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# THE WASHTENAW VOICE

A NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD NEWSPAPER

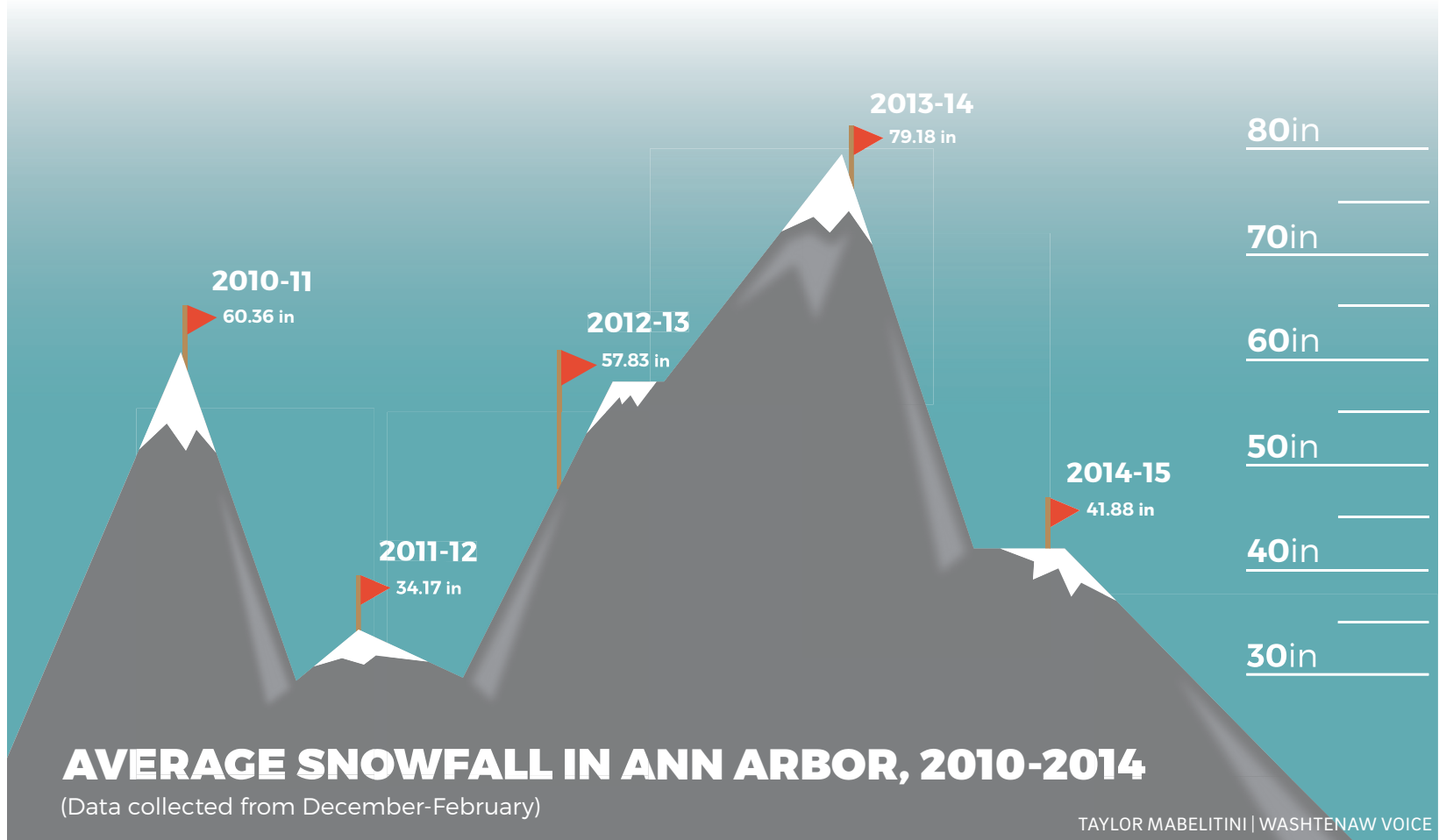
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## El Niño expected to warm up winter weather

BY COLIN MACDOUGALL  
Contributor

The last several winters in Michigan have been some of the most brutal that we have experienced in the last several decades. During the 2013-14 winter, Ann Arbor set its record with 97.1 inches of precipitation, which was much higher than its average of 57.3 inches, according to the Grand Rapids National Weather Service in 2014. That winter, Michiganders also felt the blast from a polar vortex that decided to hang out over the Great Lakes all winter long.

Winter 2014-2015, the polar vortex stayed for its second year in a row but didn't bring as much snowfall in general, although it did punish the Northeast with a record-setting snowfall. This upcoming winter season, El Niño has yet again set its eyes on Michigan and the expected weather is going to be much different in comparison.

Jeff Masters, director of meteorology at Weather Underground out of Hartland, explains the process of El Niño and the effects it'll have across the United States:

"El Niño is a natural pattern of ocean currents and atmospheric saturation over the tropical Pacific Ocean with a period of every 2-7 years that manifests itself as a splotching back and forth of above average temperature water," Masters said. "What we have going on right now is the warm

waters are all piled against the coast of South America and that's called an El Niño"

He goes on to explain that in the winter, El Niño will typically bring the northern states record warm temperatures which results in cloudier and rainier weather to the south.

**"Last year was the warmest year on record, this year will beat that record, and next year is going to beat this year's record."**

"California, the last time they had an El Niño this strong, they had about a half billion dollars in damage due to flooding," Masters said.

According to Masters, a weather pattern such as this can usually last between six months to a year-and-a-half.

"This current event has been going on for about 10 months now and it's going to last another five or six," Masters said.

Students at WCC have mixed feelings on the fact that El Niño will bring above average temperatures.

"I feel like it would be better to have a warmer winter, but in the long run it might have some long-term effects on the environment. As far as Michigan goes though, I think we all hate our

winters," said Sarah Green, an 18-year-old student from Ann Arbor.

Brenna Dirkse, 18, also from Ann Arbor, agrees with Green: "A warmer winter makes me really happy. I hate the snow."

While some students are embracing the idea of a much milder winter, other students would rather welcome the snow as opposed to the more hazardous conditions of possible freezing rain because of warmer temperatures.

"I love my winters, so having it be in the 30s or 40s would not be good because you get the freezing rain instead of the snow," said 18-year-old biological studies student Zayn Al-Zahid.

Al-Zahid's prediction of this possibility, particularly during the cooler seasons, is supported by Masters.

"We typically, during a strong El Niño event in the winter, get a little bit above average precipitation that mainly comes in the form of rain because of the warm temperatures. This year is going to be the warmest year on record due to the extra bump that El Niño gives to the global temperatures," Masters explained. "Last year was the warmest year on record, this year will beat that record, and next year is going to beat this year's record."

## WCC board Treasurer Pamela Horiszny announces resignation

Remarks in her speech reignite tension between administration and the WCCEA

BY TAYLOR ROBINSON  
Editor

During the most recent board of trustees meeting on Sept. 21, the room fell quiet as board Treasurer Pamela Horiszny announced her resignation after more than a decade of serving and her plans to relocate to Colorado to be closer to family.

Reflecting on her time as a board member, she recalls that early on there was talk of then WCC president, Larry Whitworth, retiring. Although mentioning that Whitworth "built a beautiful campus during his tenure," there was still more that she wanted to see done in the community college movement as a whole.

As board chair at the time of selecting a new WCC president four years ago, Horiszny played a major role in selecting Rose Bellanca for the position.

"We are four years into Dr. Bellanca's presidency...and she has grown the vision and relevancy of the college to levels well beyond what most of us have hoped or quite frankly, even imagined," Horiszny said.

Upon hiring a new president, there are 17 main directives the hiring committee look for when making their selection. Horiszny commented that Bellanca has met 16 1/2 out of 17 of those directives. The half of a directive that's

been missing is "an individual with extensive experience working in a union environment who has the capacity to strengthen relationships with organized labor both internally and externally."

According to Horiszny, the external relationships are at their strongest. However, internally, the relationships have never been worse during her time on the board, particularly with the Washtenaw Community College Education Association.

"While it represents only 3 percent as half of a directive of the directives detailed in the presidential profile, we as trustees have always recognized that it is a critical element of the overall success of the college," Horiszny said. "And we have encouraged Dr. Bellanca to slow things down, set aside other priorities if (she) needs to, give this issue more attention."

Horiszny comments that people formed opinions of Bellanca before she even started working at WCC because of her relationships with union leaders at St. Clair County Community College, when she held the president position from 2002-2008.

In an interview with Bellanca, she provided some insight into the matter. She explains that at SCCCC, the union is through the Michigan Education Association. She said that they would all meet, and as a MEA union leader, they have goals.



Upon tendering her resignation, Pamela Horiszny, former treasurer of the board of trustees, delivers her final speech to the board. GRAY BANCROFT | WASHTENAW VOICE

"So, you have someone who's in the MEA who's unhappy with me as a president. It's not my goal to make everyone happy," Bellanca said. "You have someone who is unhappy who tells someone on this (WCC's) end...They start sharing stuff. That's how this happens."

According to Bellanca, they negotiated fair contracts and did a really good job.

"I'm sorry they (WCCEA) put all their faith in what they heard because it certainly hasn't made this road much easier. It hasn't," Bellanca said.

## 3 THINGS YOU MISSED AT THE SEPT. 21 BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEETING

BY TAYLOR ROBINSON  
Editor

### I. PRESIDENT ROSE BELLANCA SHARES WCC'S SIX INSTITUTIONAL INITIATIVES

After much discussion, President Rose Bellanca and fellow administrators have come up with six priorities that they would like to focus on and discuss in detail this academic year.

According to Bellanca, they are not presented in any particular order. The first of the six is focused on student completion and student retention. Essentially this discussion would be based on what steps need to be taken for students to be successful in the classroom and how to reach their goals.

