serving. If I'm going to serve well, I need to be able to give my all to the college ... and I've made a decision that I simply don't have that ability for the next couple years," McLean said, adding that his support for the college is "unwavering."

Williams did not comment on her decision not to run.

See **TRUSTEES**, Page A6

## Part-time WCC instructor sues college, alleges gender discrimination in hiring

By NATALIE WRIGHT  
Editor

Washtenaw Community College English instructor Stephanie Gelderloos filed a lawsuit against WCC, President Rose Bellanca and Vice President of Instruction Bill Abernethy, alleging that she was discriminated against in the April 2013 hiring for a full-time faculty position.

The lawsuit, in which Gelderloos is seeking damages in excess of \$75,000, was filed on Thursday in the Federal District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Gelderloos worked at the college for nine years, according to the complaint, as part-time, adjunct and temporary full-time faculty.



STEPHANIE GELDERLOOS

Gelderloos alleges that she was passed up for the position, despite being unanimously recommended by a hiring committee, due to an intentional WCC policy to hire male candidates to increase male representation in the English Department.

Gelderloos also filed a charge of discrimination with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). In response to the charge, the EEOC issued a finding that there is a cause to believe illegal discrimination occurred.

The case is under further review by the Department of Justice. If the DOJ issues a "right to sue" letter, Gelderloos intends to amend the complaint to add a claim under the Civil Rights Act, according to the complaint.

On Friday, Susan Ferraro, WCC's director of Public Relations, said that she knew nothing about the suit and was unable to contact Bellanca or Abernethy for comment.

## Bellanca's contract not extended ... yet

Unlike the previous two summers, the Washtenaw Community College board of trustees did not extend President Rose Bellanca's contract or award her a raise.

Bellanca, who was hired in August 2011 on a three-year contract, received a one-year contract extension and a raise in June 2012 and again in June 2013.

Her current contract ends June 2016.

While this is the first summer since her hiring that Bellanca has not received an extension, Board of Trustees Chair Anne Williams said that it could still happen this fall.

"The board of trustees and President Bellanca will review the matters of her salary, benefits and a contract extension in September ..." Williams said in an email.

– Natalie Wright

## WCC and UA seal 15-year partnership extension

By NATALIE WRIGHT  
Editor

With the signing of a 15-year contract on Aug. 13, Washtenaw Community College and the United Association of Plumbers, Pipefitters, Sprinkler Fitters, Welders and HVACR Technicians (UA) solidified their long-standing partnership.

For one week in August for the last 25 years, WCC has been host to thousands of UA members – skilled trades professionals and mentors from around the country – who come to campus for instructor training.

At the end of the week, the instructors return home to share what they learned.

This training program is cited as one of the most successful skilled trades programs around the world, WCC President Rose Bellanca said before signing the contract.

"Just as teaching is the heart of our college, I know it's also the heart of the UA," Bellanca said. "As to

why our partnership is so successful – we have both made a commitment to a lifetime of learning."

The 53-year-old training program moved to WCC from Purdue University 25 years ago because a vice president at the UA had connections with the college, UA President William Hite said.

"And we couldn't be more happy with it today," Hite said. "We get good cooperation from everybody at the school and the community. They treat us like family."

See **CONTRACT**, Page A3



UA President William Hite and WCC President Rose Bellanca sign a 15-year contract extension on Wednesday, Aug. 12. NATALIE WRIGHT | WASHTENAW VOICE

## UA tradesmen, WCC teacher form bond by overcoming fear

By NATALIE WRIGHT  
Editor

For a few days in August, TI 108 roared. Laughter reverberated down the halls, and anyone in the Technical Industrial building could tell Margie Brooks' public speaking class was having a good time.

“There were some tough nuts in that class, and even the toughest nuts cracked.”

– UA STUDENT JEFF COLLIER

For the last five years, Brooks, a WCC instructor, has taught public speaking to the skilled tradesmen of the United Association of Plumbers, Pipefitters, Sprinkler Fitters, Welders and HVACR Technicians, when they are training on Washtenaw's campus for a week every August.

This year, she taught 42 men who came from all around the country.

"They're never real excited about the course," Brooks admits. The fear of public speaking is so prevalent, she said, because it equates to the fear of being judged – something everyone is familiar with.

"I don't think anybody in there was looking forward to the public speaking portion. It was evident," said Jeff Collier, one of Brooks' students and a welding instructor from Local 469

in Phoenix, Arizona.

But the UA students separate themselves from the 18- and 19-year-old students she teaches year-round by how quickly they abandon their comfort zone.

It's an amazing thing to see, Brooks said.

"They see that fear, they've encountered that now and it's not as big as they thought."

Throughout the week, Brooks continuously forced the men to step outside of their comfort zone.

Class-wide tongue-twister recitals, breakfast cereal sales pitches and awkward eye contact exercises are just a few of the "goofy" exercises designed to get the students to open up.

They also give five formal speeches during their week in the class. The speeches are fascinating, Brooks said, because the students are bringing such a wide variety of experiences into the classroom.

Brooks has heard speech topics as exotic as alligator hunting and as relatable as family. Family is a very common topic, Brooks said, and that's a

See **BROOKS**, Page A3



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UPCOMING EVENTS

**Welcome Day**

Join us for food, fun and freebies!  
Learn about WCC clubs,  
organizations and other college  
resources.  
Tuesday, September 9  
10 a.m.-2 p.m.  
WCC's Community Park

**Ticket:  
Renaissance Festival**

Whether you enjoy jousting,  
knights, or fairies, this festival is  
sure to be a hit!  
Tickets are only \$5 for students!

**Ticket: Annie**

Watch America's favorite Orphan in this lively musical at the Fisher  
Theatre. Tickets are only \$25 and include parking!

**Volunteer Opportunity: Free College Day**

Give back to your campus by volunteering at the Free College Day  
event. Volunteers will receive dinner the day before the event, lunch at  
the event, a t-shirt and the opportunity to serve their community.  
Saturday, October 11 from 8:30-4:30 (split shifts are available).  
Sign-up here: <http://tinyurl.com/WCCFreeCollegeDayFall2014>

WCC Sports

**Join us for team tryouts!** You must pre-register at the Sports office in SC 116 prior to the tryout date.

**Men's Baseball:** Monday, August 25-Thursday, August 28 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. @ the WCC Baseball Field

**Men's Soccer:** Monday, August 25, Wednesday, August 27 and Thursday, August 28 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the WCC Soccer Field

**Women's Soccer:** Monday, August 25, Wednesday, August 27 and Thursday, August 28 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the WCC Soccer Field

**Women's Softball:** Wednesday, September 3 –Thursday, September 4 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the WCC Softball Field

**Running:** Monday, September 8 & Wednesday, September 10 at 4 p.m. at the WCC Athletic Fields Storage

**Men's Ice Hockey:** Wednesday, September 10 from 10-11:30 p.m., Monday, September 15 from 9:30-10:30 p.m. and September 17 from 10-11:30 p.m. @ Artic Coliseum

**Women's Volleyball:** Tuesday, September 16, Thursday, September 18, and Tuesday, Septemebr 23 from 9:15-11:00 p.m. at the WCC Fitness Center

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To help improve students' proficiency in basic computing, the Computer Commons is pleased to offer our **Tips & Tricks** workshop series. Focused on different topics, these practical, hands-on workshops last one hour and are on a drop-in basis for students in GM 230A. All students are welcome.

**Anti-Virus /Anti-Malware Protection**

Sept. 9, 10, 16, 17  
@ 10-11 am  
Sept. 9, 10, 16  
@ 6:-7 pm

**Printing in the Computer Commons**

Sept. 9 @ 2-3 pm

**File Management: How to Save and Find Your Files on a Computer**

Sept.10 @ 2-3 pm  
Sept. 17 @ 6-7 pm

**Computer Survival**

Sept. 16 & 17 @ 2-3 pm

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# WCC-UA deal warms, cools college campus

BY NATALIE WRIGHT  
*Editor*

The partnership between Washtenaw Community College and the United Association has brought an array of state-of-the-art equipment to WCC’s campus to be used in both UA training and WCC courses. This year, the college added to that list its first combined cooling, heat and power (CCHP) system.

The system was installed by GEM Energy and will be used primarily as a teaching resource by the UA and WCC’s HVAC courses. The CCHP system is a co-generation system that uses natural gas to produce electricity and heat, Damon Flowers, vice president of Facilities Management, said.

The system consists of two micro-turbines, which generate electricity and are rotating at such a high speed that they also generate a lot of “waste heat” that will exceed a thousand degrees, Flowers said.

The benefit of this system, he noted, is that it harnesses that excess heat and uses it to heat water.

“The micro-turbine represents the future of generating on-site reliable power,” WCC President Rose Bellanca said at a ceremony celebrating the college’s continued partnership with the UA.

Last year, the WCC board of trustees approved a budget of \$860,000 for one micro-turbine, in which the UA would fund about 70 percent of the cost and WCC would pick up the other 30 percent.

“So both the UA and WCC have skin in the game, but the UA financed most of it,” Flowers said.

A second micro-turbine was donated to WCC and the UA by GEM Energy.

Flowers said that WCC’s cost, which he estimated at \$290,000, will be repaid in energy savings in about five years.

When the college first envisioned the project with the UA more than a year ago, the target was to have it ready for the UA instructor training in mid-August this year.

And, for the most part, they reached that goal.

“The heating part was functional. It was tested; it was working, and they got trained on it,” Flowers said.

However, the cooling part of the system, a 50-ton chiller, got held up in transport and wasn’t ready in time for the UA.

This part isn’t necessary to the system, though, Flowers said, and is more of an “accessory.”

Although the system was installed with training purposes in mind, it has other benefits as well, which add up to \$60,000 per year in energy savings for the college.

The energy that the CCHP system will generate on-site is enough to power 50-60 homes, according to a GEM Energy press release.

While this system isn’t what would be traditionally called “sustainable,” Flowers said, it does have environmental benefits.

The system will reduce WCC’s carbon footprint by 889 metric tons of greenhouse gases, which is equal to the footprint of 146 cars, according to the GEM Energy press release.

To be truly sustainable, a system must not use fossil fuel, Flowers said. The CCHP system will use natural gas – a fossil fuel. But because it will utilize the “waste heat” from the turbine to heat water, it’s saving energy overall.

“It’s not as sustainable,” Flowers said, compared to the geothermal systems that it will supplement. “But its byproduct is giving me two for one, so in a sense it is.”

While this system is primarily a teaching tool, and the savings and environmental benefits are a “byproduct,” Flowers said, those benefits are leading the college to consider installing a bigger micro-turbine that would not be used for teaching purposes.

“It’s on our list,” Flowers said. While this project is slated to be considered for 2016, there is a possibility that it could be moved up to 2015 and the system could be up and running as early as next summer.

## Emmy winners at WCC

Washtenaw Community College walked away from this year’s Michigan Regional Student Television Awards with five Student Emmys out of the 15 categories.

Winners included Mike Chu, who won the “Director” category, Shane Law, who won the “Animation/Graphics/Special Effects” category, and James Militzer, who won the “Long Form Non-Fiction” category.

Other winners were Mike Kelly, who won the “Public Service (PSAs)” category and Jeremy Liesen, who won the “Music Video” category.

– James Saoud

*Editor’s note:* This story should have been published in the July 22 issue. In its place on page A6, we mistakenly re-published a story about the Emmy nominations.

### MOLD, From A1

services that don’t exist now in those spaces.”

Flowers said that both the Community Room and Gallery One will cease their function for gamers and art lovers by Nov. 1, if not sooner.

This gives the college a month to make the spaces usable for faculty and staff before they make the move just after the fall semester ends.

In the process of planning all of this, the college has done an excellent job of communicating with the faculty and staff involved, faculty union President Maryam Barrie said.

Once everyone is relocated, the work on the LA building will begin. Facilities will remove all of the drywall in the infected areas and replace it, Flowers said. And while the building is empty, they are going to take advantage and do other projects that have been in planning, like replacing old windows and cracked stone sills and waterproofing the building.

The waterproofing means that any trees and vegetation close to the perimeter of the building will have to be removed, Flowers said. Facilities is going to replace the greenery, he added, but it won’t have the 40 years of growth.

“So it will look very different,” he said.

Flowers sat back and sighed after listing all of the projects to be undertaken as a result of this one unexpected discovery.

“That’s the nature of facilities,” he said with a shrug.



Wade ‘Bubba’ Hendricks, center, with fellow UA pipe welding instructors in front of WCC’s IT building on Friday, Aug. 15. EJ STOUT | WASHTENAW VOICE

## Tradesmen know many paths to success

BY JON PRICE  
*Staff Writer*  
AND JAMES SAOUD  
*Managing Editor*

In front of the Industrial Technology Building on a recent afternoon, a group of welding instructors gathered around a large steel pipe, sparks flying.

The skilled-tradesmen-turned-instructors, from around the country, were attending classes at Washtenaw Community College to learn classroom skills they can take back to their students at the local UA training centers. For some of them, this is their first experience in a college setting.

“As soon as I finished high school, I went to work with my dad on the pipeline, working as a welder’s helper,” Farron Hollabaugh, of Local 798, of Tulsa, Oklahoma said.

While it may be Hollabaugh’s position to encourage the trade as an instructor, as a father, his ideals are different.

“My youngest son has known for many years that he wants a law degree,” Hollabaugh said. “His goal was all along to go to school and further his education.”

The same can be said by many of the visiting welding

instructors. While their children may not be following in their footsteps, they encourage them to create their own paths.

“I’m kinda hoping at least one of my sons gets in the trade. If it doesn’t work out that way, I can understand why: They see how hard their father works,” said Michael Didona, a pipefitter and instructor from Miami, Fla. “Every father’s dream is to have their children do better than themselves – and that may include being in the trade, too, you know.”

The instructors all wanted their own children to get an education, whether it was in the skilled trades or at a university to earn a degree.

However, UA pipe welding instructor Wade “Bubba” Hendricks warns that a degree doesn’t always guarantee a well-paying job.

“It definitely depends on how good you are at what you take,” he said. “I’ve got two other kids that went through college, and both of them had a job the first day. They had a job before they ever got out of school.

“If you have a trade, you’re going to put it to work. If you got a degree, it doesn’t mean you have a job at all.”

Without discouraging their children from a life of working in the trade, the welding instructors all acknowledged the key to personal success is always to travel along your own “pipeline.”

### BROOKS, From A1

big part of what brings the class together.

