

The Tamarack

Our college. Our news. Our voice.

Naugatuck Valley Community College

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A Nation of Immigrants

Richard Bosco

persecution, others tyranny, war. Many of our ancestors came for a chance at a better life with the hope of freedom, liberty and opportunity.

The saddest part of this current situation is that we, the United States of America, are responsible for helping create many of the catastrophic situations these families are fleeing. The Center for Migration Studies has reported on the dramatic decline in the undocumented U.S. population between 2008 and 2014. A growing percentage of border crossers in recent years have originated in the triangle region of Central America (Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador). Throughout much of the 20th century, the U.S. has contributed to destabilizing all three nations. During the first half of the 20th century, U.S. corporations went into these countries, bribed and corrupted government officials, exploited workers, stole their land, and usurped their natural resources.

The second half of the 20th century saw the U.S. government, in the guise of fighting communism, help put in power conservative, authoritarian, and oppressive regimes. Case in point: in 1954, the CIA orchestrated a military coup in Guatemala, not to stop communism, but to stop a legitimate civil government from instituting land reform in favor of its people. The CIA did this to support United Fruit Company, represented by the former law firm of John Foster Dulles (Secretary of State) and Alan Dulles (Director of the CIA), so it could continue to usurp Guatemalan land and natural resources. Instances of this type happened in all three countries between 1950 and 1990. This destabilization has given rise to the gangs, drug trade, poverty and violence that plagues

all three countries.

We now have our own conservative, authoritarian president who wants to build a 13th-century wall to address 21st-century issues. What's needed is not a wall, but comprehensive immigration laws and policy that uphold people's human rights while supporting and protecting our needs as a nation. Another thing that's needed is for Congress to do its job and put into place realistic, fair immigration laws instead of abdicating its responsibilities to a man whose policies, values, and morals leave much to be desired.

Immigration policy has been a touchstone of American political debate for decades. The issues are complicated; policymakers must weigh out competing economic, security, and humanitarian concerns. Much of our immigration debate and policies focus on enforced border security.

Contrary to popular opinion, undocumented immigrants who either cross our borders illegally or present themselves at legal border crossing points seeking asylum, do not comprise a significant portion of the undocumented population. Instead, individuals who come to the U.S. legally, but overstay their visas, comprise a significant portion of the undocumented. According to a 2014 report by the Center for Migration Studies, individuals who overstayed their visas outnumbered those who arrived by crossing the border illegally by six hundred thousand since 2007.

So, what is the immigrant population in the United States? The Council on Foreign Relations reports immigrants comprise about 14 percent of the U.S. population. According to Census Bureau data, that translates into

approximately forty-three million out of a total of 323 million people. Together, immigrants and their U.S.-born children make up approximately 27 percent of the U.S. population. These figures represent a steady rise since 1970, when there were fewer than ten million immigrants in the United States. But there are proportionally fewer immigrants today than in 1890, when foreign born residents comprised 15 percent of the population.

Immigrants made up approximately 17 percent of the U.S. workforce in 2014, according to the Pew Research Center. Of those, more than two-thirds were in the country legally. Collectively, immigrants comprise a major proportion of domestic, manufacturing, agriculture, and accommodation workers. In other words, immigrants are major contributors to the U.S. economy. Another Pew study found, without immigrants, the U.S. workforce would decline, unless immigration remains stable. If immigration declines, so will our workforce, which means jobs will go unfilled and our gross domestic product (GDP) will decline.

How do Americans feel about immigration? A 2017 Gallup poll found 71 percent of Americans think immigration is a good thing for the U.S. A year earlier, 84 percent of Americans supported a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. A separate Gallup poll found, among Republicans, 76 percent supported a path to citizenship compared to 62 percent support for a proposed border wall. Thus, the American people need to make it clear to Congress we want a fair set of immigration laws, not the regressive policies set forth by Donald Trump's executive orders. Walls and cages should not be America's answer.

That's the United States of America, a nation whose genealogy is made up of immigrants. Whether our families came to this country 400 years—or four seconds—ago, one important fact is true: most of us share immigrant ancestry. The only people living in this country who can rightly claim indigenous status are Native Americans.

We call this nation the land of liberty, and opportunity, but there have been times in our history that have dimmed liberty's torch. These dark examples range from deliberate exclusion of Chinese immigrants in the 19th century to exploitation of Mexican workers in the 20th century, to the cages and detention centers holding children separated from their parents and families today.

These immigrant families, in many instances, have walked hundreds of miles to flee repressive governments, gang violence, domestic and child abuse, and human trafficking. They come here seeking asylum. We meet them at the border, deny them entry, detain them in cages, and then deport them back to untenable situations of violence, corruption, abuse and death.

This administration seems to have forgotten that many of our ancestors came here for the same reasons: some to flee religious

So Much to Celebrate!

Professor Steve Parlato

May 24th, Naugatuck Valley Community College once again outdid itself, filling the historic Palace Theater in downtown Waterbury with excited graduates, families, and friends for its annual commencement ceremony. Among the many degrees and certificates awarded, a number of *Tamarack* staff members earned special distinction.

Of the four NVCC Presidential Medals of Honor awarded to students by President Daisy Cocco De Filippis, three were presented to *Tamarack* staff (a fourth was awarded to President's Circle member, Natalia Hryn). On hand to receive the prestigious honor were two graduates and former Editors-in-Chief: Chelsea Clow and Christopher Gordon. Fellow grad—and Veteran's Voice columnist—Shayne Pratte,

also received a Medal of Honor.

For these three, the honors extended beyond the President's special commemoration. Both Clow and Gordon were also recipients of President-to-President Scholarships. Clow has begun coursework toward her bachelor's degree at Charter Oak State College, and Gordon recently transferred to Western Connecticut State University to pursue his bachelor's.

Pratte, a U.S. Air Force veteran, earned distinction as NVCC Class of 2018 Valedictorian. In a heartfelt address, he praised his fellow graduates, saying, "WE have made it. All of us. Every one of you has done something so many people have not. YOU have completed a degree and pushed yourself to be something

more than you were before. That is what makes us so special."

Special moments continued when, just days after commencement, *The Tamarack* was notified of its success in this year's SPJ Awards. NVCC's paper continued its winning streak, taking home six awards in the Society of Professional Journalists Collegiate Awards category.

The winners were: Editorial/Op-Ed – 1ST PLACE: Alam Khan, "Least Wanted"; General Column/Commentary (A Sweep!) – 1ST PLACE: Jessica Ney, *That's What She Said*, "Faux Fems"; 2ND PLACE: Alam Khan, *Editor's Notebook*, "Diamonds of Wisdom"; 3RD PLACE: Christopher Gordon, *Thank You All*, "Being Brave"; Layout Non-Page 1 – 2ND PLACE: Janice Bielawa, April Issue; and Layout Page 1 – 2ND PLACE: Janice Bielawa, March Issue. Congratulations to all!

When it came to celebrating, Chelsea Clow,

gave *The Tamarack* and NVCC's PTA Program reason to be proud into the summer season. Clow was honored June 28th, in Orlando, FL, at the American Physical Therapy Association's NEXT Conference, where she was one of just three Physical Therapist Assistant Students nationwide to be presented with the Mary McMillan Scholarship.

According to the APTA website, the McMillan Scholarship recognizes students "for superior scholastic ability and measurable potential for future contributions to both the physical therapy profession and the American Physical Therapy Association." Clow was clearly a natural fit.

With so many accolades in 2018, I couldn't be more proud of my *Tamarack* staff and the good work they're doing. With the new academic year just begun, it's nice to reflect on these recent successes—and time stock up on confetti for celebrations to come.



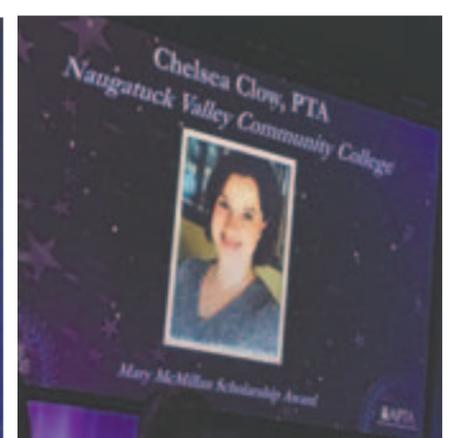
L to R: Grads Christopher Gordon, Shayne Pratte, (with Prof. Parlato) and Chelsea Clow model their Presidential accessories at Commencement.



Pratte (center) poses with faculty mentors, Kate Pelletier and Steve Parlato.



Award earned by *Tamarack* staff in the 2017 SPJ



Chelsea Clow is featured as a Mary McMillan Scholarship winner at APTA's NEXT Conference in Orlando.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



Welcome Back, Scholars!

Being enrolled here at Naugatuck Valley Community College is a nod to a path in the right direction. For those attending NVCC for the first time, there is a world of opportunity within your grasp! For students returning this fall, the events that shaped the previous semester are a reminder of the dedication it took to make sure we did our best, or attempted our best... or promised to do our best this time.

Consequently, having acquired some experience—whether positive or negative—it makes each of us all the better for the next round. Acquired wisdom, whether earned through success or failure, will guide us toward a worthwhile semester, if only we draw upon it. What I'm trying to say here is similar to those inspirational quotes found throughout social media. An example would be the idea that sailors do not gain anything in calm oceans, but instead it is the voyage over rough seas that hones their skills.

Coming off the back end of the summer, most of us feel recharged. It is important to notice that this potential in each of us needs to be replenished during the semesters spent here. How do we continually fill this vessel? We fill it by committing ourselves to our very best, yes, but also by having fun, trying new things, and harnessing others' advice. The last example is peculiar and can even be dangerous.

You see, others' advice needs to be taken proportionately because, as if you are a stem in the wind, it can either force you to be lost in the bellows or break you entirely in the middle from ideals held too stringently. So be open to some advice but not all advice. Be discerning about whose advice you choose to take. Be especially wary of advice that comes from those preaching rhetoric (Insert modern political criminals here).

Finally, I send you all on your journeys into the fall and winter seasons with a quote from Samuel Johnson. "Great works are performed not by strength but by perseverance."

Regards,
Alam Khan
Editor-in-Chief
tamarack@nv.edu

"Fake News" Challenges the Nature of Truth

Mark Kacyrat

Today's increasingly hyper-partisan U.S. political climate, and the dominance of social media platforms, have resulted in intense scrutiny of how the electorate gathers, synthesizes, and disseminates information—how we distinguish fact from fiction. According to the Pew Research Center, as of August 2017, two-thirds of U.S. adults obtained news from social media.

Following the 2016 Presidential Election, the term "fake news" has entered the lexicon of public discourse as a loaded phrase, with different meanings across the political spectrum. President Trump constantly brands any unfavorable portrayal of his presidency as "fake news," calling the press "the enemy of the people."

The concept of fake news as used in academic circles and journalistic enterprise, relevant to social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, etc.), has an evolving definition. Despite this, a clear basis has emerged in defining fake news. Philosopher Axel Gelfert of the University of Berlin, proposes fake news as the "deliberate presentation of (typically false) or misleading claims as news, where the claims are misleading by design."

While fictionalizing "reality" to form false beliefs is not a new phenomenon, an important concept in defining fake news is the source's intent. One key distinction is satirical sources, such as the website, The Onion, and television programming, like The Daily Show. These involve humorous hyperbole for commentary on sociopolitical matters.

The phrase "by design" in Gelfert's definition emphasizes the intent of those disseminating fake news to intentionally deceive their audience, influence public opinion, and spread falsehoods broadly. Where intent is also concerned, is the difference between deliberate deception and other forms of mis- and disinformation.

Although traditional journalism requires vetting of sources and editorial review (following standards of evidence), falsehoods can still slip through. This may be a consequence of honest mistakes (usually swiftly corrected) and/or poor journalistic practices. As stated by Johnathan Albright of Columbia University, "stories are traditionally organized around facts." Albright adds, "...due in part to the plentitude of online sources, however, factual reporting can be displaced by 'alternative narratives'."

Fake news, as defined, is potent not through "mainstream media" but through social media. Internet platforms—Facebook, Twitter, Google (and their business practices)—are at the heart of today's fake news phenomenon, and the efforts to curb its influence. According to M. Mitchell Waldrop in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, origins of today's "fake news" can be historically traced to what researchers called "social spam," in the mid 2000's.

One such researcher, computer scientist

Filippo Menczer, states, individuals "...were creating social sites with junk on them and getting money from the ads." Menczer and fellow Indiana University Bloomington researchers paid attention to early social bookmarking sites including <https://del.icio.us/>. By the 2010's, Waldrop states, Menczer and other observers saw an uptick in fictitious news on topics from a 2010 Massachusetts special election to false stories in 2014 about immigrants carrying the Ebola virus. Regarding the Ebola story, "some politicians wanted to close airports...a lot of that was motivated by the efforts to sow panic," says Menczer.

Waldrop adds, by the 2016 Presidential Election, "social spam" had evolved into "political clickbait." This evolution consisted of "fabricated money-making posts that lured millions of FB, Twitter, and YouTube users into sharing provocative lies..." These include claims of Hilary Clinton selling weapons to the Islamic State, and Pope Francis endorsing Donald Trump. The same source that published the story on the Pope simultaneously published the Pope's "endorsement" of Clinton.

The nature of social network platforms is key. In recent testimony before Congress, asked how Facebook generates revenue, FB CEO, Mark Zuckerberg, stated, "We sell ads." Armed with user data as a "free" service for its users, "you are the product." Services like Facebook deploy mechanisms that track and collect user data, by means of an environment built on a sophisticated infrastructure for uploading, commenting, liking, and sharing between users.

According to Albright, social interactions are at the core of current debate on fake news. Albright argues technologies social media services use to deliver information to users "disrupt the layer of organizational credibility and reputational trust established in the process of professional reporting." There's also an emotional component to sharing, according to Jason Tanz of Wired. Tanz states, "If readers are the new publishers...the best way to get them to share a story is by appealing to their feelings."

Harvard's Yochai Benkler has expressed the ubiquitous fear that this situation is preventing "reasoned disagreements and productive compromise." Consequences involve the creation of entrenched ideological echo chambers and increasing tribalism, according to Albright.

Solutions to the fake news phenomenon are unclear and can have unintended consequences. Waldrop questions how platforms will respect the right to free speech while deciding what's unacceptable. Ethan Zuckerman of the Center for Civic Media at MIT believes attempts to regulate fake news could backfire. He argues, "Blocking this stuff gives it more power." While it's widely known social media platforms have been attempting to deal with fake news in myriad ways, long-term effectiveness of their experiments remains to be seen.

