

# The Mount Observer

"A voice for the students of Mount Wachusett Community College"

www.mountobserver.com

OCTOBER 4, 2017

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 2

8 PAGES

## Inside This Issue:

### The Eighth Delta Alpha Pi Chapter in Massachusetts:

Learn what Delta Alpha Pi is and why it's important that there are now eight in the state.

Page 2

### Photo Spreads:

A double-page spread of photographs outlining the 2017 MWCC Welcome Back BBQ, as well as showing off the new Student Center!

Pages 4-5

### NEW FEATURE –

#### Horror-scopes:

What do the zodiac signs say about you this month? And what spooky twist has been added to your future?

Page 7

## President Vander Hooven: Retrenching

By Brianna Stevens

Early in September, Mount Wachusett's President Vander Hooven announced an organizational restructure to alleviate budget strains by retrenching the Executive Vice President of Student Affairs and Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Anne McDonald and Melissa Fama worked at MWCC for years assisting students. What seemed like a sudden decision to cut their positions, was an incredibly difficult one. Vander Hooven said, "We're talking about two individuals who served this college very well for many years."

Vander Hooven expressed that his biggest concern with this budget situation is that it does not have a noticeable effect upon students. This means that President Vander Hooven is working diligently to be sure that students do not feel the financial effect. He said, "The last things we want to have is impact the services we provide students and we don't want to continue raising tuition fees."



Mount Wachusett Community College

Vander Hooven said, "The funds from the state have been significantly declining, yet at the same time community colleges have been elevated in what they're being asked to do...we're being asked to do more with less."

In the meantime, Dean of Students Jason Zelesky and Dean

Vin Ialenti will be serving an interim role for their respective divisions.

To replace the Executive Vice President of Student Affairs and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Vander Hooven plans on combining the positions into a Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs. He said this is

not an unusual position to implement and "Community colleges that do this are usually around our size, our number of students, and also the type and number of programs that we have."

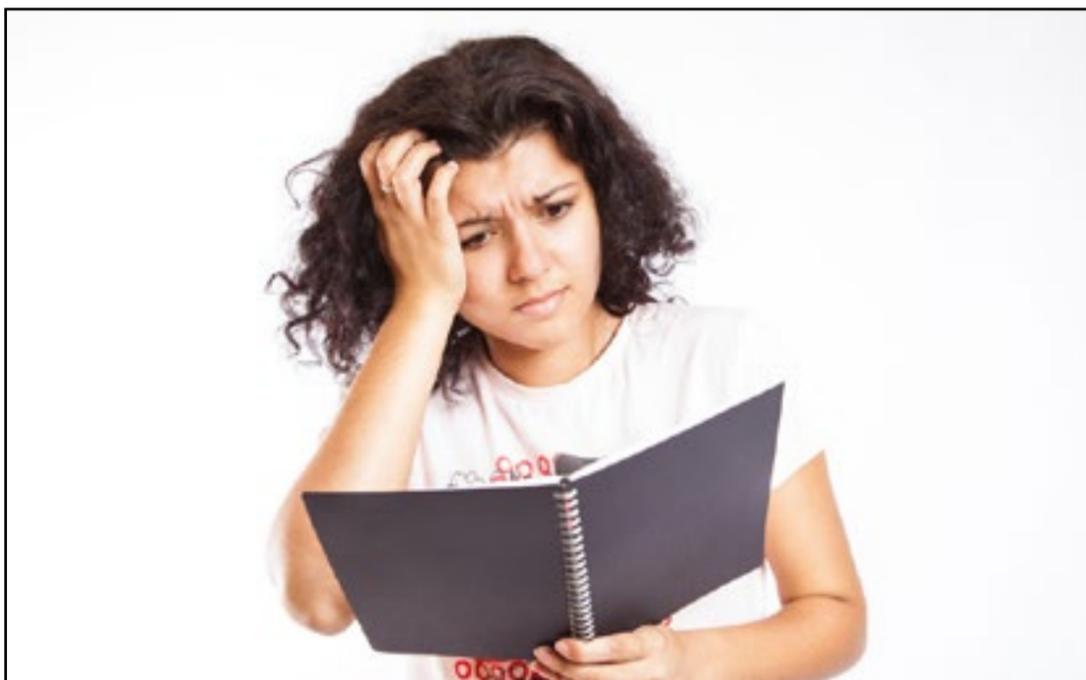
The MWCC employees and administration is working very hard to keep our college affordable and keep students happy and successful.