Campus safety and security is the second initiative and she asked what it means particularly for our college.

"We've realized that a lot of things are going on in the area around us and in the world around us," Bellanca said.

The campus master plan and a campus technology master plan are part of the third area of discussion. Bellanca said that the last campus master plan was completed in 2007. Especially with the fusion of technology and instruction in the classroom, how does technology fit into our

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## WCC strives to improve institutional diversity

BY COURTNEY DITTO  
Contributor

Starting with the hiring of Arnett Chisholm as the first Dean of Diversity and Inclusion last year, Washtenaw Community College has been increasing its effort on giving diversity emphasis within the school and making it an institutional goal. Evidence of these efforts was presented by Chisholm when he laid out his plans to the board of trustees. Despite the effort being put into diversity and inclusion, Trustee Diana McKnight-Morton saw a fundamental issue of lack of diversity within WCC's own staff and faculty.

"They are not hiring people of color, and it's being worked on, but it has to stop," McKnight-Morton said. "I don't care how long that takes; we need to get more people in this institution because we are diverse. We talk about diversity, yet where is the diversity?"

During a presentation at the Sept. 21 board of trustees meeting reviewing the hiring of minority faculty, it was addressed numerous times that although the number of minority and women faculty have increased in the last five years despite a decrease in employment, there is still a hole of concern in the faculty where diversity should play more of a part.

The presentation showed a 33% increase in minority applicants, and it then became a question of why there isn't more hiring of those applicants. McKnight-Morton had asked, stating first that she was aware of possible repercussions of doing so, if the hiring had more to do with skin color or qualifications.

**"We talk about diversity, yet where is the diversity?"**

McKnight-Morton made a point that many students of different cultures come into school feeling as though they don't have somebody to relate to when there aren't faculty to match their culture or have an understanding of where they come from.

Spanish teacher Olivia Wylie approached the board to ask, "What are we doing at Washtenaw to embrace the Latino culture?" Wylie pointed out that in the history of WCC, there has never been a full-time Latino faculty member, and that by rectifying this, there will be more retention of the growing numbers of Spanish-speaking

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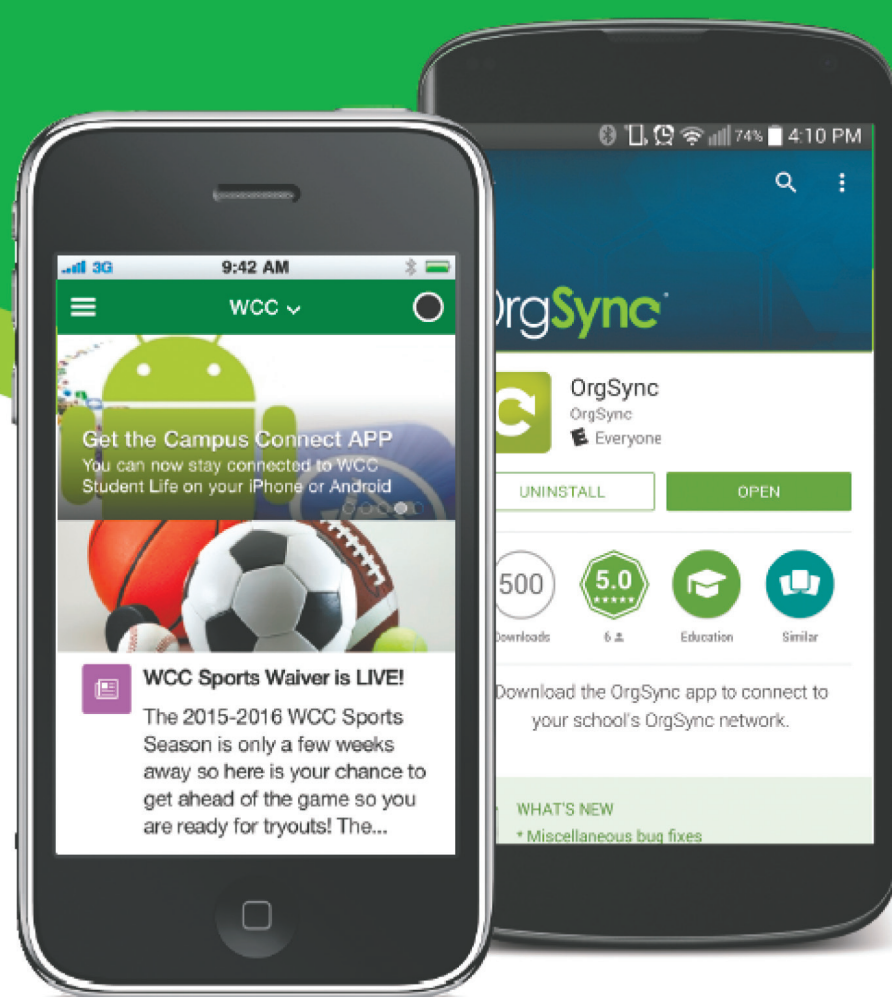
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BOARD, From A1

college today, Bellanca inquired.

The questions centered around international education, the fourth initiative, include recruitment and whether or not student exchange and faculty exchange are in existence or possibilities.

The fifth, which was prominent in discussion during the meeting, is that of diversity and inclusion and what has already been done in that area.

“But, there is so much more than that,” Bellanca said. “A lot has to do with our own personal feelings about diversity and inclusion and understanding where we come from and understanding what we need to do to create a culture...that embraces people of diverse backgrounds of diverse interests and welcoming that.”

Lastly, the sixth focus is college affordability. Particularly

with the rising discussion of free college tuition in various states, it raises a question on whether or not WCC will be one of those places looking at that option and what it would mean for students and the surrounding community.

2. SPANISH INSTRUCTOR OLIVIA WYLIE VOICES CONCERN OVER LACK OF DIVERSITY AMONG FACULTY

One of the meeting’s main focuses was the issue of a lack of diversity at WCC, among students and faculty. Spanish instructor Olivia Wylie, who is Hispanic and Latina, commented that in each of her classes, she’s noticing more and more Spanish-speaking students.

“I wanted to bring to your attention that 300+ million Americans, one in four, are

Spanish-speaking,” Wylie said.

She also informs the board that during her time as a part-timer throughout the last 10-15 years, there has never been a Latino hired as full-time.

“When we talk about diversity, I’d like to see it, evidence of it,” Wylie said. “I want to see the visible evidence of it as opposed to just lip service. I’m seeing less and less minority faculty and I don’t know why.”

Wylie expressed to the board the importance of increasing diversity among WCC’s camps and that it’ll “help us grow.”

3. RECOMMENDATION TO BOARD FOR APPROVAL OF \$1,107,749 EQUIPMENT PURCHASE

Brandon Tucker, dean of advanced technology and public service careers, asked of the board for consideration of

completing phase one of purchasing equipment through the CC STEP Grant awarded to the department earlier this year.

Tucker comments that the equipment purchased is either new or a replacement for current equipment. According to Tucker, some of the equipment in need of replacement has broken down more than once and could potentially affect instruction.

The equipment is considered long-lead equipment, meaning that the delivery could take anywhere from 8-26 weeks. Also taking into account the amount of time dedicated to installing such equipment, Tucker is inquiring now so that everything could be ready by the spring/summer semester, tentatively.

“You’ll find, as we’ve mentioned previously, all equipment purchases have the caveat of either improving current curriculum, enhancing it,

or validating new curriculum,” Tucker said. The board is expected to vote on this matter at the next meeting in late October.

For those who can’t make

it to board meetings, video recordings of the meetings are now available in full in the WCC board of trustees archives online. <http://www.wccnet.edu/trustees/meeting-archive/>



Olivia Wylie, a Spanish instructor, addresses the board of trustees at their last meeting. GRAY BANCROFT | WASHTENAW VOICE

Security Notes

September 16 - October 1

Information from incident reports provided to The Voice by Campus Safety and Security Director Jacques Desrosiers

LARCENY

On Sept. 16, a cell phone left in an LA building restroom was reported stolen at 9:36 p.m. The phone reportedly disappeared sometime between 4-6 p.m.

LARCENY

An individual left a backpack on the stage of the community park on Sept. 17. At 5:20 that day, the backpack was reported stolen.

LARCENY

A mouse was reported stolen from the computer commons in the GM building on Sept. 22. On Sept. 23, the larceny was reported at 5:15 p.m.

HIT AND RUN

On Sept. 25, a hit and run was reported in the parking lot in front of the OE building. The hit and run occurred Sept. 22. The subject noted scratches down the passenger side of the car, as well as the car door seeming off track.

Campus Safety Tips

Washtenaw Community College works to be a safe college campus. In an effort to be proactive in creating awareness, the Campus Safety Department will be providing a series of Campus Safety Tips for students, faculty, and staff. It should be noted that these tips apply to any public place including: shopping malls, special events, and even to places of worship.

Vehicles

- Stay alert and be aware of your surroundings
- Avoid isolated areas
- Try to avoid walking alone at night. Walk with friends when possible
- Call Campus Safety (734) 973-3411 or 3411 from one of college house phones for an escort if needed
- Notify Campus Safety immediately of suspicious or criminal activity
- If an emergency arises – a serious health issue, a crime, or any situation in which you feel endangered, contact Campus Safety. There are phones located in all buildings across campus, as well as in several key areas outside

Electronics

- Do not leave laptop, smart phones, or tablets unattended
- Record serial numbers of electronic devices
- Use anchor security devices to lock personal computers

Parking

- For your safety and security, as well as a courtesy to your fellow students, faculty and staff, please park in designated parking spaces only

If you have a question or concern for Campus Safety & Security, please call 734-973-3411 (or extension 3411, if on campus) or email us at [campussafety@wccnet.edu](mailto:campussafety@wccnet.edu).

