

The Mount Observer

“A voice for the students of Mount Wachusett Community College”

Inside This Issue:

Scary Karaoke:
Check out a spooky two-page dose of photos from October’s Scary Karaoke Event.
Pages 6-7

2016 Election – One Year Later:
MWCC professors give their thoughts on the past year since the election, and what they think the future holds.
Pages 8

Reviews:
What did we think of the latest hit movies and music? Come find out!
Page 10

Book Vouchers Could Help You Pay for Your Textbooks

By Michele Walsky

Weighed down by classes and a heavy backpack, the last thing students need is to collapse under the cost of books too. However, the financial aid office offered several solutions to lighten the load, including decoding bookstore lingo, an electronic book program, book vouchers and scholarships.

According to Kelly Morrissey, Director of Financial Aid, the first option students take is usually Federal funds. But there’s a hidden gem of scholarships under the Award Spring icon. It is easy to apply on Mount Wachusett Community College’s iconnect page under Apps, a little known resource awaits. According to Morrissey, rewards are based on grade point averages, degree fields and other merits, not income, and the money can be used for books. Applications are open from January through May to accommodate the following school year.

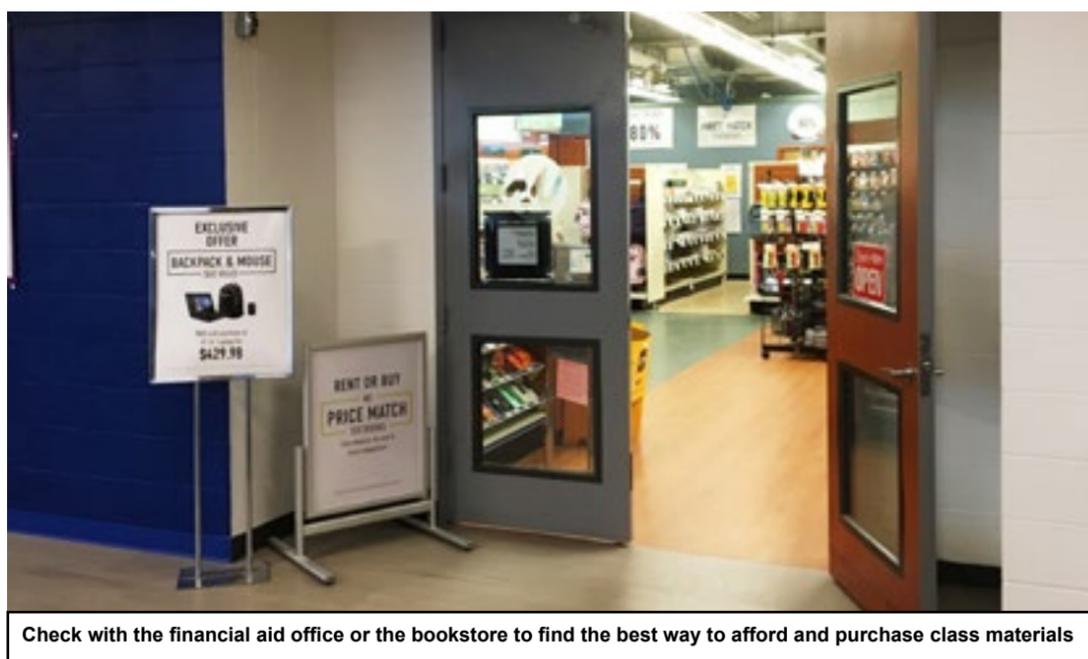


Photo by Thomas Hill

Morrissey encourages students to take a look at their syllabus to see what is actually required.

“Students need to be good consumers,” Morrissey said. “They should know what they really need to purchase in the bookstore.”

According to Morrissey, knowing the difference between the bookstore’s recommended and required materials can save students money. She said, professors require the books they are going to use. A syllabus states this information and tells the

students what materials, if any, are required. Recommendations are only the bookstore’s opinion, she stated, urging students to use their personal preference to judge if extra supplies will help.

“They need to understand it’s not required,” she said.

Another option she advocated is buying used editions (per professor approval) and renting books, either at the campus bookstore or online. Sites such as Half.com, amazon.com, chegg.com, and others offer used, new, and rental books for much less. Campusbooks.com rounds up the best deals like a travel site by typing the book’s ISBN number.

continued on page 2
“Book Vouchers >>>”

Student Author, Michele Walsky, Has First Book Published

By Arielle Whitaker

MWCC student and mother of two, Michele Smith Walsky, took her adolescent hobby and turned it into professional work.

Under her penname, Chele Pedersen Smith, Walsky published her first book in March 2017. *Behind Frenemy Lines* is a mystery involving crime, romance, and scandal. Walsky began writing scattered chapters for her husband to read, knowing he is a mystery novel buff, and soon constructed a story line and title.

For Walsky, her passion for writing goes back to the third grade. Her inspiration stemmed from a visit with her grandmother, who showed up to the house with a three-hole punch. This planted the idea in Walsky’s head to build a book with paper and string, and therefore write a story.

Walsky often collaborated with friends that could illustrate, wanting to match her storylines with vivid imagery. In fifth grade, Walsky and a friend entered their story into a talent contest. Although she was weary about the results, the following week’s newspaper announced Walsky’s story had won. This gave Walsky the writing confidence to continue her hobby.

Walsky’s interest in mystery stories started in middle school when she read *Trixie Belden*, a series revolving around a girl detective named Trixie. This influenced Walsky to write her own mystery series, *Sherri Whitman*. She continuously wrote this series throughout high school.

For Walsky the publication process was a long and “hair pulling” experience. *Behind*

Frenemy Lines was not her first attempt at getting her work published. At the age of twenty-one she tried to publish a story from *Sherri Whitman*, but was rejected. The rejection continued when she periodically entered short story contests with various magazines. Finally, she succeeded, *Behind Frenemy Lines* was set to be published. After correcting typos and setting up the format, her book was ready and Walsky was relieved.

Walsky shows no signs of slowing down with her writing, in fact she wants to commit more to the craft. Her second book, *The Pearly Gates Phone Company*, a collection of spiritual, non-fiction stories inspired by the death of her father is almost completed. It includes a story where Walsky explains the rejection process



Photo by Jennifer Lamontagne

and how it has made her a better writer, forcing her to “improve, tighten, and give the works a

splash more life”. Walsky has plans to publish this book as well.

Domestic Violence

By Julissa Marte

Tiana Notice, a victim to domestic violence, lost her own life but has saved many more. Kathy Lewis, her mother, an employee at Mount Wachusett Community College (MWCC), recently spoke during domestic violence awareness month at MWCC where she gave details of her daughter's death and the family's subsequent steps to help victims of domestic violence.