## Your Major was Dropped; Now What?

By Joshua Needham

When you make the decision to go to college, you often start by selecting your major, but what happens when you're part of the way to your degree and the college drops your program? It is a nightmare that, hopefully, most students will never have to deal with, but one that does sometimes occur.

Holly Tata, a student on the Liberal Arts/Communication track here at MWCC was one student that found out the hard way that her major was dropped. Tata signed up for classes using Degree Works through the iConnect home page, as most students do after their first few semesters, and thought things were going alright. It wasn't until an issue came up in regards to required equipment for the class that Tata found out: not only was she misinformed about



If you are confused or worried about your major suddenly being dropped, visit advising for more information and assistance.

requirements for that particular course, but the course didn't even count toward her degree, and her

degree had been dropped!

So, what happens when the school drops your degree

program? According to Stephanie Marchetti, a former student advisor, when a degree

program stops being offered, it means no new students will be accepted into the course track, however, students currently on that track will be able to complete their program. She continued that, often, they don't email the students within a degree program to tell them the program has been dropped, unless the change affects the courses they still need to take, or if the change could benefit them. After all, students have enough to worry about without getting emails saying their program is no longer offered, but not to worry about it.

Marchetti informed me that, in some cases, when certain required courses are no longer offered that originally pertained to your degree course, advising can help you apply other, similar courses as substitutions so that

continued on page 2  
"Dropped Major?" >>>

# WE MEET YOU WHERE YOU ARE.

Roger Williams University  
SCHOOL OF CONTINUING STUDIES

School of Continuing Studies at Roger Williams University is committed to lifelong learning by providing educational opportunities for part-time adult and continuing education students interested in degree completion, career enhancement, and personal enrichment. Apply your life experiences or transfer credits from previous coursework toward your degree here.

- We accept up to 90 credits towards your bachelor's & 45 credits towards your associates; transfer credit, military training, credit documentation (including life experience), College Level Exam Prep (CLEP). Credit transfer evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

## WHAT'S NEW?

We've added a few new programs & courses to our offerings

- Healthy Community
- Gateway to College
- Stackable Programs
- Corporate Communication
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Basic
- Continuing Studies Pathway Programs

## WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Email or call us to schedule a time to meet with one of our Admission Counselors!  
Octavia Roy | oroy@rwu.edu | 401.254.3573

# YOUR GOAL. OUR PURPOSE.

**SCS.RWU.EDU**

[@rwuscs](#) [/rwuscs](#) [/rwuscs](#)

# The Eighth Delta Alpha Pi Honor Society in Massachusetts

By Kelly Cacciolfi

Amy LaBarge, M. Ed. is the Coordinator of Disability Services at MWCC and she is the advisor to a new club on campus. The Delta Alpha Pi Honor Society is international and an academic honor society founded to recognize high-achieving students with both physical and mental disabilities who are attending colleges and universities as undergraduate or graduate students. LaBarge said, "only seven other colleges provide this club on their campuses in Massachusetts".

The Delta Alpha Pi chapter at MWCC is known as the Epsilon Theta and was founded in May of 2017. LaBarge said that "this club is a wonderful opportunity to recognize the achievements of our students with disabilities and to promote disability awareness and pride on our campus".

According to the brochure, the Delta Alpha Pi Greek letters have a true meaning for its members. D is for Disability, but also the triangle is a symbol of strength and how one

demonstrates strength as leaders on campus to help break down the barriers of negativism. A is for achievement and advocacy because students must advocate for themselves before they can advocate for others. P is for pride in academic achievement and in other accomplishments, not just as students with disabilities.

