



A2 Film Festival B2



Ruff times call for Therapaws A7

Student Art Show 2019 B1



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SARA FARAJI | WASHTENAW VOICE

Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha visited WCC for Women's History Month and gave a talk in the Towsley Auditorium on March 6.

BY LILLY KUJAWSKI
Editor

WCC celebrated the beginning of Women's History Month on March 6 with a visit from Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, a pediatrician at Hurley Medical Center in Flint and author whose research helped reveal the presence of lead in Flint's water system in 2015.

The event was hosted at Towsley Auditorium, where Hanna-Attisha began with some celebratory remarks

to honor Women's History Month.

"We're in this incredible moment right now in Michigan," Hanna-Attisha said. "We have more women in leadership roles than we've ever had, from the governor, to the secretary of state, to the attorney general, a Michigan supreme court chief justice, and U.S. senator."

"Finally, girls all over the state can look in the mirror and see themselves as leaders, and also as scientists, and engineers, and writers, and

doctors, and whatever else they want to be," she added. "We still have a long way to go, I'm not saying our work, in terms of equality, is done; we have a lot more glass ceilings to break, a lot more doors to bust open, especially board rooms."

"We cannot forget about the amazing women who have paved the way for so many of us to be able to prosper," Hanna-Attisha said.

She also paid tribute to two women she considers role models: Genora Johnson

Dollinger, often referred to as the "Joan of Arc of Labor," who organized the Women's Emergency Brigade during the 1937 General Motors sit down strikes in Flint, and Alice Hamilton, the first woman to be appointed as a faculty member at Harvard Medical School, whose research laid the groundwork for modern understanding of lead toxicology and testing. According to Hanna-Attisha, both women were seen as "hysterical" for their activist work.

SEE DR. MONA, A3

Students grace the stage with talent acts



LILY MERRITT | CONTRIBUTOR

Judith La-Deana Olivia Ingram sings at the WCC's Got Talent show.

BY KEVIN GERYCH
Staff Writer

The Towsley Auditorium buzzed with the sights and sounds of music, dance and even magic on Thursday night at this year's "WCC's Got Talent" show.

The contestants were judged by a panel consisting of WCC alumna Christina Wallag, Matt Lucas, director of WCC sports and Ali Kurmasha, who is a current WCC student studying chemistry. The first place prize—\$150 in campus bookstore credit and the title of honor—went to Tyler Scott for his entertaining and at times, unnerving Russian roulette-like magic act, which involved brown paper bags and a metal spike.

One contestant, Andy Xiao, performed a cover of "As Long as You Love Me" by Justin Bieber.

"Justin Bieber is one of my favorite artists, he just has a very good voice and it's my type of music," said Xiao, a nursing student with intentions to transfer to the University of Michigan in the summer.

Xiao said his performance was not without a good dose of first-time butterflies.

"I was very nervous, shaky and excited all around," said Xiao. "It was my first time ever performing in front of a crowd."

SEE TALENT, A8

Teacher accused of giving pot brownie to student fired

BY LILLY KUJAWSKI
Editor

A part-time instructor at WCC was discharged after allegedly giving a cannabis brownie to an unknowing student last month.

The incident occurred on Feb. 12 in the Occupational Education building. The student victim, age 54, believed it was a regular brownie when he ate it. He began to feel effects of the cannabis about an hour later when he became lightheaded and dizzy, according to Scott Hilden, chief of public safety.

The victim thought he was experiencing a medical emergency, Hilden said. The victim, who was still on campus, was taken to the hospital by ambulance, said Linda Blakey, vice president of student and academic services.

At the hospital, elevated levels of THC were found in the victim's system, said Hilden. THC, or tetrahydrocannabinol, is the psychoactive ingredient in cannabis.

The former employee was immediately suspended and removed from campus. Later, his employment was termi-

nated when public safety officials determined that he knowingly gave the victim the brownie that contained cannabis, Hilden said. College officials declined to identify the dismissed employee.

Hilden said that to both the college and public safety officers, "nothing is more important than the health and safety of our students."

The former part-time teacher in question is in his 60s. His precise employment information was not available from college officials; Blakey said he'd worked at WCC for several years. She added that the dismissed employee had no prior criminal record.

The victim has since been released from the hospital, according to Blakey.

The dismissed employee has not yet been charged. Should the victim decide to prosecute, the former part-time teacher could face a felony charge and up to 10 years in prison, Hilden said.

The possession and consumption of cannabis is still prohibited on campus, regardless of legal status, just like alcohol and other drugs, Blakey said.

New website to 'soft launch' March 25

BY NICHOLAS KETCHUM
Deputy Editor

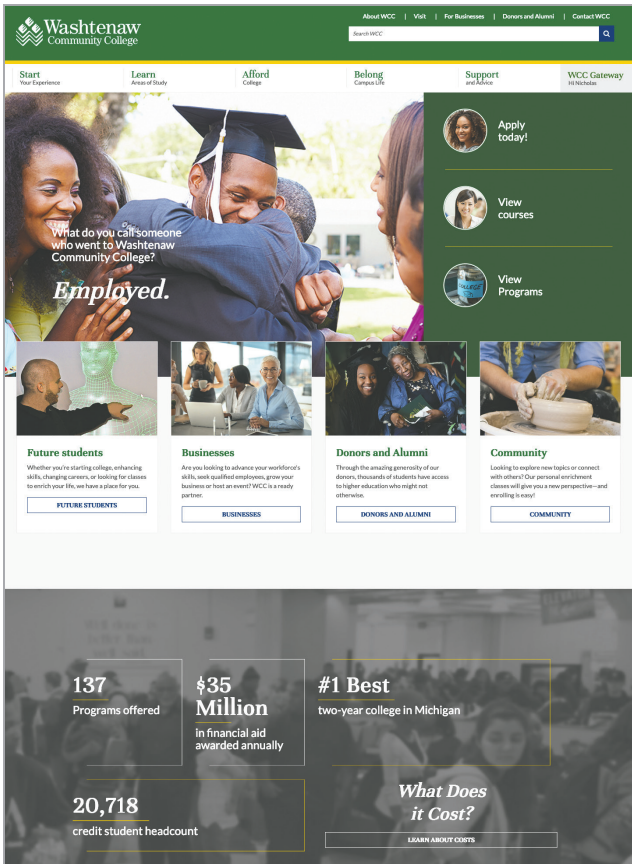
On March 25, WCC will have a new website. Actually, it'll have two: the current 10-year-old website and an all-new website—both living side-by-side, at least for a while.

John Powell, a web design and content manager at the college, calls it a "soft launch." He said the soft launch will give students, faculty and staff time to become familiar with the new system. In the meantime, the current website (and its URL) will remain intact.

"We're very excited. We've spent a lot of time on the website—we're very excited to get this into students' hands," said Powell, who joined WCC in March 2018 to help coordinate the project.

The most striking new feature will be a redesigned look-and-feel. The previous site was developed in the days of desktop browser dominance, before smartphones were ubiquitous. The new website, according to Powell, is built with phones and desktops in mind and aims to make mobile browsing smoother.

SEE WEBSITE, A8



NICHOLAS KETCHUM | WASHTENAW VOICE

A screenshot of the new WCC website.



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Dr. Mona

Continued from A1

In 2014, while the city was under emergency management, a decision was made by Michigan government officials to cut costs in Flint by rerouting its drinking water supply from the Great Lakes to the Flint River, Hanna-Attisha said.

“Just a few months after this water switch... General Motors, which still operates in Flint, noticed that this water was corroding engine parts,” she said. “Think about that: the water was corroding engine parts and GM was allowed to go back to Great Lakes water, yet the people of Flint throughout this time were literally told to ‘relax.’”

In 2015, Hanna-Attisha found out from a friend, an EPA employee at the time and drinking water expert, that the water in Flint wasn’t being treated with a federally-mandated corrosion control ingredient, which was causing the lead pipes to corrode into the water.

According to Hanna-Attisha, there is lead in nearly all of the plumbing in the United States. Lead service lines weren’t banned until 1986 and the use of lead in fixtures and faucets wasn’t banned until 2014, Hanna-Attisha said.