“To hear them talk about the birth of their child in front of 20 people, to share their lives, talking in great detail about the love of their family – it’s amazing,” Brooks said, adding that, in these speeches, the students really nail the subtleties of speech.

When they talk about their family, who they’ve been away from for the week, their voices and non-verbal communications naturally match their message, showing compassion and love, Brooks said. These are the best speeches to hear.

The last speech of the week is a commemorative speech, where the students thank each other, and Brooks, and talk about what they learned in the class. During the commemorative speeches, the entire class toasts to the end of the week. (With soda, Brooks noted.)

“Yes, brother!” Brooks mimicked her students’ cry of solidarity as she closed her eyes and raised a fist.

While the teacher put a lot of emphasis on developing the right exercises to help her students get over their fears, it wasn’t the exercises that did the trick, the students said.

“I don’t think it was the curriculum,” Collier said. “It was just the matter that she was engaging. You could not find a teacher who made it easier for us to come out of our shells.

“The main thing that I think helped is her personality,” said Robert Mitchell, one of Brooks’ students and a retired plumber from Local 582 in Orange County, California.

“Her body language, the way she carries on in the classroom, the looks she gives, the eye-to-eye contact – she’s just so relaxed, and her attitude is great,” Mitchell said.

It seems all of the students were unable to be afraid once they encountered Brooks.

“There were some tough nuts in that class, and even the



WCC Public Speaking instructor Margie Brooks glows with excitement during the annual August visit from the UA skilled tradesmen. EJ STOUT | WASHTENAW VOICE

toughest nuts cracked,” Collier said.

While Brooks clearly had an effect on her students, they had an equal effect on her, she said.

“The cohesiveness they create helps me when I go into my classrooms in the fall,” she said. “I’ll be on a high for quite a while after they leave.”

Brooks remembers the week throughout the year, she said, looking at her souvenir of her time with the tradesmen – dozens of UA local pins hanging in her office at Eastern Michigan University, where she also teaches full time.

As she reflected on the five weeks she has spent, over the course of five years, with the UA members, her eyes flooded.

“It really is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for a teacher,” she said. “Each year is just as huge and wonderful and exciting as the last.”

On their last day of class, before scattering to their homes across the country, the men took the time to say thank you and hug Brooks, towering over her.

Brooks was touched by their parting words.

“To hear them say they’ll never forget,” she said, “that’s what teaching is all about.”

### CONTRACT, From A1

WCC Trustee Stephen Gill, who attended the contract signing, said this relationship is a win-win in many ways.

“It’s an opportunity to have a mutually beneficial relationship where we’re using the educational environment and the resources of the college to develop people that are contributing to the infrastructure of Michigan and of the nation,” Gill said.

The 15-year contract also provides a sense of stability to the economics of the college, Gill added.

If the past 25 years are any indication, the college and the surrounding community will reap many benefits from the extension of this relationship.

“Each year, a conservative estimate of spending in the community by UA members and guests is about \$5 million,” said Mary

Kerr, president of the Ann Arbor Convention and Visitors Bureau.

But the benefits of the partnership are not just financial. Noted just as often is the mutual respect and friendship between the UA guests and their hosts.

“I have just grown in my respect for what you do,” Bellanca told UA members at the signing.

“Too often, we take for granted the occupations that fall under these skilled trades.

“Let’s recognize that these professions serve to support the infrastructure of our country and impact economic growth. It’s time to give these professions the credit they deserve.”

This respect for the UA members is shared by everyone who encounters them throughout the week, Kerr said.

“The whole community embraces them,” she said. “We recognize what they bring to the community, but we also appreciate they’re such gracious guests.”



EDITORIAL

‘O CAPTAIN! MY CAPTAIN!’

We were back on the treadmill. Our new staff had produced a summer issue in July that we were immensely proud of, but now we were starting on our real first issue – this issue – the one that would be on stands when classes started and students came back.

Our first staff meeting of the fall was in full swing. Reporters were pitching stories. We were brainstorming photo and design ideas. We were thrilled to be back to doing what we love. Our core group was experienced and hungry, and we fed off of each others’ energy.

Then faces appeared in the windows of our door.

Our visitors let themselves in as we realized they were the administrators up our chain of command: Our adviser’s boss, Pete Leshkevich, director of Student Development and Activities; his boss, Evan Montague, associate vice president of Recruitment and Student Enrollment; and his boss Linda Blakey, vice president of Student and Academic Services.

The staff was surprised and nervous to see Blakey – who was supposed to be in a meeting with our adviser Keith Gave.

Montague, who is new to Washtenaw Community College, introduced himself to the staff, and then Leshkevich proceeded to talk about changes we would be experiencing this year.

A lot of time was spent discussing logistics, like how we would be paid and newspaper circulation.

As journalists, we couldn’t help but notice that Leshkevich had buried the lead. As we read down the list of changes they had passed out to us, we saw a header: “Student Newspaper Advising.”

A few passages jumped off the

page: Our adviser’s position would be “transforming.” He would remain responsible for “arranging the logistics” of the newspaper, but would “no longer be working in an advisory capacity.”

Instead, it said, a “collaborative advising model” would be developed.

Long story short: The adviser role had been eliminated, and Gave had been offered a new job doing paperwork in an office in the Student Center.

We asked when exactly Gave would cease his advising role. “Immediately,” they told us.

We asked when this new “advising model” would be in place. Probably in a few weeks, they said, admitting that not one member of this board had been selected yet.

In the meantime we had a paper to put out.

The administrators assured us that they were confident we could do it, and that we had their full support.

“What if we have questions? What if we need help?” we asked. Could we reach out to Gave?

We didn’t get a straight answer, but Leshkevich assured us that mistakes are OK, and we should expect them. The first issue in the fall is never as good as the last one in the spring, he said.

We weren’t going to accept that answer. Yes, mistakes may happen, but that’s no reason not to strive for perfection. Clearly, he doesn’t get what we do, we thought.

As abruptly as they arrived, the administrators left.

We were stopped dead in our tracks.

No one was thinking about what we were supposed to be thinking about – filling 16 blank pages that would be on stands two weeks later.

We knew that Gave would help us, whether he was getting paid for it or not. But not having him in the office was eerie.

For the next two days, we mourned.

We came to terms with what had happened and considered our options, one of which was quitting the WCC student newspaper and creating our own news website where we would continue to do what we do, but for free.

We didn’t want to lose our newspaper, but we didn’t want to be there without Gave, either. And we didn’t want all of our time to be taken up dealing with the things he deals with everyday – specifically his exchanges with the administration.

We are students who are here to learn, and they had taken our teacher away.

The next day, the board of trustees was holding a special meeting to take action on the adjunct faculty contract. Two of our staffers felt compelled to get up and tell the trustees and WCC President Rose Bellanca what a mistake this was and how much the students and the college would miss Gave.

Normally, we discourage our staff members from speaking at these meetings. We are there to sit quietly in the back and listen. We report the news; we don’t make it.

But, in this situation, we were students who felt we had been wronged, not reporters.

Faculty union President Maryam Barrie addressed the trustees first and mentioned what had happened to us, calling it “disturbing.”

Christina Fleming, our online editor, spoke next.

“You should know that Keith Gave has been much more to us than an adviser,” she said. “He is a rare kind of teacher that inspires his students.

“You have just benched a star quarterback, and he does not belong there. He belongs with us. He belongs with the students.”

Jon Price, one of our staff writers, followed Fleming. He spoke about how Gave introduced him to journalism.

“Never in my wildest dreams would

I have imagined that I would find my calling in the halls of this community college,” Price said. “It seems counter-intuitive to eliminate a faculty member who gives students a reason to stay here.”

Bellanca then took the time to respond to these speeches, saying that Gave had not been terminated, and his position, really, hadn’t changed much.

“He’s still gonna be there for you. He’s still gonna be able to answer your questions,” she said. “The intent wasn’t to move him away from you.”

Everything she said was completely contradictory to what we had heard – and read – in our newsroom the day before.

“I’m sorry if somehow the message was not communicated effectively,” she said. “I hope that you choose not to leave the paper. I hope you continue in this role. It’s very important to us. So is Mr. Gave’s role.”

When the meeting wrapped up, Bellanca asked the five *Voice* staffers present to stick around for a quick meeting with her.

Bellanca, Blakey and Director of Government Relations Jason Morgan circled up with us in the board meeting room. Barrie also sat in on the meeting at Bellanca’s invitation.

The administrators asked us to explain our view of the situation and how we were feeling. They wanted to listen, Bellanca said.

We reiterated much of what Price and Fleming had said in their speeches: Gave is so much more than a teacher to us – he is a mentor.

We told them that this felt like retaliation for students publishing controversial stories.

We told them that we would be happy to meet with an advisory board (something we have always done), but that we wanted Gave back. It would be impossible for us to do the work we

wanted to do without him.

It would be impossible for us to recruit new students and guide and inspire them to make their work publishable, something that Gave does like no one else. We are not teachers; we are students, we told them. We cannot fill his shoes.

The administrators took it all in. As we left, Bellanca assured us that this action had been neither retaliatory, nor personal. She implied that a compromise might be possible.

We gathered back in the newsroom, and some staffers were optimistic that maybe the administrators were willing to compromise. But most of us weren’t buying it. We didn’t think there was any way we would get Gave back.

That night, several of us gathered to watch “Dead Poets Society.” Our hearts ached in understanding as the students stood on their desks and wished farewell to their teacher, their mentor. “O Captain! My Captain!” ... and the tears finally flowed.

Two days later, we got word from Gave that Blakey had offered him his job back – no new job, no conditions. Just a short phone call. No explanation.

The next day he was back in our newsroom. It was more than we ever dared to expect.

We are shocked and grateful for this stroke of goodwill from the administration. We can’t speak for their motives, but whatever we said that changed their minds, we are so relieved it did.

These same administrators talk a lot about “student success.” Gave’s reinstatement is all about the success of our students, both inside and outside the *Voice* newsroom.

Starting the year with a heart full of gratitude



NATALIE WRIGHT  
nkwright@wccnet.edu

We certainly started this year off with a bang (See editorial, above).

I have been dreaming and toiling since January, making plans to get every last drop of education out of my last year at Washtenaw, and at *The Voice*.

This was my year, I thought. I can make the paper what I want it to be, I can make the newsroom how I want it to be.

And then everything came crashing down when we thought our adviser was being taken away. It was devastating to say the least.

And then he came back. And just as quickly as the devastation had set in, I had to let it go. It was time to produce a newspaper.

I cannot say thank you enough to the people who supported us through this.

During our two days in limbo, when we weren’t sure what the future of this newspaper would be, we had several visitors to our newsroom, and I received many concerned emails and phone calls.

While it was difficult and

frustrating at the time to explain the situation over and over, it was amazing to see the support that we have in the campus community.

I also feel deep gratitude towards the administrators who took the time to meet with us and hear our concerns. Our voice was heard, and there’s nothing more we could ask for from those who lead.

As students, especially at a community college where student involvement is minimal, it is easy to feel lost in the shuffle. It is easy to feel like you’re just passing through this school, and you’re not really a part of it, and it’s not really a part of you.

Those days of devastation truly reminded me of how grateful I am for my place at this college and for the opportunity to work for *The Voice*. As with so many things in life, it took almost losing what we have in TI 106 – our newsroom – to remember just how much we value it.

Now, I can say with full confidence that I will cherish every single moment that I spend working on this newspaper – every single laugh and fight and cry I share with our staff, my teammates.

I am looking forward to a year of pride and passion for what we do. And, trust me, this group is passionate.

I know that we will produce work that makes you, our readers – our supporters – proud to stand with us.

OUR MISSION

Everyone has an opinion about what a newspaper should do. *The Voice* was established as the Washtenaw Community College student newspaper by the board of trustees. And in its “student newspaper policy,” written in 1994 and updated in 2005, the board has outlined a statement of purpose for the newspaper.

*The Voice* also has its own mission statement, published in every issue on page A4. It was revised by adviser Keith Gave when he started at the paper in 2008.

We also have the “Code of Ethics” written by the Society of Professional Journalists hanging in our newsroom, and we, as aspiring professional journalists, do our best to abide by it.

But this year, we decided to write a mission statement by our group for our group. It outlines our goals and commitments for this academic year.

Every member of the staff had input, and this is what we came up with:

—WE WILL LEARN FROM EACH OTHER AND PUSH EACH OTHER TO GROW CONSTANTLY.

—WE WILL HOLD PEOPLE IN POSITIONS OF POWER ACCOUNTABLE AND INFORM THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE INNER WORKINGS OF THE COLLEGE WITH IN-DEPTH AND THOUGHTFUL REPORTING AND WRITING.

—WE WILL WORK TO AFFECT POSITIVE CHANGE IN THE COLLEGE AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY.

—WE WILL PUBLISH ONLY WHAT WE ARE PROUD TO PUT OUR NAME ON AND WILL DO OUR BEST TO LIVE UP TO THE HIGH EXPECTATIONS SET FOR US BY OUR PREDECESSORS AND READERS.

—WE WILL REPORT AS MANY VERSIONS OF THE TRUTH AS WE CAN FIND AND PRESENT THEM AS FAIRLY AND ACCURATELY AS POSSIBLE.

—WE WILL REPRESENT THE VOICE OF THE STUDENTS AND OTHERS IN THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY.

—WE WILL SHARE GOOD NEWS AND SUCCESS STORIES AND SERVE AS A HISTORICAL RECORD OF THE GOOD WORK BEING DONE AT THIS COLLEGE.

This is our mission, our commitment to you and to ourselves.

– The 2014–15 staff of *The Washtenaw Voice*



# \$10,000 for public info?

## WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?



JON PRICE  
jprice18@wccnet.edu

“No one should be able to pull curtains of secrecy around decisions which can be revealed without injury to the public interest.”

These are the words spoken by President Lyndon Baines Johnson to the White House Press Corps on July 4, 1966, shortly after signing into law the Freedom of Information Act, known commonly today as FOIA.

The FOIA is a law that gives citizens a right to access certain information about their government and federal and state-supported agencies and institutions, such as Washtenaw Community College.

The college is subjected to these types of requests fairly often, so it was no surprise when WCC Faculty Union President Maryam Barrie requested emails between President Rose Bellanca and her “leadership team,” including WCC’s board of trustees, in the month leading up to the May 5 vote of no confidence in the president, taken by the faculty union.

What was surprising, however, was the response that WCC gave the union president. Barrie said that WCC General Counsel Larry Barkoff responded to her request on May 29 and informed her that retrieving the information she requested would cost \$10,288.28 in labor.