IN BRIEF



Community mourns Umpqua Community College shooting victims at candlelight vigil. | TRIBUNE NEWS

SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT FOR UMPQUA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

On Thursday, Oct. 1, another American mass shooting occurred, this time at an Oregon community college. To show sympathy and support for such a tragic event, Washtenaw Community College offers the opportunity for students, faculty, staff and community members to sign a banner that will be sent to UCC. People can also sign a card to be sent or sign up to donate blood to the American Red Cross in honor of the victims. The event is Oct. 7-8 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. If anyone is unable to attend during the times listed, stop by the Student Activities Office located on the first floor of the Student Center, on Friday, Oct. 9 and the banner, cards and blood drive registration will be available.

TALENT SHOW AUDITIONS

If you can sing, dance, throw a baton or amaze a crowd, the WCC talent show is for you! Auditions are Wednesday, Oct. 7 from 5-8:30 p.m. in the Morris Lawrence Building.

BLOOD DRIVE

A blood drive is being held in ML 101 on Tuesday, Oct. 13. Save a life by giving an hour of your time, anytime between from 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. Blood donations are at a critically low level. Sign-up today to give: [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org), and use sponsor code WCC13.

TRANSFER FAIR

On Oct. 7, more than 50 colleges and universities will give students information about themselves and transfer options. The Transfer Fair location is on the second floor of the Student Center from 10 a.m.- 3 p.m.

LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

On Wednesday, Oct. 14, Greg Harden, the associate director of athletic counseling at the University of Michigan, will offer advice to parents and college-bound students. Topics explored include: preparing for the academic demands of college, enhancing your education with sports, and choices that lead to success. The event takes place at 7 p.m. in Towsley Auditorium. This event is free and open to the public and sponsored by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

-Sofia Lynch



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EDITORIAL

BACK TO SQUARE ONE FOR ADMINISTRATION AND FACULTY UNION?

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”  
-Helen Keller

Just when the Washtenaw Community College Education Association and President Rose Bellanca, along with her administration, thought communications were improving, the optimism came to a screeching halt at the Sept. 21 board of trustee meeting.

Pamela Horiszny, former board treasurer, announced her resignation which officially went into effect on Sept. 30. During her resignation speech, she made strong remarks in favor of Bellanca's effort.

Horiszny also spoke of a perceived lack of effort she saw from the WCCEA, even though faculty union President Maryam Barrie used her opening speech at that meeting to express that they were looking forward to continuing improving communication. Barrie said this despite the number of concerns raised by the WCCEA throughout the last four years.

Bellanca shared this sentiment of improving communication. In a recent interview with *The Voice* that took place after the meeting, Bellanca said, “We have not been complaining. I've not been complaining about the union...

They've (the union) been balanced in their comments...I have no idea why she (Horiszny) would bring up the past. That was past and we're looking at future focus.”

In Horiszny's defense, she was simply stating how she's felt and being that this was her last meeting, she “said what she had to say.” Although this may be true, this does not excuse the fact that the end result led to WCCEA's members and Chief Negotiator David Fitzpatrick feeling the bridges they had worked to build had once again been burnt. It may be surprising to some that Bellanca didn't find it necessary at the meeting to smooth out the rifts created by Horiszny's words.

Whether people argue that the lack of communication is one group's fault or the other, if concerns are being raised, then concerns should be addressed. In a previous editorial published by *The Voice* on Sept. 22, it was written that “We plead with the faculty and the administration: Keep trying. Keep talking. Please keep working towards reconciliation for the students you are here to serve.”

The plea today is no different, maybe even stronger. When the leaders of an institution struggle to get along and find common ground, the effects can trickle down the system to the students. If faculty as a whole aren't happy and feel their needs aren't sufficiently met, students may ultimately suffer.

At the time of Bellanca's “no confidence” vote, three other community colleges in the state of Michigan also passed votes of “no confidence” in their respective presidents, according to a *Voice* article from May 2014. The issue between the WCCEA and the WCC administration isn't an isolated incident. The bigger issue is that educators are not feeling valued by the institutions that employ them – or feeling that their positions don't have a more prominent voice in the conversations.

This is something occurring across the country. WCC has always held a reputation of being an institution that takes initiative and tries to set the trend, why not set the trend of treating teachers like the critical piece of the education puzzle that they are?

Community college is not the lesser option



SOFIA LYNCH  
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With the announcement of President Barack Obama's plan to invest \$175 million into apprenticeship programs at 46 community colleges across the nation, the concept of community college has taken its long awaited step into the limelight. With student loan debt being the largest form of consumer debt outside of mortgages, the option of a lower price tag for higher education should be nothing to scoff at. The stigma around community college is very clear to attendees who have probably all experienced the inevitable, “...Oh” that follows telling someone where you go to school.

The idea of community college seems to be generally regarded as a failure on the part of the student – that they couldn't make the grades to get into a bigger university. Or on the other side of the spectrum, students who achieved the grades view it as a punishment to stay home and decline an acceptance letter. This is the perspective that needs to be shaken. It isn't a matter of being too good or not good enough, it's about making a fiscally responsible decision.

According to the University of LaVerne, 50-70% of students change their majors at least once, and most

will change majors at least three times before they graduate. At the age of graduation, it's not uncommon for a student to have no idea what they want to do. So even if you have the money and the grades to attend a big university, diving into such a big decision and investment could be a choice you regret later down the line.

Two-year schools give students a chance to acclimate to the college structure before putting down the big bucks for it – as well as time to really figure out what they want to do with their future. The allure of the on-campus, college experience is undeniable, but it can wait.

Community college provides the foundational, general education classes that all freshmen and sophomores would be required to take anywhere. With many community colleges strongly focused on making their credit classes transferable, two-year schools are designed to be a segway to the intensity of the university setting – while also cutting the cost of the “college experience” in half. Also, if a student's main worry is starting a life outside of their parents' house, with \$2,000 tuition, they can use the 20-som thousands they saved to get an apartment near their school of choice.

Whether you have what it takes to get accepted to a university or not, what community college provides is a way to build a foundation for your education without burdening yourself with debts that could follow you for your whole life. A report by the New York Federal Reserve

showed that in 2012, the last year for which there are records, 4.7 million people who owe money on student loans are between and ages of 50 and 59. This statistic often results in people still paying off student loan debts when they should be saving for retirement.

There is credit to be given, however, to those who knew what they wanted right out of the gates of high school and had worked those four years away to make sure they got it. For those with a specific major in mind and the money to pursue it, a big university could be the best option for providing those specialized areas and programs of study.

There is no shame in delaying that on-campus experience to give yourself a monetary safety net between college graduation and the quick dive into the adult world. Many people don't feel the brunt of their educational debts until they're holding their degree and looking for a job, suddenly burdened by their loans after receiving a swift kick out of the proverbial nest.

It may feel like a punishment to not bask in the glory of welcome week or rushing a sorority/fraternity, but the gift of time and lesser financial burdens that community college provides could be one you're very thankful for down the line with today's economy. And President Obama's Community College promise has recognized that and is helping society to see the beacons that two-year colleges can be in this era of climbing tuition rates.



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The ‘P’ word

Warning: talking about politics may show signs of intelligence.

Growing up, and maybe still for some today, talking about politics has been considered taboo, alongside religion, sex, money, gender and others.

Politics stand a chance of being taboo because within these topics, people tend to have the strongest opinions – those certain, instilled core beliefs. But a person's opinions are only as strong as the willingness to listen to others' points of view. You don't necessarily have to agree with them, but at least get an idea of their angles.

People are always so quick to temper when talking about politics. I never quite understood why. Getting passionate about your point of view is one thing, but getting angry about it to the point of ending the conversation is pointless. Ending the communication completely stops the exchanging of thoughts, ideas

and potential actions.

The rapid growth of technology has made talking about politics more accessible than ever. According to a Pew Research Center report from April 2015, 64 percent of Americans own a smartphone. This number has grown by almost 30 percent since 2011. Smartphone users hold endless amounts of information at their fingertips and endless ways to share that information. Technology has given politics a chance to emerge from being a hush-hush conversation behind closed doors to the potential of being blown wide open through social media debates.

The current 2016 presidential campaign is mind blowing. It doesn't really matter which party anybody “identifies” with; somebody is talking about something that people should care about. The most prevalent names on the Republican party side have been Donald Trump and Jeb Bush. For the Democratic party, Hillary Clinton and Independent Bernie Sanders have dominated.

There's an interesting mix amongst the aforementioned runners. Donald Trump has certainly added an entertainment aspect to the campaign which almost seems to hold the potential of overpowering what being president of the United States should be about.

It's hard to think of Jeb Bush



while not also thinking of his brother and father, past presidents of the U.S. Hopelessly compared to them, it's been difficult for him to stand out. He's even lacked support from his mother, Barbara Pierce Bush. She expressed in an interview with NBC's “Today,” back in 2013 when asked if Jeb would run in 2016.

“I think it's (the U.S.) a great country. There are a lot of great families, and it's not just four

families or whatever. There are other people out there that are very qualified and we've had enough Bushes,” Barbara said.

On the other end of the political spectrum, Hillary Clinton has the prospect of becoming the nation's first female president, which would certainly be a milestone for the women's movement – however, political viewpoints should still be the main focus.

Bernie Sanders, Independent

from Vermont, has surprised many with his ability to pack thousands into stadiums and outside parking garages. Just recently, he surpassed his goal of receiving at least one million individual contributions with the average donation being \$24.86 according to his campaign.

That favorite time of year is rapidly approaching where television commercials will be flooded with hate ads against candidates or overly

emotional ads about themselves. Personally, I'd rather hold a firm debate with a stranger than trust what businesses and organizations deem as important.

So, during this campaign season, remember that there's no crime in passionately expressing your political views – just don't get caught up in the heat of the moment on Facebook or wherever your discussion takes place – and risk silencing the potential for growth.