“When a pediatrician

hears the word ‘lead’, when anybody in public health hears the word ‘lead,’ we really kind of freak out and Alice Hamilton taught us that,” Hanna-Attisha said. “We’ve known for centuries what lead does, it’s probably the most well-studied neurotoxin known to man.”

“My life changed when I heard about the possibility of lead in the water,” Hanna-Attisha said. “As a pediatrician, I have literally taken an oath to protect children.”

Immediately after she found out the water wasn’t being treated properly, Hanna-Attisha and her colleagues began conducting research to find out if the lead was in the bodies of Flint children by testing their blood levels. Her research found that after the water switch, the percentage of children with elevated lead levels had doubled, but there was no change in the levels of children outside of the Flint area.

When Hanna-Attisha discovered these elevated lead levels and their connection to the Flint water system, she decided to take swift action—she brought the data to the public right away, without peer reviews or prior publication.

“The peer review process is really important for those of us in academics,” Hanna-Attisha said. “But that takes a really long time and our kids in Flint literally did not have



Zaynab Elkolaly, 17, WTMC student.

another day.”

After she revealed her data, Hanna-Attisha said she received immediate pushback from government officials, who attempted to discredit her.

“They said that I was an unfortunate researcher and they said that I was causing mere hysteria,” said Hanna-Attisha, which she said was similar to the response received by Hamilton and Dollinger for their work.

Hanna-Attisha said through persistence, teamwork and science, she and her colleagues “spoke truth to power” and exposed the issue.

“The story of Flint is not isolated, it is a story of a deeper crisis that really we are

facing right now as a nation,” said Hanna-Attisha. “The very people responsible for keeping us safe and healthy care more about power and money than they do about us.”

“Lady Liberty’s arms aren’t as open as they used to be,” said Hanna-Attisha, who emigrated to the United States from Iraq as a child. “The ‘American Dream’ is also corroded.”

Hanna-Attisha said the community has responded to the crisis with a holistic approach to helping families and children heal and thrive. She said it is key that the residents of Flint dictate their own recovery.

“During that loss of democracy, those voices were not being heard,” she said. “Having a role in the recovery and self-determination is a critical part of healing.”

“In this city known for building really, really strong cars, now we’re committed to building really strong children,” Hanna-Attisha said.

Many audience members left the talk feeling inspired and empowered by Hanna-Attisha’s story.

Fadwa Ashur, 21, a WTMC graduate and current Eastern Michigan University student, said she admired Hanna-Attisha willingness to fight for others where she saw suffering, regardless of the repercussions.

“I think it’s good to see an Arab American woman making massive strides in helping people the government won’t help,” said Zaynab Elkolaly, 17, a WTMC student.

SARA FARAJ | WASHTENAW VOICE



Clarence Jennings Jr. (left), WCC dean of student access, success, equity and inclusion, gets his book signed. Free copies of Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha’s book “What the Eyes Don’t See” were given to event attendees.

SARA FARAJ | WASHTENAW VOICE

NEWS BRIEFS

PTK looking for officers

The WCC chapter of Phi Theta Kappa is currently accepting new officer applications from current, eligible members. Applicants should be in good standing within the organization, be available to dedicate 5-20 hours per week towards the position, and attend weekly meetings.

Various benefits are offered to officers, including 100 percent travel funding to regional conferences, and partial support to many other events. The application deadline is March 12 before midnight. Apply at tinyurl.com/wccptkofficerapp.

Career and internship fair

Hiring representatives from more than 79 companies and organizations will be attending the Spring Career and Internship Fair, which will be held on Wednesday, March 14 from 4-6 p.m. in the Morris Lawrence Building on campus.

The fair is free to attend for both students and non-students, and optional RSVPs can be submitted at tinyurl.com/wcccareerintern

Summer and fall registration

March 13 marks the start of Summer and Fall 2019 course registration at WCC. Registration will be available under the “MyWCC” tab at the college’s gateway website.

Class schedules for fall and summer are now published at wccnet.edu/academics/schedule/.

Apply to be the graduate speaker

WCC is accepting applications from students seeking to be the 2019 graduate speaker. Eligibility requirements include participation in the May 18 graduation ceremony, receipt of an Associate’s degree, a cumulative G.P.A. of 3.0, and submission of an essay with the speaker’s application.

The deadline to apply is March 17. Applications can be submitted at tinyurl.com/wccgradspeaker19.

Nicholas Ketchum | Deputy Editor

SECURITY & NOTES

Theft/Larceny

A laptop was stolen at the Morris Lawrence building on Wednesday, March 6. The laptop was college property, which a faculty member had been using, and was unattended when it was stolen. Using the tracking system installed on all WCC computers, the IT department was able to locate and recover the laptop.

The public safety department is conducting an ongoing investigation to determine who stole the laptop.

Stalking

Update: A previously-reported case of stalking at the Bailey Library was referred to the public safety department. The case was then reported to the county prosecutor’s office who determined no crime was committed.

Danny Villalobos | Writer

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Student reserves study room, won't leave

Solo-studier pretends not to hear the buzzer when his time is up

BY AINA ZAIDI
Contributor

Students have recently noticed Paul, 18, has a habit of locking himself in a study room at 11:20 a.m. every weekday at WCC, which is prime time to grab a study room since classes don't get out for another ten minutes. Students have gone to the front desk to complain, only to be turned away by the librarians, who have resorted to putting out a sign whenever the study rooms are full, including: "No Study Rooms Available," and an additional one for when Paul makes his rounds: "Yes, Paul has one."

Despite the two hour study

room time limit at Bailey Library, students were still complaining about Paul hogging GM132, which, coincidentally, is the farthest study room from librarians.

Long after his timer would have buzzed, Paul had still not emerged from the room. When librarians were pestered to investigate, they found that Paul wasn't responding to their loud knocks and yelling from outside the door. Despite not listening to any form of audio, he gave no reaction.

The three librarians who had dedicated themselves to dealing with Paul slowly started to give up, as Paul continued to stare at his notebook for a prolonged period. It may be important to note that the notebook was, in fact, blank. Kathy, 42, one of the librarians assigned to the case, kindly made an attempt to provide this information by showing us a picture she had taken of Paul's notebook, which was heavily zoomed in, very pixelated and ultimately

had almost no significance to the investigation.

An anonymous source reported that they witnessed a librarian begin to plaster the infamous WCC stickers in various places across the library to "destress" after this incident. Students sitting closer to the librarian's desk noted, however, that the three women were collectively happy about being able to gain a significant amount of steps for their daily Fitbit goal, which is reported to be over thirty thousand steps per day (thrice the amount of steps an average active person is expected to take), placing the librarians in the running to qualify for Women's Track for Tokyo's Olympics in 2020.

When asked to comment, Kathy affirmed that this was indeed one of their goals and Paul was "just another hurdle" they would have to jump over. She made sure to emphasize the word "hurdle," probably alluding to the actual hurdles competition in the Olympics.



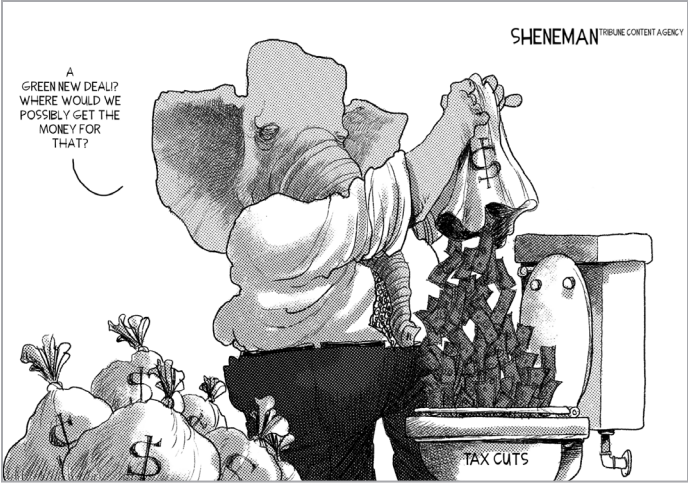
A group study room in the Bailey Library.

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We're not sure.