Barrie then decided that she would

refine her search, in hopes of cutting down on the cost of labor, narrowing her request to the emails sent in the previous week leading up to the vote.

Once again, Barkoff responded to her request with a bill, this time for \$6,013. The price was supposedly associated with the cost of labor, in searching through approximately 1,349 emails.

Looking a little closer at the numbers, the administration’s counsel suggests the college would have to pay an employee \$30 per hour for 200 hours’ worth of work to gather the content of these email exchanges.

Foia.gov, is a federally run website that lets users explore the ins and outs of the act, specific language, and provides clear guidelines for charging the inquirer for the cost of labor involved in disseminating and delivering the information requested.

The website also specifies situations in which the request would be exempt from charges.

According to the website, the waiving of fees is applied in cases where: “requested information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations and activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.”

For an institution that is primarily funded by tax dollars and local support at the ballots, any information that gives citizens a more clear understanding of its operations would certainly appear to be in the “public interest.” And since the emails are unlikely to financially or commercially

benefit Barrie, or any member of the faculty union for that matter, they should be processed at no cost to her or the union.

To be sure, parts of the FOIA law can be confusing and unclear. However, one thing is very clear: If the FOIA request provides a more transparent look into the inner workings of an institution that receives nearly \$50 million annually in local taxpayer dollars, it’s no stretch to say it absolutely is in the “public interest.”

So, in an obvious effort to keep the emails a secret, the counsel at WCC has charged an astronomical and unreasonable fee for the information. These fees should be waived in the event that the inquirer asserts this language in the law.

If the union were to do so, it should be able to confidently slip into the proverbial latex gloves and the administration would have no choice but to place their hands on the hood, assume the position and prepare for a thorough and exhaustive search.

In the “public interest” of course.

But when Barrie brought this language to Barkoff’s attention, she was dismissed and said that the school’s lawyer told her the waiver of fees did not apply to this specific request.

*The Voice* made several attempts to contact Barkoff for comment. In one such call to his office, he answered by stating his name. However, on hearing me identify myself as a reporter with *The Voice* and the reason for my call, he hung up.

No warning.  
Click.  
What’s up with that?

## Scenes from Ferguson, Missouri



JAMES SAOUD  
jsaoud@wccnet.edu

People yell, dogs bark, and a tinny voice from a megaphone exclaims “ALL CREDENTIALLED MEDIA NEED TO GET BACK TO YOUR DESIGNATED AREA. IF YOU ARE NOT CREDENTIALLED MEDIA, YOU ARE SUBJECT TO ARREST.”

These are some of the sounds we’ve been exposed to while watching the video clips from Ferguson over the past couple of weeks.

However, what you have seen on your local news channel is far more than what the “credentialled” media can bring you.

A pedestrian, equipped with his smart phone, approaches a cameraman, pointing at a police officer and screaming “he put a gun directly in my face!”

And, he’s got the photo to prove it.

As a journalist, the struggle to find the truth in your story can be quite overwhelming, especially if everyone is claiming different truths.

With the development of video journalism and more importantly consumer video, over the past decade we’ve been exposed to more truths than ever. Most of which are not coming from journalists at all, but from citizens with camera phones or basic DSLR cameras.

Big brother, meet little brother.

A couple of weeks ago, Michael Brown, an unarmed young man, was killed by police officers. The problem is, the cameras were not rolling.

Now, citizens are rioting, demanding an answer to the question “what happened and why?”

Without being able to give an answer to the questions at hand, the police force and the citizens it protects have declared war on each other.

On cue, Twitter and Facebook feeds were filled with images, scenes, and comments from the small Missouri town.

Because of the power of the consumer video camera and social media, these scenes from Ferguson are giving us more than just a glimpse into what’s happening – it’s dropping us directly into the chaos.

If you have yet to see the hellish sights that have been leaking from Ferguson, I encourage you to do a YouTube search to see what all the fuss is about. Plenty of people have been posting their videos online, giving people around the country and globe a taste of what is happening.

And while people are releasing their videos on Facebook and YouTube to express their versions of the truth, the police are releasing security video to express their own truths.

But how can two people express opposing versions of the truth, both backed by video evidence. Can both be true?

The recent events in Ferguson are far from the first accounts of video journalism and social media causing an uprising like this.

From Occupy Wall Street to the riots of the Arab Spring, video content has opened people’s eyes in a way that has never happened before in human history. And it has changed the way we see our news, our societies and our leaders.

In an age when it is well known that we are being watched, I assure you – we are watching back.



# HEALTHY VOICE

## What’s your motivation?



M. M. DONALDSON  
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Many people consider pain, sweat and dedication a part of exercising, but the mental workout before the heart rate is even raised is the key to success. It really does not take a lot of motivation just to get up and go.

When Thomas Edison stated, “Genius is one percent inspiration, ninety-nine percent perspiration,” he probably did not have physical exercise in mind. It was an accurate insight, and Edison may have had a successful career as a personal trainer.

Fitness specialist and personal trainer Darlene Crow is one of more than a dozen personal trainers available to help with motivation at the Health and Fitness Center at Washtenaw Community College.

Crow stated there are numerous benefits to working with a personal trainer, especially for people who do not know where to start. She encourages her clients to work on breaking down long-term goals into small, weekly ones they can easily reach. It is the personal trainer’s job to help clients stay motivated, work with goals and help them see results.

For those who are unfamiliar with the facilities, Crow takes them through an equipment orientation and presents new exercises and how to do them correctly. For others, periodic sessions with a personal trainer allow for updated fitness assessments and new exercises or workouts to help mix it up and keep it from getting boring.

Having a personal trainer can also help with discipline. Knowing you have an appointment can sometimes be enough to get you motivated.

“If you are just starting out and can’t do a personal trainer, find a workout buddy,” Crow said. “It gets you started and keeps you coming.”



Fitness specialist and personal trainer Darlene Crow works with a client at the Health and Fitness Center at WCC. EJ STOUT | WASHTENAW VOICE

Finding an exercise buddy to swim or ride bikes with allows you to connect and develop relationships. Having someone else to meet holds you accountable, but more importantly your partner can be supportive when the inspiration dips below one percent.

Making small, achievable goals will build endurance and the confidence that helps you successfully make changes.

Taking a 10-minute walk after dinner a few times a week is a very attainable goal. Let your body tell you when it is time to start taking longer walks.

For those whose motivation likes mood music, check out the “Let’s Move” video, highlighting music from Beyoncé and filled with energetic moves that are sure to burn calories and raise your heart rate.

This is part of First Lady Michelle Obama’s “Let’s Move” campaign, released in 2011.

For those that are a bit uncoordinated, like me, the “Let’s Move” flash workout instructional video via YouTube is a fun way to dance like a diva; outfit choices optional.

But not all motivations are healthy.

“Trying to do it for the wrong reasons, for someone else, to change how other people perceive you, and then they don’t notice,” is detrimental according to Crow.

“You have to do it for yourself.”

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



SANAA NAEEM | WASHTENAW VOICE

*Editor’s note:* Several hundred copies of *The Voice* were removed from racks around campus during the week of July 7. Racks were emptied in the TI, BE, LA and SC buildings. When *Voice* staffers noticed on Monday of that week, they replenished the racks, and the next day, some of those papers were gone as well. Newspapers that remained in some

other racks were turned over. The papers that were removed were the May 5 issue that carried the Page One headline ‘No confidence.’ Unfortunately, there were a number of visitors on campus that week who never got to read our paper. *The Voice* reported the loss of newspapers to Campus Safety and Security and some administrators. The college’s response: crickets.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Good nutrition really does begin with a good read

To the editor:

I just picked up a copy of the paper in Busch’s grocery store and read your “Healthy Voice” column. (By M.M. Donaldson, July 21, Page A5)

It’s a great reminder to keep reading labels. My older daughter just related her similar findings when she went to treat herself to a V8 Splash. She’s been staying away from the cold drinks with all the high fructose syrup so decided to choose a V8 instead.

What a surprise – and disappointment – when she read that the second ingredient was high fructose syrup. No longer could she consider this brand a special treat. She searched out the selections and settled on something else.

We consumers have been asleep for so many decades – only to be awakened to find our food supply utterly broken. There is now so much to learn, and many of us are in the process of moving away from the convenient processed food items to cooking from scratch again. And, even then,

trying to find non-GMO ingredients.

Thank you so much for alerting us to the unhealthy aspects of many favorite summer treats. We can’t be reminded enough to read, read and read again the labels on food products.

In fact, I encountered a humorous incident in a grocery store about label reading. I asked the stocker where to find some organic vegetables and in the exchange, he said, “You know, people don’t come here to buy groceries anymore.”

“Excuse me, what do you mean by that comment?” I asked.

He replied, “They now come to read. They’re reading labels all the time! You’d think this was a library or something!”

Well, I was thrilled to hear his comment, though his tone made me think he was perturbed by it all.

Anyway, I look forward to more of your columns. Keep up the good work!

Sherry Thackrey  
Dexter



# Meet the candidates

On Nov. 4, voters will choose three of these eight people to fill open seats on WCC’s board of trustees

## Eric Borregard



ERIC BORREGARD | COURTESY PHOTO

Eric Borregard, of Dexter, wants to improve and reform the educational system, starting with Washtenaw, he said. “The school’s got no money, and the people at the top are feeding their face,” Borregard said, “just like the rest of the political system, just like the governor.” Borregard has been an advocate for education reform since 1994 and has run for the state Board of Education, the state Senate as a Green Party candidate and for the board of regents at

the University of Michigan.

Borregard’s plan for reform is one that will look out for students, he said. “No one’s looking out for the kids, for bettering these kids’ lives,” Borregard said. “Half of the kids are unemployed when they graduate, so, obviously, something is broken.” Borregard says that “unlike other candidates” he is planning on doing more than furthering his career and keeping the status quo.

In Borregard’s written platform, he says he wants to train students for work in the hemp industry and wants WCC to apply for a license to grow and research hemp. “The Michigan legislature has already approved a two-year research project at MSU,” Borregard wrote. “There is no reason why WCC can’t be applying for a similar license.”

- Natalie Wright and James Saoud

## William Campbell



WILLIAM CAMPBELL | COURTESY PHOTO

William Campbell is running for trustee for the second time. When he ran in 2010, he lost out to Pam Horizsny and Stephen Gill. “The two of them ganged up and spent nearly \$10,000 to beat me,” Campbell said. He ended up filing a recall petition against Horizsny that was eventually dropped. Now Campbell, a former WCC physics instructor, is running on the same platform as four years ago. He

thinks the board of trustees should be more involved in the details of the education being provided at the college. “You have two jobs – education and money,” Campbell said of the trustees, “and they’re only watching the money.” Campbell believes that power in the school is not balanced as it should be. “The president works for the board,” Campbell said. “They don’t work for her. The board works for the people. “It’s like the tail is wagging the dog,”

he added. “They have the relationship skewed, and they also have, as incumbents, incredible power to maintain the status quo and run things however they want. Campbell also owns a company he founded that does thermographic imaging and works in energy conservation.

- Natalie Wright

## Tony Derenzinski



TONY DERENZINSKI | COURTESY PHOTO

While teaching at Cooley Law School in 1993, Tony Derenzinski undertook an unexpected job. “There was a position for an adviser to the parliament of Ukraine to create a constitution,” Derenzinski said. So he took the job and helped fashion what he described as “new institutions that could work for an old country.” Derenzinski’s experience doesn’t end there. He served as a Michigan

state senator from 1975-1978, was on Eastern Michigan University’s board of regents from 1983-1996 and served on the Ann Arbor City Council from 2008-2012. As state senator, Derenzinski worked with several community colleges. “I have a very strong faith in the good that community colleges can do, and WCC is one of the best in the state.” Aside from his work in politics and higher education, Derenzinski served

in the Navy for four years as a Judge Advocate General officer and a military judge in Vietnam. Retired from active practice of law, 72-year-old Derenzinski serves as vice-chair for the Michigan Law Revision Commission, a secretary of the Arbor Hospice Foundation and a member of the board of directors for the Main Street Area Association.

- By James Saoud and M.M. Donaldson

## David DeVarti



DAVID DEVARTI | COURTESY PHOTO

When asked “what do you do?” David DeVarti said, “I am more than just a job.” DeVarti, 62, of Ann Arbor, who works in property management and re-development while taking liberal arts courses at Washtenaw Community College, served on the Ann Arbor City Council in the mid-1980s, as well as serving on the planning commission for the Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority. He is also responsible for starting the

local publication “Current” magazine. While one title may be impossible for him to pin down, his business card has the all-embracing title “Creative Person.” “I have attended art classes for the last two years at WCC and have gotten to know the students,” DeVarti said. “I see the many angles that the college offers to the community ... It is a vital time for the college,” he said. “I

want to make sure it continues to provide the tremendous service to the community,” DeVarti said. DeVarti is ready to bring his political experience to WCC, but he knows that he can’t fix the college’s issues alone. “One person isn’t going to make a difference,” he said. “It will be the whole board.”

- James Saoud and M.M. Donaldson

## Christina Fleming



KELLY BRACHA | WASHTENAW VOICE

Christina Fleming, of Dexter, is a 38-year-old Washtenaw Community College student who wants to bring a technological edge to WCC’s board of trustees. “I have a lot of good work experience in technology, and I think one of the things lacking in these elected positions is that people don’t use technology,” Fleming said. Fleming worked as a technology professional for more than 17 years and has

experience in teaching adult education. She graduated from the University of Michigan with dual bachelor’s degrees in sociology and archaeology. As the mother of an autistic daughter, Fleming is sensitive to the needs of students, especially special needs students, she said. “I’ve always been one to stick up for the underdog,” Fleming said. Her experience as a WCC student will be a valuable addition to the board,

she said. She can bring a new perspective to issues that the current board members might not consider, she said, because it’s been so long since they were in a classroom.

- Natalie Wright and James Saoud

*Editor’s note:* While working on her Internet Professional degree, Fleming is serving as online editor for *The Washtenaw Voice*.

