

The Tamarack

Our college. Our news. Our voice.

Naugatuck Valley Community College

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Who Should Fund a Second Chance?

Nicole Hayes



Second Chance Pell is a separate program supported by taxes and will not jeopardize financial aid funds for traditional students. In fiscal year 2010, the Connecticut Department of Corrections (DOC) had \$613.3 million in prison expenditures, an average of almost 34,000/yearly per prisoner. On the other hand, the

Critics have questioned whether the recent decline in community college enrollment rates has driven the decision to welcome inmates.

How would you feel knowing an inmate was sitting beside you in class? That could soon be a reality, as the U.S. Department of Education pilots a new program, "Pell for Prisoners/Second Chance Pell." Over 200 schools applied for inclusion in the program, with 67 schools approved nationwide. Among participating schools are four CT community colleges. This unique program affords low-risk offenders the chance to obtain a free higher education. The goal is to reduce recidivism, the rate of return to prison.

Inmates must meet certain eligibility requirements to receive the Second Chance Pell. They must have a high school diploma or GED and meet college admission requirements. Only inmates nearing release—or those who have committed low-risk offenses—are eligible to apply. For fall 2016, 801 inmates applied for the grant. Although the U.S. Department of Education is willing to give prisoners a second chance, will society be as forgiving? Most significantly, will employers be willing to hire newly released inmates even if they have earned degrees?

Obtaining a higher education while incarcerated has historically proven difficult, as only limited programs were offered. In 1994, under the Clinton Administration, inmates

were able to access accredited college programs. Then Congress voted to exclude prisoners from receiving federal financial aid. However, this vote did not deter Wesleyan and Quinnipiac Universities and Trinity College from offering free education to inmates. These

“The Second Chance Pell Grant is directly aligned with our core mission to increase access to a high quality education for all students who want it.”

Mark Ojakian, CSCU President

and other schools have shown the positive impact education can have on the prison population. According to the article, "Free College Courses to be Offered to CT Inmates," over the span of 10 years, only 18 inmates have obtained a degree while incarcerated. As one of 18 prisoners benefiting from Wesleyan's program, Bashawn Brown, who served six years for theft,

expressed how education changed his outlook. Brown said, "Learning different things about literature—with the liberal arts education—helped me unfold the humanity within me."

While prisoners aspire to improve their situations, some members of society oppose the pilot program. One state legislator, Senator John Kissel (R), disagrees with allowing inmates to be present on campuses. He opposes the idea of busing prisoners to colleges. In a statement on Enfield Patch, Kissel insisted, "The state's decision to bus inmates raises a slew of questions. The safety of staff and students must be paramount...So many things could go wrong with this decision. I support inmate re-integration efforts in general, but I cannot support this decision...I strongly urge state officials to reconsider this decision immediately." Ensuring learning environments remain safe, extra security will be present on campuses where inmates are welcomed.

Among states that spend more on prisoners than on higher education, CT has opened access to higher education for inmates. The new program offers inmates a chance to increase the likelihood of success outside their cells. With only 3% of prisoners having a college degree, data indicates the importance of an educated society. Also important to note, the

entire cost of a year at a community college is around \$5,000. If the goal of the program is to reduce the number of inmates returning to prison, a higher education could benefit inmates, as well as decrease taxpayer dollars dedicated to funding incarceration.

Inmates can now enroll in select community colleges approved by the U.S. Department of Education. Currently, courses offered include the disciplines of marketing administration, manufacturing technology, and human service management. Critics have questioned whether the recent decline in community college enrollment rates has driven the decision to welcome inmates. While it is a fair question, it is also clear this program could prove mutually beneficial, increasing enrollment rates in certain programs as well as giving inmates a second chance.

CSCU President, Mark Ojakian, shared his enthusiasm that four CT community colleges are participating, stating, "The Second Chance Pell Grant is directly aligned with our core mission to increase access to a high quality education for all students who want it." The four colleges, Asnuntuck, Middlesex, Quinebaug, and Three Rivers Community College, have committed to helping inmates toward a better future. While a higher education can make a difference, it remains to be seen whether employers will be prepared to offer former inmates—even educated ones—a second chance as well.

At the Governor's Table

Alyssa Katz

Naugatuck Valley was one stop on Governor Dannel P. Malloy's busy itinerary, Friday, September 16, 2016, and a group of students played a major role in the governor's visit to the College. Held in Tech Hall dining room, the meeting, an open roundtable discussion between students and the Governor, focused on Malloy's criminal justice reform measures.

The success of the event hinged on collaboration between various NVCC and CSCU entities. In a call to BOR President Mark Ojakian's office, Governor Malloy inquired whether NVCC would be able to pull together a group of criminal justice or political science students to meet for a discussion. When Ojakian's office contacted President De Filippis late Wednesday, September 14, the answer was an enthusiastic yes.

With planning on the part of the offices of the Deans of Academic Affairs and Student Services, as well as coordination by the LABSS and Business Divisions, the event came together quickly. Over a dozen students—Leah Adams, Jamel Coleman, Danilo Chamusco De Oliveira, Keila Franco, Sarah Hanks, Wayne Hobbs,

Levi Reynolds, Carlos Romero, Jilary Santiago, Emily Solla, Collette McKenley, Javen Harris, and Conrad Booker—including both criminal justice majors and student government officers, assembled to take part in the discussion.

In preparation for the visit, Professor Joseph Ward, Criminal Justice Program Coordinator, briefed students on the Governor's Second Chance Society Initiative. Ward covered details

of both the legislation that was enacted in 2015 and that proposed but not enacted this year. President De Filippis and SGA President Keila Franco both welcomed Malloy back to the College, and then Governor Malloy reviewed the Initiative.

Both the 2015 legislation and the 2016 proposal focus on lowering inmate populations in CT through a variety of reforms. These include expediting pardons for non-violent offenders, and reducing mandatory sentences for drug

possession. The Initiative also changes the way young offenders are processed. The concern is that young offenders prosecuted as adults are more likely to fall into patterns of criminality. The 2016 proposal called for broadening youthful offender status to include 20-year-olds rather than that status ending at 18. The reasoning is based in science showing brain development—and therefore, growth in decision-making processes—continues until age 25. Under the Second Chance proposal, violent youthful offenders would still be processed as adults.

Malloy shared numbers reflecting a decrease in CT's inmate population. According to CT.gov, Connecticut's Official State Website, recent juvenile justice reforms have been a large factor behind the dramatic decline, particularly in the number of youthful offenders incarcerated in CT.

According to Dean of Academic Affairs, Irene Rios-Knauf, students were well-versed, engaging the Governor in spirited conversation about the Second Chance Society Initiative. Malloy seemed impressed with the level of engagement and the insightful questions posed by NVCC students, some of whom may one day make decisions enacting future changes to the CT criminal justice system.



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NVCC Walks toward a Cure

Chelsea Clow



Last spring, I began my annual fundraising for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, a cause very near to my heart. Every May, I work to raise local awareness and funds for this disease. This time, I spoke with the Student Government Association, and I was incredibly moved to discover this year they've chosen to host a fundraising event for the disease!

I live with cystic fibrosis, a genetically inherited illness that can affect the respiratory and digestive systems. This disease can be life threatening, as chronic infections may occur that CF patients may not be able to overcome.

I am one of the lucky ones. My CF only targets my airways, and to maintain healthy lung function, I wear an oscillating vest for thirty minutes, twice a day. I also take several inhaled medications for my lungs, as well as oral medications for allergies and gastrointestinal issues, and I see my doctors and specialists at Yale New Haven Hospital's Adult Cystic Fibrosis Clinic every three months. So, not too bad at all.

Others with this illness may have to wear one of those same vests multiple times a day—or up to six hours daily. Some are on a lung transplant list. Others require feeding tubes. Many are in need of frequent doctor and hospital visits. So yes, I am extremely lucky. That's partly why I work to raise awareness and funds—for those who aren't.

Currently, no cure exists for cystic fibrosis. There is, however, hope for a cure. Over the past fifty years, incredible progress has been made in treating CF. When I was a child, there was no such thing as an Adult Cystic Fibrosis Clinic. Twenty years ago, people with CF rarely lived past the age of eighteen. Funds raised through the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation have supported important research, developing medical treatments that sustain the health of CF patients, allowing many to live well into adulthood.

The CF Foundation's mission is to "cure cystic fibrosis and to provide all people with the disease the opportunity to lead full, productive lives by funding research and drug development, promoting individualized treatment, and ensuring access to high-quality, specialized care." You can help with this!

This month, the SGA is hosting an event, a CF Walk around campus, to raise awareness of CF and to fundraise for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. The walk, Wednesday, October 19, at 12:30 pm, begins at the Atrium Plaza. I am so touched they are doing this, and I'm excited to raise awareness of this illness among our campus community. T-shirts, specially designed for the event, are on sale for \$10, with all profits going directly to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation!

I encourage everyone to attend this event and to bring friends and family as well. Your efforts will make a significant impact on those living with cystic fibrosis. I love that Naugatuck Valley Community College is just that: an incredible and supportive community, and I am truly grateful to the SGA for choosing to support this charity. I hope to see you all October 19th!

Created by Giovanni Cruz

Pizza and Preamble

Alyssa Katz and Christopher Gordon



Students enjoy pizza at Constitution Day Trivia September 14. NVCC President De Filippis and BOR President Ojakian joined in the spirited event. Photo: Christopher Gordon

September 14th brought patriotic fun, as NVCC held Constitution Day events in Room L501. The space was abuzz with students, professors, and enthusiastic spectators as seven teams competed to stake a claim as greatest scholars of the American Constitution. In opening remarks President De Filippis said, "Welcome to an hour of excitement around the most wonderful and beautiful document in the world."

Next, she read from the preamble, discussing why this document is vital in our lives. Emphasizing the most important words within the Constitution, she showed the founding fathers were dedicated to a Republic free from tyranny and oppression. De Filippis also stressed the importance of voting on Election Day, November 8th.

The need for the Constitution stemmed from the fact that the colonies were functioning more like independent countries, and the government was underdeveloped and weak since winning independence from England after the Revolution. With the Constitution, the country as a whole could run more efficiently and equally. The government evolved into three national government branches: legislative, judicial, and executive, with a system of checks and balances, so no one branch could overpower another.

BOR President Mark Ojakian spoke next on the importance of events honoring freedom

and stressed that divisiveness only tears us all down. He reminded attendees that a civil and constructive discourse is the most important freedom we have. President De Filippis then stated, "The sun shines today for NVCC, for our student leaders, for generous faculty and staff that have assisted in a week of activities designed to inform and celebrate living in the most democratic nation in the world." Then the trivia competition began.

After the seven teams were introduced, things got really interesting; the competition was spirited, each student a fount of constitutional knowledge. A small controversy ensued over a lightning round answer. The question concerned the 15th amendment, which gave African-American men the right to vote. Though the amendment does not explicitly refer to African American men only, women in general were not eligible to vote at that time. This distinction was not defined in the context of the question itself, and ultimately, the answer was accepted.

The trivia competition ended with very close scores, but the SGA team scored a narrow victory. President De Filippis surprised all seven teams by ensuring each contestant received a reward for her or his impressive knowledge. Trivia, prizes, good sportsmanship, and of course, pizza ensured this event was one the founding fathers would have loved.