According to student member Amanda Robichaud: "I am thrilled to hopefully spread awareness about disabilities so people understand it doesn't define you (even though I have a hard time with accepting it, even though I embrace it). I joined the club because I want to be the person who can make a change and come out to let others know that a disability isn't a disadvantage! I'm hoping that together as a team, we can create an environment where students feel comfortable in their skin, without judgment. I want to have a team of mentors, including myself to show that we can be the change in the perception

*continued on page 3 "Delta Alpha Pi" >>>*

# Dropped Major?

>>> *continued from page 1*

you're still able to meet all of your requirements to graduate. She added that it's important, after you register for courses using Degree Works, to check back over the next couple of days to make sure all of your selected classes will count toward your program. There is a little known section on the degree works page that lists "not counted" courses and the system takes 24 hours to sort selections after you've registered for a class. Sometimes, students could sign up for an elective course, like a lab science elective, or a health elective, and later find out that it doesn't

count toward their major, so be sure to check before classes begin in case you have to make any changes or speak to an advisor.

In a follow up, Tata said that, although things were frustrating and confusing for a bit, the advisors were able to get things sorted out and she's back on track. She had the following message for her fellow students: "If you find yourself in a similar situation, you shouldn't give up and keep reaching out to advising/advisors. It's easy to complain and be frustrated, but going to them is easier. Believe it or not, they're there to help."

THE MOUNT OBSERVER  
VOLUME 12, ISSUE 2,  
October 4, 2017

**Editor in Chief:**  
Joshua Needham

**Assistant Editors:**  
Brianna Stevens  
Kelly Cacciolfi

**Social Media Editor:**  
Joshua Needham

**Staff Photographers:**  
Jennifer Lamontagne  
Benjamin Richard

**Graphic Designer:**  
Thomas Hill Jr.

**Contributors:**  
Michele Walsky  
Iheb Klai  
Sarah Payson

**Adviser:**  
Susan Goldstein

**Address:**  
Room 344, MWCC,  
444 Green St.,  
Gardner, MA 01440

**Telephone/E-Mail/Website:**  
978.630.9260

mountobserver@mwcc.mass.edu

www.mountobserver.com

*The Observer* reserves the right to edit and condense all submissions. *The MWCC Observer* is a member of the College Media Advisers, Inc.

**Printer:**  
Athol Daily News

**Mount Observer Advertising Policy:**  
*The Mount Observer* will reject any ad that is libelous, obscene, violates any laws or encourages discrimination against any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, age, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability. *The Observer* reserves the right to edit or reject any ad copy at any time.

[@MountObserver](#)  
[The Mount Observer](#)  
[MountObserver](#)

**Follow  
The Mount  
Observer  
on Social  
Media!**

# Delta Alpha Pi

>>> *continued from page 2*

and assumptions of those with disabilities. I hope the club will expand by educating students within the campus and outside of the campus so the community knows that our school is happy to help”.

The criteria for joining is that first students must present a documented disability and work with one of the staff members of the Disability Services team. Also, students will demonstrate an interest in disability issues. Undergraduate students must also have completed a minimum of 24 credits and earned an overall Grade Point Average of 3.10.

The benefits of joining are being honored for outstanding academic achievement, developing leadership and

advocacy skills, serving as mentors and role models for other students, participating in fun activities and events, creating new friendships on campus, and having the opportunity to showcase strengths of students of all abilities. Disabilities of all kinds are encouraged to learn more and join this club.

There is no cost to join this club and meetings will be held every other Thursday starting October 5 from 12:30-1:30 p.m. in Room W11. The first co-sponsored event with the Delta Alpha Pi and Student Services will be on October 11 in the North Cafe showing the film, “The Renegades: A Beep Ball Story”. For more information, contact Amy LaBarge at [alabarge@mwcc.mass.edu](mailto:alabarge@mwcc.mass.edu).