## Mark Freeman



MARK FREEMAN | COURTESY PHOTO

Mark Freeman has served on the Washtenaw Community College board of trustees for six years, and has served as board secretary since 2011. Freeman made a name for himself after two years on the board, by publicly criticizing the decision of his fellow trustees and administrators to spend more than \$4,000 on a single dinner at their annual spring retreat. “I don’t think it’s justified. I didn’t go. I didn’t go because I assumed

it was being paid by individual,” Freeman told *The Voice*. While others defended the dinner, saying it was a miniscule part of the college’s budget, Freeman disagreed. “Compare it to a student’s education. You could almost get an associate’s with that money. That money could have changed someone’s life.” Since, Freeman has continued to distinguish himself on the board. At a trustees meeting this May, in which

each trustee addressed an avalanche of faculty complaints, Freeman was the only one to acknowledge that the trustees might learn something from the complaints. Freeman is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University and still attends classes at WCC. He also runs a small delivery business, according to the trustees website.

- Natalie Wright

## Ruth Hatcher



NATALIE WRIGHT | WASHTENAW VOICE

Ruth Hatcher has served many roles at Washtenaw Community College – teacher, tutor, union president, interim dean and interim vice president. She has been considering trying to take on the role of trustee since she retired from teaching in 2010. Hatcher, 66, taught English at WCC for 30 years. Her husband also taught at the college and her son teaches math here now.

“It’s like home,” Hatcher said of the college. “So you’ve gotta give back.” The Ann Arbor resident has also served on the Greenhills school board and the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County. Hatcher hopes to bring balance to the board of trustees, she said, by giving more voice to the faculty and students. “A full-time teacher here sees 1,000 students a week,” she said. “There’s

an expertise there that’s helpful – not adversarial, but insightful and helpful.” But Hatcher was quick to say that, despite what some might think, she is not looking to join the board just to give the faculty a seat at the table. She emphasized that her focus as a trustee would be listening to every side of every story.

- Natalie Wright

## Alex Milshteyn



ALEX MILSHTeyn | COURTESY PHOTO

Alex Milshteyn, of Ann Arbor, has been planning to run for Washtenaw Community College’s board of trustees since 2010, and this year, he will take that leap. “I know that there’s a lot of unrest on campus,” Milshteyn said. “I want to help that unrest to make sure that WCC comes back to where it was when I was there.” After graduating from both WCC and Washtenaw Technical Middle

College in 2001, with an associate in applied sciences, Milshteyn went to Eastern Michigan University, where he graduated in 2006 with a degree in business administration. He has been a member of the WTMC Board since he graduated from EMU and has been heavily involved with the college for the last couple of years. Milshteyn is a member of the Ann Arbor Area Board of Realtors. He also serves on the board of directors

for the Michigan Association of Realtors. In his work selling real estate in Ann Arbor, Milshteyn said, he has become a good mediator when it comes to resolving uneasy situations. “And I have a very different outlook on things since I was just in the classroom a few years ago.”

- Natalie Wright and James Saoud



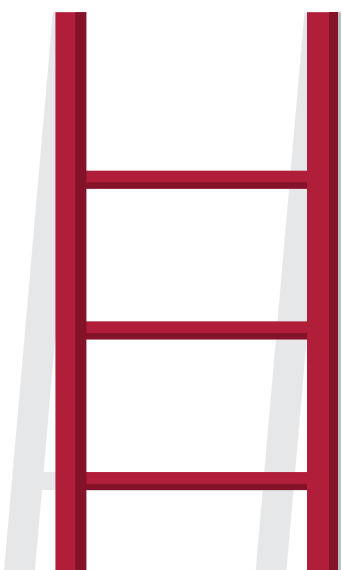
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# Healing in motion

## Student veteran moves forward to give back

BY JON PRICE  
Staff Writer

David Gensen has worn many hats in his lifetime, and now, at the age of 63, the Vietnam veteran is at Washtenaw Community College studying for his new career as a physical therapist assistant.

Gensen, a recipient of the Purple Heart, a congressional medal bestowed upon U.S. Armed Service members who are either wounded or killed in combat, said he was compelled to become a PTA so that he might share a valuable life lesson with others. That lesson: the power of motion in healing – physically and emotionally.

In 1967, he was a typical high school student with a penchant for fitness, growing up in Midland, a historical logging community in the Great Lakes Bay region, and later, the home of the Dow Chemical company.

He had been taking college preparatory courses and was excited to head to a university and begin his studies. Like most teenagers, Gensen had it all figured out. One fateful event would soon change all of that and serve as the prologue to his life story.

When Gensen was 18 years old, his father died

suddenly of a heart attack. In a state of sadness and disbelief, the young man, who just months earlier was certain of the path he would follow in life, was now filled with doubt and uncertainty.

“I had a counselor in high school who just picked this thing and said, ‘you do this,’” Gensen said. “I’m thinking about it like, ‘I don’t even know who I am now that Dad all of the sudden died.’”

Gensen said he had always looked to his father, a college graduate for whom he held a deep admiration, to guide him. Now that he was gone, Gensen was left to contemplate the words of wisdom his father had quietly imparted to him over the years they shared together.

“He had told me that his mother had made him go to college,” Gensen said. “I got the sense he just did it because his mother made him do it, and I remember him saying that.”

Harkening back to conversations with his late father, the young man decided he wanted to pursue a career that gave him not only financial security, but peace of mind as well. The only problem, according to Gensen, was that he didn’t know what he was passionate about as a young man.

“There were a lot of other things I started to

think about,” Gensen said, “and I thought: You know, I better be sure what I want to study in college or at least have a better handle on who I am.”

So he decided he would put college on hold as he took some time to “find himself.”

In 1969, at the height of the Vietnam War, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, a decision that, in retrospect, Gensen admits was impulsive.

“I was starting to question things,” he said. “Even in basic training I was like, ‘What is this? This doesn’t make any sense at all.’”

Though Gensen was confused about the motives of his superiors, he did manage to find a job in the service that piqued his interests.

“The only real training that I felt made sense was parachute school,” he said. “They had a plan. They had it worked out. They had a system, and it worked, and they followed it. It seemed to be very logical.

“Everything else was not logical. It seemed almost psychological, just to break your spirit down.”

After completing his basic training, Gensen was assigned to the 173rd Airborne Brigade, an infantry unit that specialized in parachute drops into combat zones.

And less than a year into his service, Gensen

was hit by small arms fire near the An Lao Valley on the Binh Dinh Province in South Vietnam.

“It was stupid,” Gensen said of that jump, “just plain stupid, not looking at the big picture, looking at only what was right in my immediate area and not thinking about what’s 1,000 meters away.”

After he was wounded, Gensen knew he had to begin the healing process. Not just the physical and mental scars he was left with after the war, but in dealing with the death of his father as well.

“What I found from Vietnam is that I didn’t think that we should be there,” he said. “When I was there, it seemed pretty silly, and there was some kind of agenda, and the agenda frightened me dearly.

“Then I formed the idea that what I should do is just plain get out. Not make the military a career; go to college, find something that I love to do and do that.”

By 1970, Gensen had returned home, and shortly after, he moved to Ann Arbor to enroll at the University of Michigan to study architecture. Gensen focused on his studies, working hard toward his undergraduate degree. But he was determined to hash out some sort of self-identity,

See **GENSEN**, Page B2



Vietnam veteran and WCC student David Gensen swims laps at the Health and Fitness Center at WCC on Friday, Aug. 15. EJ STOUT | WASHTENAW VOICE

# Virtual interviews becoming a reality

BY M. M. DONALDSON  
Staff Writer

Communication via the Star Trek telepresence or Pee-wee Herman’s Picturephone are no longer futuristic fantasies, but a reality in daily life. The concepts have gone beyond novelty and are now a mainstay to the work world, including job interviews.

For Washtenaw Community College broadcast arts student Terance Gordon, 23, submitting a video of himself for a job is no different than submitting a resume. To audition for anime voice talent with Bang Zoom! Entertainment and Starchild Records, he must create a one-minute video of himself voice acting and a one-minute video highlighting his talents.

Gordon expects to compete with more than a thousand others, but feels he has a good chance with the range of skills he has compared to what they are looking for. A thousand applicants is not a lot for this type of work, he muses, but he also thinks there will be a wide range of talent.

Virtual interviews are becoming more common, according to David Wildfong, professional service faculty with WCC’s Career Services. Employers are using virtual interviews because

Software programs, such as Adobe Connect, GoToMeeting and Skype have been used for online meetings, sometimes called “webinars.” The software programs allow for people with an internet connection, located any place in the world, to communicate in real time.

“Technology is the biggest barrier to success in virtual interviews,” Wildfong cautions about the unique challenges of the software. “Take time to make sure everything is working correctly.”

Testing connections and making sure phone numbers are correct are crucial to do before the scheduled interview.

Some of the nuances of a person’s personality are lost in virtual interviews, but having the technology buffer may allow job interviewees to feel a little more comfortable. Employers may perceive the comfort as confidence.

Conversely, employers are likely to translate a job interviewee’s anxiety into something else, such as insecurity, not knowing the information or even an off-putting personality trait.

“Get it under control,” Wildfong said. Anxiety is an issue in any type of interview, which can impede performance.

Technological glitches can easily distort or accentuate a job interviewee’s non-verbal communication.

Eye contact and posture are just as critical as the answers given to an interview question.

In a virtual interview setting, job interviewees cannot forget that those on the receiving end of the screen are scrutinizing them.

“They can see everything,” WCC Humanities Department Chair Allison Fournier said.

Three years ago, when developing COM 210, Nonverbal Communication, Fournier listed in the comprehensive report that 60-70 percent of communication is

nonverbal.

Fournier highly suggests practicing the interview with someone. Eye contact, posture and gestures, voice, tempo and affect are things someone can give feedback on.

See **INTERVIEWS**, Page B3

# Convenience vs. classroom

Online classes: a great option for some, isolating for others

BY VIVIAN ZAGO  
Staff Writer

Brie Ebert lives a half-hour away from Washtenaw Community College’s main campus, and with the price of gas these days and the time she would spend driving to campus several days a week, online classes offer her a great way to divide her time between student and nanny.

“They are convenient,” the 21-year-old psychology major from Brighton said, adding that by attending her classes through the Internet at home, “I can make my own schedule, and the instructors are very supportive.”

Online classes represent the essence of convenience. WCC offers more than 60 options of online classes, and students seem eager to take them. Enrollment for online classes has seen 10 percent increase this fall, so far, compared to last year.

“I wouldn’t mind taking some online classes. They seem pretty efficient,” said MinJarro Johnson, 18, from Ypsilanti, a physical therapy major.

Students have access to classes and course information at any time as long as they have a computer or device with high-speed Internet connection.

Sonia Mendez, 46, from Ann Arbor, an English as a Second Language student, thinks that online classes are a good option, especially with bad weather not far away.

“It would be good because I could have access from my house. I didn’t have to come here,” said Mendez. “Pretty soon it is going to be the wintertime, so I could do things and relax in my own time.”

But not everyone is a candidate for distance learning classes. Jalen Beavers, 19, from Ypsilanti, an art major, doesn’t think online classes are a good option for him.

“I don’t really like them. I’m more an in-class person, with an instructor, someone to introduce and to talk with,” said Beavers. “Online basically means that I have to do the things by my own time. There’s no one sitting there and watching me doing my own stuff.”

Denise Robinson, 26, from Ann Arbor, a nursing major, has taken some online classes here at WCC. She warns that not all online classes are created equal.

“The way that some instructors set it up online sometimes can be confusing,” Robinson said. “I have the feeling that sometimes the information is just dumped into some folders, and it’s not always organized.”

Since Mendez is finishing her ESL program, she wouldn’t be willing to take some online classes right now, though.

“For me it is better to come to classes here because the practice is the most important right now,” Mendez said. “I still need the conversation, the contact with the instructor, and it’s how I can learn another language.”

However, students should find out if they meet the eligibility requirements before signing up for an online class, or if it will be the best option for them.

“Myself personally, I think I learn better in person, but it also depends on the instructors. If they are really interactive, and they are teaching the same course online, the learning results should be the same,” said Robinson.

Before registering for online classes, students should make sure they have the requirements needed. Students might check their eligibility by logging in to WCC Gateway to access their student records.

## Thinking about signing up for an online class?

Find out if you meet the eligibility requirements before registering for online classes.

Learn more about WCC’s Introduction to Online Learning class, which may help you meet an eligibility requirement or provide you with a noncredit online class experience to determine if online classes are a good fit for you.

Check out a complete list of classes that are offered online

Make sure that your computer meets the minimum requirements needed for online classes.

## Requirements needed to take online classes:

### Requirement Set 1

Completion of Introduction to Online Learning  
Maintain a withdraw rate of less than 50 percent  
Maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 and above  
Meet college reading/writing levels

### OR

### Requirement Set 2

Completion of eight college-level credit hours  
Maintain a withdraw rate of less than 50 percent  
Maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 and above  
Meet college reading/writing levels



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they are cost effective and time efficient.

The medium by which interviews are held may have changed, but virtual interviews shouldn’t be treated any differently than face to face, Wildfong said.

“Practice what you learned in kindergarten,” Wildfong advises. “Sit up straight; have good eye contact, good energy.”



# University Women host 62nd annual book sale

BY VIVIAN ZAGO  
Staff Writer

For more than six decades, the American Association of University Women have given new meaning to the phrase “summer reading.” Since 1952, the AAUW’s Ann Arbor Branch has held a book sale, dedicating proceeds to help women pursue a higher education.

“This is our big fundraiser,” said Pamela Erhart, co-chair of this year’s sale, scheduled for the first weekend in September. “We raise money for scholarships for women. Our scholarships are given out through schools like the University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University and Washtenaw Community College.

“If people are going to give their books away, they want to know that is for a good cause.”

For Ehrhart and hundreds of others, this is the way to give back for the community. The books have been collected for about eight weeks from hundreds of generous donors.

“We have lots of books coming in. People were bringing them by the bags,” Ehrhart said.

Volunteers of the AAUW have been cleaning them up, sorting and packing to get ready to bring them to school.

“We have a lot of types of books. We allow a certain number of books for each subject, so we will have a great variety of books this year,” Ehrhart said.

The categories include children’s books, biographies, cookbooks, foreign language and literature, amongst many others.



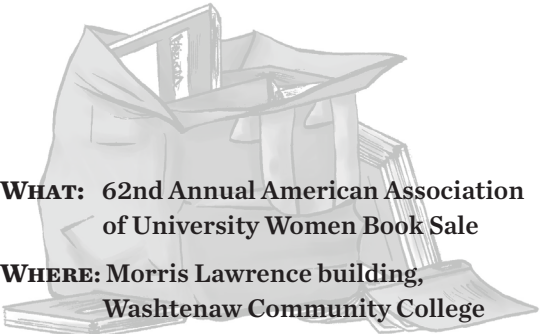
Bags of books donated by the community sit ready to be sorted and cleaned by AAUW volunteers in preparation for the annual Used Book Sale.