THE  
**WASHTENAW VOICE**  
A NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD NEWSPAPER

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# HEALTHY VOICE



## What you need to know about food intolerances and allergies



M.M. DONALDSON  
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Avoiding specific foods has become trendy in American diets in recent years. Gluten avoidance has taken the lead and this makes it hard for those with food allergies or intolerances to be taken seriously. Eye rolls are often the reaction from those who see it as a fad.

Food nourishes the body, but sometimes it can make it sick for no other reason than the body reacting differently to it. When preparing and serving food for other people, a little

forethought does not have to be viewed as an inconvenience when it could potentially avoid a life threatening reaction. In some cases, such as shellfish and peanut allergies, a person does not need to consume the product, but just inhale the scent and have a reaction.

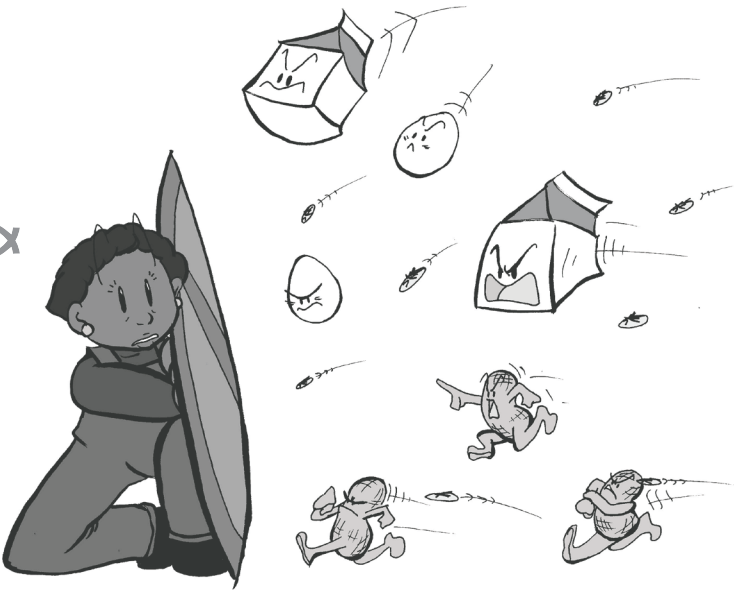
If the immune system identifies a food as an intruder, the reactions can be minor irritations such as a rash, swelling or gastrointestinal problems. An extremely serious reaction is anaphylaxis which requires immediate medical attention.

The National Institute for Health describes anaphylaxis as “a severe, whole-body allergic reaction” where skin irritations and gastrointestinal problems may be combined with a blood pressure or pulse drop and airway constriction.

Intolerances are usually less severe in reactions but can be just as detrimental to health. With celiac disease, the body does not digest the protein, gluten, and the immune system reacts causing cramping of the intestinal tract. The long-term effect of the disease causes damage to the lining of the small intestine.

With other dietary intolerances, the immune system does not kick in when the body is unable to digest the food properly, such as lactose intolerance where the body cannot break down milk sugars.

Allergies and intolerance have no treatment other than avoiding the food according to Senior Medical Advisor Stefano Luccioli with the Food and Drug Administration’s Office of Food Additive Safety. The FDA



SANAA NAEEM | WASHTENAW VOICE

consumer update also stresses wearing medical alert jewelry or having injectable epinephrine on hand for those with food allergies in case of accidental exposure.

Restaurants are required to alert customers of potential food allergens and many of the establishments offer other options to ingredients that cause food allergies or intolerances.

Despite the attempt by Domino’s Pizza to offer gluten-free crust, several news outlets reported that the company lost credibility when it was discovered that the gluten-free crusts were made in the same space as the regular wheat flour crusts. Cross-contamination is a constant concern with food safety experts, but it is usually used

to describe handling methods for meat and produce.

Many consider gluten-free diets to be a trend which is supported by the survey administered by the NPD Group, a market-research company which estimates nearly 30 percent of Americans are adopting gluten-free diets. It is a staggering difference when compared to the 1.4 percent of the population that’s been diagnosed with celiac disease according to the National Institute of Health.

Because consumers demand substitutions, it has made it easier to find a variety of food for those with celiac disease and other food allergies. With more options, people are trying food that they wouldn’t normally.

Whether it is an allergy or choice, food preferences can be respected. Former caterer and Washtenaw Community College general studies student Tracey Mulcare, 43, from Tecumseh, said she has prepared alternate dishes to meet dietary needs. Clients who informed her of food allergies or intolerances ahead of time allowed her to make menu accommodations.

Following a few basic tips is easy enough to do when entertaining at home, too. Preparing alternate dishes first can minimize cross-contamination which can easily happen without being apparent. Mulcare said saving the labels from pre-made items is easy enough to share with those who ask, as people who have a known food allergen are likely to inquire.

Consideration of food allergies or special diets can sometimes reduce embarrassment or insult at the table, but more importantly it will keep everyone healthy and safe.

M. M. Donaldson is a contributor with *The Voice* and a journalism student at WCC. She has a bachelor of science in family and community services from Michigan State University, and has several years’ experience with nutrition issues affecting infants through older adults. Follow M.M. Donaldson on Facebook.



## Students share their New York Fashion Week style



TAYLOR MABELITINI  
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New York City saw its annual Fashion Week from Sept. 10-17, and with it, a whole new year’s worth of fashion hits, misses, and trends were introduced. Looks like crochet, bold colors, pattern blocking, and 70s throwback style dominated runways, from designers such as Kate Spade, Givenchy,

Alexander Wang, Oscar de la Renta, and Vera Wang.

But with the average Joe and Jane not regularly appearing on the cover of *Glamour*, how can one still turn high fashion into street style? We asked a few Washtenaw Community College students how they take the runway to their closets:

### DAKOTA MONARCH, 24, YPSILANTI, DIETETICS

What kind of trends from this year’s New York Fashion Week could you see yourself wearing?

“I love lace, and fringe. I always go to the Salvation Army and pick up vintage-style dresses and I have like five that I wear all the time. And everyone’s like “Oh, where’d you get that, Forever 21?” and I’m like, ‘Nope.’

How would you describe your style?

“It usually just depends on my mood, but it’s usually more upbeat, colorful. I do like patterns because I’m messy, and if you drop food on yourself, and you’re wearing a pattern, no one can see it.”

What is a must-have style-wise, for you?

“I have a lot of tights, because I like to wear dresses. I always wear dresses and skirts. So if it’s too hot, take off the tights. Get a little cold, put on some tights. Winter, put like three tights on.”

### KATHY CHRISTENSEN, 18, WHITMORE LAKE, WTMC

What kind of trends from this year’s New York Fashion Week could you see yourself wearing?

“The colors, like burgundy, and the shades of green that I saw, I really liked the color schemes. I hated the fringe.”

How would you describe your style?

“Punk, and like, fall all year round. I love black and dark burgundy or forest, those kinds of colors.”

What is a must-have style-wise, for you?

“My leather jacket. It’s easy, it can go with like any outfit and it’s so versatile for like any season, too.”

Favorite current trend?

“I’m more up on makeup style. I really like the dark lipstick that’s in right now. And Chelsea boots, I love them so much.”



## Voice Box

What was your dream job as a kid and why or why not did you continue to pursue it in college?

INTERVIEWS AND PHOTOS BY MADI TORTORA, CONTRIBUTOR



“I wanted to be a makeup artist and have my own cosmetics line. My parents didn’t want me to do makeup, so I didn’t really go into that. I kind of want to start my own magazine and then have a makeup section in the magazine.”

Chanel Stitt, 17, Ypsilanti, journalism



“Well, at first I wanted to be a vet because everyone wants to be that. Then, I wanted to be a doctor or maybe a famous person. I’m now looking into dermatology, so I guess that’s sort of like a doctor. I just wanted to help people and solve medical mysteries because I love challenges.”

Sienna Vargas, 18, Chelsea, nursing



“I really wanted to be a teacher or a firefighter. I always wanted to be one of those. When I grew up I was like, no, because of what came with the job. I always imagined it as so glamorous but it really wasn’t.”

Shaelyn Edwards, 18, Brighton, general studies



“I wanted to be a lot of things as I grew up. I had every five year old’s dream of being a rockstar. I changed my mind when I got older. It wasn’t really realistic.”

Dakota Lalko, 18, Brighton, general studies



“I wanted to be a vet. Thinking about it makes me remember how in second grade, we drew ourselves as what job we would do when we were older, and I drew myself as a vet with lots of dogs and cats. Now I’m looking at architecture. As I got older I just drifted off and had different interests.”

Layla Khorsheed, 19, Ann Arbor, general studies



“What I wanted to be changed every year, but I’ve always wanted to be the hot wife of some rich guy. I mean, I still want to be that, but I want to be financially stable and have my own money or maybe a CEO of something.”

Keely Grace, 16, Dexter, business



“I wanted to be the basic things, like a teacher or a vet. I just kind of decided that they weren’t for me, and I didn’t like all of the aspects of them. I still don’t really know what I want to do though.”

Kirstin Cunningham, 17, Canton, journalism



# MI Hidden Talent Tour makes a stop at WCC

BY IVAN FLORES  
Contributor

Lt. Gov. Brian Calley and Michigan Supreme Court Justice Richard Bernstein visited Washtenaw Community College on Sept. 24 to promote employment opportunities for people with disabilities through the MI Hidden Talent Tour.

They addressed a group of employers, advocates and observers. The MI Hidden Talent Tour is an initiative to connect employers with a largely untapped but talented workforce. The speakers were joined on the Towsley Auditorium stage by WCC President Rose Bellanca, CEO and Executive Director of the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living Carolyn Grawi, and Recruiting Specialist for Zingerman’s Tracie Wolfe.

About 400 business are taking part in the MI Hidden Talent initiative. Big local ones include Meijer, Kroger and Zingerman’s.

Employers who take the time to know and train their employees with disabilities find that those employees are more loyal and dedicated, Grawi said.