According to Lewis, Notice visited 3 different police stations in Connecticut in 2016. In her hometown of Plainville, she visited the station 33 times seeking help after getting a restraining order against James Carter, the murderer. She brought substantial evidence to arrest him after he violated the restraining order by stalking her with calls and emails.

But he masterminded the police by getting another restraining order against the victim with false allegations and evidence. The police decided

to run a background check and fingerprints on Notice but not on Carter. He had a record of domestic violence and offenses, according to Lewis.

Notice, unable to get the help, turned to her parents. Her mother said, "I called [the Sergeant and] said, Look you can't wait until Tuesday; I don't want my daughter becoming a statistic." Lewis said the Sergeant responded by saying, "Nothing is going to happen to your daughter," which startled Lewis. Then Notice's father, a correctional officer, installed cameras in her home for protection and evidence against James.

As stated by Lewis, on Valentine's Day, 10 days after her 25th birthday, Notice was butchered and killed by Carter. She lay on the floor for 30 minutes, next to an officer, for an ambulance because there were not any private ambulances that could bring the victim to the nearest hospital that was 15 minutes away.

After a guilty verdict for Carter, the family also sought justice from the police department. Obtaining a victory, the jury ruled that the police department was responsible for the wrongful death of Tania Notice.

Connecticut laws changed after her death to protect domestic violence victims, male and female. The state was famous for failing to protect women, said Lewis. Notice's father, Alvin, introduced a GPS system to the state, where the victim and police can know how close or far the offender is from the victim. Kathy Lewis started a Foundation in her daughter's name, "making lemonade out of lemon," said Lewis, by helping young women install video cameras for free to have for evidence. Her website is <http://www.tiananoticefoundation.org/>.

"[I] wasn't able to save her, [but] we can probably save other people," said Lewis.



Kathy Lewis

THE MOUNT OBSERVER
VOLUME 12, ISSUE 3,
November 1, 2017

Editor in Chief:
Joshua Needham

Assistant Editors:
Brianna Stevens
Kelly Cacciolfi
Iheb Klai

Social Media Editor:
Joshua Needham

Staff Photographers:
Jennifer Lamontagne
Benjamin Richard

Graphic Designer:
Thomas Hill Jr.

Contributors:
Michele Walsky
Randy Streeter
Arielle Whitaker
Rachel Aster
Julissa Marte
Ashley McHugh
Lvov Mhyana
Shayna Rolon
Cassie Roy
Michael Parahiala

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.

Book Vouchers

>>> *continued from page 1*

Each semester, leftover financial aid funds are cashed in at the bookstore via student ID as book vouchers, and are available to use two weeks before and two weeks after a semester begins, she explained. Any unused amount is refunded to the student.

If aid is not enough to cover books, students can apply for a quick update at the financial aid office, she said. But it's not a guarantee since everyone's eligibility and max limit differs.

"Financial Aid is not a one-size fits all," Morrissey pointed out.

Morrissey said the e-books program is the future. Morrissey and the Open Education Resource committee are in the process of putting Pearson's First day initiative in place and convincing faculty to adopt cheaper and electronic options. She reported that results are mostly positive.

According to Morrissey, professors who participate will use digital textbooks which students obtain through Blackboard. These resources are embedded with videos, workbooks, and links, giving students substantial savings. Approximating a \$300 hard copy textbook would be reduced to about \$80 electronically, she said the fee for the e-book is swept into the student bill. This means financial aid will pick up the tab as part of class cost, savings students the hassle in more ways than one.

Morrissey is a member of the Open Education Resources committee (OER), which advocates for affordable books and college costs and has been the Director of Financial Aid at Mount Wachusett since 1996.

At the end of the semester, don't shove the book under the bed just yet. Sell it to recoup some coinage.

Profile: Maureen Provost and The MWCC Garrison Childcare Center

By Michele Walsky

A streak of orange and black flutters outside the Garrison Education conference room, attracting Professor Maureen Provost's attention for a moment and she's pleased. Planting a bush to entice butterflies is exactly the kind of open-ended lesson plan the Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education is teaching at the Mount Wachusett campus.

Happy shrieks ricochet off the playground, but the Garrison Childcare Center is far more than a daycare. It is headquarters for the Early Childhood Education and Elementary degree program, a classroom with hands-on

experience with Provost at the helm. More importantly, it is a place where preschoolers bloom. "Children are egocentric so we let children steer the curriculum," Provost said, whose unofficial title is "Glitter Slinger."

If growing minds are fascinated by falling acorns, the week's theme is acorns and autumn leaves. One child just became a big brother and the day's agenda switched to a chart of birth weight guesses. The highest bid was 100 pounds. The wall is adorned with self-portrait drawings, giving away the answers to "What kind of baby were you?"

"If you make it interesting, children will come," is Provost's favorite self-quote, a tagline twist from the movie "Field Of Dreams."

A firm believer in education beyond worksheets, she illustrates how experience is a far better tool. According to Provost, "children can learn colors by using crayons, but they can *feel* red by dipping their fingers in paint and spreading red across the page. Orange has more meaning when mixing red and yellow together."

Provost is active in her community. She hates to see families struggle, is a strong

believer in democracy, and helping each other out. Attending Trinity College in Burlington, Vermont, she became a worker bee for Mayor Bernie Sanders' "Success by Six" literacy and reading program and taught school in Colombia, South America.

As for the future, Provost cannot imagine being anywhere else but the Garrison Center.

"The bottom line is children. We have to do right by children," she urged. "I want to make their lives better."

Provost has been a full-time professor at MWCC for thirteen years, adjunct faculty for ten, and

serves as night faculty liaison for evening activities. In her spare time, she volunteers as artistic director and paints theater sets, 32 so far. She received a Master's in early childhood education, a Bachelor's in elementary education with a minor in fine art, and hopes one day to pursue a doctorate.

Garrison enrolls children 2.9 years up to kindergarten age. Some are offspring of Mount Wachusett students, others are part of the Head Start program, and if space allows, private pay.

Local Firefighter Gives Advice to Students & Young Adults

By Lvov Mhyana

Pete Gamache, 33, a former MWCC student, has been a firefighter for 13 years at the Gardner Fire Dept. He wants to raise awareness of early addiction in Gardner and how to avoid common accidents among college-age adults who are new to living by themselves or driving their own cars.