Of Interest and Importance

Karlene Ball, ESL Program Coordinator

Hispanic Heritage Month

The Hispanic Student Union will be celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 – October 15, 2018. We hope you'll join us for events during the month-long celebration. For more information, please contact Karlene Ball, Advisor for the HSU at kball@nv.edu.

Continue to Fight for "Independence" of DACA Recipients

As I was rereading Versos Sencillos by José Martí who devoted himself to Cuban independence, I couldn't help but think of how

much our DACA recipients need us to help them in their fight for "independence."

De Versos Sencillos

José Martí
 ¡Yo quiero, cuando me muera
 Sin patria, pero sin amo,
 Tener en mi losa un ramo
 De flores, y una bandera!

Taken from Simple Lyrics

José Martí
 I want when I die,
 Without country, but without master
 To have on my gravestone a bouquet
 Of flowers, and a flag.
 (Translation by Donald Walsh)

SGA PRESIDENT



Welcome to Fall 2018!

Happy new school year! If you're anything like me, you are excited to get the new school year rolling. For me, it's not just that I love school but it's also because of all the activities we have planned for this academic year. The Student Government Association has many events in the works for fall.

We're starting with a Constitution Trivia event in Cafe West, on Monday, September 17th, from 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM. Brush up on your constitutional knowledge, bring a friend, join (or start) a team, and compete for prizes and bragging rights!

Next up is our Family Movie Night, Friday, September 21st, from 5:30 – 9:00 PM. Bring a group of friends, a family member, or just come yourself. We'll be enjoying refreshments and a film under the stars!

Additionally, you'll want to mark your calendar for the first SGA meeting, which will take place Wednesday, September 26th from 4:00 – 5:00 PM in L501. SGA meetings are a great way to make friends and get involved! The meetings are open to everyone, but if you are interested in getting a deeper involvement, then you can pick up a senator's application in our office, S516, in the Prism Lounge. If you're a bit apprehensive about becoming a senator, there are plenty of clubs to join, representing just about every interest.

I know the new school year can be scary, especially if it's your first year, but NVCC has such a strong community it's hard not to make friends. If you have questions about anything at all, the SGA officers are always more than willing to help. You can swing by our office, S516, or give us a call at 203-596-2185 for information and answers. We look forward to meeting you!

Tabitha Cruz

Recent Grad Update

Christian Cruz

Hello again, *Tamarack* readers. My name's Christian Cruz, and you may recognize me from my work in previous issues of the newspaper. I graduated from NVCC in May, and I just wanted to give the community here an update on my new ventures as someone who has just obtained his associates degree.

I intended to attend Eastern Connecticut State University, but I've had a change of plans. I personally felt overwhelmed by the idea of spending so much money at once on loans to attend a four-year school. I felt like I needed to take a step back and rethink my plan for a bit.

On a more positive note, I received a late-in-the-game job opportunity to continue to work here at the NVCC library. I was ecstatic to be able to have a reason to come back on campus and still be a part of this community. I do plan on furthering my education by taking more classes here at NVCC and boosting my GPA a bit before I begin to search for additional college opportunities out there. Until then, I'll be working a lot, both on my education and in the workforce to gain the necessary funds to make my transition a lot easier this time.

Maybe I'll figure it all out by the end of fall semester or even spring next year. All I know is this time I will ask more questions and go into it more prepared than last time. And for now, I'm happy to remain part of the NVCC library and *Tamarack* staff. See you in the halls!

Public Safety
Department



Routine Number, Ext. 58113.

Emergency Number Ext. 58112

The department is staffed:

24 hours per day • 365 days per year

Stock the NVCC Pantry

Special to The Tamarack

The following is excerpted from the August 16th Weekly Bulletin.

The NVCC Student Food Pantry will reopen for the new academic year. The Pantry is modeled after food pantries currently operating on college campuses nationwide, which have emerged as food insecurity has been identified as a barrier to college success. Food insecurity, much like at the elementary and secondary levels has an impact on educational performance, persistence, and retention. As you know, Waterbury and the surrounding areas have a high level of poverty and this impacts many of our students and their families.

Please consider joining us in this important endeavor by bringing a needed item to the All College meeting on Friday, 9/07/18 in the Founders Hall Community Room. The items we are requesting are the most in demand at college pantries and include:

Cooking oil	Spices
Tuna	Rice
Beans	Pasta sauce

Efforts to keep the pantry shelves filled will be ongoing throughout the semester. Stay tuned for updates on pantry hours of operation, take advantage of this important resource, and be sure to spread the word to students who may be experiencing food insecurity.

The Tamarack

"Standing, like a resolute tree, as your source for news."

Editorial

Alam Khan, *Editor-in-Chief*
Christopher Gordon, *Editor Emeritus*
Chelsea Clow, *Editor Emeritus*

Alexander Wilson, *Senior Staff Writer*
Nicole Hayes, *Emeritus Senior Staff Writer*
Richard Bosco, *Emeritus Senior Staff Writer*

Christian Cruz, *Staff Writer*
Bethany Dvilinskas, *Alumni Contributor*
Mark Kacyrat, *Staff Writer*
Alyssa Katz, *Alumni Contributor/Editor*
Mitchell Maknis, *Staff Writer/Editor*
Gwenydd Miller, *Staff Writer*
Matthew O. Spence, *Staff Writer*
Imani Stewart, *Staff Writer*

Tabitha Cruz, Bethany Dvilinskas, Christopher Gordon,
Bonnie Goulet, Jaime Hammond, Alyssa Katz, Jessica
Ney, Alexander Wilson, *Columnists*

Karlene Ball, Jane Courlet, Sandra Eddy, Joseph Faryniarz,
Travis Feder, Dominic Frasca, Rachel Galas, Nikki McGary,
Christopher Rempfer, Brandon Smith, Sandra Valente,
Claudia Ward-de Leon, *Guest Contributors*

Art

Janice Bielawa, *Creative Director*

Web/Video

Daniella Cruz, *Webmaster*

Faculty Advisor

Prof. Steve Parlato

Consulting Faculty

Prof. Ray Leite, *Design/Online*

Join us! Weekly editorial meetings,
Tues. 2:00 p.m., \$519

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EDITORIAL

Seriously?!

There aren't enough exclamation points and question marks in the world to emphasize how I feel about humanity right now. The biggest question I have is "What the hell are you people doing?" It seems like every other day I see some horror story on the news, and it reads like it's straight from an article for The Onion! I'm just so sick of Trump's policies and inhumanity dominating the news circuit. All we are doing is giving a platform to a grade school bully who thrives off attention, no matter how he gets it.

Trump is unintelligent, disrespectful, crude, and just an overall unpleasant human. I want him out, and soon. Of course, I, along with 65,853,513 others didn't want him in the White House in the first place. He won because of several faults in the U.S. voting system.

Fellow students, I beg you, vote. We're a fast growing generation and we are the future. We matter just as much as anyone else on this planet. We need to vote in order to make a change. Yes, your vote really does matter!

We wouldn't be in this mess if 1) People actually gave a crap and went to vote; 2) People didn't vote third party candidates that had close to no chance of winning; and 3) People didn't throw away their vote by writing in Harambe.

Seriously, folks, it's time to put your head back on your shoulders instead of up your ass and think about the country as a whole. Your vote doesn't just affect you; it affects everyone. Get out there, educate yourselves about the candidates, and vote in the upcoming elections. You've got an important role to play on Election Day. But in order to do it, you need to register—as either Republican or Democrat, I don't really care which at this point. Just freaking do it, and, for God's sake, VOTE!

Tamarack EDIT MEETINGS

**Tuesdays 2:00 pm, \$519
ALL WELCOME!!**

NEXT 2018 Orlando, Florida

Brandon Smith



It was a privilege to attend NEXT 2018 in Orlando, Florida. NEXT is an educational annual event at the national level. It is available to Physical Therapists, Physical Therapist Assistants, and students and is one of the biggest events in our profession. As a student without a background in the medical field, it served well in exposing me to my future profession as a Physical Therapist Assistant.

Anyone familiar with allied health programs knows every health profession has its own specialties, and that includes Physical Therapy. The lectures in this conference were all focused on a certain specialty, whether it was aquatic therapy, spinal cord recovery, inpatient rehab, etc. This gave us the chance to learn about specialties we may not get to learn in our curriculum. We were provided with education on new equipment coming to our field, advances in the medical field, and proper techniques of patient treatment to ensure patients receive the best possible care, and we protect ourselves at the same time.

Unfortunately, it was impossible to attend all the lectures we were interested in due to

"Lectures in this conference... gave us the chance to learn about specialties we may not get to learn in our curriculum."

the vast number of lectures in a short time span. This forced us to prioritize which lectures would be most beneficial to us and our class, which is why participation in national events like NEXT is so important.

In addition to lectures, we were able to engage with representatives from around the country at the Exhibit Hall. Each exhibitor brought some kind of new device or piece of equipment we were able to sample. Probably the most intriguing device we were able to try was the zero-g treadmill. This treadmill had the ability to completely unload our body weight as if there wasn't gravity, so we could simulate normal gait patterns without the impact on an injury site. There were so many other cool tools and gadgets at the Exhibit Hall we didn't get to see, but this was my favorite part of the trip because we could check out new equipment for our profession at our own pace.

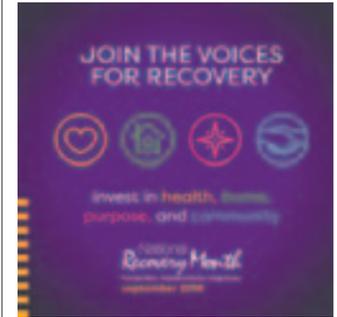
Our school and our state had a large presence at this event. At the annual award ceremony, our school was represented twice. Jim Smith, the first director of the PTA Program at NVCC, was presented the Lucy Blair Service Award. And Chelsea Clow, a recent graduate from our program, was presented the Mary McMillan award. Both awards are among the highest honors available, so it was nice to see our school represented twice.

After the main events at NEXT wrapped up, the conference ended with the Oxford Debate. This debate between two teams of PT's took a serious topic related to our profession and eased the mood by hyping up the crowd with spontaneous behaviors and ridiculous apparel. The goal for the debate was to gain the support of the crowd to determine the winner of each side. This year's debate topic was whether nutrition should be included in our scope of practice. This was by far the most entertaining event held at NEXT, though it was hard to follow at times. At one point, one debaters (dressed as a slice of bacon) started making a smoothie by peddling a bike, while one of his teammates ordered a pizza in the middle of the opposing side's argument. I believe the side against incorporating nutrition into our field won, but I'm not convinced anyone was paying attention once the debaters started singing.

NEXT was very well organized and I'm appreciative to have been given the chance to attend this year's conference. It's unfortunate this experience can't be recreated for those who wanted to go but couldn't. I hope it's now clear why we should have more opportunities to engage in national events like NEXT.

National Recovery Month and the Overdose Crisis

Dr. Sandra Valente, DARC Program Coordinator, Psychology Professor



The need for substance abuse and mental health services was at the forefront of my mind as I listened to the Channel 8 News report August 16th about 70 overdoses on the New Haven Green. Individuals were consuming K2, a synthetic form of marijuana, and within seconds, lapsing into unconsciousness. As EMTs responded to one person, another began to overdose. If not for Narcan, most wouldn't have survived. One shocking fact is that many who overdosed went back to the green after being discharged from the ER, used K2 again, and overdosed a second, or even a third, time. It was determined the substance being ingested was laced with fentanyl, which is 50-100 times more potent than morphine.

Deaths due to opiate use, and other drugs laced with fentanyl, are on the rise, and there is a need to educate the public that recovery is possible. People struggling with substance use disorders need to know what resources are available, and HOW to access them. There is also a need to reduce stigma associated with having a substance use or mental health disorder. Many people who use drugs are ashamed and embarrassed, which impedes seeking treatment. There were 70 ODs August 16th, yet no one died, because Narcan was very effective in reversing the overdose and respiratory depression caused by ingesting K2. Learning how to administer Narcan can save a life.

September is recognized as National Recovery Month; its purpose is to educate people about substance abuse and mental health services and treatment, allowing those with such disorders to live healthy, productive lives. How can you help? ADVOCATE, EDUCATE, PARTICIPATE!

1. Advocate for those struggling with addiction by talking with local legislators to promote accessibility to treatment, and increased need for addiction counselors. Help students and others who are struggling by connecting them with resources they need to recover.

2. Educate to clear up misperceptions and reduce stigma. Learn how to use Narcan to prevent an overdose and save a life.

3. Participate in Recovery Activities such as the events listed below:

- Top of Form
- Bottom of Form
- Walk Supporting Addiction Recovery: The Woodbury-Bethlehem Parent Connection will hold its 11th annual walk and candlelight vigil at Woodbury's Hollow Park, Friday, September 7, 2018.
- Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR) Recovery Walk in Hartford - September 19th
- Special Screening of *The Anonymous People* at Ridgefield Playhouse - September 26th

This academic year, NVCC will implement Opiate Awareness and Education activities beginning in September as part of a 2nd year, \$10,000 grant, awarded to me, Dr. Valente, as grant lead. As we begin the 2018-2019 academic year, think about what you can do to *Advocate, Educate and Participate*, in an effort to promote recovery among our beloved community.

NARCAN TRAININGS: Information about trainings on campus will be posted soon. These will be offered monthly, with availability of obtaining a Narcan prescription after training. Contact Dr. Valente for further information at (203) 596-8655 or svalente@nv.edu.

Social Justice, Year Two

Kathy Taylor and Nikk McGary

Welcome! We hope you are starting the semester energized, encouraged, and enthusiastically looking forward to all NVCC has to offer! Fall 2018 ushers in the second year of the Social Justice Series. If you haven't heard about it or attended any of the events, the Social Justice Series, launched in 2017, by Professors Nikki McGary, PhD and Kathy Taylor, Esq. is all about raising awareness, encouraging critical thinking, provoking healthy debate, challenging assumptions, promoting civil responsibility, and engaging the college community. We tackle societal issues, challenges, stereotypes, discrimination—all in a forum where respectful conversation is encouraged. Join us!

This year's theme is *Change and Challenges*. From the state of our political discourse to our responsibilities to our communities, this semester is all about being aware and getting involved. Check out the Social Justice Series Fall 2018 offerings. We're an extension of the classroom and a place where you need to be!

Social Justice Series Fall 2018 *Change and Challenges*

Raising Voices, Raising Awareness A Panel of Local Activists

Th. 9/20 @ 11:10am in L501

A panel of local activists spanning a range of social issues will discuss their efforts, challenges and successes as they promote positive change in our local communities. More details will be provided in September.