Center for Teaching – In It to Win It

Kathleen Leblanc

Center for Teaching has a committee presence on all twelve CT community college campuses. At NVCC, CFT faculty members are constantly working to improve the classroom experience for students—and for one another. Members meet regularly to discuss teaching, to learn from one another, and to bring innovation and inspiration to the college community.

Professor Kathleen Leblanc, Human Services/Pre-Social Work Program Coordinator, longtime CFT member, and current CFT Teaching and Learning Consultant, offers tips for students and faculty on staying motivated for the long haul.

I've been teaching at NVCC since 1999; before that, I was a college student for many years. One issue common to both roles involves staying motivated beyond the first weeks of class. Most students begin the semester with plans to read their text every week, to work on papers as soon as they receive assignments, and to begin studying well in advance of exams.

We teachers are also optimistic during those early semester days. We tell ourselves we'll set aside time to research new material and prepare for class; we'll start reading student papers the day we collect them; we'll always stay at least a week ahead in planning class activities.

This usually works for a few weeks. Then reality sets in as our other responsibilities compete for our limited and valuable time. Just about now, early October, we start feeling overwhelmed. We know if we don't get back on track, panic will overtake us.

So what do we do to sustain motivation throughout the semester? I did an internet search, and I wasn't surprised to find many articles and blogs on this topic.

The website, University Survival (www.universitysurvival.com), had several good tips: Get a good night's rest—low energy impacts academic success.

Take time for fun—this recharges motivation and can be a reward for completing work.

Don't let failure discourage motivation—no one's perfect; everyone struggles.

If you're discouraged, talk to a professor, an academic advisor, or better yet, join a college mentoring program.

I really liked this statement: "A great motivator is to think of college as the future for the rest of your life. However good or bad you do in college is most likely how you're going to do in real life. What you put in is what you get out."

The Cengage blog (<http://blog.cengage.com>) polled students, asking what keeps them motivated. Students rank ordered:

- The motivation to graduate
- A positive outlook
- Support from family & friends
- Discipline
- An active, healthy lifestyle

They also noted the following themes to increase their drive to succeed:

- Refocus—determine what's fueling lack of motivation and reduce/eliminate it; find a new path to success.
- Set goals—think about where you currently are and where you want to be after graduation.
- Speak to your instructor or an advisor—together, realistically evaluate your abilities and develop a plan for success.

The most important step is to acknowledge your feelings. It's still early enough in the semester to get back on track. Enter exam dates and assignment due dates in your calendar, so you can devote ample time to each. Schedule some fun time. Use NVCC's resources: The ACE, the library, CAPSS, fellow students, study groups, and of course your instructors. And remember, faculty members are working just as hard as you to stay motivated. And with six unique activities planned for October alone, CFT is providing plenty of support.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



Intelligent Discourse

Recently people have been saying good things about *The Tamarack*. As an editor and writer, that makes me feel amazing. What makes me feel even more amazing is one student's response to an article with which he wasn't particularly happy.

I was impressed by this lone student who faced down a roomful of writers and editors to share what he felt was a problem. This student was respectful, and made his case very clearly in front of many people. We shared a dialogue about a very important issue with intelligent discourse on both sides. This is the essence of what *The Tamarack* and NVCC embody.

To be free and unafraid to voice an opinion is becoming rare these days. What matters worse are websites and organizations which have an agenda and will turn any opportunity into an attack for their own gain. It's especially troubling that they have the gall to call that journalism. As editor, I recognize the duty we have to print truthful, factual, and helpful news. And I refuse to see *The Tamarack* become what is known as an "Echo Chamber." I enjoy getting to know what is truthful to everyone on campus, what facts we might have overlooked, and the ways in which we can become even more helpful.

"Our college. Our news. Our voice." is not simply a motto; it is a value we take most seriously. I encourage all readers to honestly evaluate everything written in *The Tam*. Email us at Tamarack@nv.edu, or stop by one of our Friday meetings with any concerns or differing opinions. You will always have my respect and attention, so please be respectful and intelligent with your arguments in return. Raising a voice in anger is the fastest way to close a mind.

Regards,
Christopher Gordon
Editor-in-Chief
tamarack@nv.edu



A Second Home

The Tamarack was on hand to welcome students arriving at the newly opened Danbury campus facility. The move to the new location offers expanded opportunities for students in the Danbury area, and student NVCC's newspaper hopes to be part of this exciting new chapter. Danbury students, faculty, and staff with stories to share about the new space should email us at tamarack@nv.edu.

LOVED IT? HATED IT? Send us your letters in response to articles, features, and profiles in *The Tamarack*. Limit them to 200 words and email them to tamarack@nv.edu with the subject like READERS RESPOND. Letters may be edited for length and grammar.

The Tamarack

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EDITORIAL

An Educated Vote

One beautiful element of a community college is its broad demographic. Students attending NVCC represent different ages and backgrounds. Therefore, this editorial isn't meant to target a single group. It's a reminder to everyone of the importance of voting—not just for the sake of earning an "I voted!" sticker—but of voting smart, of voting with purpose.

Many feel their vote ultimately won't matter, so they don't bother to cast a ballot. On the other side, many don't know enough about the candidates, so they vote blindly. In this election, it is imperative that every eligible citizen not only votes, but votes for a candidate who most closely represents that voter's personal ideals and goals for this country.

The Democratic and Republican candidates speak almost daily about issues, sharing their agendas for the future of this country. One believes in walling off our border to protect us. The other believes remaining connected to other countries and societies will better benefit us.

At this point in the election, we may be tired of the ads, of the drama, of the media's melodramatic portrayal, but each of us must do our own research on these candidates. It is up to us to "hire" a new President of the United States. If you were in charge of hiring a new professor, custodian, or office manager, you'd want to learn all you could about that person, wouldn't you?

You may not believe in either candidate; you may not believe your vote will make a difference. However, your vote, or lack thereof, will make *all* the difference in this election. Someone reading this may have children; your vote affects them. Some readers may be new U.S. citizens; your vote affects your family. Some reading this may have just turned 18 and earned the privilege of voting for the first time. Whichever element of our vast demographic you occupy, it's imperative you educate yourself on the candidates and what they represent—and then cast your very important vote.

We at *The Tamarack* encourage you all to take this final month before the election to inform yourself of each politician's plans for the presidency. Take the opportunity to ensure you, your family, and friends are registered. Prepare yourself to vote—and thoughtfully consider the effects your vote will have on this country and our future.

Making a Difference

On September 16, the office of CSU Board of Regents President Mark Ojakian issued a press release spotlighting the good work being accomplished at Naugatuck Valley Community College. The piece shared the exciting news that NVCC, along with Three Rivers Community College, in Norwich, CT, is among the top 25 US community colleges successfully advancing opportunities for low-income students.

In order to make the list, two-year colleges had to show enrollment status for low-income students at over 40%. Schools also were required to exhibit favorable long term outcomes for these financially challenged students. The report, published on Homerom.org, the official blog of the US Department of Education, measured success according to two specific outcomes: graduates must earn an average of at least \$30,000 per year, ten years after degree completion, and a high percentage of graduates must be successfully repaying student loans within that same timeframe.

Naugatuck Valley's numbers were truly impressive. With NVCC's low-income student enrollment status at 41%, graduates of the College were successfully repaying loans at a rate of 75%. Ten years after completion of degree, average annual income for graduates who had enrolled with low-income student status was \$34,100.

Though these numbers are notable, what is even more inspiring is to consider the individual lives impacted by NVCC's commitment to improving the circumstances of its students. President Daisy Cocco De Filippis put it this way. "NVCC celebrates our students with joy and with a grateful heart for their achievements as we praise the contributions of our faculty and staff to their success."

With 74% repaying loans and an income of \$31,700 on average, Three Rivers is also seeing great success. TRCC President Mary Ellen Jukoski stated, "We are delighted that TRCC can make a college degree a reality for so many area residents with low incomes. We provide a very affordable education for these determined, dedicated students in a very caring, nurturing environment that supports their success."

President De Filippis concluded by saying, "The College is making a difference in the lives of students, communities and Connecticut. I am so proud of our community colleges and the powerful work we are doing for the state."

To see details of the report, visit Homerom.org at <http://blog.ed.gov/2016/09/25-community-colleges-that-advance-opportunities-for-low-income-students/>

Meet Our Fulbright!

Jessica Ney



Courtesy of Felipe Karam

This week, I had the opportunity to interview Felipe Karam, a music professor joining NVCC for the semester as scholar-in-residence. Karam, from Brazil, was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship, allowing him to teach abroad. Up to 8,000 Fulbright recipients, students and teachers, expand their education and experience in as many as 160 countries annually. Roughly 1,600 U.S. students, 4,000 foreign students, 1,200 U.S. scholars, and 900 visiting scholars receive awards per year.

Originally from Porto Alegre, Brazil, Felipe has a passion for music. He has been surrounded his whole life with instruments. His mother teaches guitar professionally, and his brother is an orchestral conductor. Felipe told me there was a guitar in every room of his home. In addition to guitar, he plays the violin and cavaquinho, which he calls a Brazilian ukulele.

Music for Felipe, and for most of Brazil, is all about culture. The country is known for samba and is rich in folkloric music. Many Brazilian songs tell stories, inviting us to experience the beautiful culture of the country. In southern Brazil, especially, there has been much mixing between Argentina and Uruguay, and this shared musical conversation has helped shape the music Felipe so adores.

Karam has not been in Waterbury long—arriving shortly before the semester began—but he is excited to teach a section of *Music*

"He...has many plans for the class, including possible music-making with traditional Brazilian instruments."

History and Appreciation, with a focus on Latin American and Caribbean music, as well as to team-teach the Jazz Ensemble with longtime adjunct music instructor, Henry Lugo. As a professor, he says he is glad to see excited students and has many plans for the class, including possible music-making with traditional Brazilian instruments.

Felipe's only complaint so far is that he has not yet found a nightlife scene such as he is used to, having spent the last eight years in England, a country he described as "very accessible." It is there he learned to play violin. In England, he was always experiencing new music; he is fond of Irish folk in particular. But Karam says England was much too cloudy; he missed "Brazil's everlasting sun."

Felipe's favorite music is the traditional, because it reminds him of home. He has a profound respect for music and the often deep meaning in the lyrics. He can see how new music comes from the old, and understands why lyrics are sometimes made easier, to be more catchy. He characterizes his respect for culture and music as "terribly important." Through this respect and love of music, it is people like Felipe Karam, in all cultures, who keep the past alive. NVCC is honored to welcome this gifted teaching artist to our campus and community, and *The Tamarack* wishes him an amazing semester.

A Halloween-inspired Thought:

“There’s nothing like the laughter of a baby. Unless it’s 1:00 am and you’re home alone.”

~ Anonymous

alumni SHOWCASE



Photo Courtesy of Dan Perkins

Daniel Perkins

I'm Daniel Perkins, 2014 NVCC grad from Seymour, CT, and I'm excited to share my journey post-NVCC. After getting my Associate Degree in Video & Audio Production, I became content producer/editor for a small video production company in NYC. My duties included meeting with clients, writing scripts, marketing strategy, shooting and post-production. I've worked on weddings, commercials, kick-starter projects, live event coverage, and shorts.