"Accidents happen every day, in the home, in vehicles, and at work," said Gamache. "Most of the time it's caused by just a second of losing focus, such as driving, when we are walking down the stairs, or chopping a potato

for dinner. It only takes a few seconds of a lapse of judgment to change the rest of your life. Stay in control as much as possible and you will avoid many accidents."

Young adults living alone may not know the common mistakes people make in their homes and how to avoid them. On that topic, Gamache said, "New homeowners should just be aware of the clutter that happens when you first move somewhere... Just keep those walkways and stairs clear. Also, learn about the systems in your home and how they work, such



U.S. Air Force photo by Todd Cromar

as, maintenance schedules. A lot of young homeowners have a lack of knowledge on their heating/cooling systems, fire places and basic electrical knowledge."

When discussing Gardner's drug problem, Gamache said, "I've found that if you have a good group of friends then you'll all be able to avoid drugs. Post high school is tougher though. Friends move away and life starts. I think keeping busy by going after a good job or staying

in school is a great way to avoid having the time to get involved in drugs. Unfortunately, it does happen all the time. There are many programs out there to help. Police want you to get the help you need."

According to mass.gov, as of August 2017, the deaths from overdose in Gardner has doubled since 2013. There were 260 overdoses in the age range of 15--24 leading to death in Massachusetts from January 2017 - June 2017.

Pete Gamache grew up in Gardner and went to Mount Wachusett Community College. He knew he wanted to be a firefighter during 9/11, when he watched a video in high school of the firefighters entering the burning buildings. He said, "Knowing they had just lost many of their brothers, they walked into the dust when everyone else was running out of Manhattan. I wanted to be part of that team."

FINISH WHAT YOU STARTED!



BAYPATH.EDU

Transfer Information Session Dates

Monday, November 6, 8:00 am - 2:30 pm

Sunday, December 10, 10:30 am - 3:00 pm



588 Longmeadow Street Longmeadow, MA 01106 800.782.7284 ext.1235 transfer@baypath.edu

Campus Club Spotlight

Club Spotlight: Math Club

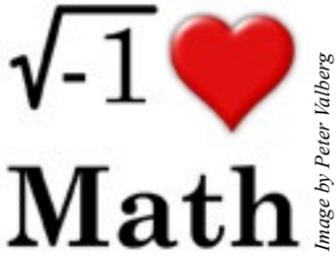


Image by Peter Valberg

By Randy Streeter

After a one year hiatus, the math club is back again. The club meets every other Thursday at 12:30 in the physics and engineering lab on the 3rd floor.

The club is mainly made up of physics and math majors who discuss math concepts as it applies to their major. The mission statement of the club is to promote the enjoyment of mathematics through creative exploration and outreach to the community.

The club is also involved in the American Mathematical Association of Two Year Colleges mathematics league. Through the AMATYC they take a test once a semester and compete against other two year colleges across the country.

Professor Ken Takvorian helps facilitate the test.

As with any club, there needs to be a faculty member to oversee it. Eliza Miller has taken on that responsibility for the math club. Professor Miller has been teaching at MWCC for 6 years teaching just about every class offered in the math department. Professor Miller has previous experience as she was the in her high school math club for 5 years, serving as president and treasurer.

When asked her about why she wanted to be the advisor, she said it was “good to be involved with students outside the class setting” and that she had a lot of ideas such as “different speakers, museums to go to, and various types of math to be offered.”

There are two service learning projects that are mandatory. The club is involved in a mentoring program with Athol High School and helps out at the Boys/Girls club of Leominster/Fitchburg with the science fair that they hold every April.

Club Spotlight: Creative Writing Club

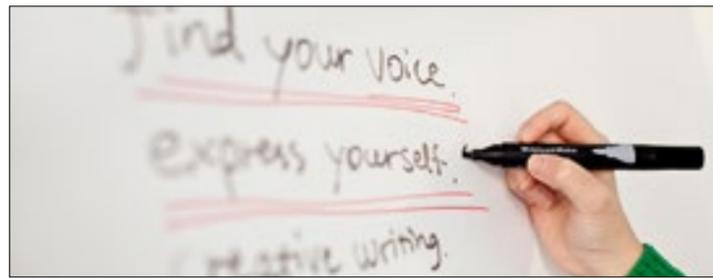


Photo by North, Jvia

By Rachel Aster

While college is a stressful time of learning and studying, a lot of students find stress relief by letting their creative side flow. The Creative Writing Club has been an outlet for students since the 1970's at the Mount. All students are welcome to attend events such as Open Mics and submit their written works to be published in the Club's yearly magazine.

The club consists of 2-4 students who edit the magazine and put on a few events each year. Along with the core editors, everyone is welcome to join the meetings which are every other Monday, as of Oct 23, at 12:30 p.m. in room 071.

The meetings are used to plan field trips, open mics, the spring Magazine and sometimes getting public speakers to come to the school. The club meetings are open-minded and are sometimes even used for writing or to share writings. Students are free to do as they please which makes every meeting unique.

Professor Michelle Valois, an English instructor who teaches Creative Writing I and Creative Writing II courses, is currently the head of the club, and has been since she inherited it in 2004. The level I course is based on mainly using different genres and styles while the level II gets into a writing project that can potentially be a part of a novel.

“Students need to have a voice,” Valois said when asked why the Creative Writing Club was such an important part of MWCC.

The magazine is published yearly, in the spring, and is free to students. The arts join forces for the magazine artwork with help from students in the Graphic Design department. Last year's magazine had a psychedelic cover design done by Ian Cook. The magazine can be picked up in the Library and other communal areas of the school. All students are encouraged to submit their writings.

Along with the magazine, the club holds 1-2 events a year. This December an Open Mic is in the works. There are usually about 10 readers, an audience of about 25 students, and faculty members who attend.

Valois takes pride in her students and in the Creative Writing Club. She has been a writer all her life and has published pieces of her work. “It's fun to get to do what I love for a living,” Valois said.

The Hiking Club, as Explained by Advisor Nancy Regan

By Michele Walsky

“Don't worry, be happy. Climb Mount Monadnock!” is the advice Nancy Regan, health services clerk and hiking club advisor, suggests to students battling anxiety and stress. It doesn't have to be mountains; walk, run, bike or go to the gym. According to Regan, technology has sprouted a nature-deficient society, so her philosophy is to just get out and start moving.

Regan endorses the endorphin high, that feel-good hormone released after any type of exercise. This natural mood booster improves mental and physical health—and it is free! She reported having hiked with a headache and having it disappear by the time she descended.



Photo by Andrea Schaffhutzen

Hiking can be as easy or hardcore as you wish.

“It's not just physical,” Regan said, emphasizing the optimistic effects workouts have on her

daily outlook. “It's a whole mind-body experience.”