# Press Release: Do One Thing

The Senator Stephen M. Brewer Center for Civic Learning & Community Engagement will be running a spot on event starting October 1, 2017 until December 1, 2017. During this time will be the **Do One Thing** (DOT) campaign. Any Student, Staff, Faculty, or Alumni may enter for a chance to win the Echo DOT product made by Amazon. To qualify to enter the individual must either:

1. Stop by the Senator Stephen M. Brewer Center for Civic Learning & Community Engagement in room 152 and inform us to the one thing they had done as an act of kindness;
2. Post the one thing along with their MWCC designated name on the designated white board near the mailbox;
3. Post on the Senator Stephen M. Brewer Center for Civic Learning & Community Engagement Facebook page the one act of kindness.

With each act of kindness the individual will gain an entry for a chance to win.

\*HINT - MWCC Food Pantry has a need of kindness, maybe someone has an act they could contribute.



## STUDENT LIFE CALENDAR: OCTOBER

**Student Photo IDs** Please bring one of the following photo IDs: a motor vehicle license or permit, a military ID, passport or a state issued identification card. ID cost is \$10. Returning students who already have an ID should stop by the MWCC library on the Gardner Campus or the front office on the Burbank, Devens or Leominster campus to have your ID validated for the fall semester at no charge.

**Intramural Activity** - Pickup Basketball - 7pm. Appropriate clothing and footwear are required. Players under the age of 18 need an adult signature to participate

**10/2 - 11/2** Billiards Tournament - Join the fun and win a cash prize. Sign up by sending an email to [studentlife@mwcc.mass.edu](mailto:studentlife@mwcc.mass.edu)

**10/3, 10/11, 10/17, 10/25 CATS Programming Meeting (Campus Activities Team for Students)** - 12:30 pm, Room W12. Come and join in on the fun of planning and running activities for MWCC students (i.e. Scary Karaoke, Fall Fest). For more information contact the Student Life office at [studentlife@mwcc.mass.edu](mailto:studentlife@mwcc.mass.edu). 978-630-9148 or stop by the office located in the Student Center. Open to all MWCC students.

**10/5 It's Your Birthday Celebration**, 12:30 pm, South Cafe. Stop by and enjoy a piece of birthday cake as we celebrate all of the August, September and October birthdays.

**10/10, 10/23 Student Government Association Meeting** - 12:30 pm, Murphy Room. Come see them in action and consider running for a seat on the SGA. Meeting open to all.

**10/11 Film: "The Renegades: A Beep Ball"** - 12:30pm, North Caf 

This film is about the awe-inspiring sport of Beep Baseball that has blind athletes hitting baseballs and diving headlong into buzzing bases. Beyond the game, it's about the people and their stories. The film looks at hope, heartache and what it means to play as a team. Mix in a fierce New York/Boston rivalry, an international World Series and a coach whose style can be described as "tough-love" and you have great nonfiction entertainment. Watch this film and you will feel the passion that is the Boston Renegades!

**10/12 Sabor Latino - Music and Ethnic Food**, 12:30 pm, South Caf . Come enjoy a taste of Latino food and dance to ethnic music.

**Leadership Retreat** - 8am-3:30pm, McNally's Catering

Join other student leaders in a variety of team building and interactive workshops. Preregistration is required, see Kathy in Room 151 for more information. **Registration Required 10/13**

**10/13 - 10/20 Empty Place at the Table Exhibit**, Commons Area, Stop by this display that commemorates the lives lost in Massachusetts over the past year as a result of domestic violence. The display was created by Battered Women's Resources, Inc., and consists of a formal dining room table set up with 2 plates for each victim, one with a name and the other with a brief description of the murder

**10/18 Monster Costume Show and Food Drive** - 12:30pm, South Caf .

Come dressed in a costume and take part in the costume show; bring a bag of non-perishable foods and get a raffle ticket for the big prize.

**10/18 QPR Suicide Prevention Training** - 12:30pm, Murphy Room.

As a person who may be in the best possible position to prevent suicide, you will find that QPR Training is designed to help you help someone who may be considering suicide. Much like CPR or the Heimlich Maneuver, the fundamentals of QPR are easy to learn. The application of QPR may save a life. Certified QPR Gatekeeper Instructors will train participants in QPR's three life-saving skills.