According to Calley and Bernstein, there are 500,000 working-age Michiganders with disabilities who are unemployed, despite the fact that almost half of them have a college education or degree.

According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, federal laws define a disabled person as, “any person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; has a record of such impairment; or is regarded as having such an impairment.”

People with disabilities face unique challenges when seeking employment. Perhaps the biggest one is finding an employer willing to look past a person’s disability and evaluate the individual as a whole. Bernstein, who is himself blind and the first disabled member of the Michigan Supreme Court, understands this very well.

“Of the 65 law firms that I interviewed (for) that were coming to Northwestern from all across the country... I didn’t get a single call back – not a job, (not even) a call back,” Bernstein said, attributing his disability to the lack of interest from employers.

Calley said, “Sometimes accommodations scare (employers) away. But accommodations are typically very, very minor.”

Commenting about his job at the state Supreme Court, Bernstein said, unlike his colleagues who can refer to their computers and notes during meetings, he has to rely on his memory; he internalizes the cases by having his clerk read them to him repeatedly.

For the employers present, Calley made it clear that hiring and accommodating disabled people should not be a matter of pity. The financial benefits for employer and employee should be evident.

“I am in no way, shape or form talking about charity,” Calley said.

He went on to recount the story of a Gordon Food Service employee who has autism – a disorder, which in his case, is accompanied by a strong aptitude for numbers. His job for GFS is essentially proofreading Excel spreadsheets with financial information; his attention to detail and ability to find inconsistencies have saved the company over \$400,000.

Bernstein highlighted another, very unlikely, place where disabled people have been integrated: the military. Specifically, Israel’s Defense Forces. According to Bernstein, the Israeli intelligence community uses autistic soldiers to analyze satellite images and other military data because of their ability to pick up details that other soldiers simply can’t. Other branches use disabled people in non-combat support roles.

“Throughout history, unfortunately mankind has had a tendency to both segregate people and then to generalize what that group of people can and can’t do. And history has proven over and over again that that doesn’t make



Rose Bellanca, Tracie Wolfe, and Carolyn Grawi join Lt. Gov. Brian Calley and Michigan Supreme Court Justice Richard Bernstein on stage as they discuss employment opportunities for disabled persons. IVAN FLORES | WASHTENAW VOICE

any sense,” Calley said.

“It is flat out wrong... We really need to be inclusive... Just like we wouldn’t assume anything about a person with a different race, we shouldn’t assume anything about a person with a disability, that they can’t go out there and perform, and be of value to their community.”

## NEED ADDITIONAL SUPPORT LOOKING FOR EMPLOYMENT?

The Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living is an excellent resource. It’s a support group for people to evaluate their skills and find appropriate jobs. Job Talk meets on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month from 10 -11:30 a.m.

**ADDRESS:** 3941 Research Drive, Ann Arbor  
**CONTACT:** Email [careers@aaicLorg](mailto:careers@aaicLorg) or Call 734-971-0277



Thorton Perkins, a WCC history instructor, informs those in attendance at WCC’s Diversity Day of the importance of diversity. GRAY BANCROFT | WASHTENAW VOICE

## DIVERSITY, From A1

students. “When we talk about diversity, I want to see more of it,” Wylie said.

Chisholm was also in agreement that diversity is important amongst not only students, but staff as well.

“I would like to see more diversity within the faculty because I think it will affect not only enrollment, but also help

with retention of students so that they don’t feel like they can’t have somebody they can identify with,” Chisholm said.

Though there was no clear answer on how to solve the issue, President Rose Bellanca suggested publicizing our school in more environments and locations to recruit more diverse faculty. Bellanca said she takes a very personal approach when it comes to

diversity and inclusion and agreed that more needs to be done to expand that knowledge and culture.

“I’m going to go there and say I totally agree that there isn’t enough diversity in the faculty. We need to work with the faculty and take a look at our hiring procedures while still being careful to follow the law and find the best candidates,” Bellanca said.

Despite speculation of a lack of acknowledging diversity at WCC, a series of positive changes have been made in efforts to expose students to diversity in the last year alone, such as the option to have preferred names printed on school IDs. Gender-neutral bathrooms will also be available in the buildings at WCC in 2016, and just last November, a change was made in the school’s non-discrimination policy to further protect the diversity at WCC. This was the first time in two decades that the board of trustees approved any change in policies according to Jason Morgan, director of government and community relations.

“Seeing the college advance so far in one instant is so powerful. We need to make sure we’re protecting our people and our community here at WCC,” Morgan said. “And this came out of students, community and faculty talking to the board and pushing for a change.”

Upon being appointed as the first Dean of Diversity and

Inclusion, Chisholm has been vehemently dedicated to putting an end to discrimination at WCC. He strives to provide more knowledge about the number of distinct cultures and lifestyles on campus. Chisholm has worked with students, faculty and board members to make the vast diversity at WCC a priority. On Sept. 23, WCC’s first Diversity Day was hosted by Chisholm, and students were invited to interact with clubs at WCC that stand against discrimination such as Outspace Club, International Student Association and many more.

“What I am trying to do is showcase the diversity here on WCC’s campus and make it a more welcoming campus overall,” Chisholm said. “Diversity, to me, is understanding different cultures and being able to get along with anyone and everyone here on this campus.”

Although the term diversity has a universal definition, the meaning of the word itself is purely individual. The core definition of “diversity” is as follows: “the inclusion of

individuals representing more than one national origin, color, religion, socioeconomic stratum, sexual orientation, etc.,” and at Diversity Day, students were asked what diversity meant to them personally.

“To me, it means inclusion from everybody. It means being and knowing that you’re part of something bigger. It’s about making sure everybody knows that they’re not alone,” Chris Wheeler, 23, from Ypsilanti and vice president of the Outspace Club said.

Diversity is a subject being touched on more and more as time passes, and though there are improvements to be made and concerns to be addressed, change is possible if administrators such as Chisholm and Bellanca continue fighting for that transformation. A very personal approach is taken by Bellanca, who talks about her experience growing up as a first generation American.

“I have a lot of respect for diverse culture, that’s what makes this country great and that’s what makes this college great,” Bellanca said.

## HORISZNY, From A1

According to an April 2014 *Voice* article, during Bellanca’s time as WCC’s president the faculty union has raised concerns over “a perceived lack of communication, an increasingly top-heavy administration and curricular decisions made without faculty knowledge or consent,” which ultimately led to a vote of “no confidence” in Bellanca on May 1, 2014. The results of this vote were 158 “yes” votes, 22 “no” votes and one abstained, out of 181 votes cast.

Although both Bellanca and the WCCEA claim to be improving communication, Horiszny has held a strong backing of Bellanca and her solid efforts in communication, which she expressed during her resignation speech.

“I believe that Dr. Bellanca has made strong efforts to build a positive relationship with organized labor since things veered off early in her administration,” Horiszny said. “Similar efforts from organized labor have not been evident to me because I believe the end goal is not to improve the relationship or improve communication between the two parties, it has been about removing Dr. Bellanca as president.”

WCCEA faculty union President Maryam Barrie had

given a speech at the beginning of the meeting, sounding hopeful of improved communication. She commented that on Monday, Sept. 14, she, Bellanca, the union’s Chief Negotiator David Fitzpatrick, and Vice President of Instruction Michael Nealon had a liaison meeting after a 17 month hiatus.

“(We) had a civil and productive conversation,” Barrie said. “I am hopeful that as we move forward, faculty voices will again be included in the conversations about what future we wish to create for our community and for the students. I am tentatively optimistic.”

The optimism came to a halt during Horiszny’s speech, when her words struck a chord with the union members and Fitzpatrick, resulting in them walking out in the middle of the meeting.

“She (Bellanca) refuses to meet with the union leadership for almost two years and then does so only when the board tells her she has to and the relationship is our fault?” Fitzpatrick said.

Confused by Horiszny’s choice of words during her exit speech, Barrie comments that “it’s a very strange thing to do.”

“I mean, after not listening to me for almost two years, to almost hear me...It’s really hard

for me to understand what the motive is besides just protecting Rose or sort of (painting) her as blameless in this,” Barrie said.

Julie Kissel, an English instructor and member of the faculty union, also was stunned at the approach Horiszny took



President Rose Bellanca acknowledges Pamela Horiszny’s 11 years of service as she resigns from the board. GRAY BANCROFT | WASHTENAW VOICE

during one of her last speeches as treasurer of the board.

“I’m speechless,” Kissel said. “Just as we were working toward building something and working from progress we had made, this will undermine that process because of her words. So again, we are being scolded as if we are children.”

Bellanca expressed her disappointment in the WCCEA members leaving the meeting.

“We have freedom of speech and she (Horiszny) shared what she believed was true to her,” Bellanca said. “People stand up and speak their mind regularly at a board meeting because of freedom of speech. I don’t think it was meant to insult them. I don’t know, we

were all shocked.”

Bellanca called Barrie after the meeting to apologize for what had happened and commented to the *Voice* that she doesn’t want them to be upset and that her goal is to have a college where people get along.

In a follow-up conversation with Horiszny on Sept. 27, she gave her reasoning for saying what she did. Simply put, she

said what she wanted to say during her remarks.

“I really don’t have anything else to add to that. I’m done basically...” Horiszny said. “That’s pretty much what my thoughts were and I just hope we can move forward. We’ll get a better perspective based on what I had to say. I don’t really want to add any fuel to the fire because I sent my resignation letter and I’m pretty much done.”

As of Oct. 1, the board began looking to appoint a new member to fill Horiszny’s seat and must do so within 30 days or the Washtenaw Intermediate School District Board will appoint one for them according to Richard Landau, WCC board of trustee chair. People interested can apply online and must be a resident within Washtenaw County. The board will take a vote and the majority will decide who receives the position.

The board members and Bellanca expressed their well wishes to Horiszny as this was the first board meeting of the academic semester and Horiszny’s last.