When Paul was asked about why he had a group room when he was studying in solitary, Paul said: "oh, they're on their way," probably referring to his friend group, but there was no other source to confirm that.

Onlookers who were at the library until Paul left the room reported that nobody entered or left the room, except Paul. When asked about this, Paul declined to comment by saying "he had a lot of work to do," despite having just left the study room.



VOICE BOX

Q: Imagine you are getting carry-out to take home for dinner. When you get home, you notice the restaurant included some plastic forks with your meal that you did not ask for. What do you do with the forks?

By: Lilly Kujawski **Photos by:** Sara Faraj

"To be honest, I'd probably trash them."

Salome Bacoaur, 21
Education



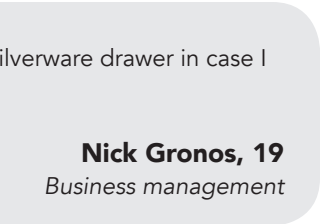
"Usually, I'll just put them in the drawer. My mom will take them to work or I'll take them to school if we need it."

Jocelyn Champagne, 20
Veterinary science



"I'd probably put them in the silverware drawer in case I want them for another time."

Nick Gronos, 19
Business management



"There's this one purple Solo cup I have in my pantry for some reason... I usually keep plastic forks in there for setting up parties. I don't have to spend as much for a party if I have disposable ones."

Daren Willacker, 20
Java programming



"I'd probably just recycle them. That's typically what I do when I get Chinese food or something."

Wesley Bostwick, 23
History



"I eat with the plastic forks. I won't have to use mine, so I don't have to wash dishes."

William Allen, 20
Accounting



OUR TEAM AND ITS ROLE

The Washtenaw Voice is produced every other week by students of Washtenaw Community College. Editorial responsibility lies with the students. The views here are not endorsed or approved by the faculty, administration or Board of Trustees of WCC.

YOUR VOICE

The Voice welcomes letters from readers. Letters should be a maximum of 400 words and include the author's name. A phone number and email address are required so letters can be verified before publication. The Voice welcomes news tips and story ideas.

CORRECTIONS

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Climate change visceral in recent weather

BY RACHEL DUCKETT
Contributor

After a year of extreme weather aggravated by global climate change, temperatures in Michigan hit record breaking cold during the final week of January.

Wind chills, which reached as low as 40 degrees below zero, can be attributed to a “polar vortex,” according to the National Weather Service.

A polar vortex occurs when the temperature gradient between the arctic and southern latitudes is reduced, causing the arctic to get hotter as cold wind swoops down into the midwest, said Smita Malpani, an environmental science teacher at Washtenaw Community College.

Across the U.S, at least 21 people died of weather related incidents during this winter’s polar vortex, according to Time Magazine. At least two of those 21 deaths occurred in Michigan. Two Detroit men were found frozen to death, said the Detroit Police.

Despite contrary belief, much of this extreme weather is a direct result of global warming that shows no signs of stopping as the oceans continue to get warmer, affecting weather patterns through a continuous exchange of heat, moisture and carbon with the atmosphere, said Malpani.

There has been a significant increase in natural disasters since 1960, according to the International Disaster Database.

In 2018, a report released by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warned that based on current levels of greenhouse gas emissions, temperatures will reach a critical threshold in the next 12 years, causing extreme droughts, disaster, loss of



SARA FARAJI | WASHTENAW VOICE

Climate change is causing extreme weather conditions in Michigan and all over the world, according to environmental science teacher Smita Malpani.

coral reefs and food shortages.

According to Malpani, extreme weather is already greatly affecting society.

“This is the new normal,” Malpani said, in reference to the series of wildfires that ravaged Northern California in 2018 and two of the most destructive, costly hurricanes

of the last decade: Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Sandy. The California wildfires killed at least 88 people and decimated almost 18,000 structures, according to Sheriff Kory L. Honea of Butte County.

In 2018 alone, natural disasters cost the U.S. \$91 bil-

lion, said a report from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

“We need to stop thinking of climate change as only an environmental issue. Climate change is a moral, social justice problem,” said Malpani, in reference to the the billions of people most vulnerable to

the changing weather.

“Less money means less resources to pick up and adapt. People in safe places are being priced out of their homes,” she said. “Last year was the third year in a row that we’ve seen an uptake in hunger.”

According to a new report from the World Bank, the ef-

fects of climate change may cause as many as 143 million people to be displaced by 2050.

In Michigan, climate change is already affecting ecosystems, according to Rebecca Esselman, a climate change specialist at Huron River Watershed Council. The Huron River Watershed Council has observed more ticks and less stonefly larvae in recent warmer winters, which indicates subtle changes in our ecosystems, and greater abundance of poison ivy, a plant that thrives when there is more CO2 in the air.

“Climate change is going to push the limits of our natural systems and our built systems,” said Esselman. “As an organization, the implications may shift our priorities.”

Last month, Governor Whitmer signed two executive orders and one executive directive designed to protect the Great Lakes, clean Michigan’s drinking water, and join the U.S. Climate Alliance, a coalition of governors committed lowering greenhouse gas emissions in their states.

“We’ve also got to take action to protect our state from the effects of climate change,” Whitmer said in a press release. “The science is in, and it’s time we get to work to mitigate the impact of climate change for the sake of our kids and future generations in Michigan.”

WCC released a Climate Action and Sustainability Plan in 2014, in which WCC President Rose Bellanca vows to prioritize energy efficiency and renewable energy in order to “make the college carbon neutral by 2060,” as part of the American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment.

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WCC helps students take the next step



SARA FARAJI | WASHTENAW VOICE

Maria Paula Salazar, a Michigan State University student, shares her experience on transferring as an international student.

Scholarships take a bite out of schooling costs

BY CATHERINE ENGSTROM-HADLEY
Staff Writer

The full cost of an academic degree adds up over the years. Between books, housing, transportation and paying for the classes, education carries a hefty price tag. Each semester, scholarships are available at WCC that can help students cover these costs and stay out of debt.

While many students already depend on the Pell grant to help pay for their tuition and books, they might be better off utilizing any scholarship opportunities available to them. Students might be surprised to learn they can only use the Pell grant for a maximum of 12 semesters.

“Students can use money from scholarships before fed-

eral aid or taking out loans,” said Courtney Roberts, a financial aid tech at student services. “Scholarships provide free money students don’t have to pay back, students planning on transferring can save Pell grants for when they transfer.”

For more than 33 years, over 1,000 students have received scholarships from the WCC Foundation each year.

“The foundation realized long ago that the students who can afford to go tend to do good in class,” said Phillip Snyder, associate vice president of college advancement. “The foundation strongly supports giving the opportunity to go to school, opportunity to stay in school and the ability to graduate.”

The foundation provides

its merit and need-based scholarships every year and has recently created the new “Finish Line Scholarship,” which is awarded to bring back students who have finished over 75 percent of the credits towards a degree, but dropped out due to financial reasons.

“The foundation help students leave school debt-free and ready to go into a career of meaningful work,” said Snyder.

Scholarships for the summer and fall semester are available now through the WCC website. Applications are free to any student, with lots of different qualifications and a variety of options to look into.

WCC alumni share transfer success stories

BY MATTHEW BARTOW
Contributor

Looking to transfer but unsure of where to start? You’re not alone. WCC has an abundance of resources to assist students with the transfer process.

Students can receive assistance with transferring by speaking with a counselor at WCC’s counseling and career planning department. The department helps students with academic advising, career planning and personal counseling.

Liz Orbits, dean of student support services, said that students should continue to meet with a counselor to ensure they are on the right track.

“Students should meet with a counselor once a semester to make sure they’re on the right path,” Orbits said. “It is important that students are taking courses that match with their program of study, and we will help with this. Problems can arise when students try to self-advise.”

Students wishing to transfer from WCC to a four-year institution in Michigan can take advantage of the Michigan Transfer Agreement. The Michigan Transfer Agreement allows for the transfer of 30 credits of core general education courses from a Michigan community college to a Michigan baccalaureate col-

lege or university. More information about specific courses and credit requirements can be found on WCC’s website under “Transfer Information.”

Christina Buzas, a student advisor, said that the Michigan Transfer Agreement allows students to take classes that satisfy both WCC and transfer requirements.