Focused on Success

This year, I returned to my hometown to start my video production and social media marketing company, DP Conceptions. Locally, there is a void—in quantity and quality—in businesses like mine. I started the business out of my room, just recently leasing an office. I use my NY contacts/colleagues as additional shooters and content creators, but edit everything personally. Though only in business a few months, I've had an influx of new jobs and clients, including Post University.

My small business specializes in high quality video and adopts a cinematic style. I also help local businesses set up and manage social media accounts. We offer the best quality at affordable prices. DPC offers services from wedding videos and commercials, to music videos and documentaries. In the next few years, we hope to break into feature length films. The future looks bright, and I'm always looking for creative minds to collaborate with and hire.

I had two very influential professors at NVCC and likely wouldn't be where I am today without their guidance. First was Professor Crowley, my first semester marketing professor. The class was an immersive, up-to-date think tank presenting real world market situations, an open discussion among peers about where the market was heading and how to appeal to people in today's market.

Marketing still holds a special place in my heart, but I switched my major to Video

& Audio Production. NVCC has an excellent video/audio program and my peers/professors made it an unforgettable experience. Besides, it's my passion. I credit two people for this: first, David Simon, genius creator of HBO hit, *The Wire*, along with my professor/advisor Ray Leite. After taking his DAT101 class, I knew this was where I had to be. He guided me in the right direction; I owe him so much. He showed my 27 minute "short film" final project to several people, and I was honored to judge for the CT Student Film Festival. I still visit Ray and seek his advice.

My advice to students is don't think of your education as just another class, or a chore! You're attending college to learn, to better yourself; it should be an adventure. If you're not moving forward, you're falling behind. Tune out negative people, and find a supportive cast for your ambitions and dreams. Don't be afraid to try things outside your comfort zone. I was afraid at times, but if I'd stayed afraid, I wouldn't be who I am now: a 25-year-old small business owner and artist. If you're looking for inspiration, or are an aspiring young filmmaker, watch Casey Neistat's VLOGS on Youtube. They're a big reason I took the leap. For anyone trying to find motivation on the career path, don't worry too much. When the time is right, opportunity will come. Dream big and keep moving forward!

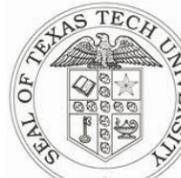
Happenings @ Other Colleges

Brittany Bosse



Never Too Late

At 82-years-old, Rene Neira is continuing his pursuit of a college degree, proving it's never too late to fulfill a lifelong dream. Initially beginning in the 1950s, he is back at it again, and this time he is not doing it alone. Both Neira and his granddaughter, Melanie Salazar, have just started their first semester at Palo Alto College in San Antonio, Texas. While 18 year-old Salazar is a freshman, Neira has just one class left to complete his associate degree. Salazar is incredibly proud of her grandfather, taking to Twitter to express her pride. On their first day of class, Salazar posted pictures of herself and her grandfather captioned, "I'm so proud of my grandpa for finishing his first day at PAC this semester! 82 years old and not giving up!!!" Neira quickly became a social media sensation as the tweet gathered over 5,400 likes. While Neira is not keen on the extra attention, he expressed, "If I'm helping people, inspiring and motivating them to get their education, that's fine with me. It makes me feel good." There is no doubt Neira is an inspiration. Although he faces challenges keeping up with the latest technology, he doesn't plan to stop with an associate degree. Neira intends to apply to University of Texas San Antonio to continue his pursuit of an economics degree.



College Education for Guide Dogs

Humans are not the only students on campus receiving an education at Texas Tech University this fall. The Lubbock Club, a registered student organization, is continuing its program which trains and socializes puppies from Guide Dogs for the Blind. Guide Dogs for the Blind provides highly specialized service dogs for individuals who are blind or have low vision throughout the United States and Canada. The work of The Lubbock Club is receiving praise from many students on campus including John Vickers, a blind student, who expressed, "It makes me very happy to see that there are actually people, you know, that are willing to take the time and help out within the blind community, or guide dog community, I should say." After having just one puppy when the Lone Star Guide Dog Raisers Lubbock Chapter first began in January, the group is now raising five puppies and continuing to grow.



New Technology Useful in Meteorological Research

An aeronautical engineering technology student from Purdue University had the opportunity to join an international team of researchers in Germany this summer to explore a new use for drones in meteorological research. Evan Flatt, along with agronomy professor Richard Grant, collaborated with researchers from the Max Planck Institute of Biochemistry and the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, in hopes to gain information on a poorly understood area of meteorology—nighttime airflow. They used drones, also known as unmanned aerial vehicles(UAVs), to measure and track the nighttime airflow of carbon dioxide and methane gas through the atmosphere. Grant explained, "One of our goals is to see if UAV measurements are a viable way to measure and track these gases." During the collaboration, Flatt was able to program the researchers' flight plans into the control software and even customize an octocopter-style UAV. He noted, "It was a pretty amazing experience," and he hopes to continue working with UAVs.

A Cry For Help

Jessica Ney



September marked National Suicide Prevention Month, established to raise awareness of this epidemic. Suicide statistics have risen for years; to increase education around this complex issue, NVCC hosted a symposium and training in the Mainstage Sept. 9th. Co-sponsored by the Western CT Mental Health Network and NVCC's Human Services Club, the event was well-attended and extremely informative.

I didn't consider myself well-versed on suicide and its effects, and I learned more than I could've imagined. As a nursing student, suicide is something I will undoubtedly see in my future profession, but this training wasn't limited to health care professionals.

Anyone can save a life, regardless of education, employment, or age. Currently, suicide is the tenth leading cause of death in the US. Over 42,000 people take their lives annually. Additionally, for every suicide, there are 25 attempts. On average, 117 suicides occur daily. Given lack of education and gaps in reporting, statistics could increase.

Fortunately, change is happening. Suicide is recognized as a public health crisis, and valuable tools are in place. Dr. Kelly Posner of Columbia University introduced the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS) to symposium attendees, a group including NVCC students, faculty, staff, and administrators, along with visiting mental health providers, National Guard members, and professionals from Yale. This scale is a set of questions designed to assess an individual's at-risk level for suicide.

It begins by asking about suicidal thoughts and ideations; next a screener inquires about suicidal intent or plans, and if a person has ever attempted. This intervention allows those in crisis to get proper levels of care. The tool has successfully identified those whose despair would normally go unnoticed, and has kept others out of emergency situations unless necessary. Along with saving lives, the C-SSRS can save precious time, money, and emergency care resources. According to Posner, C-SSRS has been called "the polio vaccine of suicide." With the high instance of suicide among veterans, the scale has been adopted by every branch of the US military, and it's having dramatic positive effects.

The other tool presented was a Safety Plan Intervention. In an SPI, a patient and mental health professional create a plan, an alternative to acting on suicidal impulses. The client takes a completed form home after emergency care. This record is important because it helps give clients a series of resources with potential to distract them from suicidal thoughts and associated feelings.

The SPI features five steps: First, it identifies warning signs—triggers or emotions that lead to suicidal thoughts. Next, the client lists positive distractions—watching movies or walking in the park—to be used to redirect self-destructive thoughts. Third: brainstorm people and places to provide healthy distraction. Step four assembles a list of people to call for help only if struggling. Should these interventions fail, the form includes numbers for local emergency resources and suicide hotlines. A version of the SPI is available as an app called "Safety Plan," making this tool widely accessible.

Posner calls suicide "the only type of death we can prevent," and thankfully, recent effort, are making strides in preventing senseless loss. Mental health care is changing; brave voices have destroyed stigmas and ended misunderstanding. We continue to improve diagnosis and treatment. These are reasons for those with mental illness to be hopeful about the future. Each of us can be part of this progress. Become educated in identifying someone in crisis. Learn how to ask. You could save a life.

Youtube's Unappealing Appeal

Bradley Edwards

In a recent policy change, Youtube has instated brand new guidelines to make its general content base more appealing to advertisers. These guidelines include omitting or censoring the following: profanity, discussions of war, politics, anything controversial, anything violent, and anything remotely sexually suggestive. Violating these guidelines will not lead to videos being taken down. They will, however, lose the ability to become monetized and gain advertiser revenue for their content.

This is very alarming for many content creators, especially those who create channels primarily focusing on gaming. This new and abrupt policy change has led to many Youtubers losing key revenue, because much of their content is regarded as "cartoon violence," or contains varying levels of fictional violence, sexually suggestive scenarios, and instances of profanity. News and press oriented Youtube channels are also to be cut from monetization and advertising, with their content in violation of multiple aspects of this new guideline.

An abundance of speculation is circulating about the policy change, but the only thing that has been cemented is that Youtube is attempting to appeal to advertisers, listing this change in their guidelines clearly under a section labeled "Advertiser-Friendly Content Guidelines." With the variety of advertisers Youtube has available, one might question what exactly brought upon such a drastic change.

Many Youtubers make their primary

revenue through content creation, making it even more alarming when guidelines threaten to "Suspend monetization features on channels that repeatedly submit videos violating [their] policies." To many content creators, this is a death sentence.

Content creators have complained on behalf of their videos about the possibility of only specific channels being targeted due to the mostly procedural, automated process in which Youtube's system handles these guidelines. Manual interference from companies is possible, but has paved the way for people to impersonate companies simply to censor undesired content or hassle content creators. This was also a problem that arose, and still persists, regarding Youtube's copyright handling system. While still automated, this system presents a large hassle to users who do not infringe, forcing them into an appeal process that is normally rejected. If an appeal is rejected, one would have to deny the copyright claim outright. If the company chooses to pursue action, it could lead to content creators being sued (though there are no documented instances of this occurring). Naturally, many content creators feel threatened by this system.

Youtube's status as internet video juggernaut leaves little room for some of the site's larger content creators to migrate. Regardless of the path they take, Youtube's judgment has proven fickle and left the site's future uncertain. One has to wonder whether appealing to advertisers should supersede Youtube's traditional role as supporter of creativity.

Healing the Past

Nicole Hayes

Attempting to make amends for the past, Georgetown University has publicly apologized for their complicity in selling slaves. According to the Maryland Province Archives, in June of 1838, Thomas Mulledy agreed to sell 272 men, women, and children to Henry Johnson and Jesse Beatty of Louisiana for \$115,000 (equivalent to \$3 million today) in order to pay off the college's debt. The sale of slaves was not the extent of the institution's involvement in the inhumane treatment of others. Slaves were brought to campus by students or rented for various labor on the school grounds.

Nearly 180 years later, in fall of 2015, a group of students, faculty, and alumni were given the opportunity to organize the Working Group on Slavery, Memory and Reconciliation to uncover and come to terms with Georgetown's historical connection with slavery. Although the University's involvement with one of the most inhumane treatments of people cannot be erased, taking steps forward and acknowledging past wrongs will help better the atmosphere on campus. To that end, the group has made recommendations to the University on how to enhance the relationship between the community and the institution.

In an effort to involve the community, the Working Group has organized events to show the importance of awareness of historical fact, as well as highlighting the necessity for

change on campus. Not only did the Working Group accomplish their mission of uncovering Georgetown's historical culpability involving slavery, their recommendations have helped create historical change on campus. During a November 13, 2015 event, the group recommended two campus buildings be renamed. With administrative approval, the former Mulledy and McSherry Buildings were rechristened "Freedom" and "Remembrance."