Shaping Our Thoughts

the "Miseducation" of the American Mind
M. 10/8 @ 12:45pm in L501

In today's increasingly polarized political discourse, people often take a side, confirm their position, and deliberately discount contrary information. In this interactive workshop, participants will assess how opinions are formed, manipulated, and distorted. Its basically «Disinformation 101» and participants will leave questioning beliefs and wanting to learn more about the claims, information, and images they receive through the media.

Voting Rights... or is it a privilege, and/or a responsibility?

Tu. 10/30 @ 11:10am in L501

With the election days away, this discussion will center on one critical question, "Is voting a right, privilege or a responsibility?" Based on the multiple ways individuals may answer this question, the workshop will explore current voting restrictions, voting rules, and ultimately, the impact on our Democracy.

Conversation Starter

How Will I Make a Difference?

W. 11/28 @ 12:45pm in L501

Each year, the Social Justice Series will hold at least one "conversation starter" focusing on a select question relevant to the overall theme. Our current theme is *Change and Challenges*, and we will ask participants about the social justice issues that they care about most, and explore real-life strategies that will help create the change(s) that they want to see in the world.

Happenings @ Other Colleges

Alyssa Katz



Oxford University

From August through January, Oxford University in Oxford, England, will be offer-

ing a trip to the local Ashmolean Museum to view an exhibition titled, "Spellbound: Magic, Ritual, and Witchcraft". According to the university, "...this exhibition shows our use of magic is driven by our strongest emotions: the need to be loved, our fear of evil and the desire to protect our homes." The "tendency to think magically" has caused persecutions of witches, mostly targeting women. Even after many centuries, the thought processes of such ideals have not changed much. Local artists have created pieces for this exhibit depicting past and present with spellbinding themes.

<https://www.ashmolean.org/spellbound>



Stanford University

In California from September 13th-14th, Stanford will host a two-day workshop, the

Nonprofit Management Institute. "Toward Real Change: Diversity, Equity, And Inclusion" focuses not just on non-profit organizations, but also other businesses and even politics, spotlighting issues that have existed for decades such as sexual harassment, gender-biased wage-gaps, and so on. Non-profit organizations in particular aim to make social innovations, so tackling these issues of diversity, inclusion, and equity is of utmost importance. Scholars and researchers will be brought in to discuss these issues and ways they can be solved. The workshop isn't just about the awareness, it's also about acting on it to create needed change.

<https://events.stanford.edu/events/792/79247/>



University of Toronto

September 20th in Toronto, Canada, The Rotman School of Management will host a seminar with author Jonah Sachs speaking about his latest book, *Unsafe Thinking: How to be Nimble and*

Bold When You Need It Most. Sachs' book details how well-known business people became successful because of risks they took, thinking outside the box, not playing it safe. The book tells stories of CEOs, Nobel Prize-winning doctors, business executives, and so on, stepping out of their comfort zones and taking risks to become successful.

<http://www.rotman.utoronto.ca/ProfessionalDevelopment/Events/UpcomingEvents/20180920JonahSachs>



Boston College

September 10th, contemporary artist, Carrie Weems, will give a lecture, "Don't

Let Me Be Lonely". As an influential contemporary artist, Weems has studied and investigated a range of topics from family relationships to sexism to consequences of power, and turned them into pieces of art through using media. She has also participated and collaborated in numerous solo and group exhibits at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Frist Center for Visual Art, the Solomon Guggenheim Museum, and elsewhere. Her lecture ties into her exhibit on display through December at McMullen Museum of Art.

http://events.bc.edu/event/dont_let_me_be_lonely_a_lecture_by_carrie_mae_weems#W3C3XMspA0M

From Russia with Love

Richard Bosco



From Russia with Love marked Sean Connery's second film appearance as master spy, James Bond. No, this piece is not about Connery or the movie. It is about Special Prosecutor Robert Mueller and

the Russia Investigation. There are parallels between the movie's plot and the thickening plot revolving around Donald Trump, his campaign staff, Vladimir Putin, his military intelligence agency and its cyberattacks on the 2016 U.S. Presidential election. These attacks on our democracy and election system continue today.

In the Bond movie, Spectre is trying to kill James Bond in retaliation for his having killed Dr. No. The parallel lies with Donald Trump, his attorneys, and Trump's allies in the U.S. House of Representatives as they continually try to impugn Mueller's reputation in their ongoing efforts to kill the investigation.

All 17 of our intelligence agencies have maintained Russian attacks on the 2016 election did occur. This was reported not just by Obama-era intelligence directors but by Trump's own appointees. On July 3, 2018 the U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee unanimously backed the 17 intelligence agencies, confirming that Russian Intelligence, on Vladimir Putin's orders, had indeed meddled in our 2016 election. So why do this president and his staff continue to attack our intelligence agencies and the investigation? What have Trump and his cohort got to hide?

Is it that there was a conspiracy hatched by Russians with ties to the Kremlin, during that now infamous Trump Tower meeting involving Donald Jr., son-in-law Jared Kushner, Paul Manafort, and others. There certainly appears to a deep culture of lies and subterfuge starting

with the president himself. Is that why he's so angry and nervous about this investigation; is Mueller's team getting too close for comfort?

What exactly has the Mueller Investigation come up with so far? As of July 13, charges had been filed against 12 Russian GRU Intelligence officers. Also, special council Mueller's team has either indicted or gotten guilty pleas from 32 people and three companies. That group is comprised of four former Trump advisors, 26 Russian nationals, three Russian companies (mostly likely GRU fronts for internet trolls, bots and disinformation), a California man, and a London-based lawyer. Five of these people (including three former Trump aides) have already pleaded guilty. It should be noted, no charges against Americans or Trump advisors, so far, have directly alleged they worked with Russia to interfere with the 2016 campaign or election.

Paul Manafort, former Trump campaign manager, is, as of August 17, 2018, on trial in Washington D.C. on 23 counts of conspiracy, money-laundering, tax evasion, false statements and witness tampering—all charges are related to Manafort's work for Ukrainian politicians before he joined the Trump campaign. The case has gone to the jury. We await their verdict.

A few things need to be considered. In the case of Paul Manafort, why would an innocent man tamper with witnesses? Why does a president who claims there was no collusion (the legal term is conspiracy) try to influence the investigation by firing the F.B.I. Director? For what reason would a president who claims he and his team are innocent of wrongdoing continually attack an investigation concerning our national security? Finally, why does a president who claims to respect the rule of law and the U.S. Constitution continually attack the free press, sowing division and discord among our citizenry? In this case, reality trumps Hollywood drama.



CAPSS CORNER

What's in a Name?

Higher Education has a love affair with acronyms. Did you fill out your FAFSA? Have you been to tutoring in the ACE? Are you a STEM major? While an acronym is often easier than the alternative of having to say the full name, there is a danger of losing some of the meaning.

The Center for Academic Planning and Student Success is a prime example. To save both time and breath, the acronym CAPSS is typically used when referring to this office. The problem is that many students never know what CAPSS stands for or what the office can offer them. Although long, the title Center for Academic Planning and Student Success makes a bold statement of what can be provided to students who use the services of this office.

The CAPSS office touches students' lives from their first testing or advising session, to the day they walk across the stage at graduation. Advising and academic planning for General Studies and Liberal Arts students is the main focus of CAPSS, but we are able to provide so much more to students. Transfer planning, TEAS, CLEP, and Credit by Exam testing, Disability Services, advising for application to Allied Health programs, degree evaluations, career and personal counseling, are all offered in CAPSS.

Education is often looked at as a journey; the best way to be successful on any journey is to devise a plan. CAPSS staff would like to help you with crafting and completing your plan. If you think you would benefit from any of these services, or you just want to meet some nice people who care about your educational goals and success, stop by the CAPSS office in Kinney Hall RM 520 Monday through Thursday 8:00 am to 6:00 pm or on Fridays 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

Looking forward to meeting you!

Bonnie Goulet,

Director of Student Development Services

"And now let us welcome the new [academic] year, full of things that never were."

– Rainer Maria Rilke, Bohemian-Austrian poet and novelist

Honoring Adjuncts

A Call to Honor

Steve Parlato

While attending Wesleyan University to earn a Master of Arts Liberal Studies, I had an opportunity to work with incredible professors, mostly longtime, full-time academics at the prestigious institution. Tenure-track faculty, they were committed to long-term institutional success.

One English professor has, for twenty-plus years, run the nationally-recognized Wesleyan Summer Writers Conference. My theater professor earned emeritus status after devoting much of his professional life to Wesleyan. Yet another professor later became Wesleyan's provost. While it was a benefit to study with these individuals, there were two others, visiting faculty members—akin to our adjuncts—who, simply and without exaggeration, changed my life.

These incredible educators bookended my time at Wesleyan. Anne Devereaux Jordan

was professor of my very first class, Studies in Adolescent Fiction. Edwina Trentham (at the time, a full professor at Asnuntuck CC who devoted summers to Wesleyan) was my final masters prof, presiding over a course in which we wrote poetry and short fiction. Both of these adjunct professors gave me a gift I'll call a rediscovery of self.

In Jordan's class, I made initial, hesitant attempts at writing a novel, penning four chapters of what would become my YA debut, *The Namesake*. When I submitted my first chapter, Anne responded, "I don't want any more short reaction papers from you. Let's see where this story goes." Yep, life-changing.

As for Edwina—who's since become a dear friend—one afternoon, as I ate a salad on the lawn before class, she said, "You are a real writer. You need to take your work seriously by submitting for publication." Though

I doubted myself, I trusted her implicitly. I took her advice and have never looked back.

Without these two, my life would likely be very different. As a teacher, I draw upon the wisdom and expertise of Edwina frequently. My teaching style is a direct reflection of what I've learned from her. Without Anne's early belief, I would likely not have persisted in writing a novel.

This trip of memory isn't merely my chance to share precious personal anecdotes. It's a reminder of the oft-overlooked treasure present at NVCC every day. Our institution couldn't function without our adjunct faculty. Though they lack the permanence of individual office space and benefits, they're some of the most committed individuals I know.

Having been an adjunct here for many years, I understand the challenges they face—and I have a deep respect for the work they do. It's why we created this column, *The Tamarack's* attempt to pay tribute to our part-time faculty for their full-time impact. If there's an adjunct you'd like featured in a future issue, contact us at tamarack@nv.edu. Let us—and them—know how they've changed your life.

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No Experience Necessary!! Meetings: Tuesday 2:00 - 3:00 pm, S519 // tamarack@nv.edu



Introducing Our Student Government



SGA President, Tabitha Cruz

First I would like to express how grateful I am to be the Student Government Association's President for the 2018 - 2019 academic year. I am anxious for the semester and all the hard work ahead, yet I am also super excited to see what the future holds. Having already been SGA Vice President last year, I know my way around the office, so I'm not totally nervous, but I still have plenty to learn!

The other SGA officers and I have been planning so much for the fall, and I can't wait for everyone to see all the hip and happening things to come. I'm glad that I've had a hand in creating some of the upcoming events, like our "Karaoke Power Hour" and the "Family Movie Night." Of course I can't take all the credit; without my fellow officers, none of our campus events would happen! Ana, Abigail and Abimelec are all equally passionate about NVCC and the work we do as the SGA. I like to believe that together we create a strong and capable team dynamic.

As far as academics go, I am entering my third semester as a music major, but I still don't know exactly what I want to be yet. That's okay, though, because I'm content with the sole fact that I am learning about something I love and am passionate about. I'm still young and there's no need to rush when it comes to my future, I

did only just finish my first year of college. I am not completely path-less! I do have ideas as to what I want to do in the future. Maybe I'll teach, or maybe I'll create my own music. Maybe I'll win a Grammy!

Regardless of the path I do choose, I know NVCC is going to help me get there. That's one reason I'm excited about my role with the SGA. It gives me a chance to give back to NVCC. I cannot wait to see what the future holds, not only as a student but as your SGA President.



SGA Vice President, Ana Cruz

I am a Liberal Arts major and have been attending classes here at NVCC for the past two years. I've been a member of the Hispanic Student Union and Agro-Bio Club and also served as an SGA senator for the past year. I have also worked in the ACE as a tutor and will soon be starting as a student worker at the campus library.

In all the time I've spent here, I have volunteered at many events and have not shied away from any opportunity to help out. As you might guess from the list of things I am involved in, as far back as I can remember, I have never been able to stand still for long without needing to work on something.

In the coming academic year, I will be serving as the SGA Vice President, and nothing could make me more humbled and excited. After all, as the youngest of six children who

have all attended NVCC at one time or another, this school has been a part of my life for years. So the opportunity to put myself to work within these halls is amazing to me! As we all head into a new year of juggling our classes and the rest of our crazy lives, I am looking forward to working towards my goals alongside all of you!



SGA Secretary, Abimelec Salgado

My name is Abimelec Salgado, and I'm excited to be the new SGA Secretary this year. I am an Engineering Science Major at NVCC. I have aspired to become an architect from a young age, when I was introduced to the world of construction at 10. Ultimately, my goal is to create my own organization called Teach One Build One, which will focus on helping the next generation meet its challenges, while maintaining the importance of education. But I am more than just the SGA Secretary; I am also a volunteer, mentor with CREAR Futuros, and a survivor.

That's right, a survivor. When I was three, I fell from a fourth-story window. After almost a month in Montefiore Hospital, with a ton of strength and luck, I managed to get back up and keep moving forward. There was a cost to my accident though, one that left me the target of bullying and abuse. Because I was faced with many challenges, I was able to grow and understand

the power of advocacy. That is why I work so hard to take care of people, and what will drive my efforts for all the students here at NVCC.



SGA Treasurer, Abigail Ramirez

I'm currently working toward a degree in Criminal Justice - Forensics. Not only am I just the second child in my family to graduate high school, I will be the first to graduate college. After I graduate from NVCC, my plan is to attend the University of New Haven to complete my bachelors and masters degrees.

At times, it was hard to believe I would ever get here, but I found the courage to push myself, and it worked, because here I am. Now that I'm here at NVCC, I've been able to get involved with activities around campus. I'm proud to have served as the Hispanic Student Union President and as a senator in the Student Government Association. In addition to those roles, I'm employed as a student worker.

It was an awesome experience to have been SGA Treasurer last year, and this semester, I'm excited to return to the role of Treasurer. We have plenty of exciting events planned for this academic year, and I encourage you to get involved.

NVCC has become a big part of my life, and I'm grateful for the many friends who've made an impact on me. They are all an inspiration in helping me reach my goals. Because of the inspiring people I've met here at NVCC, I have a second important goal: to pay it forward and inspire everyone I meet. Stop by the SGA office to say hello. I look forward to meeting you!