“With the Michigan Transfer agreement, students can complete an Associate’s degree here [at WCC] while fulfilling the requirements for transfer [to a four-year institution],” Buzas said.

Olivia Tomlinson, a former WCC and current EMU student studying aviation, said that studying at WCC for a year was a great decision.

“I had the best time at WCC; it was one of the best decisions I made,” said Tomlinson, who completed an Associate’s degree at WCC before transferring. “I was able to take a year of gen-ed’s for a substantial cheaper price than at a four-year [institution], allowing me to find my passion and pick a major.”

Tomlinson said that the transfer process was easy and smooth.

“I really didn’t have any difficulties transferring. The process was very smooth,” Tomlinson said. “Just about everything from WCC transferred.”

Perhaps one of the most

successful transfer stories is that of Paula Salazar-Valiente. Growing up in Belize in a family that struggled to make ends meet, she was almost unable to attend college at all.

“I remember those were really hard times because my family never had income struggles until that point,” Salazar-Valiente said.

She said she dropped out of high school to take care of her family, while also running her parents’ restaurant business with her brother.

Salazar-Valiente later returned to high school and graduated. After graduating, she took three years off from school to run a nonprofit organization focused on feeding children and teaching adults life skills. A church in Dexter partnered with Salazar-Valiente’s nonprofit in Belize, giving her an opportunity to attend WCC.

Now a student at Michigan State University, Salazar-Valiente recently returned to campus to speak at an informational luncheon hosted by WCC’s Transfer to Success program, where she gave students advice for transferring, including how to write meaningful college applications and scholarship essays.

“Colleges are interested in students that want to challenge the status quo,” Salazar-Valiente said. “You need to share your passion and stand out.”

While at WCC, Salazar-Valiente won the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarship, a scholarship designed to encourage and support outstanding students who work hard and have financial need. She was awarded \$120,000.

After graduating from WCC in 2018, she transferred to Michigan State’s James Madison College of public affairs, where she is studying international affairs. She hopes to return to Belize and work in government.



SARA FARAJI | WASHTENAW VOICE

Maria Paula Salazar also directly shared examples as to how she succeeded in applying to MSU.

Trustees seek to extend Pell grants at summit in D.C.

BY NICHOLAS KETCHUM
Deputy Editor

The Board of Trustees held its monthly public meeting at the Morris Lawrence building on Tuesday, Feb. 25 to discuss business for both January and February. The January meeting had been cancelled due to inclement weather.

Trustee David DeVarti reported on his February visit to the 2019 National Legislative Summit, which was held by the Association of Community College Trustees in Washington, D.C. Trustee Christina Fleming also joined DeVarti at the conference.

DeVarti said he and Fleming met with other community college trustees, attended various seminars, and got a feel of the overall educational legislative agenda set by lawmakers in the capital.

They also met with members of Congress representing Michigan to speak about issues affecting higher education.

In his report, DeVarti recognized some of Michigan’s new congresspeople, some of which occupy seats on education committees on Capitol Hill. He characterized Michigan’s national educational representation as “very good.”

DeVarti said he and Flem-



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The WCC Board of Trustees meet to discuss current business in the Moris Lawrence building.

ing focused on advocating for expansion of Pell grant opportunities at the conference.

“One of the top things we were advocating was to make Pell grants available to students who were in short

term programs; less than 15 or 16 hours,” DeVarti said. “For students that are taking programs that result in a certificate or some sort of recognition—less than 15 or 16 hours—they cannot qualify

at this point for Pell grants. That’s high on the agenda for the national association to get that changed.”

DeVarti noted that several new proposed short-term academic programs on Tuesday’s

agenda would benefit from such an expansion of grants.

“Last year we lobbied to get Pell grants available to students that were taking classes over the summer; and that actually changed,” DeVarti said.

“Last year Congress passed an expansion of those Pell grant opportunities and over 800 of our students were able to make use of that. . . . I’m hopeful short term Pell grants will become a reality.”



Therapy dogs here to help when life gets ruff

BY NARINE VERDIYAN
AND ADELINE GRIFFITH
Contributors

Are you feeling overwhelmed by your classes? Does exam season make your anxiety skyrocket? Quell the stress by spending an afternoon with some friendly pups right here on campus.

Every second Monday of the month, the Bailey Library receives a visit from Therapaws of Michigan, a volunteer-run, non-profit, therapy dog program.

The program, which began in 1988, pays visits to schools, libraries, hospitals and other health care facilities. In an academic environment, such as WCC, the service provides students with a break from the pressure and demands of their schoolwork.

"I found that the response we receive is so positive, even for people who have a support network," said Bobbi O'Hara,

vice president of Therapaws of Michigan. "The dogs tend to provide a little bit of a stress relief in the moment where you're trying to study for exams or finish up a project. It gives you that momentary breath. You're able to recenter, recharge and move forward."

Similar therapy dog programs have had a growing popularity on college campuses. A study conducted by the University of British Columbia revealed that after students spent time with therapy dogs in a drop-in session, they reported a significant stress decrease, as well as feeling happier and more energetic.

Dog therapy services have the best effects for students when used in short-term sessions during periods of heightened stress, which is why many colleges and universities offer such programs during exam weeks, the study reported.

Bobbie O'Hara has witnessed firsthand the benefits that therapy dogs can have as she visits people with her dog, Aayla.

"It was during exam time, and we were in a department where people could come in during study breaks," said O'Hara. "This woman came over and sat with us. She was telling me how she didn't have any pets at home because her parents didn't allow her to. She was always taught that dogs were kind of dangerous."

"She seemed to show a desire to learn more about Aayla and try to interact with her, but she was still nervous," said O'Hara. "She sat there and we talked about anxieties and apprehension, while also getting her comfortable being in Aayla's presence."

"We started slow," she said. "Aayla is a very energetic dog. She wanted to turn and smile and give kisses, but

SARA FARAJ | WASHTENAW VOICE



Therapaws is a volunteer-run, non-profit, therapy dog program that visits campus once a month.

works to improve literacy in children by giving them the opportunity to read aloud to the dogs.

At Therapaws, dog and owner work together as a team, and any dog, except coyote or wolf hybrids, can become a therapy dog if they go through the proper training, including behavioral testing, basic obedience and assurance that they have a good sense of control. Additionally, all Therapaws of Michigan therapy dogs are required to become certified by the Alliance of Therapy Dogs.

To become certified, therapy dogs must learn to be comfortable with loud or unusual noises, due to the fact

that they will often visit to hospitals and other facilities with loud medical equipment.

"They get tested on how comfortable they are in different environments and unique situations," said O'Hara. "It's more getting them familiar with different types of people, different ages, people with different types of assistive equipment."



The dogs visit in the Bailey Library.

SARA FARAJ | WASHTENAW VOICE

March Madness coming to WCC

BY MATTHEW BARTOW
Contributor

It's that time of the year again. When the calendar turns from February to March, for sports fans it means one thing: March Madness. It's the time when bracketologists salivate, dreams come true, bubbles pop, incredible upsets happen left and right, and ultimately, one lucky team sur-

vives six greuling rounds to win all the marbles. With both Michigan and Michigan State squarely in the mix, the excitement leading up to the big dance in the state of Michigan is palpable.

To celebrate, WCC is holding the March Madness Challenge, a bracket competition open to students, staff, facility members, and even mascots.

Matt Lucas, supervisor of WCC sports, said the beauty of the March Madness Challenge is that anyone can participate, regardless of their knowledge of college hoops.

"You don't really have to know everything about these teams to have fun," Lucas said.

Lucas said that the March Madness Challenge will open March 18, and will remain

open until 6 p.m. on March 20. Brackets can be obtained in the WCC sports office, and staff members will also be distributing them in the Student Center.

The winner of the March Madness Challenge will receive a WCC sports "prize package," Lucas said.

Look out for more March Madness coverage on washtenawvoice.com



Alpha, the WCC mascot, poses with a March Madness ballot.

SARA FARAJ | WASHTENAW VOICE

Campus lost and found sees it all

BY KEVIN GERYCH
Staff Writer

It's an all too familiar occurrence that has happened to just about everybody at some point. You have left something behind, something of yours has become dislodged and broken free or otherwise has gone missing.