As they continued their research, the Working Group identified five crucial categories. These are Archives, Ethics and Reconciliation, Local History, Memorization, and Outreach. To educate the public about their findings, information was published in booklets titled, *What We Know: Georgetown University and Slavery*, which were handed out to community members. In addition, organized discussions occurred across campus, sparking interest among students and the community.

The Working Group continues to its mission to unearth the truth about past events in order to bring healing. With their recommendations to the college, resulting in the renaming of these two buildings, they have given once dark places a brighter future. Additionally, the University has agreed to give descendants of the enslaved preferential admission to Georgetown. These steps taken by Georgetown University are helping other colleges see how community relationships can be enhanced by taking responsibility for past abuses. For more information, visit <http://slavery.georgetown.edu/report/>

Celebración de la Herencia

Christopher Gordon

As the fastest growing ethnicity in America, Hispanics are graduating college in ever-greater numbers. Designated a Hispanic-serving institution, NVCC plays a major local role in this encouraging statistic. This makes it a natural fit for our college to honor Hispanic Heritage Month, celebrated from September 15th through October 15th.

Most months of honor or awareness begin the first day of a calendar month. Hispanic Heritage Month, though, has a unique span of dates for a very important reason. September 15th marks independence for no less than five Hispanic countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Mexico and Chile are also September celebrants, the 16th marking Mexico's Dia de la Independencia, and Chile celebrating Fiestas Patrias on the 18th and 19th.

The September connection to US Constitution Day—the document was signed September 17, 1787—is a happy coincidence. Still it emphasizes the historical and contemporary contributions of Hispanics to the United States, a reminder this nation is at its best when it honors and respects the wonderful diversity of its citizenry.

NVCC will host activities commemorating Hispanic Heritage Month, including a Community Book Discussion, co-sponsored by Literacy Volunteers of Greater Waterbury. This event will be held Friday, October 14, at 10:00 am in Tech Hall Dining Room. Come share coffee and good conversation about *A Cafecito Story*, an eco-fable, by Julia Alvarez. Organic brew will be provided by Alba's Cafecitos a new business venture for Waterbury resident Alba Reveron Perez. Admission is free, but registration is required. Call Literacy Volunteers at (203) 754-1164 by October 7th to register.

A Degree of Security

Nicole Hayes

Before class, you receive an email notification, a message from Apple stating your account's been hacked. Without considering the consequences, you click the hyperlink to change your password. Zap! You've fallen victim to a social engineering attack.

Advances in technology have made our lives more convenient, with handheld devices providing the ability to easily share information on various networks. However, with convenience comes an increased risk of falling victim to a cyber-attack. We take for granted the reliability of secure networks, but as we share information online, hackers gain unauthorized access to data, such as bank information, social security numbers—even medical records. Hackers gather sensitive data through baby monitors, automobile computer systems, even “connected” coffeemakers.

The threat of cyber-attacks has opened an entire market for jobs requiring specialized skills and knowledge of the cyber world. Keeping current with these technologies, NVCC has introduced a new program. According to the College's program description, the Associate in Science Cybersecurity Degree “combines elements of both NVCC's Criminal Justice and Computer Information Systems programs to offer students a strong grounding in understanding the investigative nature of cybersecurity in the criminal justice realm as well as gaining technical skills in computer science networking and programming.” Graduates will be equipped to enter the workforce in jobs devoted to protecting sensitive information—both personal data and that of national security interest.

Professor Sandra Eddy (Computer Information Systems/Business) and adjunct Brian Kelly are helping students turn a passion into a degree. Kelly, Chief Information Security Officer at Quinnipiac University, has

a deep background in the diverse cybersecurity field. As a faculty member, Kelly teaches both the entry-level Intro to Computers course (CSC101) and advanced classes Practices in Security Management (CST248) and Network Security (CST274). Kelly's goal is to help students advance in technology-based careers, specifically in the field of information security. After graduating NVCC with an Associate in

“...with convenience comes an increased risk of falling victim to a cyber-attack”

Cybersecurity, students may opt to continue their education through Charter Oak State College's online programs to obtain a bachelor degree in this growing field.

NVCC's Cyber Security Program will give students access to an expanding job market. According to the article, “Promote Computer Science,” a great demand exists for computing jobs with over 523,222 open positions. Employment opportunities range from computer systems analyst to programmer and intelligence analyst. A vast number of businesses are realizing the need for employees with specialized skills in cybersecurity. Because information is easily accessible through networking, the need for qualified cybersecurity professionals is expected to continue growing. NVCC's program will help fill that need.

While the Cybersecurity Program will appeal to those leaning toward computer careers, data security is relevant to us all. With many students unaware of cyber-attack threats, Kelly is interested in providing the campus community with resources to stay secure against hackers. Look for information about a possible event in a future issue of The Tamarack, and stay safe in cyber-land!

FACES IN THE CROWD Home at Last

Trevor Lilly

I was born in Irvine, CA in 1998, then moved to Wilton, CT at one year old. I grew up in a small house on a hill with my parents, older brother, and younger sister. When I was in 3rd grade, like in many families, my parents divorced. I was torn between two households, essentially two completely different worlds.

We didn't want to leave Wilton, taking us three kids out of the school system, but neither parent could afford a house of their own. So we rented whatever we could find that wouldn't force us to leave town. I've moved eight times since then, never really having a place I could truly call “home.”

As I grew older, I developed social anxiety. What used to be simple, everyday interactions became terrifying. I was constantly worried about how I presented myself. The slightest sign of awkwardness would leave me preoccupied for hours, if not days. Because of this, aside from a very small group of close friends, I mostly kept to myself.

I found solace in solitude. In this state, I first discovered my love of writing. I've never been an expert when it came to the spoken word. I'd often stumble over words or get nervous and stop mid-thought. But on paper, my thoughts could flow freely without fear of ridicule or judgment.

I started out small, writing for fun. But I quickly grew to want more. Now, I've written several short stories (an excerpt of one is featured in this issue), poems, and personal essays. I've even worked for a newspaper company.

Once I graduate and save up enough money, I'm planning a roadtrip around the country, stopping at every major landmark along the way and keeping a log of my travels. With luck, I could do the same in other

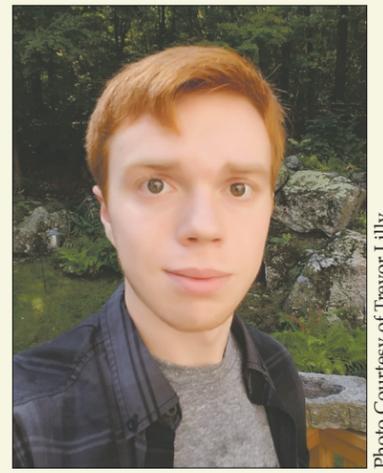


Photo Courtesy of Trevor Lilly

“...everyone here comes from a different background, which in a weird way brings us closer together”

countries as well. But for anyone to hire or publish me for something like this, I'm going to need some level of higher education.

I initially chose NVCC because I can't afford a 4-year university and it's a reasonable commute from my mom's current house in Bethlehem, CT. But I've come to really like it here. The atmosphere is great; the professors are amazing; the workload isn't overbearing (so far), and all the people I've met are extremely welcoming.

Unlike Wilton, everyone here comes from a different background, which in a weird way brings us closer together. We're all trying to get through each day as best we can, earn a degree, and better our lives.

I've been treated with nothing but kindness and respect since coming here, by students and teachers alike, and have made sure to return the favor. I've started interacting with people, signing up for clubs (hence my contributions to the paper), becoming part of the community. Maybe I've found a home after all.



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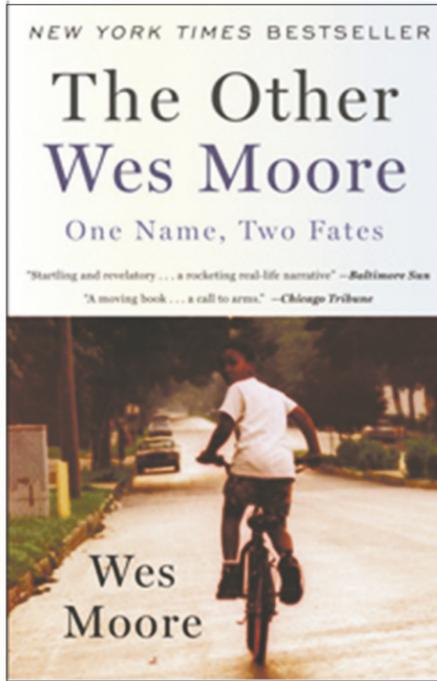


Photo Courtesy of Random House

Again this semester, the NVCC One Book Committee offers a thought-provoking work to engage the campus in meaningful discourse. Best-selling 2011 memoir, *The Other Wes Moore*, was proposed by Professor Elma Solomon. According to the Random House website, the book “traces the parallel lives of two youths with the same name in the same community, describing how the author grew up to be a Rhodes Scholar and promising business leader, while his counterpart suffered a life of violence and imprisonment.”

Prof. Solomon found Moore’s book a natural choice because his message—that success results from good choices and access to a strong

support system—aligns nicely with key concepts taught in the First Year Experience class. The book, provided to FYE students, will be central to FYE course curriculum. Copies are available in the NVCC library.

The campus community is invited to participate in several events tied to Moore’s book. October activities include a discussion, “Privileges and Opportunities,” October 10th, from 12:45-2:05 in the Library’s 4th lounge; and a “Critical Conversation: Compassion,” October 27th from 12:45-1:45 in L501. The date and time of the One Book lecture, to be delivered by Jim O’Rourke, Director of the Waterbury YMCA, will be announced soon.

FACES IN THE CROWD Inspired to Serve

Tracy Mahar

A familiar face has found a permanent home on the fifth floor of Ekstrom. Tracy Mahar takes over this semester as the WAVE Program’s Assistant Worksite Coordinator. Originally from Upstate New York, Mahar grew up in a large family. She has a varied professional background, having worked for several companies throughout New England before settling back into her family’s restaurant business. Prior to joining the NVCC community, Tracy was a fixture in admissions at Holy Cross High School.

Residents of Watertown for the past nineteen years, Tracy and her husband have three children, one of whom currently attends NVCC. Tracy’s own education includes her graduation from Rochester Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Science degree in Hospitality and Business Management.

Mahar puts those skills to use at Saint Vincent DePaul Soup Kitchen, where her efficient nature and incredible work ethic continue to make a difference in the lives of Waterbury’s homeless and hungry. Since 2007, in her role at St. Vincent’s, Tracy has worked with Student Activity Coordinator, Karen Blake, to organize the volunteer efforts of several NVCC clubs and organizations. She has overseen countless students, faculty, staff, and their family members and friends, instructing them in the finer points of volunteerism, whether that involves effectively wiping down a countertop, or properly donning a hairnet. Tracy’s contribution to the Waterbury community has allowed NVCC’s family to make a difference in many lives.

It was at the soup kitchen that Tracy first met a group of WAVE students. As cohort



Photo Courtesy of Tracy Mahar

“I really value the education here at NVCC and believe the college has a lot to offer our students with resources on campus, and the committed community involvement NVCC models for students.”

after cohort of WAVE students pushed up their sleeves alongside her, Tracy came to appreciate the mission of the program. Mahar says she is “very excited to be part of such a successful program. I really value the education here at NVCC and believe the college has a lot to offer our students with resources on campus, and the committed community involvement NVCC models for students.”