Center for Teaching A Note from the New Co-Chairs

Nikki McGary and Chris Rempfer

Hi! Welcome back—and welcome to—the start of an exciting year for CFT at NVCC. As the new Co-Chairs of the Center for Teaching, we, Nikki McGary and Chris Rempfer, would like to tell you why CFT plays such a central role in our teaching and professional development. While we both have advanced degrees (Nikki has an MA in Anthropology and an MA and PhD in Sociology; Chris has an MFA in English/Creative Writing), nothing completely prepares you for teaching in the college classroom.

Before we became full-time faculty at NVCC in fall of 2016, we each taught for about ten years at several colleges and universities in Connecticut and New York City—and that experience provided an invaluable foundation for developing our teaching strategies and forming our pedagogical philosophies. But, teaching can also be a rather isolating experience. Whether part-time or full-time, we all struggle to balance the responsibilities of teaching and service. Finding the time to learn from and inspire one another can be challenging.

This is where CFT is vital. For us, attending workshops, brown bags, Ted Talk discussions, and professional development activities sponsored by CFT provided support and resources that improved our teaching skills. But also importantly, CFT fosters a sense of community and collegiality, bridging the gap between divisions and disciplines, and part-time and full-time faculty. By sharing support and expertise among fellow teachers whose goal is to share teaching strategies and spread the insights and innovations we all develop in our classrooms, we rely on each other to help students achieve their academic goals.

So, that's where we have been. Now about where we are going! In 2018-19, CFT seeks to be the professional development connection

for ALL OF US who teach—part-time faculty, full-time faculty, and staff. We want to carry the energy that percolates in our workshops and programming out into the hallways, classrooms, and buildings that connect the NVCC campus and make us the vibrant place we are. So, look for us and look for our announcements of activities in the Weekly Bulletin, in your e-mail inbox, and on our new Blackboard site re-launching this year. All teachers will have access to this platform and we will build a teaching resource center that we can all contribute to and learn from.

Speaking of percolating, we're launching a CFT Traveling Teacher's Lounge that will roam throughout the campus offering teachers a complimentary cup of coffee (hopefully when they need it most!). It's basically a coffee cart—but, hey, who doesn't like a coffee cart? Most importantly, it's a small gesture to say "Thank you, good job!" and "Keep up the good work!"

In addition to regular workshops and brown bags, here are some of events on tap for 2018-19:

- Adjunct Appreciation Day (and other Adjunct support on an on-going basis)
- Promotion Workshops
- "Additional Responsibilities" (AR) Workshops
- Holiday Open House and Holiday Donation Project sponsored by CFT
- Regular updates and communication in NVCC's Weekly Bulletin

And, anything else we can help with that you need. Keep calm. TEACH ON!

Cheers, and hope you have a great start to the semester,

Nikki & Chris.
nmcgary@nv.edu/crempfer@nv.edu

FACE IN THE CROWD Taking Account

Dominic Frasca

I am currently an accounting student at NVCC. That's a statement I never thought I'd be able to make! I was out on my own at 16, and forced out of high school a half a year early. I was told by the high school principal, my first day back junior year, to "just drop out." To say the least I wasn't the ideal student in high school, and I'm still not sure what caused this change in me, but I've definitely transitioned. I'm now a proud member of the Phi Theta Kappa and Alpha Beta Gamma Honors Societies as well as the President's Circle, with a GPA very close to 3.9.

After high school, life came at me fast; I worked a string of dead-end jobs, always wanting more out of life and my job. I've worked every odd job from managing a farm to working in restaurants. I knew I'd never get a job I enjoyed or make a decent wage without a degree. I didn't think I could afford college, and I knew with the grades I'd gotten in high school no one was giving me a free ride—not to mention I would still have to pay all my normal bills on top of tuition, while having less time to work.

I decided to apply to NVCC just to see how much it would cost me, in hopes I could afford to take one class at a time. Then I found out about The Roberta Willis Scholarship, which helped me pay for my first year of college. This scholarship gave me the opportunity I desperately needed. It didn't look at my past grades and punish me for the dumb decisions I had made as a teenager.

I am attending NVCC to obtain an associate degree in accounting. I then plan to transfer out and earn both my bachelors and

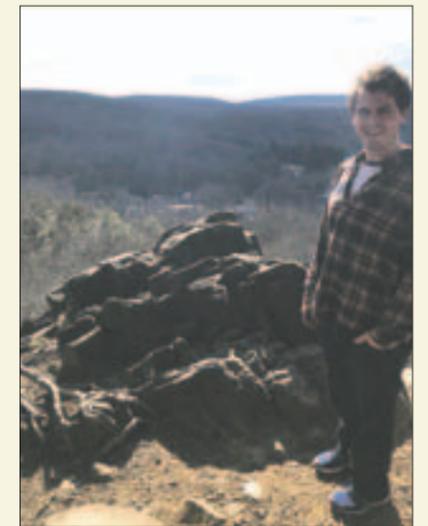


Photo Courtesy of Dominic Frasca

"After high school, life came at me fast ...I found out about The Roberta Willis Scholarship, which helped me pay for my first year of college. This scholarship gave me the opportunity I desperately needed... I know I have a steep climb ahead, but I've already come a long way."

master's degrees in accounting. My end goal is to get my CPA license, so I can find a job working for one of the big four accounting firms. I know I have a steep climb ahead, but I've already come a long way.

FACE IN THE CROWD Hi from the 'brary

Travis Feder

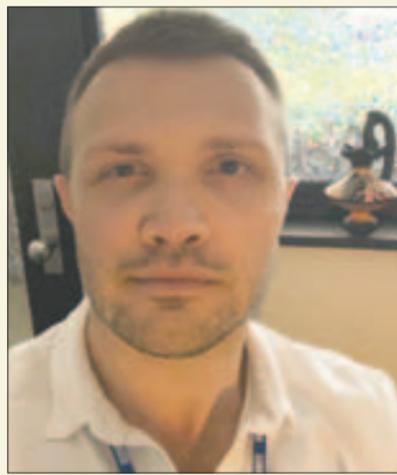


Photo Courtesy of Travis Feder

I'm Travis, NVCC's new systems librarian. I mostly work behind the scenes on the catalog you use to search for things in the library, along with electronic resources like databases, but you'll see me from time to time at the reference desk. I'll also be helping out with some First Year Experience courses this fall, so you might see me there, too. I only started here at the end of May, but so far what I've liked best about Naugatuck Valley Community College has been working with the fantastic (and award-winning!) library team. I also love taking advantage of the beautiful campus and gardens.

I hold a Bachelor's degree in Spanish and Modern European Studies from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and a Master's degree in Library and Information Science from Kent State

I'm excited for this next chapter in my career and feel lucky to be here at NVCC. Like everyone on the library staff, I'm here to help you succeed, so be sure to stop by the library if you need help with research.

University, where I've also worked as an adjunct instructor. I've worked in libraries for about seven years now, most recently as head of the technical services department at the West Haven Public Library. I started my library career as a part-time teen services assistant at the Booth & Dimock Memorial Library in Coventry, which was an incredibly fun experience.

From there I went on to the Farmington Libraries, where I worked in the information services department. Something you might not know about librarians is we often wear many hats; in Farmington, I processed passport applications, served as a notary public, staffed the local history room, and worked with patrons in the Maker Space! Contrary to popular opinion, there's never a dull moment in a public library.

I live with my fiancé near Farmington, where we enjoy going for hikes when the weather permits. Other hobbies include working out, comics, video games, and studying ancient Greek and Egyptian myth and religion. We really enjoy traveling whenever we're able to; most recently we went to the amazing Palm Springs, California, which could hardly be more different than Connecticut. We also love Miami and Key West, where we're planning on getting married next year.

I'm excited for this next chapter in my career and feel lucky to be here at NVCC. Like everyone on the library staff, I'm here to help you succeed, so be sure to stop by the library if you need help with research. We're also available by chat, a great option if you need to connect with us from off-campus. I look forward to meeting and working with you!

Revolutionary Rhythms

Anniversaries and Hope

August 16th marked the 41st year since the death of Rock and Roll legend, Elvis Presley. Back in April, a documentary, titled, *Elvis Presley: The Searcher*, aired on HBO. It was appropriately named because, throughout his life, Elvis was searching for things we all seek: acceptance, purpose, happiness. As a big Elvis fan, I've learned a lot about him from TV specials, books and magazines, and continue to learn new things. I idolize Elvis for many different reasons. He was a poor boy from the Deep South who had nothing, and he went on to change music forever.

If I were to take away only one thing from the documentary, it would be the meaning behind his song, "If I Can Dream". In 1968 during his '68 Comeback Special (this year marks its 50th anniversary) when this song debuted, there was a lot going on: the assassinations of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr., the Vietnam War, the fight for Civil Rights. The film chronicles how Elvis and his band were in a recording session one day, and when they turned on a TV, they were shocked by all the tragedy around them. After watching, Elvis started playing his guitar, and this song resulted.

Below are the lyrics to "If I Can Dream," which still apply today. So much hatred and misunderstanding still exist. Change has happened, but there needs to be more. This song lets us continue to hope for a better world, a

more peaceful world. (Lyrics courtesy of azlyrics.com).

If I Can Dream

Elvis Presley

There must be lights burning brighter somewhere
Got to be birds flying higher in a sky more blue
If I can dream of a better land
Where all my brothers walk hand in hand
Tell me why, oh why, oh why can't my dream come true?

There must be peace and understanding sometime
Strong winds of promise that will blow away all the doubt and fear
If I can dream of a warmer sun
Where hope keeps shining on everyone
Tell me why, oh why, oh why won't that sun appear?

We're lost in a cloud with too much rain
We're trapped in a world that's troubled with pain
But as long as a man has the strength to dream
He can redeem his soul and fly

Deep in my heart there's a trembling question
Still I am sure that the answer's gonna come somehow



Out there in the dark, there's a beckoning candle
And while I can think,
While I can talk
While I can stand,
While I can walk
While I can dream,
Please let my dream come true... right now
Let it come true right now
Oh, yeah.



Alyssa Katz

Hip-Hop: Harlem's (Latest) Renaissance

Matthew O. Spence



Harlem, Manhattan N.Y. is no stranger to the words "influential" and "important," being home to the Harlem Renaissance, which moved forward and expanded the arts and culture for not only African Americans but for American culture as well. In Hip-Hop, the Bronx, Queens, and the other boroughs get more credit and recognition than Harlem. Even though Harlem is the underdog (of the five boroughs) in the rap game, it has given us some very important figures in rap.

The list starts off with hip-hop pioneer, Kurtis Blow, who became the first rapper to get signed to a major label, Mercury, and the first rapper to tour internationally. Two iconic producers, Q-Tip (of A Tribe Called Quest) and Teddy Riley (of Guy & Blackstreet). are both Harlem natives; both have influenced many

producers today, including super producer, Pharrell Williams. In fact, Teddy

Riley was the one who discovered Pharrell and his production partner Chad Hugo and gave them a production deal.

Future founders of important rap labels came from Harlem, including Dame Dash and P. Diddy. Diddy would go on to found Bad Boy Records and bring us the Notorious B.I.G., and eventually would become a successful entrepreneur, starting his own clothing line, Sean John, the Revolt TV channel, and Ciroc liquor. Dame Dash would become one-third of the founding trio (with Jay-Z and Kareem Biggs Burke) of Roc-A-Fella Records. He would go on to discover Kanye West, who would go on to become one of the most prominent and influential figures of the next generation; he would also go on to discover a more or less unknown Kevin Hart and give him an early role in Roc-A-Fella

Film's 2002 feature, *Paper Soldiers*.

Rap Trendsetters of the early 2000s, Cam'Ron and his clique, "The Diplomats," come from Harlem, and eventually signed to Roc-A-Fella Records to become pioneers of "Swag" rap, influencing Harlem's next gen, A\$AP Rocky and A\$AP Ferg of A\$AP Mob.

Before Dipset, Cam'Ron was in a group called Children of the Corn with Harlem legends Mase and Big L. Mase signed to Bad Boy Records to release a platinum album, *Harlem World*, in 1997 and Big L joined the Diggin' in the Crates Collective and released his debut album in 1995. This would make Big L an underground legend (eventually influencing the rapper, Logic), a punchline and a freestyle king before his untimely death in 1999.

Though Harlem may not have the heavy hitters and icons of Brooklyn or Queens, or the legacy of the Bronx, Harlem's lineup isn't something to ignore or push to the side. It should be recognized for its domino effect role in the development of hip-hop. Gaining Harlem respect and ears, its artists have influenced and shaped rap to what it is now.

The N.E.R.D. from Neptune

Matthew O. Spence



When describing Pharrell Williams, many words come to mind: influential, talented, different. But those words are an understatement of his creativity. Pharrell has given a lot to hip-hop and pop music,

starting off as one half of the legendary production duo, The Neptunes with the other half being childhood friend Chad Hugo.

The Neptunes were discovered by producer Teddy Riley in a high school talent show. They would soon be signed by Riley and go on to produce tracks from the 90s throughout today. The Neptunes hit their prime era by the year

2000, when they produced Jay-Z's "I Just Wanna Love U" and Ludacris' "Southern Hospitality".

After that, a Renaissance began, and everyone wanted a Neptune track. The Neptunes produced countless hit singles, which include "Hollaback Girl," by Gwen Stefani, "Milkshake," by Kelis, and "Hot In Herre," by Nelly. Astoundingly, in 2003, 43% of songs that got radio airplay in the U.S. were produced by The Neptunes.

Expanding his art and vision, Pharrell formed the alternative rap group N.E.R.D. with Chad Hugo and another longtime friend, Shay Hayley. They are known for their songs "Rockstar," "Lapdance," and the 2017 hit, "Lemon," featuring Rihanna.

Pharrell, being a part of the Q-Tip "tree," also has mastered the art of co-signing. He also went on to co-sign and launch the careers of Kelis and rap group, Clipse. He also signed Snoop Dogg to his label, Star Trak in 2004, essentially reviving Snoop's music career with the hit singles, "Drop it Like It's Hot" and 2002's hit single "Beautiful".

He has co-signed the clothing line Bape in the early 2000s. After Pharrell was seen at events wearing Bape clothes, the line became a famous brand, worn by people such as Lil Wayne and Kanye West. This goes to show how much of a trendsetter Pharrell is. Adding to that, he launched his own successful clothing brand, Billionaire Boys Club, which adds to the list of successful clothing lines by rap artists.