Whether it's your cell phone, computer, backpack or any other miscellanea you may bring to campus on a normal day of classes that has "mysteriously" disappeared,

chances are that it has been turned into the lost and found at the Public Safety office.

"All lost property, aside from student ID cards is turned into the Public Safety office," said Washtenaw Community College's chief of public safety Scott Hilden. "Lost student ID cards are turned into on second floor of the Student Center at the Student Connections office."

The list of commonly lost or misplaced items is long and diverse, from the common items such as coats, purses

and an array of electronics to others ranging into the more bizarre and eclectic.

"People drop stuff, so we get it all," Hilden said. "Anything that you would think anybody would bring has been lost."

Some of the stranger items turned into public safety include various animals. These have included a puppy, a chicken, a homing pigeon and even a bearded dragon lizard.

"The bearded dragon was left here in a cage, somebody had abandoned it," Hilden

said. "Someone had just had enough of it and it was brought to us."

The process of being reunited with lost property is not difficult, but some of the more valuable items found on campus may require a bit of extra verification to ensure they are being returned to their rightful owners.

"If it's something that's valuable, we'll verify that it belongs to them," Hilden said. "If it's a computer, we'll have you put your password in and see you log in to make sure it belongs to you."

Public Safety sees several items turned in on an average day. These numbers are considered fairly normal for a campus the size of WCC.

"You figure that during winter semester, there are roughly 12,000 students registered, 1,000 plus staff members, as well as 20,000-40,000 visitors on campus," said Hilden. "So, we do end up getting a lot of stuff turned in."



Public Safety officers will pick up and store found items if reported.

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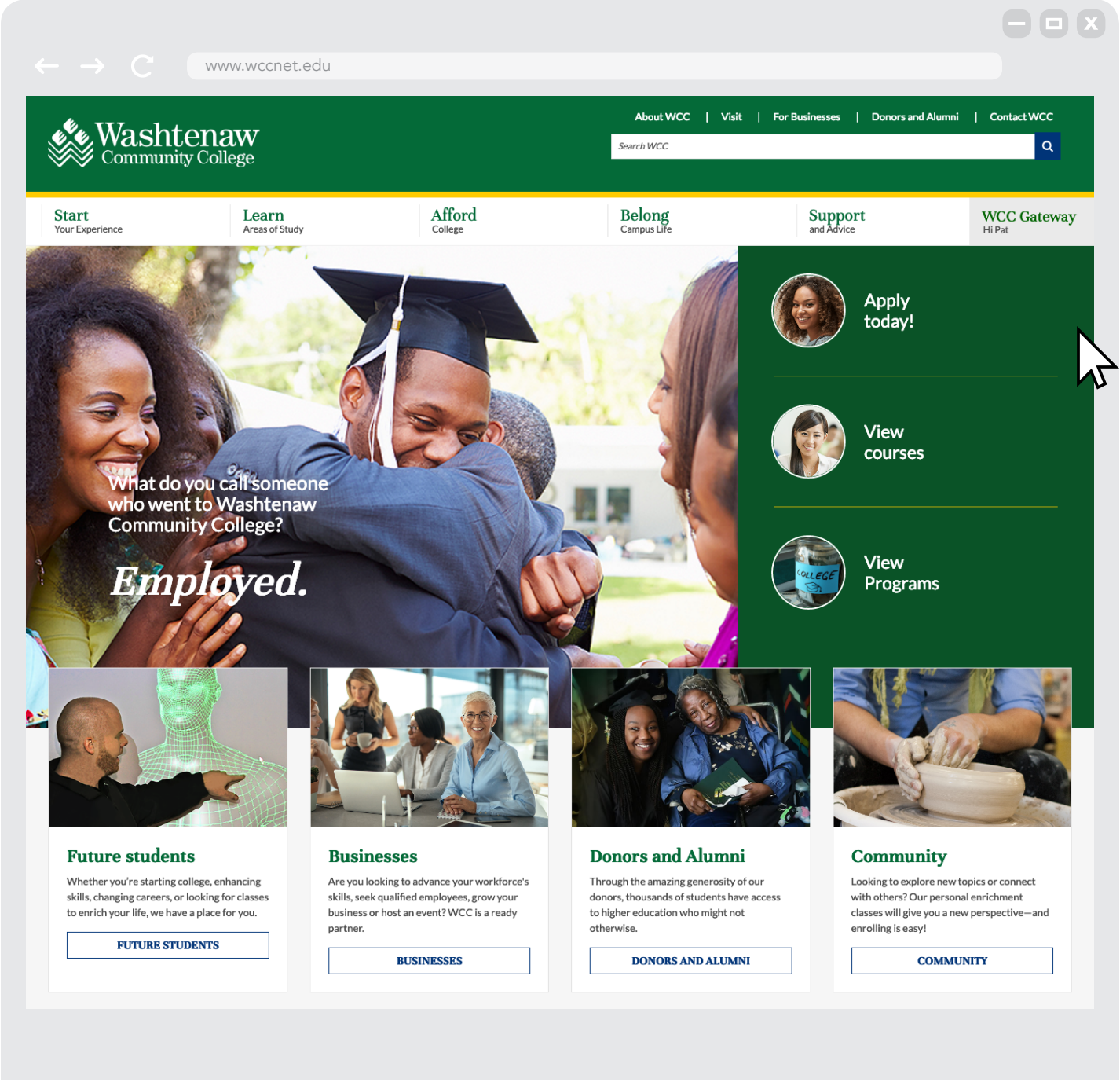
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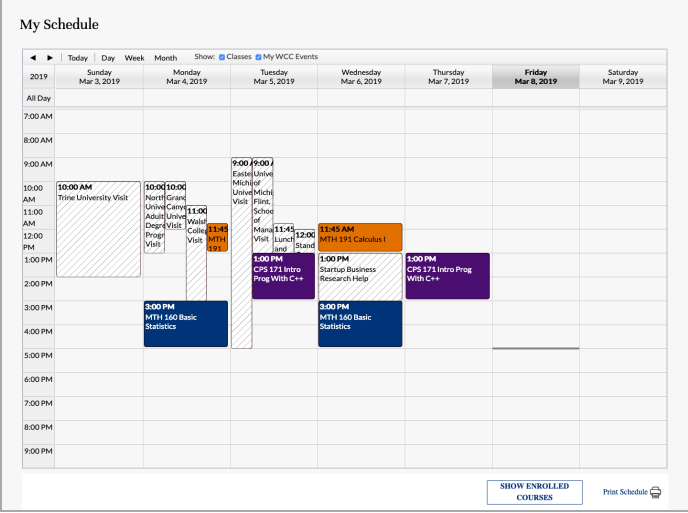
SARA FARAJ | WASHTENAW VOICE

The WCC "lost and found" is located in the Public Safety office that can be found on the second floor of the parking structure.

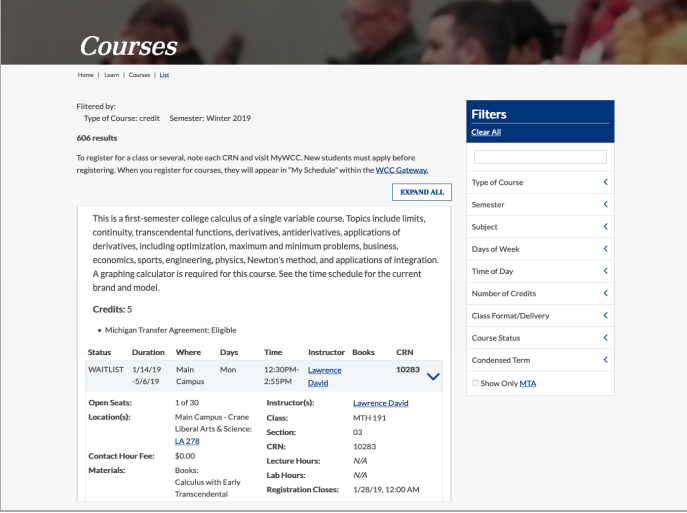




A responsive, mobile-friendly redesign sports new navigation and layouts.