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Books will be sold at low prices. Only those that are really special might fetch a higher price. There will be an admission fee of \$15 for the first two hours of the first day of the sale, Friday, Sept. 5 in the Morris Lawrence building.

It’s an opportunity for the dealers to have their first chance at the offerings before most shoppers, an incentive to get them on the first day.

Volunteers from the AAUW and Pioneer High School will be working the book sale. All unsold books will be left at the school for the students and staff.



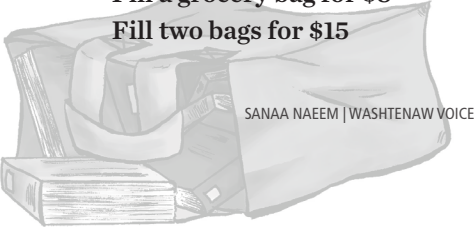
**WHAT:** 62nd Annual American Association of University Women Book Sale

**WHERE:** Morris Lawrence building, Washtenaw Community College

**WHEN:** Friday, Sept. 5  
8-10 a.m.: \$15 admission fee  
10 a.m.-8 p.m.: free admission  
Books are \$1-6, with some individually priced

Saturday, Sept. 6  
10 a.m.-8 p.m.: free admission  
All books are half price

Sunday, Sept. 7  
10 a.m.-3 p.m.: free admission  
Fill a grocery bag for \$8  
Fill two bags for \$15



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**GENSEN, From B1**

something he was unable to find in his stint in the army.

While his time in the service didn’t help him figure out who he was, Gensen said, it did help him determine who he wasn’t.

“I don’t harm people,” he said. “Yeah, we’re human beings who can all be put in a situation where we would do things. But I’m not inherently violent.”

Gensen soon found solace in an unlikely source: dance. Gensen took courses in modern dance and ballet. He was aware of the physical benefits of the medium, but was surprised when he began to realize the profound spiritual effect the movement had on him.

“I guess I was really still exploring,” he said, “and discovered this thing, this fantastic thing.”

Through the motions of dance, Gensen was beginning to feel stronger once again. But more importantly, for the first time in his life, he began to develop a sense of self.

“Through movement,” Gensen said, “I realized the benefits.”

After a short time working as a dancer in New York City, Gensen returned to Michigan. He was working in construction, but missed the peace and inner strength he reaped through the art form. So he enrolled in martial arts classes to study Shorinji Kempo, a Japanese discipline with a focus on self-reflection and the unity of mind, body and spirit.

Gensen eventually earned a fifth degree black belt in the art. He enjoyed the health benefits, but found the philosophies of Shorinji Kempo to be profoundly moving.

“It was not about fighting, even though it was self-defense or the martial art as a basic movement. There was this philosophy that was engrained, and the more you trained, the more you realized: No, the biggest fight is in my own head, with my own thoughts.”

For now, Gensen’s thoughts are on finishing his PTA program so that he might help others realize the healing power of motion.

Last semester, he made the dean’s list, and his peers in the classroom find him to be not only an exemplary student, but inspirational.

“He is great,” Courtney Bonner, a classmate of Gensen said. “He’s a team player and he’s very knowledgeable. He really knows his stuff.”

Bonner, 31, works at the college fitness center where Gensen comes to swim laps in the Olympic-sized pool on a daily basis. She started the two-year program at approximately the same time as Gensen and said he has been a mentor and a friend.

“He’s just a good guy,” Bonner said, “everyone always goes to him for guidance.”

## HELP FOR VETS IS HERE ON CAMPUS

Gensen is able to pay for his courses through a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs program for disabled veterans.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Program not only provides financial benefits to cover the cost of college or job training, but also helps vets find employment, develop their resumes and learn interview and job seeking techniques, according to Quatrina Stewart, a veteran’s relief program specialist at the Washtenaw County VA office.

Veterans on campus can learn more about this and an array of benefits and opportunities available to them at Veterans Center located on the second floor of the Student Center building.

# A house of hope for thousands

BY CHRISTINA FLEMING  
Online Editor

For every case of domestic violence, there is an equation. For Jacqui (who asked that her last name not be used), the equation was filled with years of fear, police reports, fleeing out of state, separation and, finally, divorce.

Jacqui’s solution to her equation began, as it has for thousands, at Safe House – a place of peace and new beginnings. As she described it at a recent House of Hope Breakfast at Zingerman’s: “They gave me hope, courage and strength when I had none.”

Safe House is 100 percent dependent on the generosity of community donations and receives no state or federal funding. For women like Jacqui, sharing their stories at the event serves as an important reminder of how badly these services are needed.

For many students at Washtenaw Community College, part of that journey intersects on campus. WCC instructor Kathy Kibbie had discussed the option of using Safe House to three students who were experiencing family difficulties.

One of them was referred to a counselor, who then suggested she go to Safe House to be protected from further abuse. That is just one class, one semester. There are more, obviously; one in five women experiences some sort of domestic abuse, according to statistics provided by Safe House.

A staff of 24, with the help of about 150 volunteers, served more than 5,000 requests and 300 residents in 2013, according to Barbara Niess-May, executive director of Safe House. Safe House welcomes all who need help from domestic violence, regardless of gender or sexual identity.



MCT CAMPUS | COURTESY ILLUSTRATION

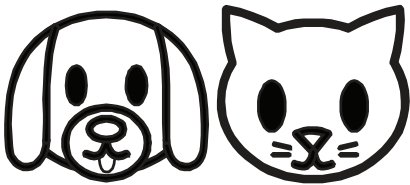
## Help is available

WCC	SAFE HOUSE
Kibbie, Kathleen, Part-time Faculty	4100 W Clark Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48105
734-424-0182	734-995-5444
kkibbie@wccnet.edu	http://www.safehousecenter.org/
LA 176	Barbara Niess-May, Executive Director
	barbaran@safehousecenter.org

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September 7th, 10am - 12pm

**The Pet Spa**  
5260 Willis Road  
September 15th, 5 - 7pm

**Ann Arbor Tractor Supply**  
7251 Jackson Road  
September 24, 3 - 7pm

**Pet City Pets**  
1268 Ecorse Road  
September 8, 5 - 7pm

**The Pet Spa 2**  
970 Belleville Road  
September 29th, 4 - 6pm

**The Pet Resort**  
September 28th, 3 - 5pm

Call (313) 686-5701 or check out [www.mobilevetclinic.biz](http://www.mobilevetclinic.biz) for additional locations and times.



# WTMC rises to head of class

BY JON PRICE  
Staff Writer

The Michigan Department of Education recently announced that 11 of Michigan’s charter school authorizers were deemed “at risk” and could be suspended from opening new charters. But as other charters struggle to stay afloat, the Washtenaw Technical Middle College, governed by Washtenaw Community College, is thriving. So much so that Gov. Rick Snyder singled the middle college out at this year’s Governor’s Education Summit in April for exceptional performance and its collaborative efforts with the school’s authorizer, WCC.

With so many other charters in the state failing to make the grade with the MDE, what is WTMC’s secret to success?

According to WTMC Dean Karl Covert, the answer is simple: quality educators and a strong partnership with the post-secondary institution that authorizes his charter.

“I think too often we get into the debate of public or charter, and I think, what it boils down to is just really good education,” Covert said.

Covert believes a strong partnership with WCC administration has better prepared his students to continue their education after graduating from WTMC. It provides access to technology and resources that most students are deprived of at a traditional public high school.

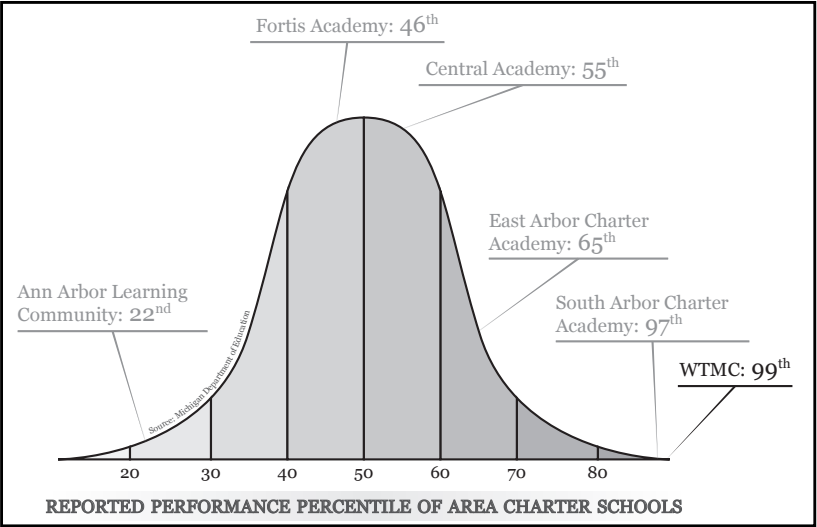
“They can’t get a CNA certificate,” Covert said of traditional high school students.

“They can’t take 3-D animation. They can’t be in an anatomy or physiology lab where they’re actually cutting a cadaver, and they can also access the resources of the library. So really we benefit from all the same opportunities WCC students have.”

Covert also attributes his school’s success to low overhead cost, a minimal amount of administrators and good pay and benefits for instructors.

“I have an incredible teaching staff,” Covert said. “I haven’t lost any staff or had staff turnover in four years.”

WTMC student Megan Michael, 17, of Ypsilanti, agrees that the instructors



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are very helpful, and the technology is useful. But for a determined young mind, it could just be a matter of dollars and sense.

“I get the opportunity to start getting a college education,” Michael said. “It costs less for me in the end since I don’t have to pay out of pocket for my classes.”

Michael does admit it’s not all about saving money. Smaller class sizes and a caring administration are at least partially responsible for her draw to the public charter.

“I went to Lincoln High School for my freshman year,” Michael said.

“The advisers (here), in my opinion, are more helpful and they seem to care more than your average high school does about their students.”

In its latest report MDE ranked WTMC students in the 99th percentile for overall performance, and it ranked the charter number one in the state.

Instead of touting the numbers to prove the superiority of public charters over traditional public schools, however, Covert said most of the accolades should go to educators, students and parents in the community.

“There are great public schools and there are great charter schools,” he said. “And there are failing public schools, and there are failing charter schools. I think what we need to do is look at what is making these schools successful . . .

“It’s not whether it’s public or charter that makes it a great school. It’s the educators. It’s the way the program

functions and the base support of the community, the students, the parents.”

*The following are highlights from an interview with WTMC Dean Karl Covert. To see the full interview, visit <http://www.washtenawvoice.com>*

**WASHTENAW VOICE:** WTMC recently received a special recognition from Gov. Snyder. Can you tell us about that event?

**KARL COVERT:** There was a request that went out for programs that were doing something unique, something innovative in education around collaboration with other institutions. So we were asked to present at the governor’s conference on his educational initiative.

There were 10 schools that presented, and then the people who were there voted on the schools, and we were given an award for the collaborative relationship that we have with WCC and how it supports educational excellence for us.

It was really about how we’re supported by administration. Our administration has let us grow. A lot of high schools have shrinking enrollments, and we’ve grown from, I think, 310 about four years ago to this year we’ll be around 500, a little over 500. They’ve supported

See WTMC, Page B6

# Fall sports underway

BY M.M DONALDSON  
Staff Writer

Washtenaw Community College Club Sports has several offerings for students – and employees.

For students who are able to commit to a season sport, Club Sports has a variety of athletic opportunities. And Intramural Sports offer an ideal opportunity for students and employees who would like the chance to be involved, but may have less time to dedicate to extracurricular activities.

New for Club Sports: WCC has joined the American Collegiate Hockey Association, giving students the opportunity to compete against other ACHA teams in the region. Previously, students competed in recreation leagues. ACHA teams will provide a higher level of competition.

There is no cost to participate in any of the sports activities, but players will need to supply their own equipment.

## Tryouts schedule

**Men’s Baseball:** Monday, Aug. 25-Thursday, Aug. 28, from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the WCC Baseball Field

**Men’s Soccer:** Monday, Aug. 25; Wednesday, Aug. 27; Thursday, Aug. 28, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the WCC Soccer Field

**Women’s Soccer:** Monday, Aug. 25; Wednesday, Aug. 27; Thursday, Aug. 28, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the WCC Soccer Field

**Women’s Softball:** Wednesday, Sept. 3, and Thursday, Sept. 4, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the WCC Softball Field

**Running:** Monday, Sept. 8, and Wednesday, Sept. 10, at 4 p.m. at the WCC Athletic Fields Storage Facility

**Men’s Ice Hockey:** Wednesday, Sept. 10, from 10-11:30 p.m.; Monday, Sept. 15, from 9:30-10:30 p.m.; Wednesday,

Sept. 17, from 10-11:30 p.m. at the Arctic Coliseum, Chelsea

**Women’s Volleyball:** Tuesday, Sept. 16; Thursday, Sept. 18; Tuesday, Sept. 23, from 9:15-11 p.m. at the WCC Health and Fitness Center

**Men’s Volleyball:** Thursday, Sept. 18; Tuesday, Sept. 23; Thursday, Sept. 25 from 9:15-11 p.m. at the WCC Health and Fitness Center

**Men’s Basketball:** Monday, Sept. 29; Wednesday, Oct. 1; Monday, Oct. 6; Wednesday, Oct. 8, from 9:15-11 p.m. at the WCC Health and Fitness Center

**Women’s Basketball:** Monday, Oct. 13; Wednesday, Oct. 15, from 9:15-11 p.m. at the WCC Health and Fitness Center

**Competitive Dance:** TBD

*All sports options can be viewed at <http://www.tinyurl.com/wcc-sports> or stop by the WCC Sports office. Registration is required to participate in WCC-sponsored sports. Pre-register for all tryouts at the Club Sports office, SC 116.*



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# What we love, and what we wish for

BY VIVIAN ZAGO  
Staff Writer

Another fall semester is beginning. Students are returning; new students are just beginning their college careers. All of them are here for different reasons. Many of them know what they appreciate about Washtenaw Community College – and what they’d like to see improved.

Africa Foskey, 18, from Ypsilanti, just graduated from high school and is excited to start classes at college.

“What I like here is that the teachers and professors have the opportunity to talk to you on a one-to-one basis,” Foskey said. “For me, it’s a good start, a great step after high school.