Tracy has jumped into her new on-campus role with characteristic enthusiasm. She anticipates being a resource to WAVE students for years to come. When not on campus or busy at the soup kitchen, Tracy spends time reading and gardening, and she enjoys cooking and hiking. If you find yourself in Ekstrom, stop by E520 and say hello. You’re sure to get a warm welcome.



CAPSS CORNER

Self, Not Selfish

Finding balance between self and selfishness can be difficult, especially for community college students. Most strive to juggle several aspects of life—work, family, friends—with rigorous classwork. College demands often take students away from other responsibilities, leading them to feel selfish. Focusing on one’s education, personal growth, and learning is positive, but students sometimes feel guilt for working to improve their own lives and increase their own career opportunities.

The flip side is students may think they need to be selfless, putting all other responsibilities before the challenging task of earning a degree. A parent who works, cares for children, and is also a student must make hard choices daily. This is also true for young adult students working full or part time while balancing other duties. Immediate work or family needs may overshadow the vital and time-consuming demands of studying, attending class, and completing coursework.

While this struggle can overwhelm, hope and help—solutions for balancing life’s aspects—exist. Planning and prioritizing—organization—can create stability from frenzy. Doing homework alongside children or young siblings shows both good time management and role modeling. Making lunch or choosing outfits the night before frees morning time and can decrease stress.

Advisors and counselors in the Center for Academic Planning and Student Success (CAPSS) can help students succeed. One concrete way we help decrease stress, create balance, and ensure goal completion is by helping you register early for classes. We urge you to meet your advisor in early October, to review or plan your educational path, preparing you to register for winter 2016 or spring 2017 courses Oct. 25. Choosing classes in advance allows you to share your schedule early with family and employers, helping balance childcare, work, class, and homework schedules.

Focusing on your education and future doesn’t make you selfish. Your success in school will inevitably benefit your entire family, not just yourself. So recognize how education and family impact each other; then plan and prioritize. As you succeed in achieving life balance, that feeling of selfishness will decrease.

Bonnie Goulet

ACE Accolades

Dispatch from Director Rob Sheftel

Several years into its existence, the ACE, or Academic Center for Excellence, continues to expand services to support NVCC student success. Located on the fifth floor of Ekstrom Hall, in E500, ACE is an inviting space with computers, printers, and academic resources for all students of the College. As home to supplemental instruction (SI) for developmental English and math courses, ACE provides each developmental student a Chromebook during SI sessions. The laptops are equipped with software to support students in these foundational subjects. Mondo-pads, basically giant tablets for use in interactive group learning, are also available. Even with Mondopad and Chromebook technology, the real heart of the ACE is its staff.

ACE Director Rob Sheftel leads a team of caring, talented professional tutors, along with faculty and student tutors. On duty each school day, ACE tutors provide enthusiastic support to students in a range of subjects. Along with English and math, ACE tutors cover the sciences, and help with computer issues. Because writing extends across the whole curriculum at NVCC, ACE tutors can be an excellent support for essays regardless of discipline, making a positive impact on a student’s overall GPA. Sheftel’s data shows dramatic increases in student visits to the ACE; many students make frequent visits, developing lasting academic relationships with the staff.

SGA PRESIDENT



Big Goings-on

Hello NVCC students! As the semester unfolds, I hope you are all

enjoying your classes and taking advantage of the many resources on campus. I’m looking forward to all the upcoming events we have planned, such as Club Expo on October 5th, Fall Festival and Confluencia, both on October 12th, and the Cystic Fibrosis Walk to be held on October 19th.

We are also in an important Presidential election year, and we encourage you all to make your voices heard by getting out to vote. To make it convenient for students to register, NVCC will hold voter registration days on October 13th and 17th. Stop by the SGA office in the Prism Lounge to find out a time and location that fits well with your schedule.

On top of all of the events that we have going on, our first Student Government meeting was held on September 21st in L501. The energy in the room was amazing, and lots of great ideas were discussed. We encourage you to attend future meetings, each Wednesday from 4:00 to 5:30 pm in L501. At our meetings, you’ll have a behind-the-scenes look at what’s going on both here in Waterbury and on the Danbury campus. You’ll get all the news on clubs, activities, and much more.

We want to hear your voice, and make the college experience an eventful, exciting one. Bring your ideas, and thoughts to the table. Our goal is to help identify and fulfill your needs as college students, and to help connect you with different services available at NVCC. We also encourage you to get involved with the many service projects NVCC offers to enrich the Waterbury community.

College is all about staying motivated and remembering the willingness to learn is a choice. I leave you with one of my favorite quotes to carry with you every day. Nelson Mandela stated, “Education is one of the most powerful weapons which you can use to change the world.” Think about the power you’re gaining as you work to fulfill your educational dreams.

Keila Franco

SPEAK UP

Are you interested in where your Student Activities Fees are spent?

If so, voice your opinion at NVCC’s Student Government meetings held every Wednesday, 4-5 p.m. in L501, across from the Library. For more information call 203-596-2185, stop by S516, or email SGA@nvcc.commet.edu.





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Spring 2017 Transfer Application deadline: October 1st

A Literary Convergence

Information Courtesy of Office of College Marketing

October 12th, NVCC continues its series of literary evenings, as Confluencia once again fills the Playbox Theatre with music, poetry, and inspired conversation. Since arriving at Naugatuck Valley, President De Filippis has advocated for the literary arts, her passion for words bringing a broad array of poets and writers, educators and musicians to share their work. The October roster features two visiting poets and an NVCC faculty member.



Born in Madrid, **Verónica Aranda** is a multi-lingual poet/translator with an international presence. Her own work appears in

several languages, and she has translated contemporary poetry from Portugal, Brazil, France and Nepal into Spanish. Her professional efforts extend from creative and critical journal contributions to participation in international literary events. She has degrees from the University Complutense of Madrid and Jawaharlal Nehru University of New Delhi. She has received in Spain poetry awards such as: Premio Internacional Miguel Hernández, Premio Antonio Carvajal and the Adonáis accésit. Her collections are *Poeta en India*, *Tatuaje*, *Alfama*, *Postal de olvido*, *Cortes de luz*, *Senda de saucos*, *Café Hafa*, *Lluvias Continuas*. *Ciento un haikus*, *La mirada de Ulises*, *Inside the Shell of the Tortoise*, a bilingual anthology Spanish-English and *Épica de raíles*.



Mexico's **Dr. Manuel Iris**, a poet, is winner of the "Merida" National Poetry Award for *Notebook of Dreams* (2010), and of the Rudolfo Figueroa Regional Award

for Poetry for *The Disguises of Fire* (2014). Iris co-authored, along with Brazilian poet Floriano Martins, *Overnight Medley* published in Brazil (2014). Widely published in internationally-known journals, Iris holds a B.A. in Latin American Literature from Autonomous University of Yucatan, an MA in Spanish from New Mexico State University, and PhD in Romance Languages from University of Cincinnati. He is currently a member of the Research seminar on contemporary Mexican poetry of the National Autonomous University of Mexico and lives in Cincinnati, OH. He can be found online at bufondedios.blogspot.com and on Twitter: @manueliris65



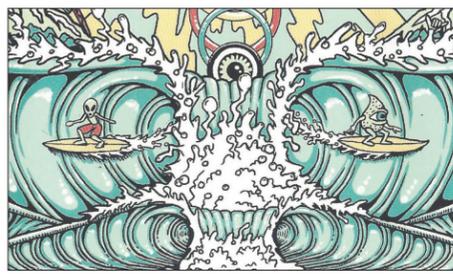
Assoc. Professor of English, **Steven Parlato**, an NVCC faculty member since 2001 and advisor to *The Tamarack*, has been honored with a Board of Regents Award for

Excellence in Teaching and two NISOD teaching awards. An actor and illustrator, Steve's poetry appears in journals including *Freshwater*, *MARGIE* and *Borderlands*. His debut novel, *The Namesake*, was published in 2013, by Merit Press. In manuscript form, the book won a 2011 Tassy Walden Award for YA fiction. Steve's second book, *The Precious Dreadful*, is currently edging toward publication. Steve, who returns for a third Confluencia appearance, can be found online at www.stevenparlato.com and on Twitter: @parlatowrites.

Confluencia begins with music at 5:30 PM in the Playbox lobby. Open mic follows at 6:00 PM; student writers are encouraged to share their work. Featured reader presentation will be followed by a Q&A session. The event is free and open to the public, and refreshments will be available.

Local Live Music A Summer Recap & Fall Guide

William Corkindale IV



Twiddle played a two night run September 9th & 10th at College Street Music Hall in New Haven, CT. Image courtesy of College Street Music Hall

This summer saw the return of Phish to Connecticut July 9th at Hartford's Xfinity Theater. The same venue hosted Dead & Company, featuring Bob Weir, John Mayer, Mickey Hart, and Oteil Burbridge, a few weeks prior. Numerous small acts also hit CT this summer, including Dark Star Orchestra at College Street Music Hall, across from the Shubert, near Yale's campus just blocks from Toad's Place in New Haven.

College Street actually hosted a handful of talented acts. Twiddle played a fantastic first show of a two-night run on September 9th. Eggy opened the show, along with a rocking set from Aqueous. Twiddle came out with a replacement on keyboard as their regular keyboardist was out due to pancreatitis. They also had a percussionist from Hartford sitting in for both sets, along with a number of guests, including Aqueous's lead guitarist who played with Twiddle on numerous songs. After opening the first set with their original, "Amidst the Mist," the set saw a wonderful cover of Nirvana's "In Bloom," as well as an amazing rendition of the Grateful Dead's "Eyes of the World." Their second set was full of great originals, and they played past their expected end time.

On September 10th, Twiddle was joined by the Cosmic Dust Bunnies and the Bobby Paltauf Band. A West Orange, New Jersey native rapper in the group #5 (Hash Money) was at the Great North Music Festival during the weekend of September 9th-11th, alongside the Disco Biscuits in Minot, Maine. Lettuce played at Toad's Place on September 20th, and Space Jesus played on College Street in New Haven on September 30th.

Now, a quick guide to concerts coming up this fall. Phish will be ending their fall tour with a four-night run October 28th-31st at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Nevada. I have a ticket for the three-set show on Monday the 31st in Vegas, but if the travel expenses for one show are hard to justify, there will likely be a live webcast stream of the shows, and hopefully some of their other Fall Tour shows. The tour starts in the Southeast and heads west, ending in Nevada on Halloween. Closer to home, Gov't Mule will be at College Street on Friday, October 28th, the weekend before Halloween, a popular weekend for concerts.

Railroad Earth is playing the night after Gov't Mule—again, at College Street Music Hall on Saturday, October 29th. This venue, very nice and with a great location, is a sought-after place to perform because it's so new. Dark Star Orchestra, who played College Street, will return Friday, November 18th after their successful summer show.

Over at Toad's Place pre-Halloween, Dopapod and Pigeons Playing Ping Pong are splitting the bill on Thursday, October 27th to kick off the weekend. Next up, on Friday the 28th, Shakedown will be keeping the Grateful Dead experience alive at Toad's.

Turkuaz, another up-and-coming jam band will play College Street Saturday, December 3rd, sharing the bill with the New Mastersounds.

Last, but certainly not least, just before this fall semester ends, Thievery Corporation, who are playing in New York City on Saturday, December 11th, will be coming to College Street Music Hall Wednesday, December 14th, right in the middle of finals week. So study early, and devote some downtime to checking out some of these great upcoming acts.