**10/24 Financial Literacy Fair** - 10am-2pm, Commons Area. Check out the fair and learn more about your finances.

**10/25 Film: "Warning: This Drug May Kill You"** - 12:30pm, North Cafe

Told from the perspectives of four families devastated by opioid addiction, Warning: This Drug May Kill You offers a harrowing, unflinching look at the deadly epidemic currently facing the United States.

**10/26 Scary Karaoke**, 6pm-9pm, South Caf 

Join your friends and fellow students in an evening of fun and prizes. Come dressed in costume to take part in the Costume Contest or just come for the food and fun. \$100 cash door prize every hour!

**10/30 Tea Time Speaker Series** - 12pm-2pm, Multipurpose Room

**10/31 Mocktails & Fatal Vision** - 12:30pm, South Caf .

Enjoy an alcohol free Pina Colada or Strawberry Daiquiri for a \$1.00 donation that helps support the SGA Food Drive. Take a few minutes with Campus Police to see how alcohol impairs your judgement.

### SAVE THE DATES:

**November 8th** - Film: "Almost Sunrise"  
12:30 pm, North Cafeteria

**November 15th** - Staff vs. Students Volleyball Game, 5pm, Fitness Center

**November 16th** - Thinkfast Gameshow, 12:30pm, South Caf . \$100 CASH Prize

**November 16th** - Great American Smokeout, 11:30-1:30pm, Student Center

**November 29th** - Ugly Sweater Workshop, 12:30-1:30pm, South Cafe

**December 6th & 7th** - Winterfest Fair, Commons Area

**December 11th** - "It's Your Birthday", 12:30pm, South Cafe

**December 14th** - Star Wars Day: May the Force be with You, South Caf , 11:30am-1:30pm

Events are held on the Gardner Campus unless otherwise noted.

# MWCC Welcome Back BBQ...



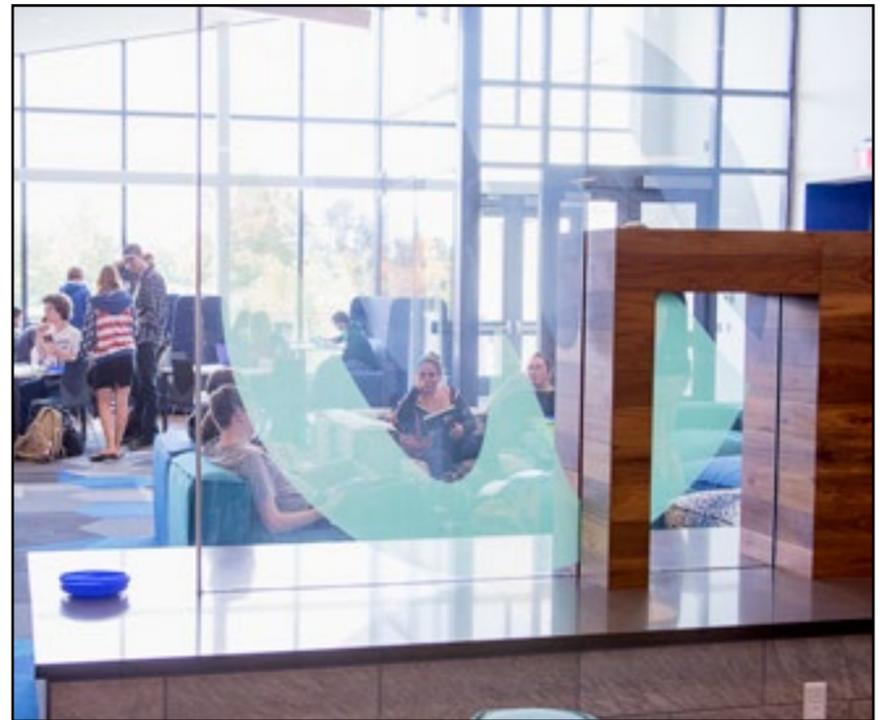
Photos by Jennifer Lamontagne



# and a New Student Center!



Photos by Jennifer Lamontagne



**“I am so blown away by the reception the new student center has received.”**

**“Every part is being used all the time.”**

**“I think it adds an element of college life that perhaps we didn’t have before.”**

**– President James Vander Hooven**

# HORROR-SCOPES!



**Aries** (March 21-April 19): You are shining like a Jack O' Lantern on a doorstep this month. Remember your goals and ambitions, long-term and short-term, and don't let anyone stomp them out. Though you may feel like you're a dime-a-dozen person, you are unique, and one-of-a-kind, just like every pumpkin that's going to be fancied up this time of year. Put on your best clothes, and show them all how much you glow!