“Obviously, having served with you for 11 years, you will be sorely missed,” Landau said. “I personally will miss both your collegiality and your encyclopedia knowledge of finances of this institution. We have a

hole in the board that will be extraordinarily difficult to fill in a variety of respects but I wish love and cuddling with the grandbabies, and I wish you well with all your future endeavors.”

Bellanca echoed Landau’s well wishes and appreciation of Horiszny’s support for the last four years that Bellanca has been at the college.

“Pam, thank you. I have learned so much from you,” Bellanca said. “You have, in regards to everything from finance to never being afraid of questioning me, you’ve always questioned me in the most professional way behind the scenes. You made me think twice, three times, about things I came up with and you allowed me to be me with you.”

Although Horiszny’s comments have possibly reignited the tension between the administration and the WCCEA, Horiszny ended her speech with hopeful thoughts of the future.

“This is the 50th anniversary of the college. It is time to put differences in their proper perspective and to celebrate the contributions of all the college’s constituencies,” Horiszny said. “I know it will be challenging, but I am excited to see it happen even if it’s from 500 miles away.”



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(School of Education/UM)

**10/29**  
**MPOD**  
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**11/12**  
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# WCC AIMS TO ACCOMMODATE STUDENTS' DIETARY RESTRICTIONS

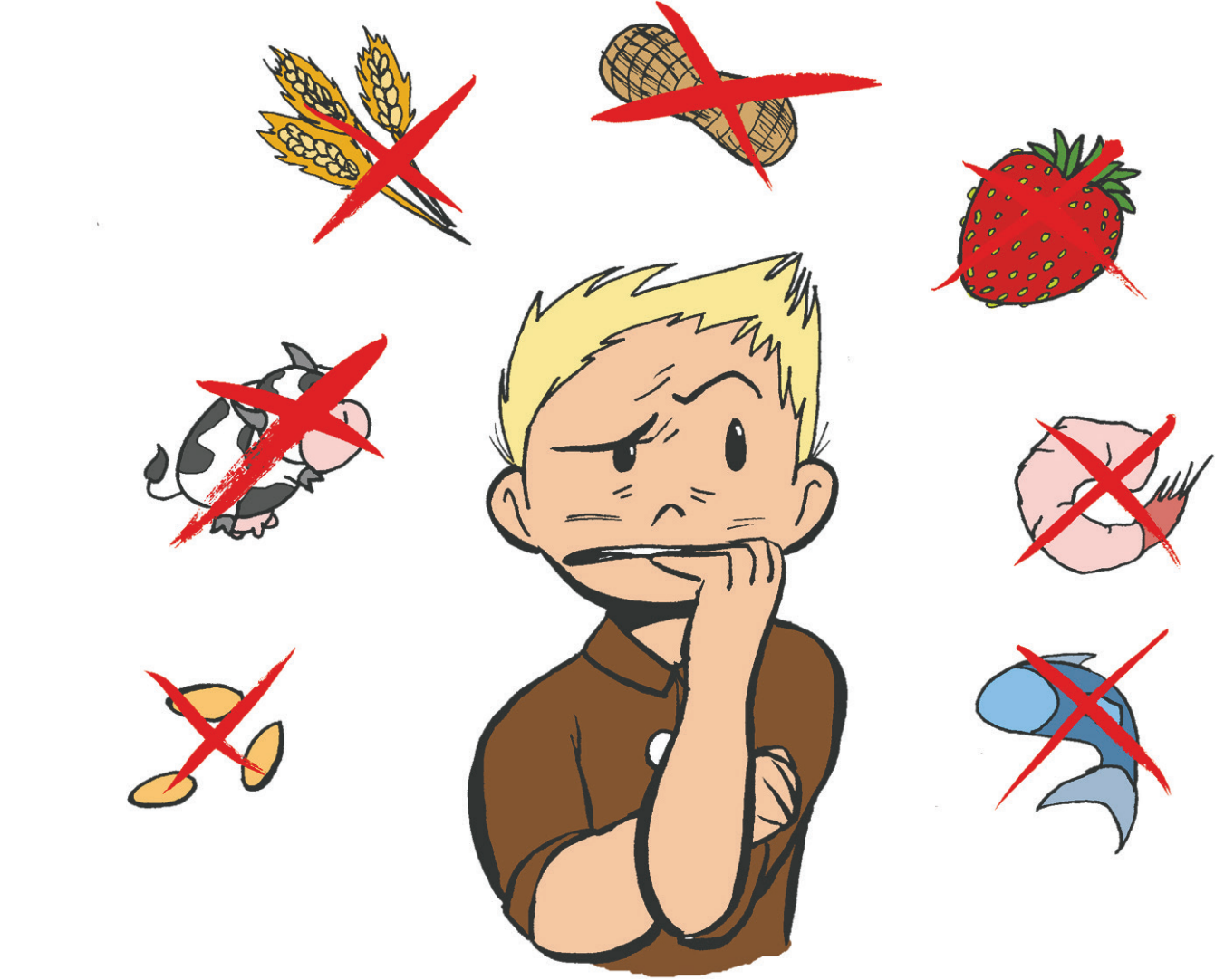
BY TAYLOR MABELITINI  
Contributor

While the average college student often finds themselves surviving off of Ramen and coffee, this doesn't hold so true with students who face food allergies and dietary restrictions. Multiple meal options are available on the campus of Washtenaw Community College, including Subway, Garrett's and the Spot, but when one cuts out dairy, gluten, meat, soy or other ingredients, lunchtime can suddenly seem like a never-ending miscellany of forbidden foods.

Amber Thibodeau aims to make eating on campus a little less intimidating for all students, especially those who require accommodations when it comes to their daily grub. Thibodeau has been the Food Services Director at WCC for five months, and since then has made strides to modify on-campus eats to better suit students, including the addition of the LA building's Snack Spot and more gluten and dairy-free grab-and-go options at the Java Spot. Thibodeau has also worked closely with this year's guest restaurants to ensure meal options are available to everyone at WCC.

"We have more of a variety of guest restaurants this year. We have a different guest restaurant every day and each guest restaurant has a gluten-free option. The guest restaurant has a vegetarian offering each and every day, and that's why I added more guest restaurants – because it seemed like Panda Express, they have a vegetarian option but there isn't a gluten-free option," Thibodeau said.

She also stresses the fact that lunchtime spots already around campus do have options for



SANAA NAEEM | WASHTENAW VOICE

students with dietary restrictions, even if they don't appear to.

"Subway alone, a lot of people stay away from there when they're gluten-free because they're like, 'Bread is everywhere.' But you can get a salad from Subway that has all the proteins and that's gluten-free. A lot of people don't realize that," Thibodeau said. "All the meats from all the guest restaurants are gluten-free, we have a variety of salads that are grab and go that are gluten-free, we also have the KIND bars as a

gluten-free grab and go. It goes on and on."

Thibodeau also mentions that for vegetarians at Subway, new utensils are always on hand on the line to make sure that sandwiches are made correctly for students and that there is no cross-contamination. She's worked closely with Earthen Jar, an Ann Arbor-based restaurant, in order to accommodate vegan students as well. Willing to adhere to anything a student may need food-wise, she emphasizes that if students have

a need, they email her.

"Hopefully they (students) know that anything they want, I'm willing to try and accommodate. If somebody has dietary restrictions that they need, and they want me to do something, I'll do it," Thibodeau said.

Those who are behind the dishes at Garrett's, the student-run restaurant at WCC, also make sure to pay mind to the restrictions that some on campus may have. All of their menu items are listed on their website so students

can see what is offered throughout the semester and decide in advance what food items will work for them. Garrett's, unlike the other food services on campus, is required to ensure their culinary program is up to national education standards, by meeting over 200 competencies outlined by the American Culinary Federation. Chris Troiano, a full-time classified lab assistant with WCC's culinary program, insists that this doesn't mean that dietary restrictions students have to play

"second fiddle."

"They're not necessarily mutually exclusive, we just have to make sure that we try to do our best so that every menu we produce offers a wide variety," Troiano said.

This is especially proven through the food restrictions of WCC's own President Rose Bellanca. Bellanca has a poultry allergy, which Garrett's has accommodated during her time at WCC. They also acknowledge what's known as the "Big Eight" allergens – eggs, dairy, wheat, soy, fish, shellfish, peanuts, and tree nuts – and are continuously aware of them.

"We take allergies very seriously in the program to ensure that people that are coming to Garrett's can be assured that they're eating foods that will be safe for them," said Derek Anders Jr., professional faculty for the Culinary Arts Department. "We also try to make menus to a point where we can involve a level of inclusion for those that have certain dietary restrictions."

When it comes to many of the dishes at Garrett's, those creating the menus and cooking the meals ask themselves frequently if a dish that contains gluten, dairy, or another potential food restriction can be made without it – and Anders Jr. says, "Our goal is to say yes."

That, overall, seems to be the mission of the food services at WCC: to allow students to say "yes" to the food that is made available to them, and to be continuously improving meals that students have access to. One doesn't have to be simply gluten-free, dairy-free, and meat-free on campus; they can also just be free to eat.



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Richard Landau, board of trustees chair, and former administrator James Anderson look on as a group of workers prepare to reveal the time capsule. GRAY BANCROFT | WASHTENAW VOICE

# Historic time capsule unearthed at Free College Day

Washtenaw Community College celebrates its 50th year opening its doors

BY COURTNEY DITTO  
Contributor

Everyone was huddled in front of the Morris Lawrence building as they waited. Staff and faculty played cover songs ranging from the 60s through the 80s, with history instructor Thornton Perkins playing bass and Dean of Diversity and Inclusion Arnett Chisholm playing the drums.

Former and present board members, faculty and alumni visited campus once again as Richard Landau, board of

trustees chair; President Rose Bellanca; and former board member Tony Procassini opened a time capsule buried 25 years ago. Procassini was one of the original board members who helped bury the capsule in 1990.