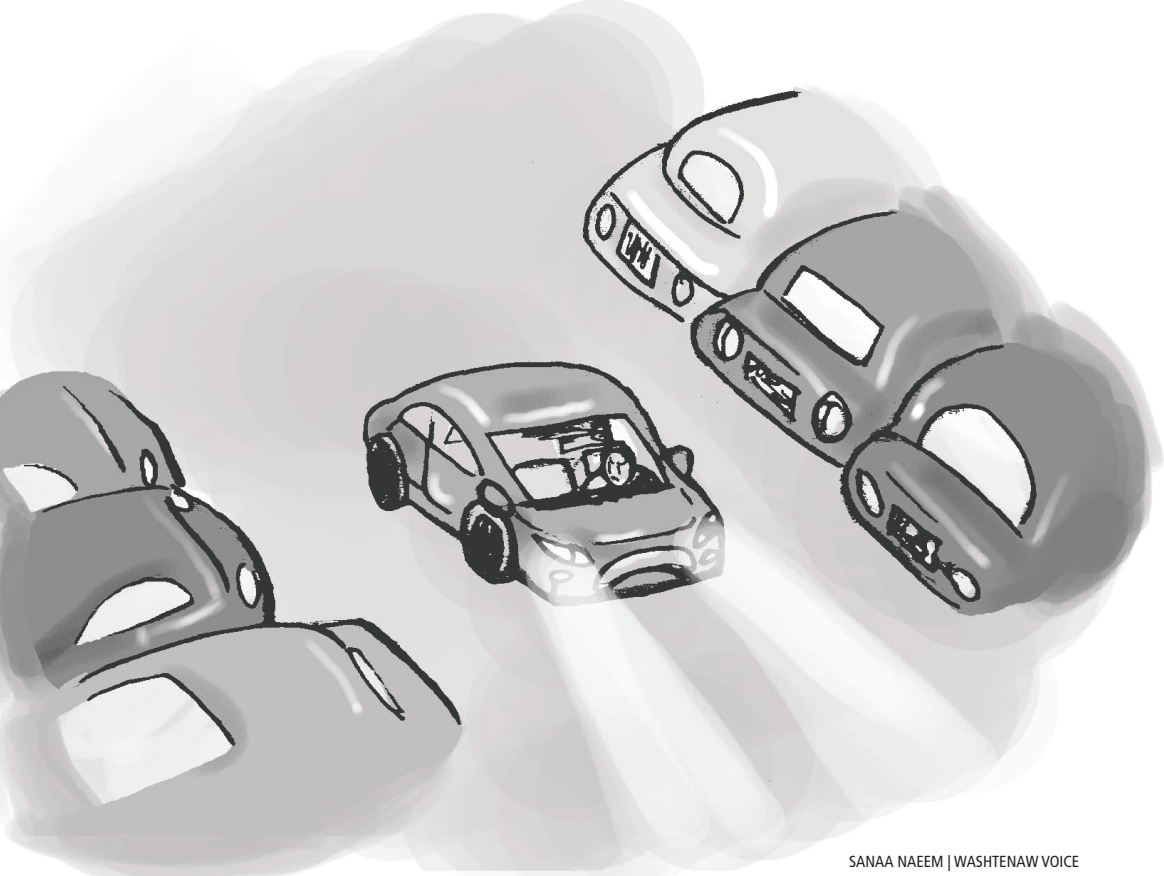
“I don’t like the fact the school doesn’t have dorms. I know it’s a community college, but, still, it would be nice have some dorms around here.”

Wan’Ya Williams, 18, from Ann Arbor, a business major, is happy that he doesn’t have to share his classes with a lot of students.

“I like that there are small classes, a lot of one-on-one with the teachers. If we need some extra help, we can talk to them after class and get the help that we need,” Williams said.

Since Williams likes to play sports, that’s something he wishes could be better.

“I think that what should be better is the sports teams, they could give more incentives to that,” Williams



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attentive,” Peneard said.

“I haven’t experienced much yet for me to know what should be better. I will be a freshman here, so I don’t have any complaints.”

Denise Robinson, 26, from Ann Arbor, a nursing major, is a mother who is pleased with the facilities offered by the Children’s Center, among other things.

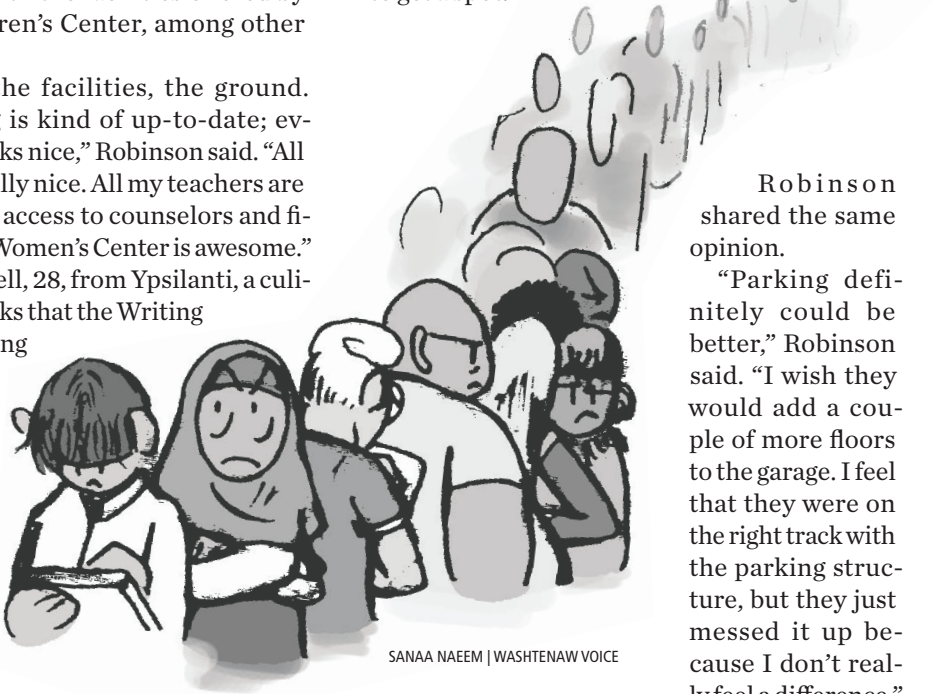
“I like the facilities, the ground. Everything is kind of up-to-date; everything looks nice,” Robinson said. “All the staff is really nice. All my teachers are great. We have easy access to counselors and financial aid, and the Women’s Center is awesome.”

Shuntae Campbell, 28, from Ypsilanti, a culinary arts major, thinks that the Writing Center is the best thing at WCC so far.

“I really enjoy the Writing Center and how they help us there. They have a lot of tutors that are there to help us,” Campbell said. “That was the best thing for me to improve my

reading and my writing.”

Parking is something that some students agree could be improved. That’s the only thing that really bothers Campbell, since the parking structure is always full, and it’s hard to get a spot.



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Robinson shared the same opinion.

“Parking definitely could be better,” Robinson said. “I wish they would add a couple of more floors to the garage. I feel that they were on the right track with the parking structure, but they just messed it up because I don’t really feel a difference.”

## INTERVIEWS, From B3

For professional feedback, mock interviews through WCC’s Career Services department are available for enrolled students.

Once the mock interview is selected, a recorded clip of an interviewer asking a question will play and the webcam will capture the student’s response. After completing the 10-15 question module, the student can review the interview and receive feedback from Career Services advisers through the site. Wildfong encourages students to contact Career Services for further feedback via email, phone or in-person consultations.

Wildfong admitted he finds some of the questions difficult, but working through the mock interview will reduce anxiety. Students have told him they found the program helpful, he said.

The mock interview may also help a job interviewee to evaluate their surroundings. What is in the background is likely to be considered a reflection of the potential employee, especially if inappropriate things are visible.

“The little things can kill you,” Wildfong said. He related how his daughter found it humorous to walk behind him several times during an online meeting. He chuckled and cited a mental list: “Is the phone going to ring? Is a child going to interrupt? Is a dog going to bark?”

Wanting to present the best of his abilities to a potential employer, Gordon explained how he would use a webcam for the voice video and his camera for the talent video, even though cell phone videos were acceptable.

“With video you can manipulate time with the option of editing,” Gordon said. Having an audition in person would be harder to show his array of talents, but with video, he can show more than one skill.

If the audition with Starchild Records, a label of King Records in Japan, or Bang Zoom! Entertainment in California required Gordon to travel, he would likely not be able to have the chance. A larger talent pool for the companies also minimizes costs for him to explore highly competitive opportunities.

The virtual audition also allows Gordon to practice and review his performance before submitting, similar to using the mock interview program.

“It’s easier to wow them, and I don’t have to stress out,” Gordon said.

SANAA NAEEM | WASHTENAW VOICE

said. “I feel that this is something that they could give extra attention.”

Shawnita Warren, 26, from Ann Arbor, a nursing major, likes the location and instruction at WCC.

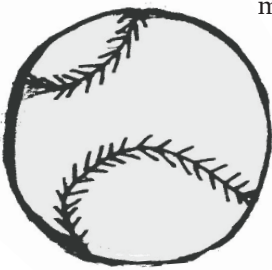
“I like that it’s close to my house, and I never really have a bad professor,” said Warren. “The instructors are great.”

Long waits in line are something that she wishes could be changed, however.

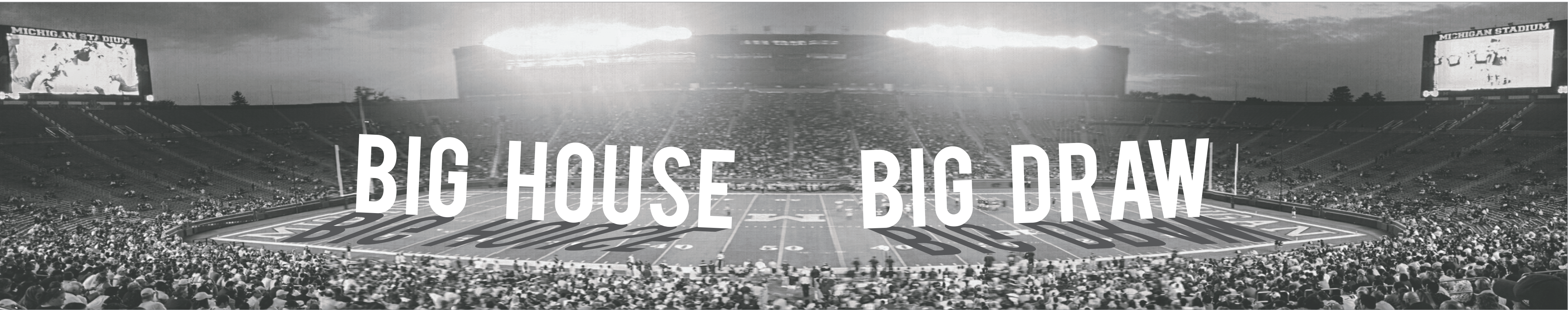
“What could be better is how they run the Student Center. We have always long waits, and when we try to do things around here, they send us to an office, and we lost a lot of time in between,” Warren said.

Keshawn Peneard, 18, from Ann Arbor, a business major, is glad he will start classes at WCC in the fall.

“Despite it being a community college, the campus is pretty big, and the staff are nice and







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## WOLVERINES OPEN SEASON WITH OPEN PRACTICE

BY JAMES SAOUD  
AND EJ STOUT  
Managing Editors

While Ann Arbor's "Big House" was far from full, you'd never know it from the piercing volume of the coliseum. Fans anticipating another University of Michigan football season were rewarded with a sneak peek of their team at an open practice under stadium lights on Saturday, Aug. 16. Roughly 25,000 supporters roared and music blasted throughout the practice as the team faced off in a series of drills and scrimmages, with audible groans and cheers coinciding with missed tackles or long completions. It wasn't pretty at times, but that's why teams practice.



U-M quarterback Devin Gardner



Fans cheer at the Big House during the ICC practice on Friday, Aug. 1.

### 1<sup>ST</sup> OPEN SUMMER FOOTBALL PRACTICE

"There were some negative plays in there," Head Coach Brady Hoke said in a press conference after the practice. "Some of it was up front; some of it, today, was, we have to have better vision in the back."

Hoke also mentioned the team's need to avoid penalties in their upcoming season, noting his team committed too many during their fall practices.

"We need to coach off of it, teach off of it, educate off of it. We have to keep moving forward," Hoke said. "We can't complain about what these guys have done to this point."

Though fans jeered the young offensive line's stumbling and tumbling during plays, the team's passing game, led by quarterbacks Devin Gardner and Shane Morris, was more than enough to get fans off their feet in loud appreciation.

A few days after the public scrimmage, Hoke spoke out at a press conference, defending the play of his offensive line and noting there is still some competition among the linemen.

"Ben Braden has been a steady performer at the right tackle," Hoke said. "At the right guard, there's some competition (between) Joe Buryzynski, Kyle Bosch and (Kyle) Kalis."

Hoke also acknowledged the coaching staff is evaluating play at the right guard position, where the competition is wide open.

"I think they've all worked extremely hard. They've all improved themselves since the beginning of fall camp," Hoke said about his offensive linemen.

The atmosphere at the Saturday evening practice only intensified as the sun went down and the lights went up, giving the maize-and-blue-dressed crowd a glimpse of the rare and thrilling nighttime setting at the stadium. This is something particularly special this year as the Wolverines only have one scheduled night game at home this season, against Penn State on Oct. 11.

While it may be hard to gauge much of a team's potential from a practice run more like a showcase for fans, the way to get fans excited for the upcoming season.

**LARGEST U.S. HOCKEY CROWD:**  
105,491 – Jan. 1, 2014 – Detroit Red Wings vs. Toronto Maple Leafs

**LARGEST U.S. SOCCER CROWD:**  
109,318 – Aug. 2, 2014 – Manchester United vs. Real Madrid

**LARGEST U.S. FOOTBALL CROWD:**  
115,109 – Sept. 7, 2013 – University of Michigan vs. Notre Dame



Devin Gardner tosses the football with Sergio Ramos and Gareth Bale of Real Madrid on Friday, Aug. 1.