The “Gateway” section has been revamped with new features, such as a schedule calendar that displays current class meetings alongside various on-campus events.



The course catalog now sports a beefed-up search function with expanded filter options alongside richer course information.

Website

Continued from A1

“The new website has a ‘responsive’ design. . . . We want to make sure it’s mobile responsive; uses responsive design, so that no matter where you are—on the go, let’s say—you can get the information you’re looking for quickly,” Powell said.

According to Brendan Prebo, associate vice president of marketing and communications, the college has spent an estimated \$350,000 on building the new website. The project has been ongoing since July 2017.

Visitors may notice a substantial change in revamped navigation headers, footers and various sidebar menus, such as so-called “quicklinks.” Emphasis has been placed on simplifying link hierarchies and improved in-content contextual linking.

“We’re trying to flatten the links; we want people to get in and out quickly,” Powell said.

The main navigation menu features all-new top-level items linking to their respective section landing pages, which now include: start, learn, afford, belong and support.

The course catalog search function is beefed up with a much-expanded filter list, along with more detailed and better-linked course information.

“We’ve organized this information to be more graphic; more visual,” Powell said. “What we’ve done is take materials that departments might have about a program, and place it [on the same page] with catalog information.”

Most—if not all—photography will feature the actual on-campus community, minimizing the use of generic-looking stock photos.

“You’ll see pictures of real students, real faculty, and real

staff in the college and on campus,” Powell said.

A noticeable refreshment is an enhanced “Gateway” section with new features, such as a to-do list, and a schedule calendar that (optionally) displays a class schedule alongside other on-campus events.

Prebo said three primary outside vendors were involved in building the new site. They included The Understanding Group of Ann Arbor, Omniupdate of Camarillo, Calif., and Visionpoint Marketing of Raleigh, N.C.

Prebo said The Understanding Group handled user interface/experience work, helped develop content and helped manage the overall project. Visionpoint developed reusable design templates based on work by The Understanding Group. The templates were then passed on to Omniupdate, who provided the proprietary content management system, which powers the content to the website.

“The staff in the I.T. department, a lot of them have degrees from here and have taken classes—using computers—and have done work on the site,” Powell said.

The rollout will occur on March 25 with preceeding announcements. Both the new and old websites will be accessible during the soft launch.

Powell conceded some content may be old, or out of date. He says he’s always open to feedback and making improvements.

“If things aren’t exactly right, I’m encouraging anyone to contact my office and we can fix those things—we can make it right,” Powell said.

According to Powell, no firm date yet exists for removal or archival of the current website. The full transition to the new website will conclude after enough feedback has been gathered and considered.

Talent

Continued from A1

The performers all came from various walks of life and put on a wide variety of acts. From the smooth and fluid dance routines put on by Breonna Watts, the energetic soul demonstrated by Tailen Toliver and even a rendition of the classic Disney show-tune “Tale as Old as Time” from Beauty and the Beast by Emily Giedzinski, the show had something to offer for everyone.

While the Towsley Auditorium was nowhere near maximum capacity, the audience gave a warm and particularly enthusiastic reception to every single performer.

“I had seen an email about it and thought it would be really cool to come and check everyone out,” said Basheer Samara, an audience member and liberal arts major. “I really enjoyed the Beauty and the Beast song.”



Jason White singing “Change”.

LILY MERRITT | CONTRIBUTOR



Danny Livingway

LILY MERRITT | CONTRIBUTOR



The WCC dance team also performed at the show.

LILY MERRITT | CONTRIBUTOR

Artistic dexterity on display at WCC Art Show 2019



ART BY THERESE JARJOURA

BY DANNY VILLALOBOS
Staff Writer

WCC students again demonstrated their artistic skill to the public last Thursday. One hundred and thirty works of art by students are currently on display on the second floor of the Student Center for viewing. The displays will be up until April 6.

Categories of artwork included 2D design, 3D design, graphic design, animation, and photography.

Prizes were awarded to winners of the art show. The prizes consisted of “Most Promising Award” (one given in each category), “Dean’s Choice Award,” “President’s Choice Award” and traditional third, second and first place awards.

Third place award were art supplies, second place prize was campus bookstore credit and first place prize consisted of tuition reimbursement.

“It’s a good place for students to present their works in an open environment,” said Jill Jepsen, an art faculty member in charge of the event. “As artists we work in confined spaces, but these events give the students an opportunity to present their work out in the open.”

The guest juror for this year’s art show was Sandra Murchison, the director for the School of Art and Design at EMU. Murchinson was in charge of choosing all of the “Most Promising”

awards, as well as first, second and third place awards.

“All my work is monochromatic,” said Robert Romig-Fox, “I use three applications to get the color I want, which is on the level of the golden era of black and white photography... everything is toned, so not completely black and white.”

Romig-Fox is a current photography student at WCC whose work is on display. He’s inspired by his photography heroes such as Yousef Karsh, Mario Testino and Joyce Tenneson. Romig-Fox said he shares a similar philosophy to that of Tenneson.

“I don’t tell my process, it’s a part of my style,” Romig-Fox said.

Third place award went to Irene Mokra for her self portrait drawing.

The second place award went to Therese Jarjoura, who won for her sculpture, “Seeing Eye.” Last year, she won top prize for her painting, called “Bridging.”

Edie Ostapik won first place for her drawing, “Surface Movement Blues.”

Murchinson commented on Ostapik’s piece, saying, “This is a stunning display of a bold, confident web of lines handled in a most gentle and delicate matter. There is a lovely range of indigo blue values and clear sense of movement. Excellent!”

“It’s a pen and ink drawing where you’re trying to get your eyes to move in and out of the cage from the thickness of

the lines... it’s called surface movement” said Ostapik.

Ostapik developed her techniques over the summer through experimenting various colors.

“It’s a meditative process, I like to be in a meditative state when I draw the same way I’m swimming,” said Ostapik.

Ostapik won the “Most Promising Award” last year for her 3D sculpture “Escape.”

“I think it is a very strong piece, very 3D on a flat surface. A masterpiece of breathing line,” said Heather Accurso, an art professor who teaches a drawing class at WCC, of Ostapik’s piece.

Amanda Goodge, 18, is a current student at WCC. She submitted her drawing at the art show, which she called “Ornate Boxes.”

“I created this piece with wet paint and held it down vertically. I used charcoal and graphite to do the drawing,” she said.

Goodge won the “Most Promising Award” for 2D Art, this her first art show and she plans to continue her artistic works further in the future.

“I want to create characters be an illustrator and create stories and do some animations too, but also while still playing around with other art mediums,” said Goodge.

Photos by Sara Faraj



ART BY WILLIAM CALHOUN



Edie Ostapik poses with her piece, “Surface Movement Blues.” She won first place for her work.



President of WCC, Dr. Rose B. Bellanca (left) passes out award certificates to Student Art Show winners with Jill Jepsen, a WCC faculty member.



ADELINE GRIFFITH / CONTRIBUTOR



Gina Hewitt’s “Neutraface Book” that was made for GDT 100: Typography.

Spectators view the artwork at the Student Art Show opening that took place on March 7.

Big reads deliver big conversations

BY CATHERINE ENGSTROM-HADLEY
Staff Writer

During the month of March, the Bailey Library is celebrating diversity and inclusion with a series of events and exhibits, as part of its “Cultivating Conversations” project, which features a different theme each month.

Last Wednesday, the library kicked off the month with a discussion about sports and race, led by a trio of University of Michigan student athletes.

This event was an extension of the Neutral Zone’s Big Read in Ann Arbor.

Big Read is a month-long project that will include a host

of book clubs and critical discussions that explore the book “Citizen: An American Lyric” by Claudia Rankine, with a focus on race, class, gender and other intersecting identities.

The project was funded by a grant from the National Endowment of the Arts and organized by the Neutral Zone, a non-profit teen center located in downtown Ann Arbor.

The U-M students who visited campus focused on chapter two of Rankine’s book, which is about racial issues in sports. The students spoke about the various facets of sports and discussed the media’s portrayal of Serena Williams.

Socrates Gavallas, one of the presenters, mentioned the double standard Williams faces.