After over 20 years in the game, Pharrell is still active, producing great records and expanding his diverse and admirable catalog of music. He has produced and appeared on tracks like "Drop It Like It's Hot" and "Grindin'," and produced "Rock Your Body," by Justin Timberlake, as well as eventually recording the song, "Happy," for the *Despicable Me 2* soundtrack.

With this legacy, Pharrell has reached the new generation, influencing Tyler the Creator, a prominent figure in hip-hop today with his own successful clothing line, Golf Le Fleur and his festival, Camp Flognaw. Now, with his own radio show on Beats Radio, Pharrell seems to keep going strong. Take a 4 beats, and you'll see why you can't discredit him.

alumni SHOWCASE



Photo Courtesy of NBC News

Jahana Hayes

Driven to Lead

This month's Alumni Showcase is a bit of a departure, but an exciting one, indeed. We felt it fitting to honor a Naugatuck Valley Community College graduate who has made quite a mark on both the local and national levels. Jahana Hayes, a 2002 NVCC grad, is a sterling example of someone who—through hard work, faith, and persistence—continually beats the odds.

Born Jahana Flemming, and raised by her grandmother in poverty in a Waterbury housing project, Hayes defied those who told her she would never succeed. After graduating with honors from NVCC, Hayes

completed a degree at Southern Connecticut State University in 2005.

She went on to become a longtime teacher of history at Waterbury's Kennedy High School. While there, she helped shape many young lives, and Hayes's work at Kennedy led to her recognition by President Barack Obama as 2016 National Teacher of the Year.

In 2017, she delivered a stirring keynote speech at NVCC's commencement ceremony at the Palace Theater, and since then, her profile has only continued to rise. While Hayes's path from teenage mother to 2016 National Teacher of the Year was truly inspirational, her latest achievement is also historic.

On August 14th, Jahana Hayes scored a decisive victory in the Democratic primary in the 5th District. According to NBC News, Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., who had encouraged Hayes to run, called her "a breath of fresh air" after her win with 62 percent of the vote.

Her August primary win puts Hayes in the running to become the first Black Democrat to represent the state of Connecticut in Congress. On her website, www.jahanahayes.com, Hayes states, "I am running because I see myself in every student, teacher, mom, sister, daughter, friend, neighbor and stranger I meet, and their story is my story. I want to earn the trust of the people in Connecticut's 5th district and be the person to carry their concerns to Washington."

The Tamarack salutes this exceptional NVCC alumnus, who has proven once again that with brains, perseverance—and a solid community college educational foundation—the sky is the limit.

RECENTLY READ



Radium Girls by Kate Moore

Last spring, I had the opportunity to meet and dine with Kate Moore, New York Times best-selling author of *The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women*. After hearing her speak at an open book event, I joined a small group of women for dinner and candid conversation about the book, Moore's writing process, and her experience traveling on her U.S. book tour (She lives in London). I've been part of a book group for 17 years. Together, we've read and discussed over 170 books. Dining with Kate Moore was a high point, so I wish to share the author's message and encourage *Tamarack* readers to pick up this incredible work of nonfiction.

About women, labor rights, industrial safety, workplace safety, the U.S. legal system, corporate greed, friendship, and the power of the human spirit, the book centers on the incredible radium girls, who suffered serious health issues because they were deceived about the self-luminous paint containing radium, a radioactive material. Stories of many of these women—who fought for justice, medical disclosure, and industrial workers' rights—were visceral, horrific, extremely difficult to read. The women, many of whom lived and worked in Waterbury, changed the course of workplace safety for the Manhattan Project, the WWII nuclear weapons project, and undoubtedly saved thousands of lives. Their strength and courage are inspiring. Kate Moore challenged us to tell people their inspirational stories.

Ms. Moore stated her goal in writing the book was for readers to "hear [the women's] voices."

While she focuses on workers from USRC in New Jersey, and Radiant Dial in Illinois, Waterbury experienced a parallel story. The same poisoning of workers occurred universally in dial and clock factories, including those

in Waterbury. The common belief in the early 1900's—radium was touted as the next miracle cure—could not have been more incorrect. For sale at the time were radium chocolate, radium bread, radium water, radium face cream, radium toothpaste, and radium toys. Waterbury dial and clock factory workers during this time

period lived the same nightmare, usually experiencing medical issues years or decades after working with the paint.

The author explained that radium acts much like calcium in the body, depositing itself in bones. For many, once amounts are high enough, bones begin to disintegrate; eaten away, they are described as looking like honeycomb. Most of the women employed a lip, dip, paint process called "lip pointing"; as a result, maladies began in the mouth, impacting teeth

and jawbones. Others suffered issues involving legs, hips and shoulders. The range of symptoms led to misdiagnoses and the inability to see correlations to radium as a workplace hazard.

Understanding the history of this tragedy and the impact these women had on industrial health reform and workers' rights is vital; their story must be shared. In front of Waterbury's Brass Mill Mall, a street is dedicated to the Radium Girls. Despite the difficulty in reading of such terrible suffering, I am uplifted by the voices of these brave women, who, less than 90 years ago, fought and won significant legal battles, profoundly impacting labor rights in America to this day.

Prof. Sandra Eddy



Shelter Pets

Thank Dog

Bethany Dvilinskas

either of these extremes. This month, we feature Thank Dog Rescue. Based in Newtown, CT, Thank Dog Rescue isn't a physical shelter, but is an organization run by volunteers. These folks foster dogs in their own homes until they are put up for adoption.

Thank Dog Rescue is a frequent presence at animal fundraisers and pet adoption events. They also hold their own public adoptions. Their approach—opening their hearts and houses as interim homes to dogs in need of

forever families—is a unique and effective one.

If you are interested in adopting a dog, want to be considered as a foster volunteer, or would like to attend one of their events, Thank Dog Rescue is active on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/search/str/thank+dog+rescue/keywords_search

You can also find them on the website at www.thankdogrescue.org.

Photo Courtesy of Thank Dog Rescue FB page

When we think of a dog shelter, we generally picture a physical space. Ideally, there is plenty of green grass for pups to roam, caring, gentle handlers, and a chew toy for each dog. In harsher reality, many facilities, while providing shelter, do so via cinderblocks and cages.

September's Shelter of the Month is a bit different from

Everlasting Love

Christopher Gordon

Is it really September? What happened to summertime? For some it went in a haze of leisure activities and minor boredom. Personally, I read a bunch of books that have been piling up for a while and caught up on classic video games. I also seem to have binge watched documentaries and MST3K, but that is a story for another day.

Does anyone remember *Baldur's Gate*? It was the second video game produced by Bioware and the video game that redefined computer RPGs. Added to the criticisms of Bioware's quality recently due to the flop that is *Mass Effect Andromeda*, some of its classic greats might be overlooked. But *Gate* launched the Infinity engine and made the *Forgotten Realms* a truly immersive land within *Dungeons and Dragons* lore. Having been published in 1998 it might be a little older than some *Tamarack* readers.

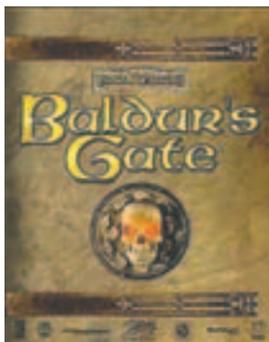
For me, this is the generation of games I grew up with, fell in love with, and that launched a lifelong love of mythology (both

historical and fantastical). *Baldur's Gate* is a typical hero's journey: your stepfather dies at the beginning of Chapter 1, and it goes downhill from there as your character works hard to unravel a plot with you at its center. Being a role-player, you have many options available concerning race, class, skillsets and—in Bioware's signature fashion—morality. I won't reveal any big plot holes for those who've yet to try this wonderful journey across the southern Sword Coast region, or ventured far north past *Neverwinter* into the lands of *Icwind Dale*.

As it is one of the first of its kind, it uses an old ruleset (*DnD 2*), so there are limits to what you can become compared to later rulesets.

Unfortunately it wasn't until the 3rd ruleset, used in *Neverwinter Nights*, that racial restrictions were removed and you could become any race and class imaginable.

As we move forward into the new realms of video game design, don't hesitate to stop and appreciate the classics that blazed this new trail. You might just fall in love.



Comic Legends

Mitchell W. Maknis



This spring, *Legends of Superheros*, a fixture in the Waterbury area since 1994, moved to a new location: 28 Main Street, Oakville, CT. While *Legends* enjoyed its stay on Straits Turnpike in Middlebury for the last ten years, owner, Bob Lyons, intends to use the new locale to expand his retail business into the best comic destination in the area.

I visited *Legends of Superheros'* new location, to talk with Mr. Lyons and discuss his views on the retail end of the comic industry as well as his humble beginnings. Lyons has been a fan of comics since he was five years old. He reminisced about his fascination with the *Green Hornet* and other comic icons.

During high school, Lyons noticed the first comic shops starting to open. Realizing the opportunity to turn his hobby into a career, he decided to one day open his own comic shop. However, his journey took longer than originally intended. He worked part-time while attending college to obtain his business degree

and also build enough capital to get started. After years of hard work, *Legends* was born.

Since *Legends of Superheros* opened its doors, Lyons has held many special events, hosting several celebrity guests, including actors and comic artists. Among them are actor Michael O'Hare, known for his role on the series, *Babylon 5* (1994); comic artist Billy Tucci, creator of *Shi* (1993); Mark McKenna, creator of *Combat Jacks* (2012); and Jerry Ordway, writer of the original *Captain Marvel* graphic novel (1994). In addition to discussing these visitors, Lyons elaborated on the everchanging retail comic business and his plan for *Legends* to continue expanding beyond retail sales.

With the Middlebury lease expiring, Lyons seized the opportunity to plan a new long-term vision for his business. His previous location came with limitations, making it difficult to give patrons

the experience they deserved. No longer constrained by the small space of his previous layout, Lyons has expanded his business and plans to provide events not limited to comic sales. The new storefront, spanning approximately 2,700 sq. feet, has enough space to store and display both new and old comic-related merchandise, as well as dedicating an entire section to *Magic: The Gathering* tournaments.

Lyons wants old and new patrons to know that, with *Legends of Superheros* fully moved into the new space at the Old Pin Shop Factory Center, customers can look forward to more than just a good retail comic store; they can expect a great entertainment destination. Learn more about *Legends of Superheros* at www.legendsofsuperheros.com and on other social media platforms.

NVCC Welcomes New Student

Imani Stewart

I'm so excited to be back to school, especially because my sister is joining me this year. We sat down one day, and she told me she was going back to school. I instantly started writing things down because it's truly inspiring.

My sister's name is Autumn Wells-Stewart, and she wants to be a midwife. When my sister first told me she wanted to be a midwife, it spiked my interest, and I started asking questions. First, I asked what exactly a midwife does. She explained, "A midwife is a clinical nurse who assists with women's healthcare from conception to post-birth regarding baby care and mothers." In the past, my sister told me she always wanted to be a midwife but it never quite sparked more interest until now.

She continued, "I've always had a dream of working as an obstetrician or anything in that environment. I wasn't willing to commit to a career that left me at the whim of others. I still wanted to be in that environment, but just not with that much responsibility. I wanted to be close to children without having my own."

My sister has gone to college in the past; she took time off of school to work. Now she's back at it, drilling for her new dream. I asked about her motivation to go back to get her degree, and she answered, "I never wanted to leave. I feel best when I'm learning. If I could get paid for going to school, I would love to be a full time student, because I like to give back and be busy. Educated people educate people."

Autumn explained what her path to midwife will look like. She'll have to start out as nurse, so I asked how long it takes to get to a degree. She's planning on two years to complete her RN (Registered Nursing) at NVCC. Then she plans to earn her MSN (Master of Science in Nursing) which is another two years.

My sister wants to travel across the world to help people in need. She said, "I want to work in a Pediatric unit first; then, become a travel nurse. I would prefer to work with women in other countries in clinical health, because women around the world don't have the same clinical health care the U.S. does."

When I asked if she was scared going back to school after six years, she replied, "The process and anxiety of school are intimidating, but I don't want to let people who are rooting for me down. I will do my best." Not only focusing on the challenging parts of school, we started to discuss the good. "New beginnings and the opportunity to do it differently and learn again are the best parts about going back. I'm excited to go into a field where everything I learned in my time off can be applied to patient care and benefit me as a student."

This just shows, with some hard work and dedication we can do anything. My sister's advice to readers: "Hang in there. There are people who are willing to help you; it's never too late."

Landmark Community Theater Review

Gwenydd Miller



Who has red hair, a strong voice, and a very hard knock life? Annie, of course! This classic, with memorable music and heartwarming story, is one I, and many others, have grown up with over the years. Recently, I saw a production of this beloved play produced by Landmark Community Theater at the Thomaston Opera House. It's far from the first play I've attended there, and like all the productions I've seen, it was both impactful and immersive. The music in Annie is probably more of a staple than the plot itself, with "Tomorrow" and "It's a Hard Knock Life" being two of the most well-known songs.

Believe me, the performers absolutely did those songs justice. The voice of the actress playing Annie was very high and very loud; when she first started singing, I winced a bit at her sheer volume and strength. Not only was her voice impressive, but she did a wonderful job portraying the little red-headed orphan's bold, adventurous, and optimistic personality. To my surprise, one of my favorite characters actually ended up being Ms. Hannigan. Now, I've never been a fan of Ms. Hannigan, the evil woman who's like a slave driver, working the poor orphans to the bone, but the actress played her so well I couldn't help but like her, drunk act and all.

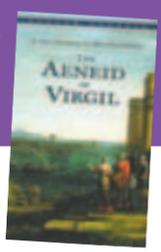
Usually, Landmark has a live orchestra tucked in back for every show, but for Annie, they set up the orchestra in front of the audience at the foot of the stage. It was an excellent idea; when the musicians stay in the back, people tend to forget about them. Bringing them up front was a good way of giving them the credit they're due.

Okay, so I don't want to only sing praises. I'm not trying to sell you on something. The venue has its faults like any other place, and if there's anything I could complain about it would be the seating. The chairs at Thomaston Opera House are small, close together, and generally uncomfortable. I'd also warn you about the large crowd you have to push through to get to the very small concession stand in the back of the room.

However, these are my only complaints, and they won't keep me from returning. Other plays I've seen at the Opera House include Young Frankenstein, Monty Python's Spamalot, Rock of Ages, To Kill a Mockingbird, and many more. Each one has been a wonderful experience. With a different play every month or so, it changes all the time. Up this month is *We Will Rock You*, a show with the music of Queen, and *Elf*, the Musical is on deck for December. All I can say is that whatever the play, it's definitely worth a trip!