After just an hour and twenty

minutes, Regan has been up and down the 3,150 foot mountain. Don't be discouraged if it takes longer. She's been at it for five years. Her favorite trail is the 1.9 mile White Dot. It's the fastest, but steepest, most difficult route. She suggested beginners use the Cascade Link or Cliff Walk, which are a good start for children.

Addicted and obsessed, she climbs the crag in Jaffrey, New Hampshire on Wednesdays from May to October, and every Sunday year-round. She doesn't let anything interfere with her mountain climbing, exercise is her top priority. After buddying up as a favor, it became a way of life. She even got the whole family involved and her grown son still joins her for hikes.

She reminded that hikers need to stay hydrated, and since climbing burns so many calories, it is important to keep energy levels high. She advised packing high protein foods like nuts and snicker bars or her go-to backpack snack, PB & J's.

According to Regan, winter is her favorite season to climb. She finds the untouched snow pristine, so quiet and peaceful, and the hanging powder-covered limbs, “absolutely beautiful.”

Regan said her future goal is to trek the Appalachian Trail, with New England portion being the most tricky to tackle.

Sexual Assault and You

Looking at the Harvey Weinstein Case



Photo by David Shankbone

By Ashley McHugh

In today's age, rape culture is booming and people are turning a blind eye to what is happening. In the wake of the allegations made by actors in Hollywood against Harvey Weinstein, along with other large Hollywood names, such as Bill Cosby, it is time I told my own story of my own sexual assault and what these new allegations mean not only for me but for other women as well.

Harvey Weinstein is a movie and TV show producer who, according to *The New York Times*, assaulted 24 women since the 1990's. Some of his accusers you know by first glance, Angelina Jolie, Gwyneth Paltrow and Ashley Judd, to name a few. On October 10, an explosive piece by Ronan Farrow in *The New Yorker*, detailed a more gruesome story, describing a deeper pattern of

sexual harassment, intimidation, and, in several instances, rape.

According to *Rolling Stone*, Weinstein was fired from the company he created and his all male board resigned; the company plans to change its name in the next few weeks. Weinstein's MO went a little something like this: he invites a younger woman to his hotel room or apartment on a professional pretense, appears in a bathrobe or completely undressed, and requests a massage or sexual favors, offering the exchange for career advancement. He also had his female assistants sit in during the beginning of these "meetings" so the young women would feel more comfortable.

So why didn't this come out sooner? It is simple really because Weinstein is a powerful and influential man, and we live in a society where women are discouraged from

coming forward with stories of harassment and rape. If people come out with stories like these, they either aren't believed or told they are crazy.

As a survivor of sexual assault and rape, these allegations are gruesome and horrifying. But what is more sickening to me is that people have known about this for decades and yet not a soul said a word. He was a powerful man who held careers in his hand, but powerful people know they can get away with just about anything. I mean, who was going to stop him?

We need to do something about this epidemic; we need to speak up. If you see something, say something. Educate the people of today that this type of behavior will not be tolerated and that the time for change is now.

Waitressing Myths

By Cassie Roy

Waitressing- a long standing profession for the charismatic and hard working. Although this job can be a dream come true for those in need of fast cash, it can come with some difficult nights. Customers tend to believe that their food taking a long time, coming out wrong, or their drink not tasting good is the server's fault, which is not true, and most of the time the server is as frustrated as the customer.

Customers thinking like this can affect the way they view waitresses as well as the way they tip. Another common belief is that waitresses make a base pay. As this may be true for small family owned cafés, it is actually the opposite for chain restaurants.

Waitresses make \$0 per hour that they work unless they make less than minimum wage at the

end of the week in tips; only then will they get a paycheck from their restaurant to make up for lack of tips. For example, if the waitress works forty hours a week and makes only \$400 (only \$10/hour) for the week in tips, the restaurant will reimburse you \$40. However they still tax that small paycheck they give you.

Waitresses also have to run all of their food, bus their tables, run glassware, roll silver, and even clean parts of the kitchen and service stations before they're allowed to leave for the night. They also have to clean the section of five to seven tables that we are assigned each night. This includes sweeping, wiping down the mirrors, setting the tables with full ketchups, 32 sugars in each caddy, and wrapped silverware for every table.

Waitresses have to put up with a lot, but the most tiring part of

the job can be the nasty comments that they are sure to hear throughout their shift. Lauren Nichols, a waitress at the Marlborough TGIFriday's, overheard a mother at one of her tables make this comment while she watched Lauren bus a dirty table, "this is why you have to go to college, girl, so you can make more money than she does."

As you probably have assumed by now in the article, yes, I am a waitress at TGIFriday's in Berlin, Massachusetts. I have worked there full time for almost a year now, and in that year I have endured nasty comments by hungry people who need someone to yell at, and unfortunately that is always the waitress. The Shakespearean saying "don't shoot the messenger," has become my new motto for work.