#### OPENING U-M FOOTBALL HOME GAME

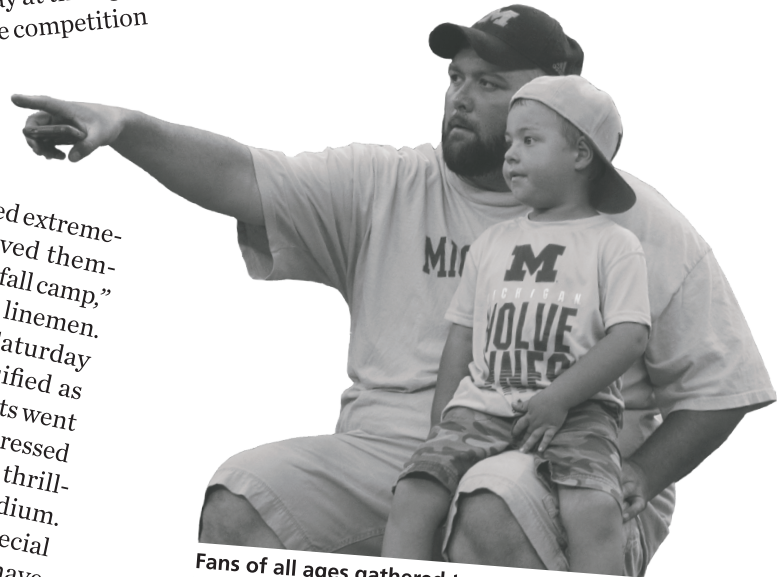
**WHAT:** Appalachian State at Michigan

**WHEN:** Noon

**LAST YEAR:** Michigan is coming off a 7-6 season; App State was 4-8

**NOTEWORTHY:** The Mountaineers handed Michigan one of the most stunning defeats in its history when they beat the then No. 5-ranked Wolverines 34-32 on Sept. 1, 2007 – putting Appalachian State on the cover of Sports Illustrated.

**TICKETS:** Ticket prices range from between \$55-\$95 and are available at <http://www.mgoblue.com>

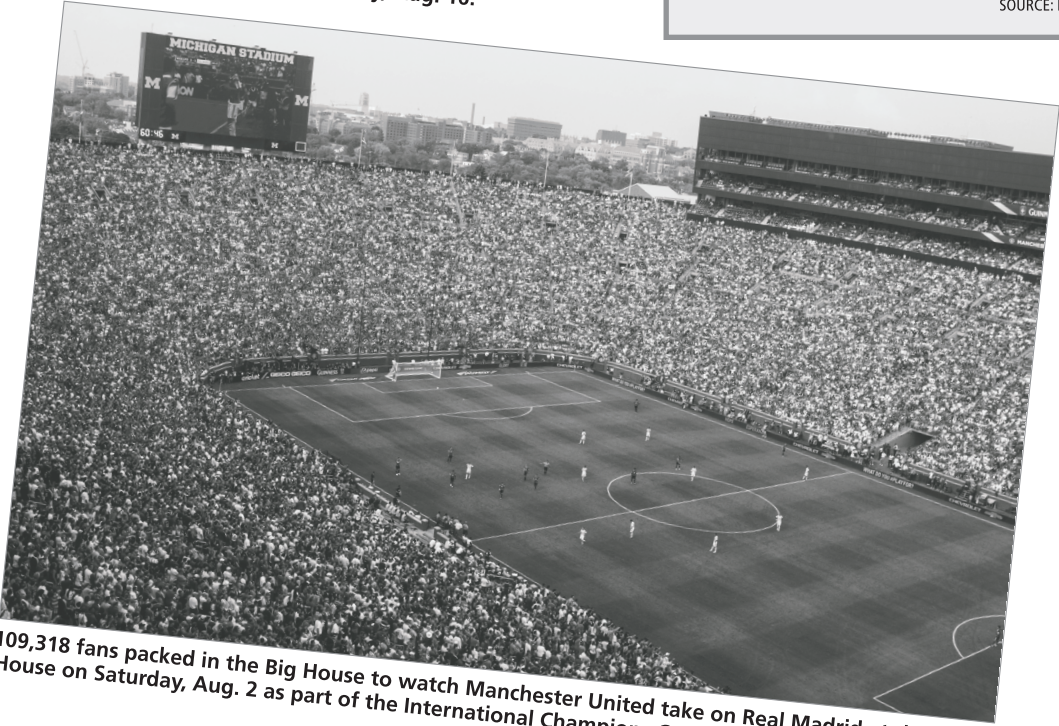


Fans of all ages gathered to watch the Wolverines practice on Saturday, Aug. 16.

#### 2014 U-M FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

- AUG. 30 – Appalachian State (H)
- SEPT. 6 – Notre Dame (A)
- SEPT. 13 – Miami (H)
- SEPT. 20 – Utah (H)
- SEPT. 27 – Minnesota (H)
- OCT. 4 – Rutgers (A)
- OCT. 11 – Penn State (H) – 7 p.m.
- OCT. 25 – Michigan State (A)
- NOV. 1 – Indiana (H)
- NOV. 8 – Northwestern (A)
- NOV. 22 – Maryland (H)
- NOV. 29 – Ohio State (A)

SOURCE: MGOBLUE



109,318 fans packed in the Big House to watch Manchester United take on Real Madrid at the Big House on Saturday, Aug. 2 as part of the International Champions Cup tour.

## A DESTINATION AFFAIR

Ann Arbor pulls out all the stops to celebrate futbol visitors in the city

BY EJ STOUT  
Managing Editor

Twelve days. Thirteen cities. One record-breaking crowd. The only city on the International Champions Cup tour to sell out on its first day of public sales, Ann Arbor hosted the largest U.S. soccer crowd the best way it knew how: by throwing a city-wide party.

The Ann Arbor Area Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) closed multiple areas of downtown to host a free street party on Friday, Aug. 1 in celebration of the international match between Manchester United and Real Madrid soccer clubs.

"We were the one city that wanted to just have a complete blowout," said Event Planner and Master of Ceremonies Matthew Altruda. "We were the ones that wanted to throw an after-party and a street festival and really celebrate this happening in our city."

The festival featured two unique live music stages, an upgrade from the single stage at the New Year's Eve Winter Classic NHL event between the Detroit Red Wings and Toronto Maple Leafs, also sponsored by the CVB.

While the soccer crowd filled almost 4,000 more stadium seats, the numbers did not translate as strongly in the streets. The atmosphere downtown was laidback as Spanish and British supporters danced their way through the streets, mingling with the locals.



Manchester United forward Wayne Rooney

But the street party had less than two months to formulate, as event planners worked to secure proper sponsorships. So what enticed the 109,318 fans to buy tickets nearly four months before kickoff?

Perhaps it was the chance to claim a seat in the record-breaking crowd, or perhaps it was the draw of the city's well-established reputation.

According to Laura Berarducci, director of marketing for the CVB, ongoing visitor profile studies identify the city's safety and friendliness as two of the major draws.

"That's one of the things that makes Ann Arbor such a wonderful place to both live and visit... we love an opportunity to engage with our neighbors."

### 1<sup>ST</sup> SOCCER GAME EVER AT BIG HOUSE



Real Madrid defender Sergio Ramos

Mary Kerr, president of the CVB, cites many sources beyond Michigan Stadium that continue to make Ann Arbor a top-tier destination, including dining, arts and culture and recreation. "Add that with the friendliness, safety and walkability of the city and visitors will always leave with positive experiences to share with friends and family."

However, Altruda attributes the city's appeal to a unique, deep-rooted foundation.

"I think of a lot of other cities just don't have as many passionate people in the infrastructure that ours does. Our CVB has a vision, and they work really hard to make sure the whole city is represented."

In addition to the strong relationships within city groups, tournament organizer Relevant Sports – a division of RSE Ventures – provided additional support for the street party. RSE, a New York City-based investment firm, was founded in 2012 by Stephen M. Ross, whose prominent benefactor relationship with the University of Michigan may have helped place the most recognizable teams of the tournament firmly on the Big House stage.

While full economic impact figures are still being calculated, Kerr reports that "we are anticipating it will range from \$10 million to \$15 million, similar to last year's U-M football night game against Notre Dame."

Many Main Street businesses felt the positive effects immediately. "From a store level, we did double what we would normally do (on a Saturday),"

reported David Shoff, manager of bd's Mongolian Grill on Main Street.

Despite the growth, Shoff would have liked to see the event promoted with a greater focus on family-friendly events. While some children's activities such as face painting were available, they were located next to the stadium – too far for most businesses and restaurants to benefit.

Shoff said he would have preferred to see "small events potentially spread out around Ann Arbor, to showcase not just Main Street ... but to promote different cool areas."

## KICKSTARTING A CAREER

Personal and professional paths converge

BY EJ STOUT  
Managing Editor

A field of 6-year-olds collide, too focused on the art of kicking to worry about field sense, let alone which goal to aim at. Miraculously, a soccer ball finds the back of the net. "After you score, score again real quick – 'cause they'll be sad," urges the coach. Sometimes, 6-year-old logic isn't so complicated.

I was born into a life of soccer. My brother, six years my senior, was an avid player and fan, and our dad served as that instrumental first coach for both of our careers. We supported Manchester United as Eric Cantona's antics brought pride to the No. 7 jersey long before Cristiano Ronaldo became a household name.

I was never the fastest player, nor did I have the best ball control. But I built my impeccable field sense through years of studying the sport that few Americans appreciated, let alone understood.

It wasn't an easy task, waiting for the rest of the country to catch on while they seemed content to drool over the gritty facemasks, racy cheerleaders and TV timeouts of American football.

I'd like to think I held my ground over the years, defending our sport to ignorant bystanders. I found the fluid play of soccer to be truly orchestral: innate beauty unraveled as a smart, first touch led to a perfectly timed cross, the finishing strike delivered with unquestionable purpose.

But Americans weren't ready to be seduced by the beauty of well-developed plays. And so the faithful suffered in silence. My athletic career was wisely abandoned after high school, and I found myself impassioned by creative outlets: photography, graphic design, writing.

I grew comfortable with a camera strap wrapped firmly around my hand, stealing candid shots I wandered through crowds. Despite my shift toward graphic design, photography lingered like the mistress who never got enough attention.

It wasn't until my exposure to *The Voice* that I witnessed all roads converge. Here, I could attend events, write stories, photograph with purpose and package it all together with design sense.

Nothing prepared me for my work at *The Voice*. But everything is a new experience the first time you try it. Which is why, when I unexpectedly got approved for media credentials to cover United and Real Madrid play at our backyard Big House, I wasn't concerned with my lack of experience. I had prepared for this my entire life.

Over the years, a couple respectable World Cup appearances had helped pique national interest. I watched eagerly now as my own city came to life with game preparations, and I once again felt proud to flaunt my support.

Official press pass in hand, I was ready to claim my spot in the Michigan

press box and rub elbows with sports writers from across the globe.

To most observers, I stuck out for a few reasons: I was young, I was female, and I actually understood the sport. But for me, this felt like exactly where I was meant to be.

Witnessing these world-renowned athletes up close on U-M and Eastern Michigan University fields was, by all means, a humbling experience. But it was discouraging to see so many American reporters struggling to identify players in their numberless, nameless practice jerseys.

After giving a few friendly pointers ("Yes, he's the one with all the tattoos"), I was able to study how the finest clubs prepare for battle. The techniques were familiar: small-space drills designed to maximize ball control and repetitive crosses to master one-touch finishes.

We might not have shared conversation, but I also got to know the players. I gained a new respect for Gareth Bale – the hardest working player there; I basked in the natural charisma of Ronaldo, in contrast to the intense focus of Wayne Rooney; I saw a well-worn Iker Casillas, in perhaps

the last leg of his noble reign. The hundreds of photos I took will be cherished for years to come.

And when "Glory, Glory, Man United..." played its first notes over the Big House speakers, I had to muster all journalistic ethic to refrain from chanting along.

I might have forgotten to grab the names of those fans, and my humble camera gear rivaled no one. But despite a lack of experience, my preparation has carved out a space in the wild delta of sports, photography and writing, and I know I belong.



Real Madrid takes the field for practice at Michigan Stadium on Friday, Aug. 1.

### 3-1 UNITED TOPS REAL



Real Madrid striker Cristiano Ronaldo

Christopher Pratt, a native of York, England, has spent the last six years in Chicago as regional director of an international soccer company. He eagerly drove up to Ann Arbor to support his Red Devils, but says he prefers English stadiums to those in the States.

"My issue with college stadia in the USA is that they all look the same ... I love all stadia and the Big House, however, it looks like Notre Dame and other stadia like it.

"The beauty with English stadia of old," he explains, "is that they were built with four separate stands and developed one or two stands at a time. So even though Old Trafford looks modern and has 76,000, you can still see the old ground within it, and each stand has character, rather than a big bowl."

The author, EJ Stout, at an MLS game in 1995. EJ STOUT | COURTESY PHOTO





# 'Boyhood' is love letter to life

BY JAMES SAOUD  
Managing Editor

Director Richard Linklater’s “Boyhood” opens with a scene that connects with nearly everybody.

A young boy sits on the grass staring blankly into the endless sky above him. A small, rather insignificant moment, yet something that we can all remember vividly.

“Boyhood” is filled with such moments.

From the first scene to the very last, Linklater lets out an emotional roar featuring some of the most relatable and realistic moments ever seen on the silver screen.

The film comes with what seems like a gimmick. Linklater, best known for

directing classic comedies “Dazed and Confused” and “School of Rock,” put a cast together in 2002 and filmed a few weeks a year until 2013, editing the film as they went.

While the whole concept sounds a little facetious, the end result is nothing short of spellbinding.

Unlike anything produced before it, we get to watch a family grow up on screen, instead of simply developing. And, through the process of seeing these characters age, viewers feel as though they are a part of the family.

What really makes Linklater’s unprecedented concept work is his mastery of perception. As the characters age, the film embraces the ever-changing ideas and perceptions of the human mind, particularly the teenage mind.

The film also manages to do something quite

incredible with its music selection. With no score present throughout the entire film, Linklater lets the audience feel what they feel instead of hitting you over the head with what he wants you to feel.

The film also uses popular songs from 2003-2013 to help know when time is progressing, as well as giving hints with things like cell phones and MP3 players so you can get an idea when the film is moving forward.

This prevents the film from having to use title cards or forced dialogue to let you know when time moves forward.

However, what really makes the film so special

A+

Genre: Drama/Comedy

Runtime: 160 minutes

Rating: PG-13

is that the “Dazed and Confused” director chooses to ignore the cliché moments we see in so many coming-of-age tales, such as birthday parties, commencement ceremonies and family holidays.

Instead, Linklater spectacularly capitalizes on all of the little moments we often take for granted.