“When someone like [John] McEnroe lashes out on the court, he is portrayed like a rebel, when Serena Williams gets upset on the court she’s reviewed as out of control,” Gavallas said.

The student presenters also spoke openly of their own athletic experiences and social hurdles.

“Body image is a huge issue in the sports world,” said Gavallas.

Nikki Calae, a diver at U-M said earlier in her career she had interests in pole vaulting but her coaches pushed

her towards diving instead because of her body type.

Camryn McPherson, a sophomore diver at U-M, described how her strengths and accomplishments as an athlete are at times trivialized or used for mocking by her male peers.

“The boys at the gym will compare the weights we are using and say to their friends ‘you can’t lift as much as the girls?’ but we use it to push ourselves to keep lifting and lift more than them,” McPherson said.

Throughout the month of March, both the Neutral Zone and the Bailey Library will continue to highlight diversity, identity and intersec-

tionality with a jam-packed event schedule. On deck at the library is “Can’t Keep Quiet”, a Women’s History Month poetry open mic and release party for the anthology of the same name, a Black Men Read storytime and the Human Library. Keep an eye out for the green posters distributed by the library, which pose questions such as “How do we gender technology?” and “What steps can we take to reduce unconscious bias?”

The Neutral Zone will host an identity collage workshop led by local artist Anika Love. Love will guide participants as they create their own identity collages and write art-

ist’s statements to be displayed in the Ann Arbor District Library gallery.

Another event, Citizenship Dinner: Immigration, will include food and poetry from Miss Michigan Latina 2019 Fernanda González, Ann Arbor’s Youth Poet Laureate Aldo Leopoldo Pando Girard and Hasna Ghalib, a member of the 2018 Ann Arbor Youth Slam Team.

Similar events will also be held at various book club meetings in the region, culminating at the Big Read event, featuring visiting artist Kush Thompson.

All the events are free and open to the public.



Fernanda González

Aldo Leopoldo Pando Girard

Anika Love

Hasna Ghalib

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ALEX KIME AND CHRISTOPHER SMITH

Film Fest to shine on screen and off

BY DANNY VILLALOBOS
Staff Writer

Marking its 57th anniversary, the Ann Arbor Film Festival begins on March 26 and will feature a plethora of films, short films and programs.

Ten feature films will be screened at the festival, along with more than 110 short films. Audiences can expect to see themes representing fierce women, black voices, animation, LGBTQ+ community, tech perspectives, retrospectives and festival titans all throughout the festival.

“This year we have made sure to come by this festival with its traditional roots of being much more community oriented,” said Leslie Raymond, the executive director of the festival.

Over 3,000 works are submitted to the festival from more than 65 countries. Over 200 films are selected for the festival and are one of the handful of Academy Award-qualifying festival in the US.

This year, “Off the Screen!” will also continue to be a part of the festival.

“Off the Screen! has always been a part of the festival, but this year we are particularly excited for it,” said Marin Smith, a festival assistant.

“Off the Screen!” is an expanded cinema experience. Forms of new media will be present at the festival that include virtual and augmented reality, educational salon sessions, projector experiments and live performances that interface with the film or screen.

“It’s different than just sitting down on a chair and watching a movie on a screen,” explained Raymond. “A lot of what you’ll see is another way to view movies... It’s about making a movie image like an instrument.”

It is also a chance for the community to know about the festival in the city. “Off the Screen!” will have locations at multiple venues, including the Michigan Theater, North

Quad and Stamps Art Gallery.

The Ann Arbor Film Festival is North America’s oldest avant-garde and experimental film festival. Founded in 1963 by George Manupelli, the festival puts a focus on the art of film and provides the public with visionary and forward-thinking work made by filmmakers, as an alternative to a commercial platform to showcase their work.

Notable filmmakers whose works were first shown at the film festival were Andy Warhol, George Lucas, Gus Van Sant, James Benning, Yoko Ono and Barbara Hammer.

About nine-thousand tickets are sold at the festival on average each year, according to Raymond, and those are big numbers for an experimental film festival.

For those who may be timid on going to an experiment film festival, Raymond advised: “Don’t think that you’re just coming by to see ‘movies’ but think that you’re

coming to an ‘art museum’ that takes you on a ride.”

“Think about it in terms like you would with music where there are parts of a song that are abstract. It’s challenging, but it offers diversity,” Raymond added. “We are are unlike anything else that you will see... This is a cultural icon.”

“There will be stuff that you love and other things you will hate and ask yourself ‘why did I see this?’ but it’s still a tremendous experience,” Ron Sober, a board member for the Ann Arbor Film Festival. Sober and his wife, Robin, are both screeners for the festival. They help with which films get into the festival.

The Ann Arbor Film Festival is one of the city’s crown jewels and is a current nominee on USA Today’s “10 Best” list of Film Festivals in North America.

For tickets, a full event schedule and more information, visit aaafilmfest.org.