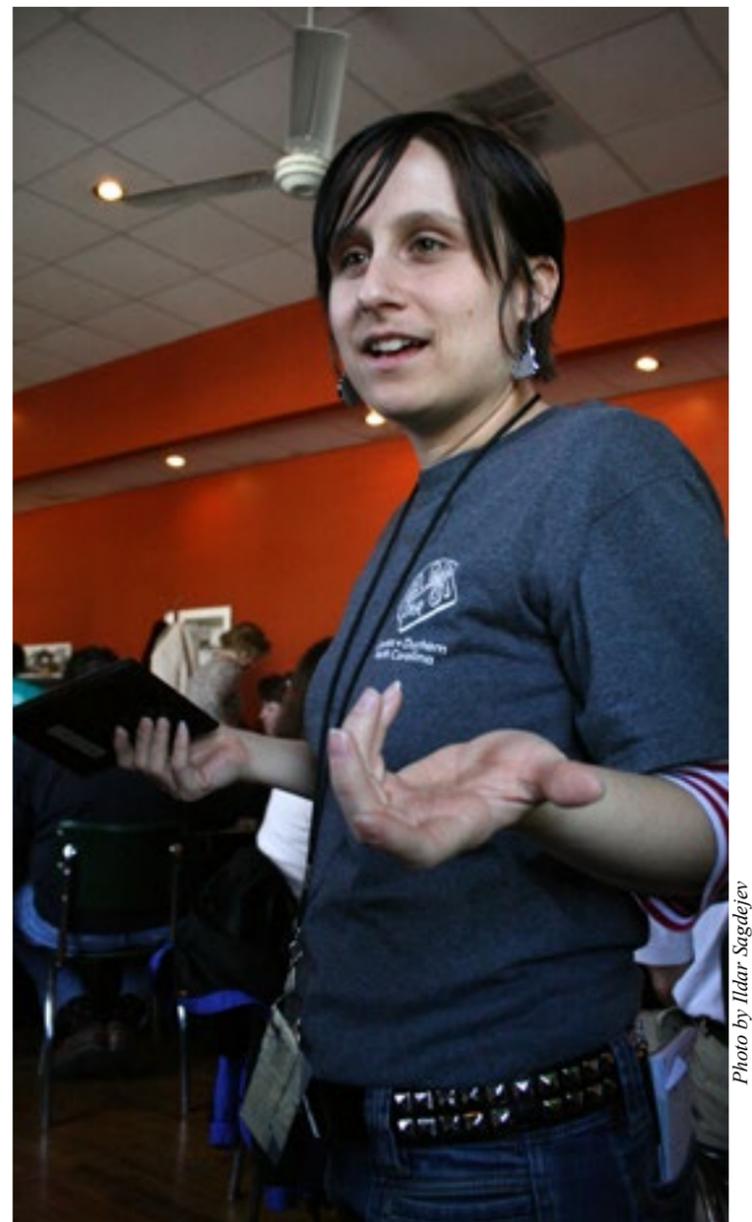


Photo by Ildar Sagdejev



SPOOKY TIMES AT SCARY KARAOKE!



Photos by Jennifer Lamontagne

Kelsey Bosselait and Evan Tucker as "Nerds"



Jonathan Cohen as a Tiger in a Trenchcoat



Sean Hogan as a Pumpkin Man, Abigail Cross as a Witch Under a House



Ayana Bordeur as an Elf, Taylor Adam as a Scarecrow, and Stephanie as Cleopatra

The 2016 Presidential Election: One Year Later



Photo by Michael Radon

President Donald J. Trump

Candace Shiver's Addresses

By Kelly Cacciolfi

Candace Shivers, Associate Professor of Sociology and Human Services reflects on her thoughts from the November 2016 issue of the Observer where she was quoted saying this about Trump "I'll be honest. I'm not sure what he could have said that would have made me vote for him".

A year later nothing has changed in her thoughts of how she voted in last November's election. Shivers said, "it has confirmed people's angst about Trump".

Shiver's said "I try to get people the benefit of the doubt, always. There has been no overhaul of education or any changes in the things I believe in to change my vote". Shivers found a positive, however, that has happened during the Trump Presidency and said "people's stocks and their portfolios are getting better if they invested correctly".

Shiver's feels strongly that no one should be marginalized and said "If someone voted for Trump that's OK, that's their right. It's not Trump's fault he was voted in as President". Both Democratic and Republicans were shocked that this happened, that Trump became president.

Shivers said this about how the presidency is going to date, "I'm that person that believes everything happens for a reason so, if nothing else, this has awakened our nation about what is the possibilities are and that we can't just sit back on our laurels and expect stuff to happen. Movement is happening. It bothers me that minorities and women "recently" have been given the right to vote and I hear young women say I am not a registered voter". Shivers sees life in our nation and said "I am excited about the energy, people caring again, the marching, and young people getting involved. My nervousness is that there

is still a segment of people in despair. The Presidency is super important but don't forget the local elections that you have a direct impact on, get involved both sides of the aisle".

In the 2020 election Shivers feels "For the first time in a long time there will be a challenger in the same party or might be Joe Kennedy, the reason I say that is because he is an everyday guy and for the most part he is trusted".

The one thing Shivers wants the MWCC students to consider is "I try to tell every student in my classes that it is actually OK not to agree with everyone all the time. A truly democratic society allows for different voices. And the idea that you believe your right and others are wrong it's just their truth is theirs and you should never squash others truth". Lastly, Shivers said, "Live your truth".

Maldonado's Take

Professor Geraldo Maldonado's Thoughts About the First Year After the Election

By Kelly Cacciolfi

Geraldo "Jerry" Maldonado, MBA, Assistant Professor of Business said "I do believe that President Trump is working to fulfill all of his campaign promises. This is somewhat unusual. Most Presidents promise A, B, and C. They deliver B, Y, and Z" a year after the election.

With it being a year after the election Maldonado said this about how he feels the presidency is going to date: "I think President Trump is doing well. Unemployment in 2009 was about 10% in the United States and 9% in Massachusetts. Today, the unemployment rate is below 5% and below 4%, respectively. In 2009, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was about 6,600. Today, the DJIA is over 23,000. Consumer Confidence Index is also very high, along with the Business Confidence Index".

Maldonado's take on what we will see for the 2020 election included these thoughts: "We will see a very interesting election cycle in 2020. We've had people running for President since December 2016. The win by President Trump was a shock to most. Left or Right, it was surprising. The term "silent majority" was coined by President Richard Nixon and the silent majority spoke in 2016"

One final thought by Maldonado to the MWCC student body "let's remember that the rules of the game were written in 1787 by very smart people. The rules included the Electoral College. Everyone playing the game of presidential politics knew the rules and knows the rules. We can't decide that a field goal is worth 8 points after we lose the game".

Reflections

Professor Elmer Eubanks thoughts about year one after the election

By Kelly Cacciolfi

One year later after the presidential election, Elmer Eubanks, Business Professor, said that "Trump was trying to keep up the election promise but I don't think everyone thought he would do what he said since all candidates promise one thing and do another". However, Eubanks said the Presidency

overall "is in disarray".

Eubanks predicts that in the 2020 elections that "there is no good candidate on the democratic side so unless someone comes on the scene that can give Trump a run for his money we may end up with another 4 years of Trump. Would like to see Marco Rubio run but I don't think he would challenge Trump".



Dr. John Fielding's Thoughts and Advice for Millennials One Year After the Election.

By Kelly Cacciolfi

Doctor John Fielding, who teaches History and Human Resources Management at Mount Wachusett Community College, said his advice for Millennials would be basically the same advice he gave in the *Observer* last year right after the Presidential election. Fielding said, "in some situations, it has gotten worse, a year after the election."

Last year Fielding was quoted saying, "You should not attack a man (or woman), but attack the content of their argument: understand your opponent's argument, as by doing so you will be better able to counter that argument. Bottom line to everyone, whether a young Democrat or Republican, don't despair. There's another election in four years. Stick by your principles and hone your argument and stay away from personal attacks. Live to fight another day. The country won't disappear despite who is elected".