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20): You are a very dedicated person. Be it for your family or friends, or you're just a lone wolf, you hold someone or something very dear to you. You can be stubborn about change, however. When the next full moon comes around, be open to new opportunities that may present themselves.

**Gemini** (May 21-June 20): You are hauntingly charismatic. Just remember not to give people the cold shoulder. Sometimes, it may seem like it's hard not to "cross the streams" with people, but almost every argument can be solved if you take a little time. Don't let the bad times haunt you this month.

**Cancer (Stabby Crabby)** (June 21-July 22): You leave people hypnotized with your kindness and nurturing attitude, but sometimes, it can be a little much for those closest to you. This month, pay attention to the tides, as their rising and falling reflects your energy balancing itself out. Self care is important as well. Treat yourself to a nice long bath, polish your scales, and relax.

**Leo** Leo (July 23-August 22): Sometimes, you can get a bit wrapped up in yourself, or your loved ones. However, you don't want to shrivel up in those feelings. As the seasons change, bundle up, and enjoy something new. You never know what awaits you out in the sun!

**Virgo** (August 23-September 22): You are the most practical sign, but at the same time, the most critical. Take the time this month to remember you're made of a bunch of parts from a bunch of different people... figuratively, of course. Nobody is perfect, so look into the mirror, see those nice parts all sewn together into one perfect human being, and let that feeling electrify you.

**Libra** (September 23-October 22): If you meet someone this month, it may be love at first sight, but be careful. Your sign can be a tad on the vain and melodramatic side. Not to be a pain in the neck, but if you want a relationship to last, hear your partner out, and give yourself a break from time to time. Significant other, friend, or family, they may seem obnoxious, but they're there because they love you... Unless they're wearing garlic around their neck. Then you should probably skedaddle.

**Scorpio** (October 23-November 21): This month, a lot is on your mind. It may feel like it's hard to tell which witch is which, but as long as you stay brave and remember it's pronounced "leviosa", you should be fine. Keep your head high and watch out for those houses. Good or bad, you'll be able to power through this.

**Sagittarius** (November 22-December 21): As the skeleton war draws nigh, your sign shall be the bravest of them all. You can, however, be a bit argumentative or sometimes a bit flaky. It's important to remember everyone has a right to their opinion this month, even if that opinion sounds like the dumbest thing you've ever heard. Keep this in mind and fight valiantly, dearest Sagittarius.

**Capricorn** (December 22-January 19): Lizards are your best friends this month. With your hard-working attitude, and grounding energy, you will feel in tune with these earthly creatures. Keep an eye out for snakes in the grass, though. More precisely, under the floor tiles. Literally, just lift one up, and you'll find at least five. Don't worry, they're friendly. They just want to cuddle.

**Aquarius** (January 20 to February 18): Take the time to go apple picking with your friends, you social li'l moth! All you need for a good time is a few of your closest buddies, a bucket, and an orchard. Remember to bring your zombie repellent though. Even if the leaves are crackling when stepped on, you always have to remember at least one of them can always sneak up behind you.

**Pisces** (February 19 to March 20): Beware of emotional vampires. Beware of real vampires too, they really suck. You may feel like you need to help everyone who comes up to you because of your innate compassion, but this can lead to many a toxic friendship. If someone seems like they're becoming a vampire, remember this: Sometimes, the best thing you can do is watch yourself first and put on your finest designer garlic perfume.