“It’s a true honor. We’re very lucky to have some of the members that buried the capsule return, and I am excited to bury the next one in October in 2016,” Bellanca said. “I can only hope to also have the opportunity to return in 25 years to witness it open again.”

After speeches and introductions, WCC workers assisted in unearthing the metal vault buried beneath the marbled tile in front of the ML building. Then there was silence as the box was placed on a near table. Excitement echoed through every present board member, alumni, student and faculty member as it was opened.

“Does anyone have a VHS player?” Laughter erupted from the attendees as Landau held up a VHS tape from the 25-year-old time capsule.

A few of the contents included budget reports and class catalogs from WCC’s earlier days. Many old black and white pictures gave insight as to what campus looked like more than two decades ago, and a blueprint map of the school from that time showed the growth of WCC.

“This is very similar, if not better than the original vision for what the school would look like. Times change and I never imagined this vision would become so real so quickly. Time flies,” Procassini said.

On Sept. 26, WCC celebrated its 50th anniversary of being open to the public. A variety of the school’s departments showcased their services, and with over 400 participants, people were provided with the opportunity to partake in a wide range of free classes from “Fun with Chemistry” to “Learning to Fly.”

“This is a good way for future students and any students in consideration to get a taste and feel for what our campus is like,” said chemistry instructor Breege

Concannon.

Free College Day offered a glimpse into the college’s history – a college that blossomed from a mere thought into one of the top community college institutions. There’s much curiosity from Bellanca about how the school will continue to evolve in the next 25 years. Bellanca says she looks forward to students, faculty and board members coming together in 2016 to bury the next time capsule, to be opened once again at the 75th anniversary.



Simon Mermelstien, a 28-year-old WCC alumnus, kicks off the open mic night held by the Poetry Club in the Writing Center. GRAY BANCROFT | WASHTENAW

# Rhymes and reasons to join Poetry Club

BY COLIN MACDOUGALL  
Contributor

Fans of live poetry, have no fear: the Poetry Club is here. Students, faculty, and alumni alike gathered in the interest of spoken word at the Poetry Club’s first open mic night of the semester on Sept. 18. According to Tom Zimmerman, the club’s advisor, they host two open mic nights, with another happening toward the end of the fall semester. The Poetry Club meets every Friday at 5 p.m. in the writing center, located on the third floor of the Liberal Arts building.

“I usually start out the meeting passing out poems I’ve selected from websites by poets that I think that the students and other club members might be interested in reading, or something new that seems interesting

and that stimulates us into eventually doing some writing. That’s where we end our meeting, with a free write,” Zimmerman said.

Zimmerman went on to say, “Occasionally members want to workshop one of their poems (during the meeting) and we are sort of like a creative writing class where we make copies of someone’s poem and the poet reads it and gets feedback from the group.”

Along with the Poetry Club, Zimmerman is also director of the Writing Center and is the mind behind *The Huron River Review* published at Washtenaw.

“*The Huron River Review* is a literary magazine that began in 2001 and the first issue came out in 2002. We’ve done 14 issues since then,” Zimmerman said. “It’s won a ton of awards. We have so many talented poets

around here.”

One of the aforementioned poets, the president of the club, 21-year-old Tyler Wettig, does his best to look for the best in each poet’s writing.

“There is a poet by the name of William McGonagall who is considered to be the worst poet in the English language. I really enjoy reading stuff called bad and finding the best in that,” said the creative writing major.

Wettig first got involved with the Poetry Club at the end of the fall 2014 semester. He then went on to become the president in the following winter semester.

Simon Mermelstien, a WCC alumnus and Writing Center tutor, was one of the original members of the Poetry Club who also helped push Wettig to become the president.

“He was a tutor who went to

all the meetings and we made him the president because he was the only one who could get it done,” Mermelstien said.

Mermelstien, 28-year-old resident of Ann Arbor, is one of the club’s members and the lead maestro on the microphone when it comes to open mic night.

“I don’t work on one type of style. I have a background in rhyme and mute poetry, and it’s been useful in free verse,” Mermelstien said.

“There is really no way to describe Poetry Club or encapsulate it in one word, but 211 years ago today (Sept. 18), Beethoven’s Symphony Number 3 in E Flat was top of the charts. It was because it brings in the age of Romantics,” Wettig said. “When I think of Tom and Simon and all the other brilliant minds of the poetry club, I think of Beethoven’s age of Romantics.”



Zach Baker, 35, a WCC alumnus from Ypsilanti, decided to recite a longer poem at the open mic night held by the poetry club. GRAY BANCROFT | WASHTENAW VOICE



# NATURE TRAIL PROVIDES 'IN-FIELD' EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE

BY RYAN PRESTON  
*Contributor*

AND SOFIA LYNCH  
*Managing Editor*

Hosting a variety of native and nonnative plants, the nature trail at Washtenaw Community College is like a biology classroom that winds around the campus for 1.3 miles. The trail itself is not natural, but rather has been brought up around two retention ponds that were dug in order to facilitate the parking lot. However, after several years, the trail was eventually constructed into what is seen today.

Hosted by the Sustainability Literacy Task Force, a tour through the trail was guided by Greg Vaclavek on Sept. 29. Vaclavek is the owner of the



The Sustainability Literacy Task Force at WCC held a nature and conservation walk led by Greg Vaclavek, the owner of the Native Plant Nursery in Ann Arbor. GRAY BANCROFT | WASHTENAW VOICE

Native Plant Nursery, a local company in Ann Arbor that provided the seeds for the variety of wildlife plants utilized on the trail.

Emily Thompson, part of

the sustainability task force and biology instructor, has plans to organize many more events centered on the nature trail. She hopes events such as the nature walk help students

learn more about, and connect more to, the natural world.

“My goal is to teach students about sustainability and encourage students to care about the environment in which they live in,” Thompson said.

Attendees of the nature walk learned about some of the 150 species of plants with Vaclavek. The trail has 10 signs throughout it that describe some of the diverse wildlife that is present within the trail, for those interested who weren’t able to attend the tour.

One of the topics Vaclavek discussed regarding nonnative plants is that not all of them are invasive – that is to say threatening the plants native to the area – but rather they provide less resources than those native to the region would.

An example Vaclavek used



Greg Vaclavek, the owner of the Native Plant Nursery in Ann Arbor. GRAY BANCROFT | WASHTENAW VOICE

was Queen Anne’s Lace. He explained that while it doesn’t harm the other plants, it can

only provide for about 10 species of animals, while a plant natural to the region can support upwards of 40 species.

“People often confuse non-native and invasive plants. Just because a plant isn’t native to a region doesn’t mean it’s going to necessarily harm the native plants,” Vaclavek explained.

Dave Wooten, a WCC biology instructor, is one of the people who originally helped spearhead the trail’s development. Wooten’s class was in attendance for the nature trail tour. He plans on using the trail frequently for his classes and to further the idea of sustainability in a modern setting.

“I just want my students to be educated about wetland ecology and reinforce what I’m teaching in the classroom,” Wooten said.