Gameplay or Graphics?

Bradley Edwards

Throughout the history of video games, one of the most prominent examples of development has been in graphics and gameplay. The loudest voice of the nation's gaming demographic are teenagers, and their opinions on this matter vary wildly on issues such as hardware, software, and desired experience. What really should be explored and remembered, however, is how accessible commercial game development had been in previous generations, and just how closed console and PC markets have become in recent years.

One of the largest factors that has closed entry into the console market is the graphical expectations of consoles. Often, one will need graphics on par with the greats for their product to be considered. Although there were exceptions in the cases of Nintendo's Wii U Indie publishing standards and the Xbox Indie market, these were notoriously regarded as terrible pet-projects. On the PC, one may not require high graphical prowess, but one is also naturally in competition, which brings its own intrinsic challenges. Consoles akin to Wii U, Xbox One, and Playstation 4 are simply difficult to create as indie products.

This said, one must cast eyes to the past era of game development. Though historically done by teams belonging to parent companies, these teams often consisted of fewer than twenty members. Game development for Nintendo 64 and Playstation was very much gameplay-oriented, even as graphics were still developing. With graphics still in developing stages, it became necessary that games engage players through gameplay and story. It was still very competitive, as teams struggled to maximize the graphical potential of systems, as seen with Rare's *Donkey Kong 64*, among other published titles. As the awe for older graphics fades with time, they retain novelty in that many older games still play very well, even in comparison to today's standards. Games of this caliber are producible by indie developers today, due to the low graphical standards and moderate need for assets. The only barrier is creativity, and the time one is willing or able to invest.

Earlier, the first generation of consoles, including Nintendo Entertainment System, among others, often had one-man development teams. The majority of assets weren't complex, and the only real prerequisites included coding expertise and basic art sense. Games like these are incredibly basic by today's standards, but back then they were difficult to code because of software and hardware limitations.

Overall, there is a huge demographic looking for games with cinematic, or other visually appealing capabilities. Even then, there is still huge demand for gameplay. A very apt case was made by the Kickstarter Project for a game called *Bloodstained: Ritual of the Night*, a game being directed and produced by the famous *Koji Igarashi*, of *Metroidvania* subgenre 2D platformers. This project received \$5 million over an expected \$500 thousand, amazing all who thought 2D platformers undesirable and unprofitable—just one example of the gaming market's endless ability to surprise.

Can you find it?



This month, we've featured a picture of an object on campus you probably pass countless times each week. But can you identify it? Submit your answer to tamarack@nv.edu for a chance to win a \$10 Dunkin Donuts gift card! Winner will be chosen randomly from correct entries received.

FICTION Feature



In this issue, we introduced you to one of our new staff writers, Trevor Lilly. Along with an interview and article, his October contribution

includes this fiction excerpt. With it, Trevor brings back a longtime newspaper tradition: the serial, a story unfolding over multiple issues. We hope you enjoy this first installment. Look for the story to continue in November and December.

A Day in the Life

Trevor Lilly

I waited. Waited for the screaming to end. Waited for Don's bone-shattering voice to stop shaking the house. It was obvious he'd been drinking again. I could almost smell the alcohol on his breath from my room, where I usually hid when he had his "episodes." His voice got louder. I couldn't quite determine what he was yelling. His words became muffled through the walls, and were probably unintelligible to begin with.

His incessant yelling faded into a clatter of things being flung around the house. I tried to guess what it was each time. A chair, some books, a glass, really anything he felt was in his way.

Eventually he went back to yelling, and I pressed my ear to the floor to at least try to understand what mundane thing pissed him off this time. The only word that was even slightly recognizable was my name, or at least his version of it, which was repeated several times. He rarely ever addressed me by my real name, but instead liked to get creative. To test me.

"Hey, Dickhead!" His voice cut through the floorboards, this time crystal clear.

"Yes," I answered. I tried to play the innocent child. It was the only way I could avoid as much of his bullshit as possible.

"What do you think you're doing?"

Don wasn't like most drunks. Sure, he was violent and impulsive and had incredibly poor coordination. But what he lacked in basic human function, he made up for in a newfound superior intellect. Compared to his sober self, drunk Don could write sonnets backwards. Of course, either way he was a bumbling idiot. But if there's one thing more intimidating than a drunken a-hole who can knock you down within seconds, it's one who can convince you that you deserved it.

"What *should* I be doing?" I probably shouldn't act smug when he's like this; it never really goes well for me. But it sure is fun while it lasts.

"You *should* be getting off your ass and helping your mom make dinner."

"All right, I'll be down in a minute."

My last resort. In special cases when he was too drunk to care, I could hide in my room until he forgot about whatever pissed him off in the first place.

"NOW!"

There really was no getting out of this one.

I got up and made my way to the door. An unsettling silence fell upon the house. I turned the knob and allowed the potent aroma of alcohol and cigarettes to crawl over me, churning my insides and making my eyes water. It is a smell I will never get used to.



Public Safety Department

Routine Number, Ext. 8113.

Emergency Number Ext. 8112

**The department is staffed:
24 hours per day • 365 days per year**

Rock n' Reunion

Steve Delvalle

Back from the dead, the show no-one thought would go on rocked the sold-out MetLife Stadium on a gorgeous July Saturday—delighting 80,000 fighting, screaming, chanting fans. Appropriately billed the “Not in this Lifetime Tour,” the reunited Guns n’ Roses played the New York area for the first time in over twenty years (No Slash = no Guns; that’s like Mick without Keith, or Tyler without Perry). GnR returned with a vengeance, playing everything for a wild 2 hours, 40 minutes. They even started on time.

This was a special show. It happened to be Slash’s birthday. No less than thirty fans got arrested. They even talked about it on Howard Stern; BabaBooey attended and recounted how incredible it was. I’m convinced I’ll never see a better show unless I catch Aerosmith, the Stones, or McCartney.

The band blew away all expectations; it was undoubtedly the greatest show I’ve witnessed. Defying critics, Axl Rose sounded phenomenal, better live than on recording, his snarls and screams every bit as furious as in his prime. Slash was on fire all night with non-stop shredding and feeling-packed solos. Duff McKagan was on point, never missing a beat.

That’s three fifths of the classic lineup. Drummer Steven Adler was absent, unfortunately. Not technically the greatest, he had that chemistry and feeling no one could replicate. Also missing was the illustrious and talented lyricist, rhythmist, sometime lead guitarist Izzy Stradlin. Integral to the band, they fell apart creatively when he quit. Standing in were drummer Frank Ferrer and outstanding

guitarist Richard Fortus, from Axl’s band. Also on hand were keyboardists Melissa Reese and Use Your Illusion-era collaborator Dizzy Reed.

The stage show was a multi-million-dollar production, by a company used by the Stones, U2 and other stadium acts. Complete with huge monitors, lights, pyrotechnics, and a barrage of fireworks, the sound was impeccable. Lenny Kravitz opened with a great set, closing with “Are You Gonna Go My Way?”

Seeing Guns on stage together was surreal; you could tell it was as special for them as for the crowd. They came on strong with “It’s So Easy” into “Mr. Brownstone” and “Welcome To The Jungle.” The set-list comprised tracks from every era, and nearly all the Appetite for Destruction album.

Duff had a great spot singing a punk cover with Slash playing his heart out. There was an intense feeling in the air during “Knockin On Heaven’s Door,” and McKagen paid tribute to old friends with a Lemmy t-shirt and Prince symbol on his bass.

The closer, “Paradise City,” was euphoric, but also sad because we knew the show was finished. It ended with a mad laugh from Axl, an astonishing solo by Slash, and enough fireworks to put July 4th to shame. It was unreal, and the slightly overweight rockers, looking the fifty-something, heavily abused hedonists they are—Slash in his top-hat—were deservedly exhausted at the end.

The colossal stadium had a decidedly empty feeling as the last notes descended into feedback, but we also shared a sense of awe, having experienced something unique and glorious. I think Guns will go down as the last great rock act, the last dangerous, excessive, hedonistic, immensely-talented, raw group. A fitting final explosive end to the greatest era of popular music.

On the Road Again

Trevor Lilly

Last summer, NVCC’s Program Coordinator for Digital Arts Technology, Professor Ray Leite, traveled cross country to attend SIGGRAPH, a huge digital arts convention in Anaheim, CA. This year, as Professor Leite planned his return to SIGGRAPH, he knew it would be a different journey.

When Leite last attended, he realized there was much more to experience outside the convention that he hadn’t gotten the chance to explore last summer. So this time, he came prepared. He devised a full itinerary for a six-day road trip that would allow him to stop at many exciting new places along the way.

Leite’s schedule was fairly straightforward; he traveled around fourteen to sixteen hours per day, stopping roughly every two hours to allow time for sightseeing and exploring. At night, he would go car camping, saving both time and money. His trip would take him through Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, and into California.

On the way, he stopped at several major landmarks, including Hocking Hills State Park in Logan, OH (home of the Old Man’s Cave); The Gateway Arch in Saint Louis, MO; The Wizard of Oz Museum in Wamego, KS; The Great Platte River Road Archway in Kearney, NE (an interactive museum on the Oregon Trail that spans 310 feet suspended over Interstate 80); The Iron Mountain Tramway in Glenwood Springs, CO; various national parks and monuments in Canyonlands such as Arches, Capitol Reef, Grand Staircase Escalante-National Monument, Bryce Canyon, and Zion (Utah’s first national park); the Hoover Dam in Boulder City, NV.

Taking several photos along the way, Professor Leite regularly posted pictures to NVCC’s Digital Arts Technology Facebook page. He also quizzed followers on various locations he visited during his travels, creating an interactive experience for NVCC folks back home. If interested, you can find Leite’s travelogue on the Digital Arts Technology FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/DAT.NVCC/>.

A Fright to Remember

Trevor Lilly



Courtesy of Lake Compounce Website

It’s finally October. And that can mean a number of things. Longer and colder nights, leaves changing, apple picking, scary movies, pumpkin EVERYTHING. But most of all, it means that we can once again celebrate the greatest holiday ever created, Halloween.

And what better way to celebrate such a holiday than to pay a visit to The Haunted Graveyard at Lake Compounce? Located in Bristol, CT, the attraction spans over a mile of winding pathways and takes about 45 minutes from start to finish.

Once inside, patrons take a journey through a myriad of different themed locations including a cemetery, a slaughterhouse, a Mayan temple, a dungeon, a haunted mansion, and many more. Joining them are more than 200 actors who volunteer each year to dress up as monsters and ghouls to scare whoever dares to enter.

The concept for Compounce’s Haunted Graveyard was first conceived in 1999 by a man named Ernie Romegialli, whose six-year-old

daughter was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes. He would decorate their house for Halloween each year to keep her mind off all the candy she couldn’t have due to her condition.

Since then, his idea has grown to be the largest Halloween attraction in New England. But it isn’t just meant to scare people. It also helps raise money for the American Diabetes Association and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. The Haunted Graveyard has raised over a million dollars for diabetes research since its debut.

If you are interested in experiencing The Haunted Graveyard for yourself, you can buy a ticket on their website at <http://hauntedgraveyard.com/hours/>. Patrons have the option of buying an exclusive ticket for The Haunted Graveyard attraction or a combo ticket that grants them full access to the rides and attractions at Lake Compounce as well as admittance to the graveyard. The attraction is open from September 30 to October 30.