A year after the election, Fielding said, "the group starting trouble now is the Antifa movement". Regarding our colleges Fielding said, "when you look around the nation it's especially disheartening on college campuses with what is going on...even some professors have suggested that Trump should be assassinated. The disturbing thing is that the professors are role models for students and know it. Then, expect their students to emulate their points of view, which means one cannot accept another's point of view. You can have a valid point but be wrong and still have a valid perspective". We must make an effort to hear those that have different opinions. Fielding said "today, Politics are based simply on personality and we should steer clear of this. And in an academic setting, we must be cautious with what we say to our students".

Fielding quoted Socrates "how do you know, what you know?"

Then asked "Have you examined the issues?" We should be making decisions that are best for our country no matter what and Fielding said "Trump's instincts are fairly accurate for example we couldn't have asked for a better choice than Neil Gorsuch Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, who received the highest rating from the American Bar Association and fellow judges praised him but when he went to Washington DC a lot of people opposed him because they think they are part of the Resistance movement so without studying the man, his character, or his decisions they automatically decide because he was nominated by Donald Trump that he must be evil. Latin phrase: People should not engage in argumentum ad hominem which means arguing against the man (or woman) but against his/her ideas".

Fielding asks, "as we talk with one another, shouldn't we listen with open minds?" Fielding

said "For me, the perspective of either the right wing or left-wing present should allow one review all the facts and make their own judgments".

With how the Presidency is going to date Fielding said "If I was to grade Trump as if he were a student, I would say Trump would earn a B or B minus. Anyone who goes into the oval office if they have not had experience in politics before the learning curve is exceedingly steep and like I said Trump's beliefs or instincts are fairly mainstream conservative. Every once in awhile, he seems to jump off the rails with his tweets".

With regards to what is happening in the United States a year after the election with some forms of protest and how the President is responding, Fielding said "Many Americans are frustrated with the athletes that are kneeling down during our National Anthem and even though his instincts are right that they should stand, Trump, should

not stand in front of a crowd and say if I was in charge I would fire the sons of a bitches. That is not what we should expect or demand from our President and his behavior in public".

Fielding's thoughts on the 2020 election are that "Obviously, Donald Trump will run again. The problem is who will oppose him? The leadership for the Democrats are all in their 70's. Their ideas are coming from the 1940's and they don't realize that the demographics and ideas have changed. What might have been valid 20 years ago no longer may be valid". Fielding said "I will always vote for the person that adheres to the constitution".

Fielding's last thoughts to our millennial students is this: "When it comes to the political realm, don't look at what people say but examine what do they really believe in".

Opinions Revisited: Iheb Klai Interviews Professors on Their Past and Future Thoughts

Three MWCC professors, who provided their opinions to The Observer right after the Nov. 2016 elections, offer their opinions about how the presidency is going one year later.

Professor James Korman has been practicing law in Massachusetts since 1992 and is a Political Science professor: "In term of outcome, the president was unpredictable"

How do you feel after one year from the elections?

"The vision and the plans are not clear; I do not know what he is going to do. Replacing Obama care was totally unsuccessful. The Congress did not pass any major laws and that was due to the goals and objectives of the president. Also, the idea of immigration reform is not successful at all."

How do you see 2020?

"In 2020, I think he is going to lose the elections. I am going to be against him because he is a kind of shocking candidate"

One year after the election, Michelle Valois, English professor and democrat, said she still fears the conflict inside the country. "Since Trump's election, people became more racist. I know that already existed before but now people are more comfortable"

What is your opinion after one year from the elections ?

Professor Valois defended diversification in the United States: "we should respect the word diversity, because I think it is where our strength is. We should be open minded and understand more of the meaning of that."

Professor Valois also described all what happened during this year: "Things are getting worst" But also, she mentioned that she

is still optimistic since Obama care is not going to be repealed. She explained that point saying that at least not every decision made is going to happen.

What can happen in 2020?

"I know that optimism is one of my strengths, so I am just really optimistic. I think Republicans are getting tired of him; I feel like any group that brought together because of fear and hate, they are not going to be sustained"



David Wyman, English professor, described the year after the elections of 2016 by "the worst" explaining that with many reasons: "When an American president says he wants to totally destroy another country, which President Trump said about North Korea, I get scared."

What is your opinion after one year of the elections?

"It is a catastrophe." Professor Wyman said "I think it is the worst mistake this country has ever made" He also talked about the situation in Puerto Rico after the hurricane and the reaction of the president, "An American president is supposed to go there to help people and reassure them. But he just made the situation worse."

How do you see 2020?

"It is very easy today for the billionaires to buy politicians, and the way they set up the districts, means that the republicans are always going to win." Professor Wyman mentioned also that he is not very hopeful for 2020. "I really do not believe in democrats; they are very weak, I think their economic policies are the same as the republicans. They are better on social issues, but I do not see them as very strong, so what happened to Hilary Clinton during the last election, I think the same will happen after 3 years."



It (2017) Movie Review

By Shayna Rolon

Based on the cult-classic novel written by Stephen King, *It*, (directed by Andy Muschietti), sends off rather quick frights from jump scares but leaves something to be desired in terms of truly invoking fear within the viewer, the type of fear that would leave you sleepless the same night of watching it.

The setting of *It* takes place in the small town of Derry and begins with Georgie, the little brother of Bill Denbrough (Jaeden Lieberher), who goes out in the rain to sail a boat that his older brother had given to him. Georgie suddenly loses the boat as it falls into a gutter, and as he attempts to retrieve it, he meets the ominous Pennywise the Clown (Bill Skarsgard), who has the paper boat and taunts Georgie to enter the sewer, repeatedly chanting, "take it, take it..."

The scene that follows after is Pennywise ferociously unhinging his jaw, biting Georgie's limbs, and dragging his bloody body into the sewer. This is a strong start for the horror movie and definitely more than just a 'warm-up' for the faint of heart that occasionally watch horror movies, but for those that are well experienced in

the genre, this is more of a mild appetizer for the underwhelming entree that has yet to arrive.

The following summer, Bill and his friends Riche (Finn Wolfhard), Stan (Wyatt Oleff), and Eddie (Jack Dylan Grazer) attempt to survive as they are constantly bullied by the upperclassmen of their school; they are later accompanied by Ben (Jeremy Ray Taylor), the new kid at school who is lonely and enjoys reading and researching, although he is also overweight and does not have a lot of friends, making him an easy target for the bullies to toy with. Beverly (Sophia Lillis), a girl who is also bullied often with rumors of promiscuity, also joins the 'Losers' Club along with Mike (Chosen Jacobs), a home-schooled african american student who is somewhat of an outsider. Together, the Losers Club helps Ben attempt to find Georgie, as Ben believes Georgie may have ended up within the sewers of Derry and believes there is a chance they will find him. However, the Losers' Club don't realize that they will have to experience their personal fears coming to life as Pennywise or 'It' will come for them.