DANNY VILLALOBOS | WASHTENAW VOICE

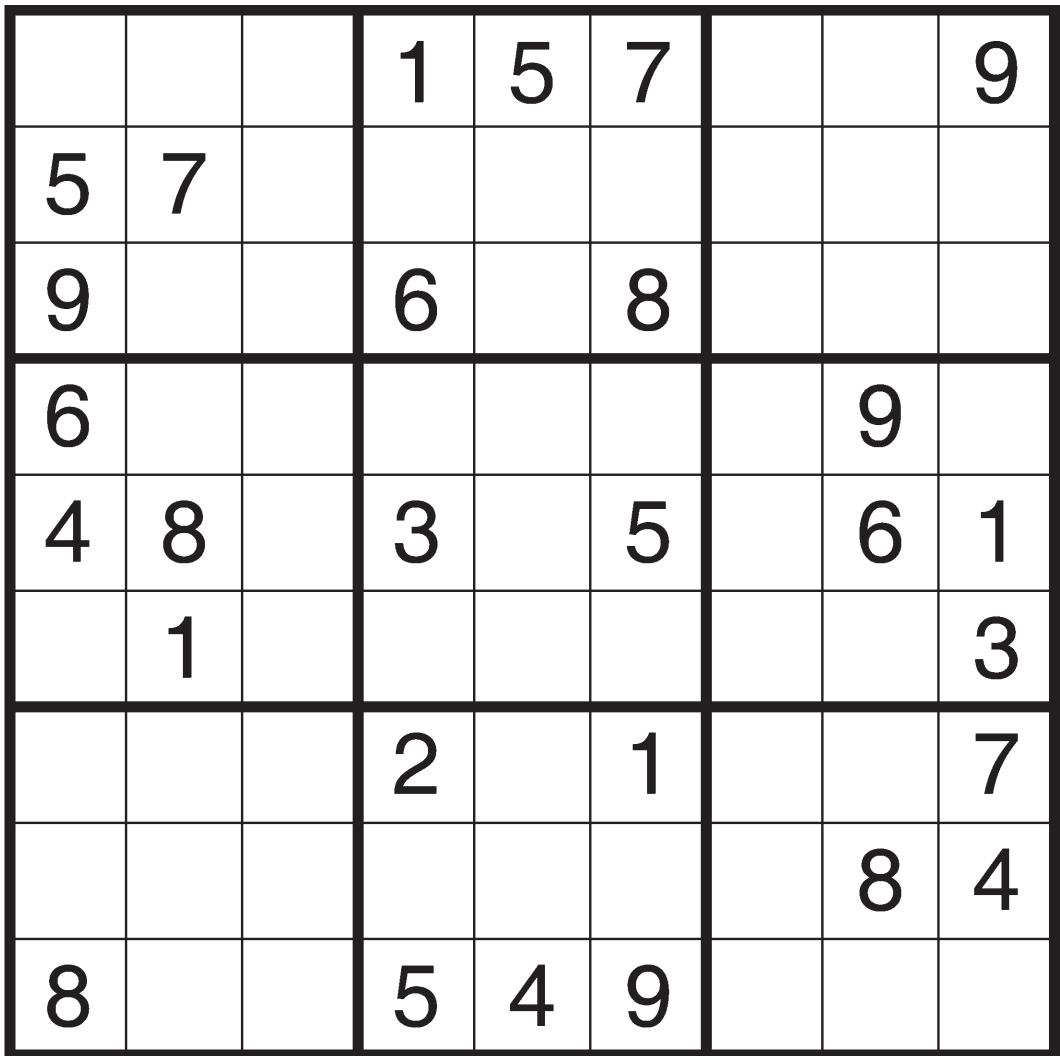
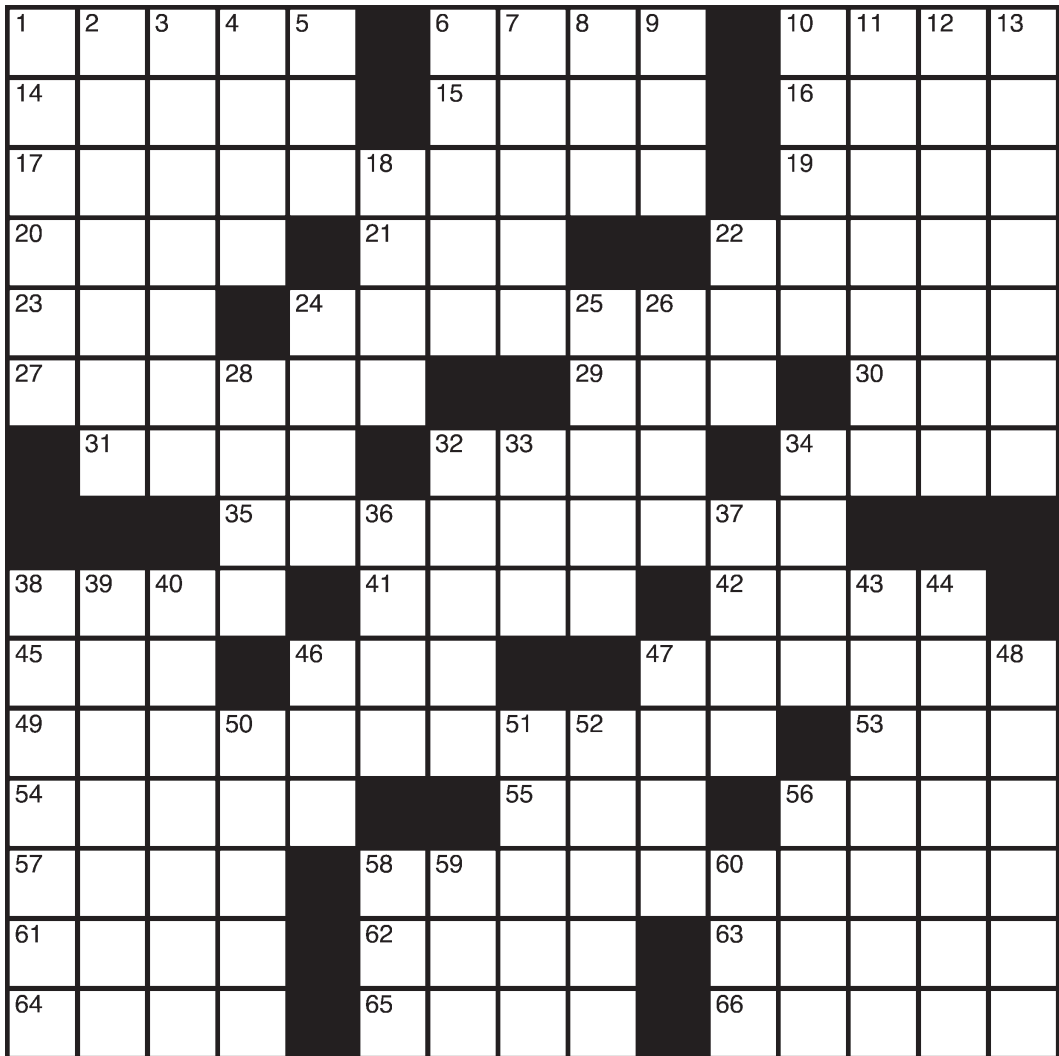
The Michigan Theater will host some films during the 57th Ann Arbor Film Festival that kicks off on March 26.

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Down

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47 Creepy look
48 Japanese watches
50 Rooms behind bars?
51 Playful marine animal
52 Vantage points
56 Office space calculation
58 Letters in a URL
59 "Now I get it!"
60 Dude



LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS
Looking for help? As a service to our students, you may place "help wanted" ads in The Voice for free.

Must have at least 1-year professional food experience and/or training. Set up and organize scaling area. Scale/measure recipes. Monitor and rotate ingredient levels using FIFO. Break down set up and clean area. Keep all of the recipes organized for the mixers. Live and uphold the Zingerman's Guiding Principles. Treats customers and co-workers with courtesy and respect. Work safely around hot ovens, heavy equipment and sharp utensils. Work in a clean and organized fashion. Follow clearly documented food safety procedures. Take direction from multiple leaders. Previous baking experience a plus. Excellent attendance and punctuality. Has reliable transportation. Likes to have fun at work!



events

Compiled by: Lilly Kujawski | Editor

ARTS & CULTURE

LOCAL

CAMPUS

LITERATI 6TH ANNIVERSARY READING
Celebrate the Ann Arbor bookshop's sixth anniversary with an evening of original poetry and prose from Literati booksellers.
Literati Bookstore | 124 E. Washington St., Ann Arbor
March 30, 7-8:30 p.m.

BULLET JOURNAL WORKSHOP
Interested in bullet journaling? This workshop will show you how to get started. The cost is \$25 and you'll leave with your own bullet journal, a fancy pen and a fresh and fun approach to journaling.
Teaspressa | 414 S. Main St., Suite 115B, Ann Arbor
March 29, 5-7 p.m.

REDEFINE WELLNESS LINK SHOWCASE
Hosted by the Redefine Collective and U-M's Zeta Omega Eta, this event strives to highlight art and creative works while destigmatizing mental health.
Michigan League Ballroom | 911 N. University Ave., Ann Arbor
March 14, 7-9 p.m.

NADIM AZZAM
Celebrate the release of Nadim Azzam's new EP. Special guests include The Hacky Turtles, The Stellers and Ossi Music. 18 and up event. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased via blindpigmusic.com
The Blind Pig | 208 S. First St., Ann Arbor
March 15, Doors at 8 p.m.

GLOBAL CLIMATE STRIKE
Join students and members of Washtenaw County as they participate in a walk-out to demand action on climate change from policy makers.
U-M Diag | State St., Ann Arbor
March 15, 11:11 a.m.-2:11 p.m

YOGA WITH CATS
Cat lovers and yoga enthusiasts alike. Get your stretch on with a furry friend. This class is suitable for beginners and experienced yogis alike. Each class costs \$10 and the proceeds support the Huron Valley Humane Society. Visit tinyilions.org/yoga for more information.
Tiny Lions Lounge and Adoption Center | 5245 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor
Thursdays, 8:30-9:30 p.m. and Sundays, 8:30-9:30 a.m.

BLACK MEN READ
Black Men Read is a program that works to uplift black history and culture through story and resist the narrative that black men don't contribute to their families or communities. This storytime event is open for all and children are welcome.
Bailey Library
March 19, 10 a.m.

CAN'T KEEP QUIET POETRY READING
This poetry open mic will serve as a celebration of Women's History Month, as well as the release party for the WCC Poetry Club anthology, "Can't Keep Quiet." Copies of the anthology will be available and all are welcome to attend, participate in the open mic or listen to others' poetry.
Bailey Library
March 12, 11:30 a.m.

SPRING CAREER AND INTERNSHIP FAIR
Employers will be on campus looking to hire prospective students for jobs and internships.
Morris Lawrence Building
March 13, 4:00-6:00 p.m.



COURTESY OF BICH TRAN



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VOICE FILE PHOTO

Summer SMARTER

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REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 13

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- Later starting or earlier ending sessions still leave time for you to enjoy summer.
- WCC's online, blended and on-campus class formats plus day and evening classes provide flexibility for work and other commitments.

Class schedules are available at **WCCNET.EDU/SCHEDULE**
Registration for Spring, Summer and Fall classes opens March 13.