Don't Miss!

SGA Meetings – Weds. 4:00-5:00pm L501. All are welcome!

Matthew Westerby Dance Workshop – Sat. Oct. 1, 11:00-3:00pm

Financial Literacy Workshop – Tues. Oct. 4, 3:00-4:30pm; Wed. Oct. 5, 7:00-8:30pm; Tues. Oct. 18, 3:00-4:30pm; Weds. Oct. 19, 7:00-8:30pm L501

SGA Club Expo – Wed. Oct. 5, 11:00-2:30pm Café West

SGA Campus Conversation Series - Safe Haven – Thurs. Oct. 6, 12:00-1:45pm & Mon. Oct. 10, 12:45-1:45pm L501

Mid-Term Exam Cram – Tues. Oct. 11, 9:00am-12:00pm & 5:00-7:00pm E500

Fall Festival – Weds. Oct. 12, 11:30-2:30 pm Plaza

Confluencia – Weds. Oct. 12, 5:30-9:00pm PB

Voter Registration – Thurs. Oct. 13, 12:30-2:00pm E5WW

SGA/Campus Conversation – Mon. Oct. 17, 12:45-1:30pm L501

CJCPO Workshop – Tue Oct. 18, 12:30-1:30pm; Mon Oct.31, 12:30-1:30pm L501

Fall Transfer Fair – Weds. Oct. 19, 11:00-2:00pm

Cystic Fibrosis NVCC Run – Weds. Oct. 19, 1:00-3:00pm Plaza

Campus Conversation Series: Financial Literacy – Thurs. Oct. 20, 12:45-1:45pm L501

Library Spotlight Series: Opposing Viewpoints – Tues Oct. 25, 10:30-12:30 pm L5WW

SGA Halloween Party – Weds. Oct. 26, 11:30-2:00pm Café West

Campus Conversation Series – CAPSS – Thurs. Oct. 27, 12:45-1:45pm L501

IN-HOME IS IN DEMAND.

Caregiving is one of the fastest growing occupations. And one that makes a real difference in someone’s life. But more caregivers are needed. My Place CT helps potential caregivers like you find jobs in home care. Helping your neighbors live independently. Because there’s no place like in-home.

CaringCareers.org



Department of Social Services | The State of Connecticut
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

On Voting and Civic Engagement



A Letter from NVCC's President

My Dear Students,

I am writing to you to urge you to register and to exercise proudly your honor and privilege to vote for

leaders who represent your interests and share your beliefs.

As a woman who emigrated from her native Dominican Republic at the age of 13, I am the happy and proud president of one of the finest community colleges in Connecticut and in the nation, our beloved Naugatuck Valley Community College. It has been a journey marked by hard work and opportunity, supported along the way by caring teachers and professors in public and higher education. I am a believer in the value of public education and above all, in the value of taking full advantage of the rights afforded me as a citizen of this beautiful and generous nation.

My first thirteen years were spent in a country ruled by a dictatorship; a country where women were not involved, for the most part, in political leadership positions and where voting, a right granted to women in the 1940's, was not fully exercised. Years later, as a young U.S. citizen and mother, I was proud to exercise my right. I always took my young children with me into the voting booth, to teach them the importance and the value of my vote. I vote because it is my obligation to vote. I vote because every voice needs to be heard so that we can continue to be a strong and caring nation.

I was blessed to come to the United States in the sixties, a time of change and progress for us, people of color, for women, and for all the people of the United States. I lived to hear Dr. Martin Luther King Jr speak and to have the privilege of having his speeches and writings shape the woman I am today. I evoke now some words from one of my favorite speeches by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "Civil Right No. 1: The Right to Vote"

"Voting is the foundation stone for political action. With it the Negro can eventually vote out of office public officials who bar the

doorway to decent housing, public safety and decent integrated education. It is now obvious that the basic elements so vital to Negro advancement can only be achieved by seeking redress from government at local, state, and federal levels. To do this the vote is essential.

When the full power of the ballot is available to my people, it will not be exercised merely to advance our cause alone. We have learned in the course of our freedom struggle that the needs of twenty million Negroes are not truly separable from those of the nearly two hundred million whites and Negroes in America, all of whom will benefit from a color-blind land of opportunity that provides for the nourishment of each man's body, mind and spirit. Our vote would place in Congress true representatives of the people who would legislate for the Medicare, housing, schools, and jobs required by all men of any color." In New York Magazine (14 March 1965): 26-27 in A Testament of Hope, The Essential Writings and Speeches of Martin Luther King Jr., edited by James M. Washington.

My dear students, if you have not done so, I urge you to register and to have friends and family register to vote. More than ever, taking personal responsibility to ensure that you and yours will cast a ballot on November 8th has become imperative. For it is about power, the power to contribute to the shaping and the fabric of life in this beautiful country. Statistics show that the young of every ethnicity, and African American and Latinos in general, vote in much smaller numbers than the older mainstream population. As Dr. King taught us, we all must be heard and must be counted. Be at the voting booth, exercise your right and be counted, for it is a privilege that was earned by the struggle, suffering and sacrifice of so many who came before you. This is a responsibility that we cannot walk away from. Be there! Silence is not a luxury any of us can afford.

For you and yours I wish a thousand splendid suns and offer many, many thanks. Mil gracias y bendiciones.

Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.
President, Naugatuck Valley Community College



NVCC Business Review

A Donkey, an Elephant and a Human

Maxwell Marino

In this issue, we welcome Maxwell P. Marino, President of the Accounting, Legal, and Finance Club, as a regular columnist.

The opportunity to participate in the United States presidential election is just around the corner. As we creep toward November 8th, the divisive nature of this election seems only more evident. Perhaps the current state of our political climate can at least partially be attributed to what the media conglomerates choose to report. After all, our perception revolves around the information we obtain from various media outlets. Unfortunately, what catches the attention of the viewer will lack the substance that maintains the attention of the voter.

It is not easy to report on political issues without expressing, or at least hinting, at a bias. That being said, today's media outlets play a critical role in keeping the American public informed on updates in the election. Picking and choosing where to source relevant information is a responsibility each voter bears. It is easy to get caught up in the jargon that circulates about our presidential candidates. Both parties construe the same events to support their stance on various issues. Conventional wisdom says to vote within

the constraints of one's related party, and the molds that fit left and right wing voters are moving further apart every day. Despite an affiliation with a specific political party, self-identity becomes eroded when morals and ethics are compromised to ensure that the conventional mold fits. Knowing and comprehending where candidates sit on certain issues takes some digging, but it is crucial in becoming acquainted with them.

The responsibility and opportunity to vote are defining characteristics of patriotism in America, and voting is surely a right we should all celebrate. With this right, comes the power to choose our next President democratically. A lot can happen in four years. Walls can be built, and emails can be deleted. It is up to the voter to decide what they believe in and vote for it. The impact of one vote can sway the scale. Watching both candidates go head-to-head in a moderated environment during the first presidential debate should prove revealing of their character and temperament. Come November; we will elect whom we see as best fit to lead, inspire and celebrate our collective individualism. The strength and influence that the informed voter possesses are unparalleled in The United States of America.

Readers Respond

Dear Editor,

Brittany Bosse's "On the Path to Success" was an outstanding story of courage and determination. Nestor Cruz aspiring to be a neurosurgeon despite not being able to speak until six is truly inspiring. The confidence he has in himself and his ability is remarkably contagious. Seeing what he has been through; being bullied, being in a special education class until 10th grade, and using that as motivation to excel at Cumberland County College is what made this article catch my attention.

This is important to many college students because it portrays perseverance. No matter what grade you averaged in high school or how bad you struggled in class, just believe in yourself and have relentless determination. There is no changing the past. You can only affect what is going to happen tomorrow. As long as you have a goal you want to reach, make it so nothing can stop.

Sincerely, NVCC Student

Dear Editor,

"Freedom Ain't Free," by Nicole Hayes, caught my attention due to the title, but the title and article don't really match; the article is misleading. I planned on reading a military article on how people make sacrifices fighting for our country, so we have freedom. I do understand the author's point: it is unfair wealthy people can buy their freedom and poor people have to serve time until released. The article is also unclear about bond, making a statement how a 16-year-old had a \$10,000 bond and could not pay it, but the family realistically has to come up with \$1,000; the bondsman will pay the rest as long as the teen shows up to court.

This article can be important to some people about how it could be unfair that non-rich people don't have money to bail people out of jail. Some may argue money shouldn't be a factor on release from jail, but others may argue why did they choose the crime in the first place? They should serve their time. Majority of time someone is being arrested...they are guilty.

Chase Dowling

Earth Matters Is It Warm in Here?

Alyssa Katz

Do you know the difference between global warming and global climate change? Most people don't. Global warming is the rise of Earth's surface temperature, while global climate change is the consequence of earth's rising surface temperature. This means all the freaky weather and storms in recent years—the melting ice caps and rising sea levels—are actually climate change effects.

In New England, there should be little chance of tornadoes and hurricanes. But in recent years, the Northeast has been hit, hard. Freakish snowstorms in October, crazy hot and humid summers, and devastatingly damaging hurricanes and tornadoes seem to have become the norm. The question is why do these storms and weather patterns keep occurring?

Yes, ice caps are melting, endangering many animals, along with the people in those glacial areas who rely on the icecaps for agriculture. Oceans have grown warmer, causing more shark sightings closer to shore. Sea levels continue to rise, which predictably causes severe flood damage for coastal cities—costing millions in repairs, as well as lives lost. Better said, global warming and global climate change are both symptoms of an even larger problem: human-caused climate change.

Warming stems from the burning of coal, oil, and gasoline used to heat our homes, run our cars, and create electricity. Greenhouse

gases caused as a result drift into the atmosphere, releasing carbon dioxide, toxic to the ozone layer. As a result, the ozone layer depletes. Its function is to protect us from the sun's ultraviolet radiation, but greenhouse gases compromise the ozone layer's effectiveness. Perhaps this is a factor in the increase in skin cancers.

Some still question the significance of human-caused climate change, believing our contribution can't possibly be as dramatic as that of, say, volcanoes. Volcanoes, in fact, actually cool the earth's surface when they erupt. Not significantly, but scientists have noticed a slight cooling of the surface temperature depending on the eruption. When volcanic dust and ash shoot into the air, they actually block some of the sun's radiation. However, volcanoes also release sulfur, water vapor, and worst of all carbon dioxide, which sort of cancels out the initial cooling. So okay, volcanoes may be a culprit in this overall warming, but we can't control the behavior of a volcano. We can, however, control our own environmental impact.

You may be ask, how can I help? What's done is done. Right? Wrong! There is plenty you can do to help reduce warming and climate change. The Environmental Protection Agency has a multitude of ideas—including recycling and making small life changes—to tackle this growing issue. Follow this link: <https://www3.epa.gov/climatechange/wyacd/> for inspiration. Every little bit helps, so make it count.

Club-Expo

October 5, 2016

11 am - 2 pm

Café West

YOU



Get your photo taken and make front page news!
Courtesy of The DAT Club & The Tamarack.