The movie is opulent in its plot, as well as having a rather

exceptional cast; the actors and actresses, being rather young, have good talent in accurately conveying the nostalgia of the late 80's as well as protruding the realistic, prepubescent stage of pre-teens budding into teenagers (we see Bev shopping for tampons, Ben developing feelings for Bev). The cast show to have good potential and promising future careers in acting based on their performance in the movie alone; the costumes chosen successfully reflect the fashion trends of the 80's.

However, the special effects are underwhelming, as the movie relied too heavily on jump scares and did not truly delve deeply into the horrors that each child had greatly feared, but rather only shows small hints of it. For those that are easily scared of anything that is out of the ordinary, this will be much of a fear-inducing film, but for aficionados of horror movies, this will not fully satiate your appetite of horror.

Either way, this is a movie to see if you want to see a strong cast of promising young actors as well as a decent plot line that follows pretty accurately to the original novel, only leaving out the scenes that would never be allowed in a movie.

America's Sweetheart Finally Evolves into the Queen of Mean

By Michael Parahiala

Taylor Swift, everyone's favorite- or least favorite, depending who you talk to- pop star released a new song and music video August 27. "Look What You Made Me Do," from her new album *Reputation*, already has over 5.5 million views, the record for most YouTube views in twenty-four hours, and opinions on the song and the singer alike are mixed at best.

Both the song and its music video are edgier than what most have come to expect from Swift. From imagery of her actually rising up out of a cage to hard hitting, angry lyrics promising that she is different than "the old Taylor" and that she and karma are coming for the people on a referenced list of names, Taylor seems to have changed her entire image. The video ends with multiple versions of the popstar fighting with one another; the singer openly mocking how she's been perceived from the start of her career to current time.

Fans can be seen in the YouTube comments praising Swift. One, under the username Tara Mossadeghian, commented, "She literally just destroyed every joke ever made about her in 30 seconds. I LOVE YOU TAYLOR," spurring one of many long threads of discussion among fans and "haters" alike. For every comment like Mossadeghian's, though, there can be seen at least two comments discussing distaste for "the new Taylor".

Out of the 5.5 million times the video has been view, one million dislikes have been left on the

video. In the discussion beneath Mossadeghian's comment, a few comments called the song "shit", and when argument sprang out over that, one user under the name GeekyRedhead rationalized that Swift was only making herself look pettier than people already thought she was. Another commenter, Lunarre, deduced that "Shake It Off", a cheerful song about not letting mean things said to you hurt you, must have been a lie, implying that what Swift's new song has done is the opposite of shaking it off.

Of course, Swift's fandom, and her haters, aren't the only ones to offer their opinions. YouTuber Malinda Kathleen Reese, known for her Google Translate Sings series, had this to say: "Taylor Swift is a fascinating case-study in how you can be both self-deprecating and ruthless in the same sentence".

As for my personal opinion, I will say this: I was skeptical at first. It seemed to me, gathered especially from the lines "Sorry, the old Taylor can't come to the phone right now. Why? Oh, 'cause she's dead", that Taylor was picking a very unfortunate time to fit her edgy scene phase. Yet, like every new Taylor Swift song, it's grown on me.

We have so many pop stars who fit the sweetheart, bubblegum, everybody's BFF persona. Swift turning to the vengeful, self-confident mean girl is a welcome change. On top of that, the beat is catchy, the song is much less obnoxious than some of Swift's songs that I just couldn't hate, and it is fun to sing along with, especially when it gets to the above-mentioned lyric.

Alternative Country on the Harbor

Featuring Sturgill Simpson and Opening Act Fantastic Negrito

By Jennifer Lamontagne

A smoky boat fire clouded the Harbor air before Sturgill Simpson took to the stage and fired up his special brand of alternative country music Saturday night at the Blue Hills Pavilion in Boston. Simpson rocked the house with his Kentucky swagger and heartfelt lyrics.

Fantastic Negrito, touring in support of "Last Days of Oakland" opened the show. The band performed a forty-minute set of heavy bluesy roots rock, which included "An Honest Man" and "In the Pines". The band's funky/jazzy beats were upbeat and energizing and the lead singer Xavier Dphrepaulezz sure knows how to work a crowd by weaving in his past as a person and performer in-between songs.

Simpson Kicked off the show with "It Ain't All Flowers",

followed by "Breakers Roar", it was immediately clear the songs would receive chunkier, rocking arrangements that were heavy on guitar shredding, and blistering jams that tested his rhythm section

Simpson sprinkled in several slower songs as well, performing "The Promise", "Oh Sarah" and "Turtles All the Way Down". About two thirds of the way through the set, the band left the stage for a series of acoustic solo numbers by Simpson that included "All Around You", a chugging "Long White Line" and the passionate "Just Let Go". The band then rejoined Simpson for a red-hot cover of Freddie King's blues-rock classic "Going Down", before closing the show with a blazing "Call to Arms".

Simpson on more than one occasion during the show stated he had a sore throat and because

of that, his vocals were hard to make out. The crowd seemed to know the songs well enough to step in at times. In light of it all, he still kept his fans engaged.

Simpson has produced his latest Album "Sailors Guide to Earth" and was nominated album of the year. The album was written for his infant son at the time and Simpson "wanted it to be something that when my son is older and maybe I'm gone, he can listen to is and get a sense of who I was" Simpson states on his web site. Simpson struggles with being a musician constantly on the road and being home with his family.

"There Will Be Nights That Go On Forever" are lyrics from the song All Around you. Judging from the 4,000 plus people in that pavilion, they too wished the night would go on forever.

Let Your Voice be Heard!

Send your content to
mountobserver@mwcc.mass.edu

How I Learned to Balance School and Work

By Rachel Aster

Maintaining a balanced lifestyle is something that is too often overlooked in a student's life. Through years of trial and error, I have developed a method to balance full time work, school, and pleasure.

Working full time while focusing on school leaves no time for anything besides studying and homework assignments. It is exhausting trying to keep up with the workload of school and keep your mental health in check. According to a

2014 article in the *Monitor on Psychology* publication, with rising college enrollment came a rising number of students requesting psychological help from counseling centers.

According to the Center for Collegiate Mental Health, there was recently, a reported 8% increase in the number of students looking for mental health services over a 3-year time span. Depression, stress, and anxiety are on the rise. I believe this is caused by the pressure of society for students

to succeed in college and the work force simultaneously.