# ASPHALT APOCALYPSE

By Michele Walsky

Aghast, no space in sight!  
 "BBQ fair," my carpool squealed in delight  
 "Cone," I groaned, circling in plight  
 Diagonal, sideways, angled, no use  
 Every spot was taken, it was becoming obtuse  
 Forget it, I'd say if it wasn't for class  
 Good gravy, so jammed, students parked on the grass!  
 "Hurry", I prayed, following walkers afar  
 Instead, they tossed books and grabbed more from their car  
 Just as hope dipped, we spied a spot  
 "KIDDING!"  
 Laughed the bike in its slot  
 "Motorcycles", we cursed under our breath  
 Nuts and bolts were nearly left  
 "Open up!" we complained,  
 Parking's a pain; planning early was all in vain  
 Questioned, a census would agree  
 Rogue timbered an orange teepee  
 Sorry, rules were there for the pickin'  
 Time was a tickin'  
 Unwilling to be late, too rushed to be chicken.  
 Vexed, complexed  
 What choice was at hand?  
 'Xiled, banned to no man's land?  
 Yugo, we need a miracle, in this  
 Zonking zoo of vehicles

**EAST WING GALLERY** - Mount Wachusett Community College  
Fall 2017 Exhibitions & Gallery Talks



**Julia Morgan**  
*In/Transit*  
September 6 - October 5  
Reception: Fri. Sept. 22, 3:30-6 pm  
Gallery Talk: Wed. Sept. 13 at 12:30  
< Concourse Sunset, 2017, watercolor marker & paint pen on paper, 12x16 in.



**Joan Hathaway**  
*Ceramic Work in the glass cases*  
September 6 - October 16  
Reception: Fri. Sept. 22, 3:30-6 pm  
Pinchar, 2016, stoneware, reduction cone 10



**Taylor French Benoit**  
MWCC ALUMNUS  
October 11 - December 2  
Reception: Fri. Oct. 13, 3:30-6 pm  
Gallery Talk: Wed. Nov. 8, 12:30-1:30 pm  
< An Eight & a Half by Eleven Standardized Sleigh, 2017, acrylic & vinyl on wood, 19.5 x 21 in.



Ceramic work by artists from  
**Salmon Falls Gallery**  
Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts  
October 23 - December 28  
Joy Friedman, stoneware bowl, 2017



**Exhibition of Student Work**  
*from Painting II & Drawing III*  
December 19 - January 26, 2018  
Reception: Thursday, Dec. 21, 3:30-5:30 pm

By Sarah Payson



Photo by Tauseef Ali Khan https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Travelling\_is\_life-.jpg

Travelling, anywhere by any means, can be an incredibly rewarding experience.

# What Travelling has Taught Me

By Iheb Klai

I have been travelling the last two years around 8 countries from different continents. Whether by train, car or airplane, travel is always a pleasurable experience that makes me gain more benefits than any other thing. That is why I personally encourage students to take such decisions and gain life-long benefits.

My last trip was for almost two months during this past summer vacation. I went to Greece for a volunteering internship and a discovering mission at the same time. Mainly, it was the best experience I have ever had all my life. Every time I travel I feel new personality inside me, more mature, more confident, and just starting to learn my fourth language.

The most important thing I learned through my life is that spending money on experiences

is much better than buying objects or goods. I saved money for a long time to go all the way to south Europe and discover the area. I made a lot preparations such as interviews and paper work with an International student-run organization called AIESEC. After being accepted, I started asking people around to get more information and I did it.

Just do not let the fear of travelling alone keep you from your travel dreams. You will go out from your comfort zone and in that time it will be easier to make friends and find travelers from all over the world. People do not have to panic and listen to others without ambitions, because I regret it one time when I gave up my dream for someone else.

After talking with many young people, I heard so many excuses why they do not travel. Some of them are afraid to be alone or being lost somewhere abroad.

Also some people cannot afford travelling, some of them cannot even find the time to travel which is really strange.

For those who always think that the world is very expansive, travelers never paid a lot to see new places. It is all about ideas and good plans. I went to volunteer many times in different countries and my accommodation was always paid by the organization I am working with. I had great time without paying a lot. Sometimes, I found opportunities that pay for everything. It is all about searching for good projects and programs that make it easier for us to spend as much as we can abroad.