That's What She Said



Jessica Ney

Skin Deep

We live in a time when our values are based on success. We strive for big paychecks, glory, and recognition. This can place enormous pressure on young women. We already have to fight each day for mutual respect; now we are worried about income status and people's opinions as well. The corporate world is not made for women's success. When women are in charge, they're often titled Ice Queen or Bitch, unlike their male counterparts who are seen as stoic or demanding. We're still not as highly valued by society—consider the persistent wage gap—which leads to unreal pressure on our already over-laden shoulders.

At the same time women are toiling to be taken seriously, we're expected to be pretty. Just not *too* pretty. We may not be considered equal in the workplace, but we are required to look great while working. As usual, a double standard exists. We can be reduced to items when it's convenient, but God forbid a girl bares her shoulders. Then she's pulled aside in the boardroom, or called out in class, because of "distracting" clothing. Women are photoshopped until unrecognizable, "Kardashianized," creating unreal and unachievable standards of physical beauty. These are contributing factors for millions of women and girls who suffer from body dysmorphia, anorexia, and bulimia.

These anxieties hinder women, making it difficult to stand up for ourselves, or to ask for raises or promotions. Most tragically, many women are unable to see their own value. Girls are taking their lives because they feel worthless. I don't want this article to fall in line with other beauty articles. This is a real, out-of-control issue.

I, too, have struggled with these pressures. I have been the girl stuck looking in the mirror, tugging at my clothes, wishing I could change. I have written myself off as incapable, or unattractive. I have failed to love myself as I am. Self-love is a radical concept in our judgmental society. For me, it has been an especially hard fight. It feels vain to throw myself compliments, but newsflash, ladies, it's not. My hope for women everywhere is that we can all find the peace that self-love brings.

Female, male, or other, we all have something to offer, and it is time uniqueness is celebrated. Life is too short to be fearful; happiness is too sweet to allow it to be stolen by misogyny, ignorance, and jealousy. I am beautiful, healthy, and strong. Say it with me: I have meaning. I am dedicated and hardworking, proud of who I am. The fear of tomorrow will not stop me today. Today we must redefine success; we have triumphed just by being alive, and those triumphs will grow each day we trust and love ourselves.

Tamarack Edit Meetings

Fridays, 11:30 - 12:30, S519
ALL WELCOME!!

Honor and Opportunity

Ashley Enger, PTK Chapter President

Phi Theta Kappa is an internationally recognized honor society for community colleges. PTK recognizes outstanding student achievements and offers these students opportunities in leadership, community interaction, and the chance to network with other students who share similar interests or goals. Leadership is an important aspect for success. Students are encouraged to be active members in the community. PTK offers members the possibility of becoming an officer, after serving as an active member of the organization.

Because PTK is an honor society, there are standards to uphold. In order to become a member, a student must have completed 24 hours of

I'm Coming Out!

Nicole Hayes

Every year, we mark calendar days that hold special meaning. National Coming Out Day, October 11th, is not only special for other LGBTQ community members, but for me. On that day, we reflect on our own personal coming out story and sometimes share it with others. This year, I've built up enough courage to share mine.

Rejection is more than an action; it places fear in our lives, forcing us to stay in our safe zones. This brings up the recent shooting in Orlando, which filled many in the LGBTQ community with fear. I once lived in fear, but I will not allow it to reconstruct the person I am destined to be.

Internalizing things that have been projected onto us is hard to overcome. I was thrown into a new environment, moving from a small town to a large city, as my high school journey began. Classmates referred to me as a dyke, frequently questioning me about my sexual orientation. Alone with nobody to confide in, I begged my mother to allow me to switch schools as bitter tears puddled. However, she insisted I not allow others to ruin my happiness. I stayed there as eyes whispered rumors through the poisonous halls.

It wasn't until junior year that I realized my sexual preference. I'd been taught same-sex love was not love and happiness should only be viewed from a heterosexual perspective. This was a very depressing time in my life. I was tired of being viewed differently not only for my sexual orientation, but for the melanin of my skin. Some people assume being gay is a fad, but it's different when you're faced with the reality of being rejected by those who surround you.

I'm choosing my worlds carefully as I write about my mother's reaction when I told her. I'd be lying if I said she didn't hurt me. It wasn't the right time to come out to her, but I wanted to let my dark secret be part of her life. Plus, she pried it out when she noticed I was upset about something. We all know the famous comforting line, "You can tell me anything," so I did. Yet, the only words I could form into a sentence were, "Uh, I don't like boys." Her evergreen irises did more damage than the words spilling from her mouth.

It took her about year to apologize for not accepting my truth and trying to force me to be someone I wasn't. On a side note, around the time I came out to her, Katy Perry's song, "I Kissed a Girl," was constantly on the radio. My eyes would be glued to the car window for the duration of the song.

For almost 5 years, I remained closeted because being gay is seen as controversial. I allowed others to make me feel ashamed. However, I didn't allow them to change me. And for that, my mother reached out recently and said, "This senseless mass shooting in Florida, my dear daughter, is why I worry. As I reflect on the past, this was one of my fears when you came out to me. People judge others when it's not their place to judge. It brings me great sadness that one has to live in fear of who they are. I'm glad I saw past my own fear and ignorance to love you for YOU!"

The significance of her words has shown me the importance of being proud of the person I am. Far too often, LGBTQ voices are silenced. Rejection is a part of life, but we should never allow the opinions of others to rob our sense of happiness.

associate degree course work, with a minimum GPA of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale. Members must also adhere to the school conduct code and possess recognized qualities of citizenship. The purpose of PTK is to help students open as many doors for their future as possible.

For students furthering their education, PTK members have a higher likelihood of acceptance into a four-year school. The majority of universities ask students if they are active members of an honor society. Phi Theta Kappa has helped students further their education with over 90 million dollars of potential scholarship money available to current members.

For information on NVCC's Phi Theta Kappa chapter, contact Professor Greg Harding or Professor Lisa Kaufman, PTK advisors.

RECENTLY READ

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens



Recently, I was given the opportunity to read an epic novel, *Great Expectations*. Written in the latter portion of the 19th century, this Charles Dickens classic remains as important today as it was in the period from whence it comes.

The novel begins with protagonist, Philip "Pip" Pirrip, a young orphan who endures low self-esteem thanks to his older sister, with whom he lives. Already, this novel speaks to a good portion of modern society struggling with similar complex dynamics. Luckily, Pip's brother-in-law, and master blacksmith, Joe, is kind to our hero. The stage is set for the sort of character Dickens favors most: the underdog common man of London. Pip is perhaps one of the most famous and beloved of Dickens' characters, having been portrayed in countless stage plays and movie adaptations of this classic novel.

Meeting a shackled man in a graveyard one night, Pip is intimidated into helping set this man free. We now know—despite Pip being abused by his sister, Miss Joe—he is a caring soul. Next comes the meeting with the eccentric Miss Havisham and her adopted daughter Estella. This is the most important meeting of the novel, for it highlights Pip's idealistic love for the beautiful Estella, and illustrates that the very generous and hardworking young man is also poor and of low status. The reader now recognizes the expectations that will define Pip's life, changing his character from one of humble youth to bourgeois adult.

I will not continue my retelling of this classic, but encourage you to enjoy Dickens' work for yourself. If you've already read this novel, then you know what makes it so relevant to our modern life. If you haven't read it, give it a chance. The idioms of the English language of the 19th century can be daunting, but I'm sure your favorite English professor would enjoy discussing this novel with you.

Great Expectations is a novel of self-exploration and discovery. What more fitting novel could you choose to help guide you in your adventures in education?

Christopher Gordon

“Tell me and I forget.
Teach me and I remember.
Involve me and I learn.”

- Benjamin Franklin

What is Perfect?

Alyssa Katz

There is no such thing as a perfect person; perfection doesn't exist. But are we so high-strung on this idea of perfect that we isolate those who are "different"? Human beings come in all shapes and sizes, and have different thought processes. Those with disabilities, physical or mental, wish to be treated with respect, make friends, and enjoy themselves. People can be cruel, and starting at a young age, kids can definitely make a disabled child feel inferior because they may not be the "perfect," cookie cutter specimen this society desires.

Children don't know any better; they don't understand how hurtful it can be to be judged for being different. Sitting alone in the cafeteria is, perhaps, one of the biggest indicators of difference. Kids will shun a person for looking funny or speaking in an odd way. Growing up, we're told if someone's sitting by themselves at lunch, we should go sit with them. But how many of us really did that? Were we afraid of being embarrassed, of the threat of rumors, of gossip? How did our childish mentality come to only accept kids we considered "perfect"? Whatever the reason, that child sitting alone remained left out because of a difference he or she couldn't help.

A great example of a Good Samaritan act occurred a little over a month ago. An middle

Thank You All



Chris Gordon

Praise for the Patrol

With fall semester in full swing, and midterms fast approaching, stress can quickly build.

While isolated incidents of stress-induced acting out are rare, they do sometimes occur. In the first few weeks of the semester alone, I've witnessed one instance of stress boiling over. Tales of other students being unable to handle the tension have reached my ears as well.

Thankfully, the occasion I witnessed did not escalate to destructiveness or danger, but not every incident ends peacefully on its own. That is why Public Safety is a campus presence for which we can all be thankful. These men and women, former police officers and security guards, monitor the hallways, classrooms, and parking areas at NVCC, insuring all students, faculty, staff, and visitors feel safe.

Public Safety officers are more than mere guards protecting a community from which they stand apart. They are friendly, caring individuals who will remember a particular student and greet her or him as anyone else would. If a student forgets a backpack full of books and notes, the officers will ask about that individual, going the extra mile to help guarantee the safe return of those lost belongings. Gestures such as this are what make our Public Safety personnel so vital.

Unfortunately, as mentioned earlier, the demands of a college workload are sometimes too much for some students. Belligerence can and does happen. This is when the Public Safety officers are at their best. It wouldn't surprise me if fewer than a handful of people even know there have been occasional episodes where Public Safety was called this semester. The officers handle any and all incidents with discretion and professionalism. Following the recent retirement of longtime Public Safety leader, the admired and respected Lieutenant Toni Rinaldi, the department continues to thrive.

As a writer for *The Tamarack*, I feel a strong need to highlight this impressive unit. On behalf of all who have been aided by these exceptional officers, I hope everyone reading my words will join me in offering a hearty "Thank you!" to the officers of NVCC's Public Safety Department.

school student with autism sat alone during lunch. Miraculously, football players from Florida State University were visiting that middle school. When one player in particular noticed the boy by himself, he decided to join him. This encounter made the boy's day, or perhaps it changed his life forever.

What we don't understand when we're little is that we may be hurting someone's feelings by ignoring them because they're different. Adults face the same discrimination, but on a bigger scale. People who are differently-abled are sometimes diminished. People of color still face struggles; members of the LGBTQ community are marginalized or threatened. What happens between children only magnifies as adults. Unfortunately, sometimes ignorance and discrimination grow along with a person. Current events verify the kind of cruelty caused by those who refuse to accept people of difference, those who choose not to coexist peacefully.

Supposedly, we live in a more tolerable world now, so why is the mentality still so negative? Why are there still people who believe only their way is right? We all come in different shapes and sizes. This makes us unique, makes us individuals. Nobody's perfect, nor are we normal. What we are is human, capable of connecting despite our differences. It takes one act of kindness to make someone's day. If each of us made the effort daily, we'd be one step closer to that perfect world.

What will **UB** become?



Matthew Hall '17
General Studies

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