I had missed so many family gatherings and events with my friends. I realized something had to change and I needed my free time back. I was depressed and always anxious to get through my work day so I could go home and do endless hours of homework. Weekends were full of missed events and lonely hours with my face in a book.

This is when I decided that my weekend freedom would be worth my crammed weekdays.

I work full time as an Office Manager for a 3D printing company and have found that if I am upfront about my needs, they likely will work with me. I have been lucky to have the flexibility and strive for as many online courses as I can take. Online courses are for those who are strongly self-motivated.

A major part of my success is self-discipline and a structured schedule. For example, I get all my school work done for the week between Monday-Thursday. I usually wake up and

go for my daily run followed by my 9-5 job at the office. Once I get home at 5:15 p.m it is all strictly school work; I study and do homework until about 10-11 p.m.

While the first 4 days of the week are hectic, the next 3 days are lax and carefree. I can keep up with household chores and see my family and friends from Friday to Sunday. I am going on two years of schooling like this and I can finally say that I never miss a thing.

Puzzles

Sudoku

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, each row, column and box must contain the numbers 1 to 9. There is only one possible solution.

	9	7				8	1	4
	6			5				7
					1		3	5
4			3		5			
	7				9			
				8		7		
				1	3	5	6	
	8	9						4

Copyright ©2016 PuzzleJunction.com

3	4	1	7	2	5	9	8	6
8	9	5	3	1	6	2	4	7
9	2	7	9	8	4	3	5	1
1	8	6	9	4	2	5	7	3
2	7	6	5	9	3	8	1	4
5	3	4	1	7	8	9	2	6
7	6	3	8	9	1	4	5	2
9	5	2	4	9	7	1	3	8
4	1	4	8	2	3	6	9	5

Solution

Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10				
11					12				13				14	15	
16					17				18						
				19					20					21	
22	23	24					25					26			
27					28	29				30					
31					32				33						
34					35				36				37	38	39
				40	41			42				43			
44	45						46					47			
48						49					50				
51					52				53	54					
	55								56				57	58	59
									61				62		
									64				65		

Copyright ©2016 PuzzleJunction.com

Across

- 1 French seasons
- 5 Insect
- 8 Fire residue
- 11 Soybean paste
- 12 Deer
- 13 Board game
- 16 Current
- 18 Accomplish
- 19 Alaska city
- 20 Boudoir
- 22 Ladies
- 25 Sibling
- 26 Greek portico
- 27 Wood stork
- 28 Mackerel shark
- 30 Lizard
- 31 Animal skin
- 32 NV city
- 33 Sock
- 34 Hurricane part
- 35 Rebounds
- 37 Tartan cap
- 40 Aquatic bird
- 42 Fruit drink
- 43 Crown
- 44 Anticipate
- 46 Mild oath
- 47 Aeneid
- 48 Mantle
- 49 Chinese kitchen item
- 50 Swarms
- 51 Passage
- 53 Mix
- 55 Aspiration
- 56 Adolescent
- 60 Comic
- 61 Pallid
- 62 Pierce
- 63 Cunning
- 64 Morsel
- 65 Auditory system
- 2 Peak
- 3 Time zone
- 4 Earliest
- 5 Garden resident
- 6 Write down
- 7 Golf item
- 8 Land units
- 9 Outbuilding
- 10 Last ride vehicles
- 14 Package sealer
- 15 Rocked
- 17 Put on
- 20 Life story, for short
- 21 Fmr. Chinese leader
- 22 Whisk off
- 23 Conform
- 24 Denver and New York, for example
- 25 Bird that sings at great heights
- 28 Hateful
- 29 Completely
- 30 Fuel
- 33 Root vegetable
- 35 Rodent
- 36 Crete mountain
- 38 Molecule
- 39 Kettle of fish
- 41 Hotdogs
- 43 Aristocracy
- 44 Perform
- 45 Hospital areas
- 46 Morse code signal
- 49 Weak and ineffectual
- 50 Can
- 52 Cruise
- 53 Scorch
- 54 Camping tool
- 56 Deuce
- 57 Gazelle
- 58 Goof
- 59 Thing, in law

Down

- 1 Flightless bird

Student Life Events: Nov. & Dec.

- **Nov. 1** - CATS programming meeting / 12:30pm / Room W12
- **Nov. 2** - Billiards Tournament: Final Round / 12:30pm / Student Center
- **Nov. 6** - SGA Meeting / 12:30pm / Murphy Room (open to all)
- **Nov. 7** - CATS programming meeting / 12:30pm / Room W12
- **Nov. 8** - Film: "Almost Sunrise" / 12:30pm / North Cafe
- **Nov. 14** - CATS programming meeting / 12:30pm / Room W12
- **Nov. 15** - Staff/Faculty vs Students Volleyball / 5pm
- **Nov. 16** - Great American Smokeout & Thinkfast Game Show / 12:30pm / South Cafe
- **Nov. 20** - SGA Meeting / 12:30pm / Murphy Room
- **Nov. 21** - CATS programming meeting / 12:30pm / Room W12
- **Nov. 28** - CATS programming meeting / 12:30pm / Room W12
- **Nov. 30** - Ugly Sweater Workshop / 11:30am / South Cafe
World AIDS Day / 12:30pm / South Cafe
- **Dec. 4** - SGA Meeting / 12:30pm / Murphy Room
- **Dec. 5** - CATS programming meeting / 12:30pm / Room W12
- **Dec. 6 & 7** - Winterfest Fair
- **Dec. 11** - It's Your Birthday Celebration / 12:30pm / South Cafe
- **Dec. 12** - CATS programming meeting / 12:30pm / Room W12
- **Dec. 13** - Film: "The Music of Strangers" / 12:30pm / Murphy Room
Staff/Faculty vs Students Basketball Game / 12:30pm
- **Dec. 14** - Star Wars Day / 11:30am / South Cafe



APPLY NOW

Instant Accept Day

Thursday, November 2, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

at Mount Wachusett Community College - (Murphy Room - Gardner Campus)



Psychology (BA)

Earn an Elms College bachelor's degree at MWCC

*Prospective students will have the opportunity to speak with Elms College staff to learn about this fast and affordable way to earn a bachelor's degree. Remember to **bring your official transcript** to apply and get instantly accepted!*

***If you can't make the Instant Accept Day
Call or email Sonia to make an appointment for an
interview/transcript review.***

We will also be accepting applications for the RN-BS program

FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE

For more information contact:

Sonia Patota • 413-313-3322 • 413-265-2383 • patotas@elms.edu

WWW.ELMS.EDU/MWCC