We are still young and we still have all the life to travel and discover, it actually makes the person feel better. Just go ahead and do it because it is not that difficult as many people think.



# President Vander Hooven on the State of DACA

By Brianna Stevens

At the beginning of September, President Vander Hooven stood with a statement opposing the end of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA. The statement was issued by Community College heads around Massachusetts, and the head of Boston Public Schools.

“We remain committed to meeting the needs of every person who walks through our doors looking to learn and achieve, regardless of their immigration status. We stand together to fight for the continued protection of all the young people with and eligible for DACA,” the statement reads.

According to Masslive.com, “It is signed by the presidents of the state’s 15 community colleges.”

When asked why he supports this statement, Vander Hooven

said, “I support there being a federal law that permanently provides the same rights to the children of families who came here, perhaps illegally.”

President Vander Hooven fully stands with the statement, and will protect students who may be affected by the end of DACA. He said, “I am with you and I understand the circumstances you were put in.”

Vander Hooven explained that President Obama wanted the legislature to act to make DACA a law, and President Trump has now said that the legislature will be required to act within 6 months to make it a law.

Vander Hooven is keeping a close eye on the situation, and if it appears that the law may not be passed, he proposed to have students write letters and petitions to keep students under DACA protected around the state and country.



**Sunday, Oct. 1 or  
Sunday, Oct. 29, 2017**  
**9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**  
Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell



OPEN HOUSE



Register ONLINE AT [uml.edu/falloh2017](http://uml.edu/falloh2017)

# The Non-Traditional Student Stare

By Kelly Cacciolfi

My name is Kelly, I am a 43 year-old non-traditional student, and this is my final semester here at the Mount. Each semester starts the same way for me: scared to death of my classes, hoping I have great professors, finding my classrooms, and trying to balance home and school life seamlessly. The first three weeks are always the hardest for me in just trying to find the time to balance everything that needs to get done.

I have noticed on our MWCC campus the other non-traditional students and how sometimes they have the same look in their

eyes as I do. I call the look the Non-Traditional Student Stare. In the middle of the semester, our stares become, "phew I am halfway there". By the end of the semester, I feel as though our stares become those of "I did it and see the end in sight". Thank goodness I am not alone and neither are you.

Every day starts at 5:30 a.m. with my alarm beeping or my 12-year-old son coming in to say "rise and shine" and then I wake my 14-year-old daughter (who hates to get up). A healthy breakfast (yes, I make breakfast at least 4 days a week) and packing up for the day is done

by all. I race my son to a friend to drop him off for the bus to take him to Mahar and then race home to bring my daughter to Overlook in Ashburnham. All to be done by 7:25 a.m.

By the time I get to school (usually 7:35 a.m.), my day feels already over and I have to start thinking about how to make it through the night with all the kid's extra activities, laundry, cooking, cleaning, and the kids and my homework. I have six classes this semester and I am determined to keep my grade point average high.

There is so much more that a non-traditional student such

as me has to think about during the day then just school and homework. Life has led us all to make something more of ourselves, learning, loving, and being proud of each step we make toward a new future.

There was a club for non-traditional students that was stopped because of a lack of funding. I believe that with the amount of non-traditional students I see on our campus there is a need to start it up once more. Meeting, emailing, or using social media to connect with other students that are having a similar experience that you are having would be a

great help. So if you're a non-traditional student and you want to reach out and connect with others please let me know at [kcacciolfi@mwcc.edu](mailto:kcacciolfi@mwcc.edu).

I am not alone! You are not alone! So when you see another non-traditional student with a stare like yours stop and say hello. I know there are more students out there trying to balance the world on their shoulders every day. It would be great to just know there are others making it, just like you.



**APPLY NOW**

**Earn an Elms College bachelor's degree at MWCC in:**



**Psychology (BA)**



**RN-BS**

**Make an appointment for an interview/transcript review and have your questions answered.**

FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE

For more information contact:

**Sonia Patota • 413-313-3322 • 413-265-2383 • [patotas@elms.edu](mailto:patotas@elms.edu)**

**WWW.ELMS.EDU/MWCC**