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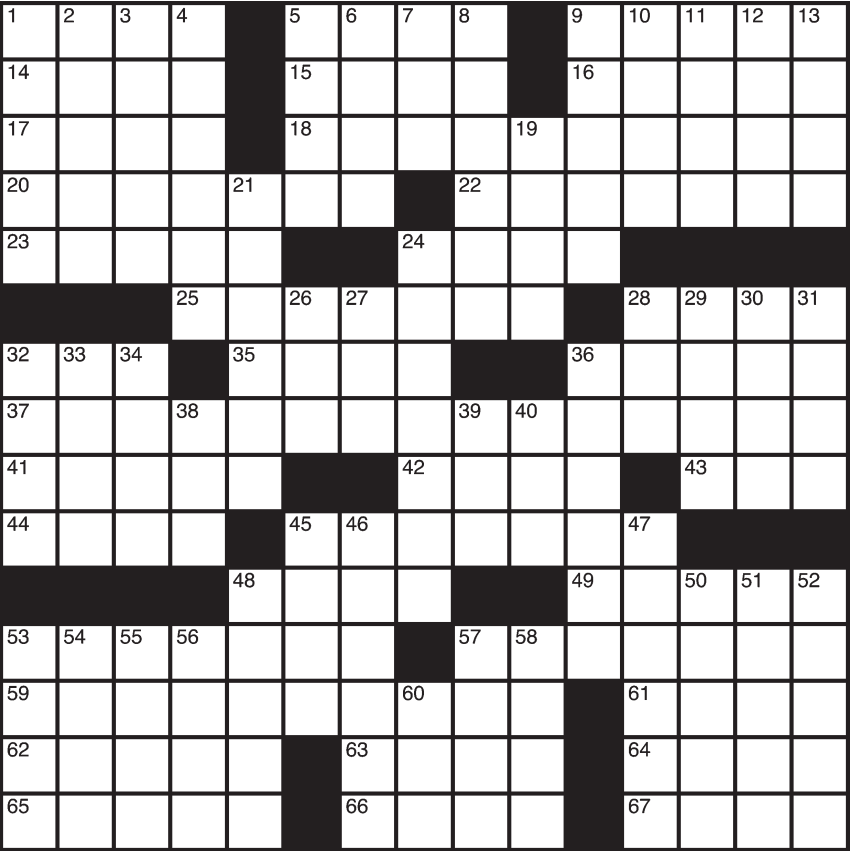
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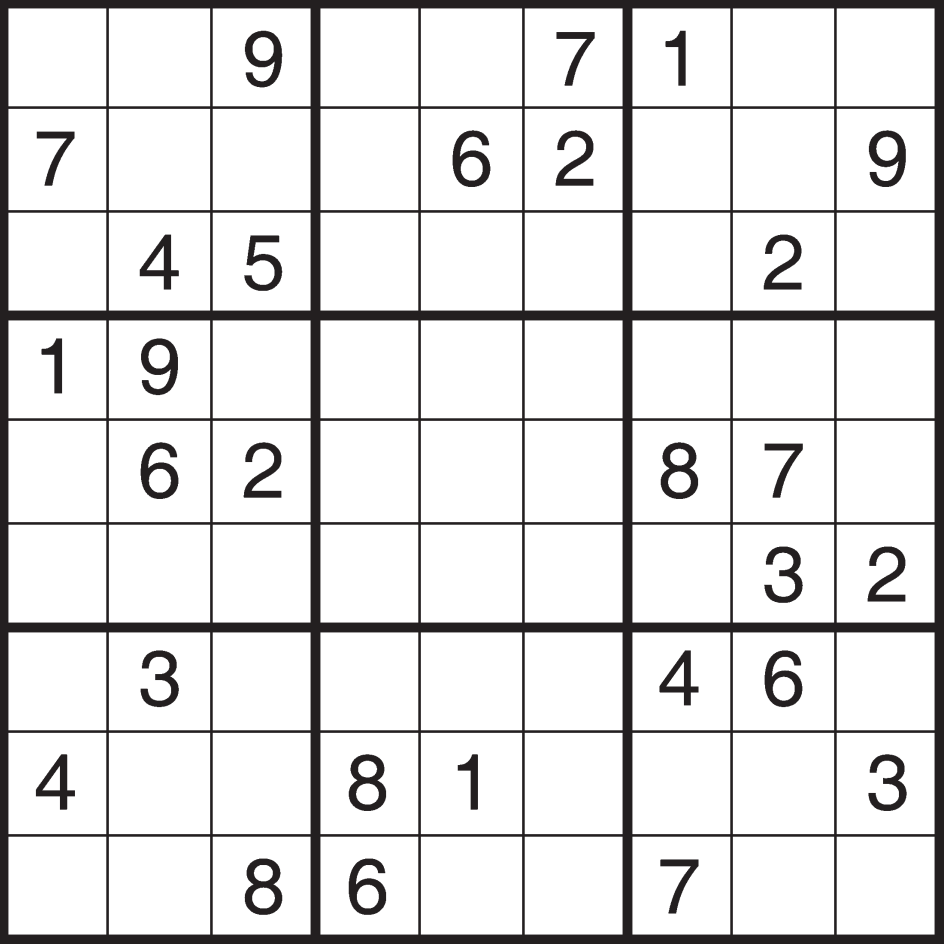
- 1 Having been cut, as grass
- 5 Stage showoffs
- 9 “The Prince and the Pauper” author Mark
- 14 The “E” in Q.E.D.
- 15 Parisian gal pal
- 16 Salon dye
- 17 In a precarious situation
- 19 Fats Domino genre, briefly
- 20 Tales of \_\_: misfortunes
- 21 Market shelves filler: Abbr.
- 22 Ambles
- 23 Pabst brand
- 25 Swimmer’s path
- 26 Like a lake during a dead calm
- 32 Dessert with icing
- 34 Mr. Rogers
- 35 \_\_ Beta Kappa
- 36 Really mess up
- 37 Dude
- 39 Resting atop
- 40 State south of Wash.
- 41 Jury member
- 42 Struggle (through), as mud
- 43 Permanent
- 48 Exiled Roman poet
- 49 “Right away!”

- 52 Added financial burden for drivers
- 55 Bag for a picnic race
- 57 Massage reaction
- 58 Pretended to be
- 59 Art form in which the ends of 17-, 26- and 43-Across may be used
- 61 Glisten
- 62 Mr. Peanut’s stick
- 63 Pac-12 member
- 64 “The Great” king of Judea
- 65 Rec room centerpiece
- 66 Number one

DOWN

- 1 Cat conversation
- 2 “To be, \_\_ to be ...”
- 3 One being pulled behind a boat
- 4 High degree, in math
- 5 “Don’t touch that!”
- 6 “London Fields” author Martin
- 7 “Three Blind \_\_”
- 8 “Get my point?”
- 9 Big crowd
- 10 “Pop goes” critter
- 11 Novelist Brontë
- 12 “500” race, familiarly
- 13 Hauls off to jail
- 18 Texter’s “I think ...”

- 22 Live \_\_: Taco Bell slogan
- 24 Black cat, to some
- 25 Soup servers
- 27 Fearful
- 28 Her face launched a thousand ships
- 29 Puréed fruit served with pork
- 30 “Scram!”
- 31 Perform a ballad
- 32 Gator’s kin
- 33 Ghostly emanation
- 38 Section describing the United States Constitution’s amendment process
- 39 Annapolis inst.
- 44 Cast a negative ballot
- 45 Dodged
- 46 New Jersey fort
- 47 Like a GI scraping plates
- 50 Viscounts’ superiors
- 51 Glance sideways during a test, maybe
- 52 Serious cut
- 53 Throbbing pain
- 54 Mix in a glass
- 55 Large amount
- 56 Marie, to Donny’s sons
- 59 63-Across, for one: Abbr.
- 60 Place for a soak



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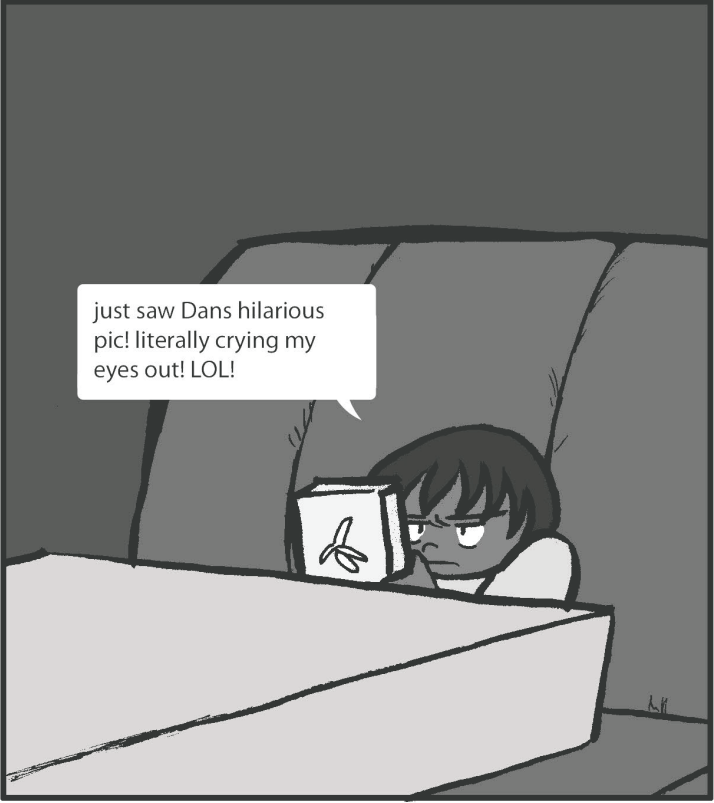
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Note: Deadline for the October 5 issue is Tuesday, September 29 at 5 p.m.

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*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](mailto:careers@wccnet.edu) or visit <http://www.wccnet.edu/careerconnection/>.*

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# Art scholar connects with students through passion for painting



“Riechart’s Pond in Late Summer” a painting by VanVoorhis that won the Juror’s Award of Merit for 2-D Work for the Annual Greater Michigan Art Exhibition. | COURTESY OF CATHY VANVOORHIS

BY MADI TORTORA  
*Contributor*

As she swipes her brush full of paint across a broad canvas, Cathy VanVoorhis leaves a wave of color and inspiration in her wake as a part-time art instructor at Washtenaw Community College and at the Stamps School of Art at the University of Michigan.

“My mother was an artist, and she taught art at a community college,” VanVoorhis said. “It’s funny because I followed in her footsteps. She loved teaching,

as I do.”

VanVoorhis always loved to draw and to paint, and even attended college in France.

“I was majoring in French, and they had an option to study abroad,” VanVoorhis said. “I lived with a family in France. It was absolutely wonderful.”

Not sure if she was going to major in art or not, VanVoorhis visited many museums wherever she traveled.

“I still remember the distinct moment that I was in the George Pompidou Center in Paris, and I was looking at the Picasso and

Matisse paintings,” VanVoorhis said. “I thought, I have to pursue this same path, because what they’re doing is so important.”

Carolyn Swift, a 57-year-old retiree from her former job as a teacher at Clarkston Community Schools and now a full-time artist, attended college with VanVoorhis.

“Cathy is deeply thoughtful, and reflective,” Swift said. “She’s deeply connected with nature, and her work is really about that: about capturing this moment, and this connection to a place.”

Because VanVoorhis and

Swift held the same occupation, they connected on that level and were able to share experiences.

“We were both teachers, so we would talk things over through the years,” Swift said. “I think because her background and experience is so broad and deep, that she would be able to connect with all sorts of students on so many levels.”

Connecting with students is something that VanVoorhis does well, according to Molly Prout, a 19-year-old prospective computer programming major from Howell, who is in her basic

drawing class.

“So far, she’s very welcoming. She critiques your artwork in a positive way,” Prout said. “Like even if you do something completely wrong, she makes it positive, and she makes it better.”

As both a teacher and an artist, VanVoorhis has shown her appreciation for art and the process of creating it. Through her work, she shows her connection to nature and to things bigger than herself.

Riechart’s Pond in Late Summer, a painting created by VanVoorhis, won the Juror’s


Award of Merit for 2-D Work for the Annual Greater Michigan Art Exhibition. This winning painting was shown at the Midland Center for the Arts through Sept. 11.

“It was part of a collaboration between artists and the Legacy Land Conservancy of Southeast Michigan,” VanVoorhis said. “They asked the artists to go to certain places that were being preserved according to the law about setting aside land so that it’s not developed, and can paint pictures of it to make the public more aware.”

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