RECENTLY READ

The Aeneid



Vergil's *The Aeneid* has been called an answer to both *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*. While writing long after Homer's time, Vergil takes into account both of Homer's greatest works and manifests *The Aeneid* into a tale of fate, survival, courage, and longing. The setting, the style, the gods, the characters—all are much different than Homer's. *The Aeneid* is set in Italy, the writing traditionally follows Latin rather than Greek, the Roman gods are depicted instead of the Greek gods, and the main character is a Trojan.

Coincidentally, *The Aeneid* follows a similar plotline to *The Iliad*: a hero, a powerful enemy, a girl, a war,—and of course, fate. Vergil addresses both of Homer's works in the very first line of the book by saying, "I sing of arms and of the man who first came from the coasts of Troy to Italy and the Lavinian shores, exiled by fate" (Vergil 3). "Arms" being *The Iliad*, and "the man" being *The Odyssey*.

Taking place at the same time as *The Odyssey*, *The Aeneid* follows the Trojan hero Aeneas, the lone survivor of the Trojan War. We find out what happened that day when the Greeks claimed Troy, and we find this out from the perspective of Aeneas, a man willing to do whatever he could to defend his city, who states, "A glorious thing it seemed to me to die in arms" (Vergil 43).

Fate had other plans for him, however. He was essentially exiled from his own land when he found out from his goddess mother Venus (essentially, Aphrodite) that he had to travel to Italy to found a "new Troy." It was not what he wanted to do, to let his city burn and be overthrown by the Greeks, and he expressed this, saying, "Not of my own accord do I seek Italia" (Vergil 100), but it was what he had to do.

The goddess Juno (essentially, Hera) gave Aeneas much grief throughout his journey, and as soon as he finally set foot in Italy, she started a war between the Trojans and the Italians that was never supposed to happen. Similarities to *The Iliad* come into play here, especially when the Italian hero, Turnus, compared himself to Achilles.

Interestingly, in this epic poem, the gods could not change fate, whereas, in *The Iliad* and even *The Odyssey*, they could do whatever they wanted, even change a person's fate. Juno, however, challenged fate many times in this tale; she didn't change it, but rather, worked her way around it.

This read is far different from, and in a way more challenging than, the previous ones. If you favor the Greeks, reading this book may change your view of Aeneas as you dive into his point of view. Vergil has done a fantastic job incorporating Homer's two greatest works while also extending the story.

Alyssa Katz

Summer Sports Look Toward Fall

Christian Cruz

Hello, *Tamarack* readers! The fall semester is finally upon us, and that means, of course, that summer sports have officially ended. In case you missed it, I'm here to give you a quick rundown of what has transpired in the world of sports.

In basketball, the June trilogy of the Cleveland Cavaliers vs the Golden State Warriors ended exactly how most of us expected—with a loss by Cleveland. Sorry, Lebron. Also, in June, the NBA Draft took place. Who will be the next Donovan Mitchell or Jayson Tatum? We will see. In early July, NBA Free Agency was upon us, and Lebron puzzled us all once again by going to his third team in his career so far: the Los Angeles Lakers. As far as other players, Chris Paul goes back to the Houston Rockets, and Paul George stays with the Oklahoma City Thunder.

In soccer, Cristiano Ronaldo shocked the world even more by signing with Juventus. Sorry, Los Angeles Galaxy fans; he will not bend over like Beckham and come to the MLS just to retire.

In baseball, everyone is in full swing. The Mets have remembered they are the Mets and have decided to get hurt all over again, while the Yankees and Red Sox are at the top of the AL East. The Sox' Mookie Betts looks like an MVP candidate, and the Yankees may have the second-best record in the AL (only to be forced to play a one game playoff?).

Baseball needs to add more playoff teams/longer series and shorten the regular season. Ticket prices across the board for Major League Baseball are down, and they could benefit from quick changes like these.

In hockey, the Washington Capitals finally did it. They won the Stanley Cup Finals after a long history of Alexander Ovechkin playing a great regular season, only to lose in the playoffs. He can finally feel some relief, as he has finally captured the title that had eluded him his entire career.

Now come the moments we've all been waiting for: everyone has reported to the National Football League summer training camps, and it's nice to see some stars actually do attend voluntary workouts.

Odell Beckham Jr. needs to show he's committed to the NY Giants and this squad, if he hopes to become a top-paid wide receiver. Unfortunately, he did not get to play in the first pre-season game, but the Browns actually looked impressive. Hopefully, they can break their losing streak.

Many other young teams got to show off their stuff in the first week of pre-season, and for some reason, all the Jets QBs played well. Hopefully they get a pretty penny for Teddy Bridgewater this season. That's my quick rundown of what happened this summer in sports—and what lies ahead on the field.

Watching Three Mirrors

Jane Courlet



Photo Courtesy of IMBD

Triplets separated at birth, Bobby Shafran, Eddy Galland and David Kellman, were young men from the greater New York area reunited by chance in the 1980s. In the documentary, *Three Identical Strangers*, writer David Edelstein

and director Tim Wardle capture the exuberance of the young men and gently shake the glitter and excess of the 1980s to surround them—and us—with the freshness and excitement of newfound fame and family.

As though three characters from a fairytale, their amazing similarities and touching minor differences feel like the movie-goer's equivalent of finding three grinning, curly-haired, four-leaf clovers. Unfortunately, like many fairytales, their story had rather unsavory, hidden beginnings.

While we are still being enchanted by their media and social tour-de-force—appearances on the news and *The Phil Donahue Show*, a cameo in a Madonna movie, and a successful restaurant, "Triplets"—the back and forth interviews with the brothers, their adoptive parents, sisters and wives, begin to trickle with an uneasy flow, skillfully built upon by director Tim Wardle.

Caught up in the social perks of their reunion, the triplets are not initially that interested in why their adoptive families began to question the ethics of the Louise Wise Agency,

a prestigious Jewish New York City adoption agency that placed them, and other Jewish multiples, into separate homes without informing recipient families of the existence of identical siblings.

With twins being the serendipitous subject of investigative journalist Lawrence Wright, damning dots are connected to the Louise Wise Agency. What ensues is a bizarre dystopian powder keg of cover-ups, medical hubris, psychological manipulation, and unpublished documents squirreled away at Yale University, initially ordered to be sealed until 2066.

Tinged with tragedy, *Three Identical Strangers* questions the limits of scientific interference in the name of knowledge. Unique as Bobby, Eddy and David, this film is unforgettable, and a theater experience like no other, full of charm and luck, though not all good.

Tinged with tragedy, *Three Identical Strangers* questions the limits of scientific interference in the name of knowledge...this film is unforgettable, and a theater experience like no other...

That's What She Said



Jessica Ney

Allyship 101

It's time for an honest discussion on allyship. We need to cast off the popular and convenient versions of unity. We need to rid our culture of marketed love and acceptance, because let's face it; when push comes to shove, there's no meaning behind that movement.

The LGBTQIA community is vibrant, filled with people who crave lives of meaning, strive for their best selves, and may be looking for a partner to go through life with them. Yet they are marginalized, sidelined, isolated, and hated. People forget that they too are human beings. Bigotry gets in the way, and more often than not, it's easier to turn a blind eye than it is to be a supporter in their battle.

But it's not hard to be an ally to the community. LGBTQ+ individuals crave a basic human right: respect. And they deserve it.

Respect for the community can be conveyed in a number of ways. For example, recognizing that every person has a unique and special story and experience. Those letters aren't for nothing, you know. One gay man or woman can struggle differently than any other gay man or woman. Each trans individual has a completely different life, as does each bisexual and so on and so forth. Their identity, their values, their lives all carry value and merit. And their hardship and their wants and needs should be respected as such.

Labels are created to make people comfortable and to help understand things, but more often than not, traditional labels will not work. So don't place the community into boxes. It's important to know when you're ignorant of a situation. LGBTQ+ individuals are not straight people. Our gender constructs, our whitewashing and erasure do not honor them.

We need to respect the ways people identify. Language is alive; therefore, we should accept new words and new ways of using words. So, ask a friend how they identify, but keep your narrow-minded opinions to yourself when they tell you they respond to "they/them," "ze," or "he/she". If you truly want to be a friend, learn to respect the vocabulary.

LGBTQIA people are not going anywhere, and it is more than time to accept and respect their differences. Chances are you have family, friends, acquaintances, and coworkers who identify on this fluid spectrum of sexuality. It is time they're recognized as a beautiful, healthy, and respected influence in our world.

Welcome, Newbies!

Alexander Wilson

Hello, freshmen! Since you're reading our school newspaper, *The Tamarack*, right now, you may be just a bit of a nerd. I'm kidding. It's nerdier to write for the paper than read it. Wait... Anyways, welcome! I'm here to give you a few tips to start the school year, and your college experience, the right way.

First and foremost, I'm begging you: get enough sleep. I can't tell you how important sleep is when you're in college. Odds are, many of you didn't get enough sleep in high school, and many others have commitments like jobs, children, a significant other, a home life. I get it. Still, don't forget to sleep. Take a nap if you need to. Coffee, Red Bull, Monster, or whatever other energy drink you snort for a high aren't acceptable substitutes. I've learned that the hard way.

Second, talk to your professors. They aren't here to make your life miserable, but to educate, inform, help, and encourage you to be the best you. Introduce yourself after the first class. Make a good impression, make an effort. They'll appreciate it, and your grades will, too. It's a lot easier to get extra help or an extension on a project when a professor knows you as a person, not just a faceless student.

Third, make friends in your classes. Exchange numbers. Form study groups. Be part of something. Some professors will give group assignments. If you get them, be friendly to your group members. That way, if something comes up, you can get caught up with help from a friend, and if you don't understand something, they might.

Fourth, take classes outside your major. Now's the time to study something you've always wanted to but never could. Take a class just because it looks interesting, or take another class with a prof you like, even if you don't specifically need it—that's what electives are for! That's how I ended up having the best professor ever for two semesters and ended up being that nerd writing for *The Tamarack*.

Just be yourself. We're past all the high school drama. We're adults trying to further our lives and careers, and, pardon my French, we don't have time for adolescent bullshit anymore. If you were stuck being someone you didn't want to be in high school, now's your chance to be you, whoever that may be. Enjoy it.

Finally, don't feel like you failed because you got "stuck at a community college" for whatever reason. Life doesn't follow a plan. Stop focusing on the "should haves," and look towards the "wills". "I will make the most out of this," not "I should have gone to [insert insanely expensive private university here]." Relax. You've got a whole life ahead. There's time for all those things you want to get done. One thing at a time, my friends.

Veteran's Voice

Calling All Vets

Alam Khan



When it comes to military rank, there is a fine distinction between those who follow orders and those who issue orders. For some, there is

a progression from the first category to the second, whether it is from Lance Corporal to Corporal in the Marine Corps or from Specialist to the next rank in the Army, there exist these distinctions. They are defined by the visible blood-red stripes that run down the sides of each uniform, but perhaps more subtly through the nod of experience and intuition when it comes to everyday missions that require thinking. Oftentimes, transitioning from follower to leader can prove difficult.

When we first come into training we are told exactly what to do at any given moment. Then, suddenly, we are the ones who must employ tasks at every given moment and provide the wisdom for those who desire it beneath. Given the circumstances it is important to be prepared.

Where once we stood beside our fellow junior ranks in cohesion, we may soon feel rifts with these same people—as we suddenly begin to tell them what to do from above. Some understand; others question it entirely. The aspect of more responsibility on our shoulders can prove stressful.

A Sergeant once said, "In order to be ready to take on the duties of the next rank, you need to behave like you are already there. So, when the time comes, motions of carrying out day-to-day responsibilities feel like second nature." In other famous philosophical words of Descartes, "Cogito, ergo sum," which means, of course, "I think, therefore I am."

Here at NVCC, is a vast group of people coming together from different walks of life. Some learn best by remaining in the role of follower. Others willingly embrace the leadership role. And there are some who transition from one category to the next, sometimes quite unexpectedly.

Among this vast group are many members of the U.S. military, of both active-duty and veteran status. If you have a military background and an interest in covering diverse topics—whether sharing your personal story of transitioning from military to academic life, reflecting on current affairs that affect those who serve, or even weighing in on the soon-to-be sixth military branch, the proposed "Space Force"—we'd love for you to consider writing for *The Tamarack*. Every veteran has a unique point-of-view. Share yours by contributing to Veteran's Voice.

Bread and the Clown

Christopher Gordon

This summer, as most of us were gearing up toward the fall semester, the president, in his usual brilliance, declared America's war on poverty won. Seriously? I've heard being rich or being a part of upper level politics can skew a person's perspective, but this seems a bit much. Even for a president as far-removed from reality and common sense as Donald Trump.

The first time I saw the news reporting this level of cluelessness, my first reaction was stunned disbelief, followed, a few seconds later, by the thought of how this news would sit with all the people who still need soup kitchens, food pantries, and homeless shelters. It appears someone forgot to notify these actual living, breathing people in need that they are no longer in need. Funny that.

Way back when, long before our nation was a nation, before it was even a collection of European colonies, heck before Europe even KNEW of this "New World," there was a political maneuver we've nicknamed "bread and circuses." This was a system popularized by the Romans to keep people fed and entertained, so that the uneducated masses didn't suspect their leaders were incompetent. I bring this up not because I'm trying to compare bread and circuses to modern-day charity efforts, but to remind people of how such slides into failure happen.

Instead of acknowledging our poorest citizens' ongoing struggle with poverty, the US Head of State seems to be implying that the existence of centers where the very poor can go to eat and sleep is a sign of our wealth. That's unbelievable. While the presence of shelters and soup kitchens is a benefit, the growing need for them is clear evidence this "war on poverty" (or is it really a war on the poor?) is far from won. Like much of his bluster, Trump's victory cry being used to distract the uneducated or foolish into pumping their fists in the air and call out a booming, "Trump, Trump, he's our man!" Bread and circuses, indeed.

Over the next few months, *The Tamarack* hopes to enlighten our readers on the realities of poverty within our own community, by featuring the stories of those among us who face hunger and homelessness. We also encourage you, our readers, to volunteer at a local soup kitchen or other outreach program in order to work to reduce the effects of poverty, despite what our tiny-handed, small-minded "leader" asserts.

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.commnet.edu.

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Transfer Plans

Christopher Gordon



To fellow students seeking to take their education to the next level, or levels as the case may be, I have an important question for you. Are you ready for the transfer to your next institution of higher education? It might not seem like it right now, especially if you're a brand-new student, but getting ready to make the move to a four year school is right around the corner.