“Boyhood” is far more than just a film. It is a love letter to childhood, family and life that will stick inside the hearts of moviegoers for many years to come. It is truly something special that everyone owes it to themselves to see and experience.



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ANOTHER ALLEY IN SIN CITY

By JAMES SAOUD  
Managing Editor

When the first “Sin City” movie was released nearly 10 years ago, it kicked down a door in the world of digital cinema.

Never before had a movie been made the way the codirectors Robert Rodriguez and Frank Miller made “Sin City.” It manipulated space, time and story structure in a way that is really only comparable to Quentin Tarantino’s “Pulp Fiction.”

As soon as the original ended, moviegoers were awaiting to see what would come next in the blood-soaked, hyper-sexualized crime saga. Based on a series of graphic novels written by the film’s co-director Miller, Rodriguez takes “Sin City: A Dame to Kill For” to the same digitalized, cartoon universe that he took the original.

Just like its predecessor, “A Dame to Kill For” is shot entirely on a green screen and digitally rendered and colored in post-production – creating a world and an atmosphere that has been entirely untouched by anyone else in the movie business.

The film picks up almost exactly where the first one left off, weaving in and out of flashbacks, flash forwards, dream sequences and sexual fantasies.

This gives some characters what were killed off in the first one the chance to shine in the sequel.

Making their returns from the first film are Mickey Rourke, Bruce Willis and Jessica Alba, whose characters are a welcome return. However, newcomers to the series Joesph Gordon-Levitt, Eva Green and Josh Brolin take the spotlight in the sequel.

The film, however, suffers in some spots where the first one was striding, particularly in the pacing.

While it tells the story coherently and intriguingly, it fails to build momentum anywhere throughout the story.

Gordon-Levitt’s plotline suffers, as viewers are taken away from his character for nearly an hour – while Brolin’s character was given far too much time in a story where Green’s character should have been the larger focus. She outshines any other performance in the entire film.

Then, seemingly out of nowhere, Alba becomes the film’s major focus for the last 30 minutes or so.

While each of the storylines are engaging, the awkward pacing of the movie will leave viewers scratching their heads wondering why the film seems to be moving so slowly.

The film hardly lives up to the massive shoes it had to fill, as “A Dame to Kill For” isn’t close to revolutionizing anything in the industry soon.

While the visual splendor and over-stylization of the sequel work, it should have taken notes from the first film and found a way to kick open another door.

To quote the film, “Walk down the right alley in Sin City, and you can find anything.”

Unfortunately, we’ve seen what’s down this alley before.

B-

Genre: Action

Runtime: 102 minutes

Rating: R

## WTMC, From B3

us with our needs, computer labs, science labs, things like that.

The faculty here has been incredibly supportive of our program, working with our faculty to create a seamless curriculum, also supporting our students, working with our base advisers here and just the resources, collaborating and sharing resources.

**WV:** What makes WTMC unique amongst other public charters in the state?

**KC:** I think there are a couple unique things. One is our relationship with WCC. The only school that WCC charters is us, so they are very mindful of what we’re doing. We’re not looked at as a pure revenue stream for them, as some authorizing agencies seem to be.

We don’t use a management resource, so the money we get from the state is funneled directly into teaching and learning. We’re pretty thin administratively; we don’t spend a lot of our money in administration. Our teachers are paid as well as any teacher in the county. That is important to us. We use that resource of instruction, and we pay well, and we give them good benefits and time, things like that.

**WV:** What are some of the biggest differences between your charter and a traditional high school?

**KC:** “In a traditional high school, if I’m in eleventh grade, I’m going to take English II, probably going to take Algebra II, probably chemistry. I don’t have a lot of choice. Here, our students can take 3D animation. They can take welding, and they can be in Calc II. They really get to pick and choose the type of course and the degree path that they want to go into.”

**WV:** How does the partnership with WCC benefit students?

**KC:** “I think it benefits students on multiple levels. We’re a middle college and one of the essential components of a middle college is really bridging that gap and making sure kids are prepared to be successful in a college environment.

So if you look at traditional high schools, anywhere from 20-40 percent of the kids who come out of high school have to take at least one developmental class when they get to college. The hard thing about that is only about 22 percent of the kids who take any developmental classes finish any type of certificate or degree.

We really serve as the kind of school that supports and bridges success at the next level, and this becomes really important for first generation college students, ones that haven’t had the experience from their parents, so we help with that.

We’re on a college campus, so our students begin to feel like college students. When we teach our high school courses, we design them like college courses. So we use the language around college; each student gets a syllabus; we consistently talk about the skills you need to be successful in the college. And then our students can access the resources of a college.

**WV:** Is there a common thread amongst charter schools that are performing poorly?

**KC:** “You have the right to authorize a school that’s in your tax base, so a community college could authorize a charter school within Washtenaw County because that’s our tax base. State schools can authorize across the state. Intermediate School Districts can also authorize charters.

Look at two of the highest performing charter schools, both in Washtenaw County. One is Honey Creek, which is a K-8 authorized by the ISD. It’s the only one they have authorized. WCC, the only one they authorize is us. So I think there is a closer relationship

between the authorizing agent and the school itself.

But what happens is, if you authorize a school, you automatically get 3 percent of their FTE. The FTE is how much money that school gets from the state of Michigan to educate students. So, for example, WCC gets a cut of our state aid; ISD gets a cut of state aid. To understand the complexity of this, I think Bay Mill (Community College) authorizes over 60 schools. Central (Michigan University) authorizes 40 schools. So all the money those schools receive, the authorizer gets 3 percent of that. One of the fastest ways, I think, to help and support charter schools would be to make that 3 percent transparent.

How are you using that money? All the money I get from the state, I have to post a budget. My budget goes online. As soon as I have an amendment I have to post it online. It’s transparent. Everybody knows how I spend that money. That 3 percent that authorizers get, they don’t have to show how it’s being used.

I think the interesting question is Central Michigan and Bay Mill both have an authorizing department, but I think it would be interesting to look at how many people work in that department and then look at the amount of money they get from the state as an authorizer.

**WV:** If other public charters began to perform as well as WTMC, do you think people would be more apt to embrace the idea of a charter?

**KC:** I think too often we get into the debate of public or charter, and I think, what it boils down to is just really good education. There are great public schools, and there are great charter schools, and there are failing public schools, and there are failing charter schools. I think what we need to do is look at what is making these schools successful because it’s not whether it’s public or charter that makes it a great school. It’s the educators. It’s the way the program functions and the base support from the community, the students, the parents.



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CLASSIFIEDS

Send ads to thewashtenawvoice@gmail.com  
**Note:** Deadline for the Sept. 8 issue is Tuesday, Sept. 2, at 5 p.m.

STUDENTS AND WCC EMPLOYEES

Classified ads in *The Voice* are free.

LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS

Looking for help? Post your free help wanted ads in *The Voice*.

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

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

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

**HELP WANTED**  
*Below is a sample of recent employment want ads which have been posted with WCC Career Services. Students are invited to read these ads and to contact Career Services to find out how to apply for the openings. Career Services*

is located in ML 104. For more information, phone 734-677-5155, email careers@wccnet.edu, or visit www.wccnet.edu/careerconnection/.

**ACCOUNTANT.** Clerk for mid-sized restaurant company. General accounting and office duties that may include accounts payable, invoicing, payroll processing, bank reconciliations, journal entries, account analysis, filing and data entry. Must have Microsoft Office skills and typing proficiency, knowledge and understanding of accounting fundamentals and bookkeeping skills. Must be dependable, responsible, flexible, show initiative, and be a team player. Two-plus of experience and/or related education preferred.

**MEDICAL ASSISTANT.** Under direction and supervision of professional clinical staff and with provider oversight, this position assists in the examination and treatment of patients. Responsibilities include tracking patient information, documenting to the electronic medical record, assistance with office procedures and testing,

administering medications and providing patient and caregiver education. Greets and escorts patient and other guests to examination room. Measures appropriate vital signs, such as pulse rate, temperature, blood pressure, weight, and height records information and obtains information regarding the reason for the patient visit. Performs diagnostic tests, venipuncture, and administers prescribed medications as directed.

**AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIAN/MECHANIC.** Responsible for diagnosing, servicing and repairing vehicle issues related to: brakes, steering, suspension, engine, drivability, and electrical components. Work with domestic and foreign vehicles. 5-10 years of experience as an Automotive Technician, Mechanic or Test Technician. Experience servicing and repairing European vehicles. ASE certified (current). Preferably State of Michigan certified (brakes, steering, suspension, engine, drivability, electrical). Team-oriented and focused on maintaining a high level of

customer service. Willing to continuously learn new information and techniques.

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

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

**CNA, HHA, CAREGIVER.** Fast-growing Home Care Agency seeking compassionate HHAs (Home Health Aides) and CNAs (Certified Nursing Assistants) to provide care in clients' homes in Washtenaw and Livingston Counties. Work as many or as few hours as desired.

**SECURITY OFFICER.** Valor Security Services at the Briarwood Mall in Ann Arbor is seeking applicants for a part-time security officer position. 16-32 hours weekly with a starting pay of \$10 per hour.

**GENERAL ASSISTANT.** Pick up/deliver materials to job sites. Light building maintenance and cleaning. Maintaining the warehouse, and organizing of tools. Office filing, copying and data entry. Loading and unloading of heavy equipment. Assisting with vehicle fleet maintenance by taking vehicles to shops and back.

**CREW CHIEF.** Drive company truck with an experienced coworker to job locations in Washtenaw County and do daily

tasks such as window cleaning, gutter cleaning, siding scrubbing and related tasks. Record start and stop times at each job and any relevant job notes and report back to management.

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF/CHILDCARE.** Part- and full-time employment. Candidates should have a willingness to learn and a great personality. Responsibilities include: watching children in the childcare, cleaning the facility and administrative tasks in the client-management and operational systems. Position includes a \$150 signing bonus, a strong investment in employee education and potential for advancement in a rapidly growing organization. Starting pay is \$9/hr.

**DIRECT SUPPORT STAFF.** Seeking caring compassionate individuals for all shifts to provide services for adults with developmental disabilities and mental illnesses in their own homes in the Ann Arbor/Dexter area. Services include, but are not limited to, passing medications, providing personal care, socializing, transporting, cooking, and cleaning. Must be available to work weekends and holidays, have a valid Michigan driver's license, reliable transportation and pass a criminal history check. No experience required. This is an excellent opportunity to learn new skills and make a major difference in someone's life. Phone Lindsay at 734-485-1722 weekdays from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., or FAX resume to 734-485-4230.



# Selfies

## we love to hate them

### And some love to take them

BY VIVIAN ZAGO  
Staff Writer

The Oxford English Dictionary made “selfie” the Word of Year in 2013. Alyssa McCullough, 21, from Taylor, is among the legion of people who helped put it there.

McCullough, who holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Michigan, took so many photos of herself and posted them online that she won an award – and people started to call her “Selfie Queen.”

Students put on an annual Grammys program at U-M.

“I was nominated for ‘Miss Instagram’ in 2013 and 2014 and won both years,” said McCullough. “At one point, I was posting selfies every single day.”

Selfies take up at least 90 percent of her Instagram page, she said. She takes at least 40 selfies before she finds the perfect one to post.

“If there could be the slightest flaw in the picture, I’ll refuse to post it,” McCullough said. “I like taking pictures of myself. And I don’t really think anyone can take a picture of me as well as I can.”

After so many selfies, she noticed that the ones she takes outside don’t always turn out as great as taking them inside in front of a window with natural light coming through.

“The best place to take a selfie is somewhere with natural light. I often take mine in front of a window or in my car,” McCullough said.

The most unusual situation in which she has taken one selfie would be in the Big House at graduation.

“Considering there were about 6,000 people sitting behind me,” she said.

McCullough thinks she probably has taken about 5,000 selfies.

“At one point, I had 3,000 photos in my phone, of which 80 percent of them were selfies,” she said.

McCullough doesn’t think so many selfies could affect her privacy very much, if at all, because she doesn’t really post too much personal information in her selfies.

“I want people to see a certain aspect every time I post one,” she said. “Some days, I want people to see how nice my hair is. Other times, I want people to see how pretty my smile is. It just really depends.”

The secret to taking the perfect selfie is the lighting and also the angle at which she holds the phone, she said.

“If I were to give someone a tip on how to take the perfect selfie, it would be to find your most flattering angle and amount of natural light,” she said. “Those two things are the most important aspects in the perfect selfie.”

Damion Fivenson, a graphic design student at Washtenaw Community College from Ann Arbor, earned the nickname of “Selfie King” after a joke in the class.

“I was using Snapchat a lot. When people sent me a message, I just responded with a picture of myself,” he said. “And people noticed that every single one of my pictures looked the same.”

Fivenson believes that people take selfies because they want a certain kind of attention.

“It’s kind of a good and a bad thing, because you have all this self-esteem, and if you put a picture of yourself on the Internet, and you don’t get the attention that you want, then you can hurt yourself at the same time,” he said.

Fivenson is a big fan of social networking. He has about 3,000 followers on Twitter.

“I’m addicted to notifications. How many “likes” or comments, or anything like that,” Fivenson said.

He doesn’t want to go to Facebook and see he doesn’t have any notifications.

“It’s probably more like people appreciating you, and it makes yourself feel good by their feedback,” he said.

Like McCullough, Fivenson thinks the secret for a perfect selfie is the lighting and knowing the best side of your body.

He is always in the same pose, shooting from above, looking up. And he doesn’t like to smile.

“Every single one of my pictures, I’m looking to the right with my head a little bit tilted. All the pictures look really similar, almost like a pattern,” he said.

In the past, Fivenson had this idea that nobody was going to like him, and they would probably think he is ugly.

“Taking selfies is all about me and how I see myself, my self-image,” he said. “It’s all about the feedback, people liking it, commenting on it, saying you look good.”

His selfies end up on all social media, and he typically takes -10 photos before he finds the right one to post.

“I once took a selfie with more than 1,000 people behind me, and everybody noticed and started to point at it and smile. It was pretty fun,” he said.

Fernanda Santos, 26, of Ann Arbor, a psychology student at Eastern Michigan University, believes there’s no difference between girls and boys taking selfies. But in her opinion, there are two main reasons why some people seem drawn to the self-photography.

“First of all, they are usually looking for approval when they take selfies. Secondly, from research we know there is some type of narcissistic behavior,” Santos said. Particularly, she added, among those who take many, many photos of themselves.

“The reason why people take 100 pictures but post just one, if you look deep into it, is because that’s the one they believe people are going to like,” said Santos.



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