Transfer requires more than merely applying to a school just before you graduate NVCC; it takes careful planning, trips to other campuses, and regular meetings with advisors/mentors. The sooner you start preparing for the change, the easier your life will be when it happens. I speak from experience as a recent graduate of NVCC and a new transfer student to WestCONN.

I hope it goes without saying you should be studying hard in all your classes and making sure your schedules are filled with the sort of courses that will get that degree you deserve. There will also be a lot of activities offered each semester, each designed to make it easier to make that big move. Trust me, I know some people that decided to do this all on their own without taking advantage of the legwork NVCC's Center for Academic Planning and Student Success (CAPSS) puts into each seminar and activity. Each lone wolf wishes they'd taken the time (and taken advantage of those resources) to prepare.

There are also hardworking transfer advisors from all of the CT state universities who schedule time for interested students to learn about the amazing opportunities at each institution. Sometimes a student becomes so focused on one part of the journey toward a bachelors they don't take time to make sure each school they apply to offers that degree—or that they will accept the credits you spent time and money earning should they have your degree.

It seems a bit frightening, but that's why you should prepare soon with people who have a vested interest in seeing you achieve your educational goals. Did I forget to mention you should join at least one club as well? Not only is it a chance to hang out and unwind from classes, it also enhances your study habits and offers chances to apply your practical skills in the real world. Membership also adds that awesome extra boost on your college applications to get you noticed sooner.

NVCC is the best place to get started, the best possible choice to help you go further in life than you realized was possible. See you around, friends. I look forward to hearing about your successes.



Can you find it?

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

June: Citizen. August: Voter

Claudia Ward-de León



Photo Courtesy of Claudia Ward de-Leon.

I did something August 14th I'd never done before. I voted. This may seem trivial, but consider: I moved to the U.S. when I was about five. I'm 40 now; since turning 18 many years ago, I've paid taxes every year but have had no say in anything the local, state, or federal government does—what my taxes are spent on, our country's immigration policies, what rights the LGBTQ community is entitled to, progress on equal pay, or even a woman's choice in terms of reproductive rights.

For most of my adult life, being a permanent resident didn't feel very different from the life my friends, family, classmates, and colleagues experienced, with the exception that I couldn't vote, and every ten years, I had to fill out a lot of paperwork and pay a hefty amount to get a new green card which allowed me to live, study, and work in the U.S., and be admitted back whenever I traveled outside the country. Fortunately, having legal documentation as a permanent resident afforded me the privilege to work, attend Southern Connecticut

State University (where I earned my bachelors), travel the country freely, and attend graduate school in my 30s.

In 2013, my final year of grad school in Boston, I began teaching writing and composition to college freshman—constantly writing, reading, teaching, or planning what I would write, read, or teach next. As identity was a subject I was greatly interested in, a lot of my readings, writing, and teaching centered on issues of gender, race, language, ethnicity, sexuality, and nationality. As I spent time with my books and my students, I began to rethink my decision to continue being a permanent resident.

Born in the highlands of Guatemala, my parents moved our family to the U.S. in the early '80s because civil war in Guatemala made life in much of the country unstable and unsafe. As an adult, I grappled with what becoming an American would mean for my identity. I already felt very far away from my home, my language, and my ethnicity on a daily basis. Would taking the final step, becoming an American citizen, divorce me further from such an integral part of me? I filled out forms to become a citizen in 2013, then abandoned them, feeling too conflicted. I continued as a permanent resident, unable to have a political say.

In 2016, I began working at NVCC. One of the first events I attended was the Veteran's Day Celebration after the November Presidential Election. There was a palpable feeling of anxiety, disbelief, shock, and heartbreak among many that morning. Soon after, the administration's policies relating to immigration were made clear. News stories surfaced about undocumented, but mostly hard-working, law-abiding immigrants being deported. Then stories began to appear about permanent residents with any kind of controversy in their history being deported.

Family members and close friends urged me to reconsider becoming a citizen. I spent hours completing the application, took time off work to attend the many interviews, and took the steps needed to become a citizen. I

studied for the citizenship exam, and during that time began to fear my status in the country. It seemed anything could happen, that the next news story would be worse than the last. For the first time, I was anxious about traveling outside the country, about driving at night, about posting anything too political on social media; I became anxious and acutely aware about a lot of things I'd never worried about before.

Fourteen months later, after investing a lot of time and money, I was called for the interview and examination and recommended for citizenship. The process of "becoming" American is something I think about often. I don't feel divorced from my ethnicity, or my identity, or my language. This was made clear when I was able to travel to Guatemala this summer to spend time with family and get in touch with the part of me who is Guatemalan. After the naturalization process, I feel moderately safer, but mostly I feel immensely grateful.

During my June swearing-in ceremony, the judge who officiated spoke about the significant obligation citizens should feel regarding to voting. It is not something any of us who can vote should take lightly. Imagine having that right taken away, or not having it at all. Imagine how policies change from one administration to the next. Imagine the laws and policies made by our politicians in Harford about healthcare, education, jobs, transportation, the environment. Imagine how those things will affect you, your friends, and your family, and where you stand on pressing issues facing our state and nation today.

Not having the right to vote is to feel hopeless and useless all at once. The Greek philosopher, Epictetus, advised, "First, say to yourself what you would be; then do what you have to do." When a friend recently lent me a book containing this idea, I immediately knew these words felt right. They succinctly and accurately captured my experience of "becoming" and being American, and the agency and possibilities my newly-gained citizenship holds.

Return Engagement

Christopher Gordon

Welcome back, everybody! It's that special time of year when you start building a new, if also familiar, routine. New students, of course, you're welcome to partake in my greetings, but this article is geared more towards returning students. I love getting back to school, the excitement of seeing familiar faces in classes, the fun of getting to meet new faces and new professors. Most especially, I always look forward to once more taking a further step on that road to a higher degree. What can I say? I'm a lifelong student who can almost feel my

braincells aligning in new ways to accommodate all the new insights that only come with learning.

I understand if you're not as enthused about this process as I am, but that doesn't mean I'll ever stop trying to share my joy with everyone. It's my little way of combating the self-fulfilling prophecies we sometimes make for ourselves, those tiny doubtful thoughts that somehow carry too much weight. Weight that can become overwhelming if not recognized and forcefully combated when it appears.

You might remember reading just a few sentences prior about old and new faces alike.

Each of these students, professors and administrators might just be feeling nervous as well. We never can quite figure out what the next day will bring. To paraphrase a redheaded young orphan we met in another article, "The sun WILL come out, tomorrow." If not tomorrow, then the day after, or the one after that. Either way, I'll be dressed in my best smile, hoping to trick you into a smile as well. The goal is kick-starting that great day we're sure to have while earning an amazing piece of parchment that signals a brighter future for all of us, sunshine or no.

Welcome back, everyone! You've found your way to the best possible place, doing the best possible activity, with the best possible people. Savor every moment!

Speaker Series—Harmony & Hatred Religious Sensitivity & Approaches Towards Peace

Rachel Galas

Editor's Note: This piece, bumped from the May issue due to limited space, remains relevant.

It's 2018, and we live in a world of violence. Parents must bury children; children have to bury parents and siblings, all at the hands of murderers who somehow lost themselves along the way. In the Parkland, FL shooting, a 19-year-old opened fire on his former high school, killing 17. It is so hard not to hate the killer. However, according to three diverse religious leaders, ending hate is what we must do to make maddening violence stop.

The Harmony vs. Hatred Lecture Series aspires to bring about dialogue and ideas to lessen violence and hatred and encourage compassion and equality. The first speaker panel was held on a stormy Friday, March 2nd. Three religious leaders all stressed the commonality amongst varying religions: Love yourself and love your neighbor. Simple. Easy. First, love yourself, and secondly, treat other humans as you want to be treated. It's a lesson they hammer home in first grade. Why then, do people carry

out such vicious acts? How can we stop them?

Rabbi Eric Polokoff—B'nai Israel Southbury Community, Deacon Robert Pallotti—Catholic Archdiocese of Hartford, and Imam Gazmend Aga—Albanian-American Muslim Community in Waterbury, all agreed injustice, war, hatred, and racism have existed since the beginning of mankind. Each religion follows laws according to sacred texts: the Torah, the Bible, and the Qur'an. Despite differences of language, length and stories, each teaches values of how to live. They promote social justice, non-violence and love, not only for God, but within ourselves.

However, hatred still exists. People prey on the weak and use their power for hate and injustice. Being 2018, people agree we live in a civilized world, yet humanity suffers at the hands of those who decide whether innocent people live or die. In this civilized world, many do not act civilly. This may be, according to the Rabbi, Deacon, and Imam, because these people don't believe in a higher power. Spirituality is lacking; because of this, humans find it hard to love themselves, let alone their neighbor.

The question remains then, how do we stop this? In his "Letter to Clergymen, Birmingham Jail," Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." We must think critically, educating ourselves about the societal plights of inequality, racism, and injustice. We cannot stand idly while fellow humans are killed watching a concert, or when kids get gunned down at school, or when families die in terrorist bombings. We must take action, promoting justice, love, and peace.

We may never live in perfect harmony—that's not the nature of a world full of human diversity. Nevertheless, this doesn't mean one's beliefs should be held over another's. Understanding individuality and diversity makes life that much sweeter to live. Can't we all agree to disagree and learn to love despite our differences?

It's easy to go back to life after tragedy when it doesn't directly affect you day to day. That's not good enough. We need to have more dialogue and start figuring out how to create a better world for all. Each morning, to promote living in peace, as I ready my young boys for their day, I tell them, "Whatever you do, be kind." Maybe I'll throw in a "Love yourself" for good measure.

Finding Identity in our Heritage

Gwenydd Miller

“Where’s your family from?”

It’s a question often asked while making new friends, or in conversation with old ones. With everything going on in the world, you’d think discussion of our ancestors might not be something we go to so readily. It could be shameful to admit an ancestor was a slave owner. On the flip side, people can take pride in an ancient ancestor who held some impressive title. In America, where the vast majority descend from immigrants, the topic of where our families come from is very common, but why does it matter so much to so many? I think it matters for several reasons. I’ll share some personal family history (at least what I know) as an example.

On my mom’s side, both my grandparents and their families come from Somerset, England. My grandfather’s work brought them to Connecticut when my mother was eight. On my dad’s side, both my great grandfather (my grandmother’s father) and his wife came to Connecticut from Italy as children. I know this for sure, but it gets tricky with my grandfather’s father on my dad’s side, who disappeared with all his records when my grandfather was an infant. It’s like someone whited out that section of my family’s past. Any time someone asks about my ancestry, there’s a question mark where there should be a story. I’ve been trying desperately to uncover that story since I can remember.

Someone once asked why I’m so interested in my family’s past, and suggested maybe I’m looking for a piece of my identity. I think they were correct. Family culture provides a clue to identity; it defines us as unique. After all, no two families are quite the same. Family trees are unique as snowflakes and maybe more complex.

Another reason people are so attached to their heritage is it may give them bragging rights. I had a friend whose mother wouldn’t let me forget her ancestor was a Welsh princess, and another ancestor was from a very proud Scottish family. About a year ago, I found evidence my grandfather may have been of Scottish descent. When I told my friend’s mother, she was really irritated and tried to disprove my statement any way she could—as though I was trespassing by having a similar heritage. Her words hurt me because I’d finally found something to connect me to my family’s possible past, and she was trying to take that away, as though she were stripping me of my identity.

So why do we get worked up about such subjects? Who our ancestors were doesn’t exactly affect us directly, especially if we had to work to trace them. Just because someone’s ancestor was royalty doesn’t mean that person is royal. If their ancestor owned slaves, it doesn’t make that person a racist. This leads me to the belief that, even though our heritage gives us an identity, it can be more of a fashion statement, or a way to belong.

Who we are direct descendants of doesn’t define who we are. It’s just a cool story we can take to heart. Of course, that’s exactly why family heritage is important. In this vast array of different cultures, we each need a story to tell. We need something that sets us apart. In a way, it doesn’t even matter if that story is definitively true. I don’t know for sure my grandfather is Scottish; however, for the sake of a story and an identity for me to cling to, he is to me.

“I tire so of hearing people say, Let things take their course. Tomorrow is another day. I do not need my freedom when I’m dead. I cannot live on tomorrow’s bread.”

—Langston Hughes,
American poet, social activist,
novelist, playwright, columnist

My Hamptons Summer

Bethany Dvilinskas

When hearing “The Hamptons,” people usually think about millionaires, big houses, and fancy cars. They may even picture the Kardashians taking over, as if this is only someplace celebrities go to party and have fun.

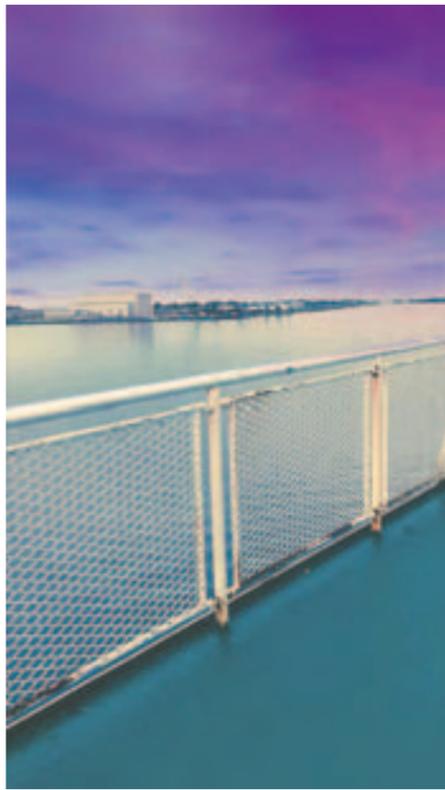
Truth is, it’s mostly farmland, regular houses, and a lot of hippies.

My company sent me to East Hampton, NY for the summer to transition their newest grocery store to our company policies. While there, I worked with many foreign workers; although there was a language barrier, I’ll miss some of my co-workers who were fun to work with.

I was the youngest worker, and, unfortunately, many customers were terrible and rude. The Hamptons has tax on everything, and customers were not happy to have to pay for bags due to a new law that went into effect in March. It’s part of an effort to save the environment, which I agree with, but many customers did not like the extra cost.

Working in The Hamptons, I saw a pattern each week: Friday to Sunday were the busiest with people from the city arriving. Monday/Tuesday were the slowest. Wednesday, senior citizens’ day was the craziest day out of the week for the store, and Thursday was an average day. It was best to travel early morning to early afternoon. I’d advise not even driving at night; there are no streetlights and a lot of deer on the highways, so it’s accidents galore.

I didn’t see any celebrities or fancy cars. I enjoyed walking to and from work, but, towards the end of July and early August, it got too humid to breathe outside, let alone walk. Traffic was terrible. There’s only one main road in and out of The Hamptons; it gets so backed up that to go one mile would take



On the Ferry to Port Jefferson.



East Hampton Florist Shop.

about 30 minutes. I still don’t understand how so many people can even fit onto such a small part of Long Island.

I lived in a hotel for three months, which was difficult. I could only cook with a microwave for the first month and then just a stovetop for the last two months. Still, I learned many recipes and cooking tips using just a stovetop and even created some recipes I’ll

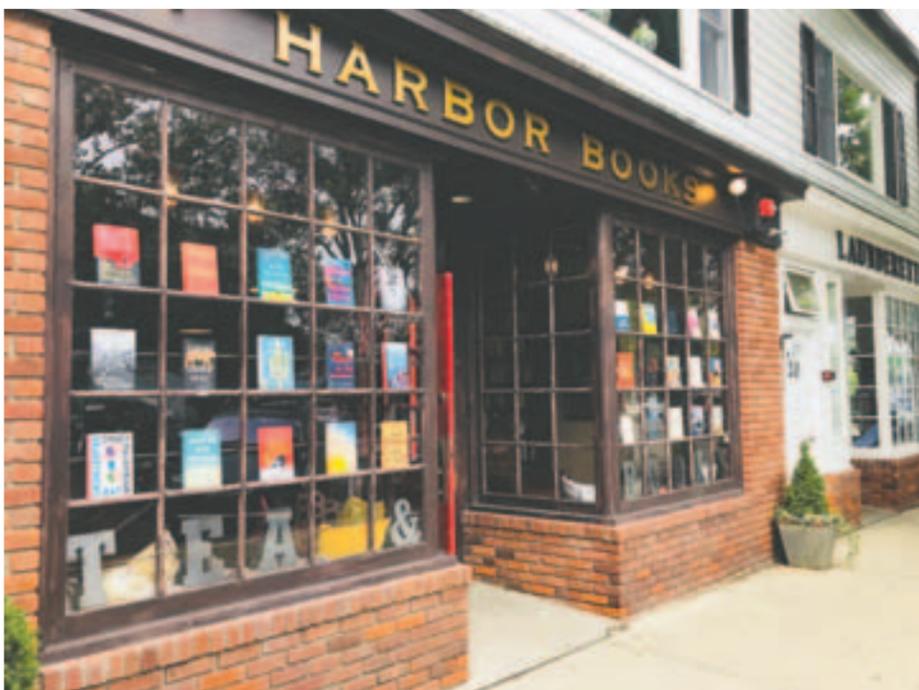
make in the future.

While it was difficult leaving my family and dog, Jackson, behind, I enjoyed the experience of living on my own, cooking for myself, and meeting a lot of friendly customers who brought me food or gave tips just to be nice. I also enjoyed the scenery and shopping in the small stores in the villages—known as “downtown” in The Hamptons—so I’m sure I’ll visit again.

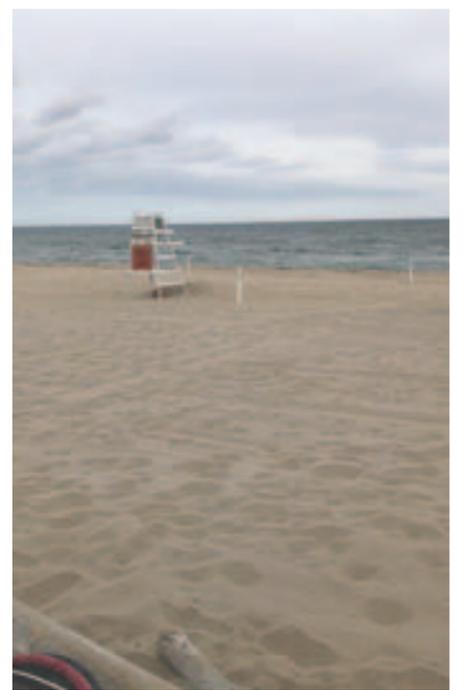
All photos courtesy of Bethany Dvilinskas



A hotel in Port Jefferson, NY.



Harbor Bookstore, East Hampton.



A storm brewing over the Atlantic.

Earth Matters

Volcanic Eruptions



Alyssa Katz

Hawaii is known as “paradise,” but that paradise was created by a plethora of still-active volcanoes that surround the islands. In particular, the Kīlauea Volcano on Hawai‘i Island, which has been very active since around 1983, has been erupting on and off since May. Its enormous impact has caused so much damage and after-effects that only slowed down in August. Just because it’s relatively quiet now, it could still be weeks or even months before volcanologists declare the volcanic activity has ceased.

As a bit of background, there are three types of volcanoes: composite, the deadliest; shield, large but not as active; and cinder cones, identifiable by their shape. The Hawaiian Islands have volcanoes on each island, but not all are active. Maunaloa, Loihi, and Kīlauea are the most active volcanoes on Hawai‘i Island; Maunaloa and Kīlauea are found on land, while Loihi rests underwater. Maunaloa, the largest active volcano in the world, is over 13,697 feet tall. Due to this massive size, Maunaloa’s activity can impact the weather and climate, with its deadly lava and sulfur released into the atmosphere causing toxicity.

Throughout the summer, the massive Kīlauea eruptions have caused enormous damage and dangerous weather patterns on the island. These include sulfuric acid rain, earthquakes, lightning storms, and so on. Eight fissures also opened during this period of volcanic activity.

Interestingly, due to the lava flows and plate tectonics, a 20 x 20 foot island was briefly brought into existence off the coast, but then disappeared into the sea. However, it was also reported that new coastline was discovered off Hawai‘i Island as a result of the lava flows cooling after coming in contact with the sea.

According to the National Parks Service—who closed part of the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park this summer for safety reasons—volcanic gas emissions (sulfur and carbon dioxide, which are bad for the Earth’s ozone layer) continued to rise, and volcanic glass fragments sprinkled the grounds, which, while airborne, can cause eye and skin irritation similar to ash particles. Even the ocean’s entryway was deemed hazardous due to “laze, a corrosive seawater plume laden with hydrochloric acid and fine volcanic particles that drift downwind and can irritate the skin, eyes, and lungs.” Kīlauea (a shield volcano) was pumping out about 50 to 100 cubic meters of lava per second, flowing at about 25 to 30 miles per hour. Additionally, once that lava dipped into the sea, it would steam and fizzle, causing small lava explosions.

You may wonder, with volcanoes causing so much destruction, whether they have any positive effects. In addition to the creation of new land masses, some of the world’s most beautiful flowers grow at the bases of volcanoes. While volcanic ash is harmful to humans, interestingly, it’s very beneficial for soil. Steep volcanic slopes are also great places for animals to live because no predators will disturb them. As with other forces—fire, flood—Mother Earth creates as she destroys.

“Stepping onto a brand-new path is difficult, but not more difficult than remaining in a situation, which is not nurturing to the whole woman.”

— *Maya Angelou, one of America’s most beloved, celebrated poets, authors, educators*

Queer Code

An Introduction

Alexander Wilson

This is a new column idea I pitched when I was in a mood. Not a good mood, either. An “I don’t see nearly enough education and representation of my community in modern media despite the growing number of people comfortable with coming out, so I’m going to educate the masses” kind of mood (That sounded catchier in my head).

Anyways, it got approved, obviously, otherwise you wouldn’t be reading this right now. Every month, I’m going to do my best to give a personalized, detailed, average-American, friendly definition of a word that means something in the LGBTQIA community. It may be a clinical term, it may be a sexuality, a gender identity, or even slang terms we throw around. The point is to educate and fight intolerance.

Chances are, you know someone in the LGBTQIA community, and you don’t even know it. Here’s an opportunity to learn about others around you, to become a better, more welcoming presence to people in your life.

Without further ado, Queer Code Word Number 1: The Acronym

It all started with two letters, “G” and “L,” standing respectively for gay and lesbian. As more and more identities came to light (and no, they were not “made up” by people trying to be special), more letters were added. For a while, we were the LGBT community, introducing bisexual, then transsexual, to the acronym. Now “T” stands for transgender, a much more widely accepted term, as transsexual was used negatively against such individuals. Many do still use this version of the acronym, as it’s easier than the fuller “alphabet soup” version. It really depends on who within the community you ask.

Unfortunately, some bigotry exists within the community itself, which is why some people leave off the “A,” for asexual/aromantic people. However, I think the full acronym is important, because we aren’t just limited to four identities and orientations. There are numerous ways to align with the community. “T” stands for intersex, which is challenging the idea of “there are only two sexes,” a stance that erases the identity of many queer and gender non-conforming individuals.

Missing from this acronym is “P,” which could stand for pansexual or polyamorous. Both are often considered part of the community. This brings me to another point; sometimes all you will hear from us is “the community”. These are all ways to say people who aren’t cisgender and heterosexual. It’s not just “the gays” anymore.

Have a request for a specific term you want me to define? Send it to tamarack@nv.edu, and it’ll make its way to me. Until next month, respect others—especially those who’ve spent their whole lives being disrespected because they didn’t conform to the “norm”.

Signing off,

Your friendly neighborhood panromantic asexual trans man, Alexander.



Presidential Wisdom on Immigration

Karlene Ball

The current immigration discussion in our country is complex and difficult. This summer, it has been gut-wrenching to watch the separation of children from their parents as they flee the violence and hardships in countries, mostly from Central and South America. We face the dilemma of trying to enforce existing immigration law, while at the same time providing fellow human beings the safety and freedom from violence they seek. Fortunately, we can look back in history for wisdom as we try to determine how to approach the situation. In his address to the members of the Volunteer Association and Other Inhabitants on December 02, 1789, George Washington said the following:

“The bosom of America is open to receive not only the Opulent and respectable Stranger, but the oppressed and persecuted of all Nations And Religions; whom we shall welcome to a participation of our rights and privileges, if by decency and propriety of conduct they appear to merit the enjoyment.”

Here, Washington calls us to open our doors not only to the rich and connected, but also to those being persecuted all over the world. Surely, in the case of the DACA recipients, who must meet such stringent criteria, they have demonstrated “decency and propriety of conduct.” We must continue to advocate for them to be allowed to become U.S. citizens. We haven’t summoned the political will and the moral courage to change the way we choose to look at this difficult situation, but maybe we can look to President Ronald Reagan for wisdom.

On January 19, 1989, during his Remarks at the Presentation Ceremony for the Presidential Medal of Freedom, President Reagan gave us the best way to look at immigration to our country.

“We lead the world because, unique among nations, we draw our people—our strength—from every country and every corner of the world. And by doing so we continuously renew and enrich our nation.” He likens the U.S. to a country that is young, vital and thriving—indeed a country so life-giving that as a nation we “breathe life into dreams.” Reagan sees immigration as a way for our country to be competitive and bold. He warns of the danger of looking inward and fearing the sounds of new languages, skin colors, and immigrant optimism. Reagan expressly sends a clarion call for America to lead, not through fear, but with confidence in our ideals. The Great Communicator continued: “If we closed the door to new Americans, our leadership in the world would soon be lost.”

In this same speech, he shared the contents of a letter written to him, which states: “You can go to live in France, but you cannot become a Frenchman. You can go to live in Germany or Turkey or Japan but you cannot become a German, a Turk or a Japanese. But anyone, from any corner of the Earth, can come to live in America and become an American.”

Perhaps if we could more intentionally consider the words and ideals of these American Presidents, offered some 200 years apart on the same subject, the immigration discussion currently underway in our country would not be as complex or as difficult.

Thank You All



Chris Gordon

Welcome to the fall semester, everyone. College is hard enough without hunger, and NVCC has got your back. Don’t forget, the food pantry is open and ready to serve

those in need on campus. In addition to the food pantry, NVCC also supports the St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen on Baldwin Street each Sunday. Over the summer, a new Service Learning Coordinator, Jennifer Frontiero, started her tenure. Having spent the past few weeks volunteering to help serve on Sundays, I’ve had the chance to watch her jump headfirst into a demanding role helping community members in need. The work is rewarding in so many ways, and I encourage all The Tamarack’s readers to take time to volunteer one Sunday.

I also want to thank Karen Blake, Director of Student Activities, for all the extremely hard work she puts into organizing events for students. As a former SGA officer, I’ve witnessed how stressful Director Blake’s responsibilities are. I regret not taking more of an opportunity to thank her for making sure the SGA officers and senators came across as professional and ready to help most of the time. As college students, our priorities aren’t always the same as what administrators expect, and Karen is always ready to intervene and make sure all goals are aligned. Again, thank you, Karen Blake, for your dedication.

While I have a chance, I offer some preemptive thanks to the incoming SGA officers. This role is not easy, but after getting to know each new officer, I’m confident in all of you having the skills to make your respective roles look easy. And if you start to feel overwhelmed, refer to paragraph two for your first line of support.

Lastly, I want to thank our readers for taking a little time each month to glance at my words. Over two years ago, this column started as a sort of one-off collection of short pieces meant to fill blank spots in February 2016’s Tamarack. It turned into such a heartfelt project, we decided to make it a recurring feature. This column has been a joy to write, and has helped me turn bad times around, as I forcefully made myself think of great things to be thankful for. It’s now time for me to reluctantly make way for new writers. I’ve graduated and am now a proud student at Western Connecticut State University.

Thank You All has always been The Tamarack’s way of showing appreciation for the little things NVCC does for the community from a student’s perspective. As such, it’s important to me that a student who is here more often than I can be takes over. I thank you all for this public platform in which I could share the best parts of the best community college there is. To budding writers who might enjoy the challenge of thinking of new ways to offer thanks to our school: please contact Editor-in-Chief Alam Khan or Faculty Advisor Steve Parlato at tamarack@nv.edu for details.

Readers Respond

In response to the article, “Opioid Crisis: A Call to Action,” by Chelsea Eaton, I’m glad to see this topic being addressed, considering what a big problem it has become. Many people are so quick to judge those who have sadly fallen into addiction to opioids, instead of understanding that these are people who need help.

By learning how opioids affect the body, and why people feel the need to abuse them, we can maybe learn how to help addicts overcome their addiction. It’s great that we have so many treatment facilities available for those seeking help. We should view addiction as an illness that requires medical attention and therapy, bit as something that makes someone a bad person.

The more the opioid crisis is discussed, and the more we are informed about it [through articles like this one] the likely we are to reach someone who may be too afraid to ask for help.

Sincerely,
L. Cruz, NVCC Student

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 line READERS RESPOND. Letters may be edited for length and grammar.

Tamarack EDIT MEETINGS

Tuesdays 2:00 pm, S519
ALL WELCOME!!