

The Mount Observer

“Voices of the students of Mount Wachusett Community College”

A Growing Progression of Student Recession

by Cassie Roy

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Colleges and universities are struggling to stay open as we face a nationwide decrease in college enrollment.

Small private schools have been affected greatly, the majority of them having to shut down due to a significant decrease in the student population, according to Dean of Students, Jason Zelesky.

The U.S. is currently in the middle of a decrease in young adults attending college. The increase is projected to happen between the years 2025 and 2030. Four year colleges that grew too rapidly over the past twenty or so years to accommodate the constant influx of students attending college every year.

By constantly adding new housing accommodations, those four year colleges are now stuck with houses they cannot fill but are still responsible for the heating and upkeep, which takes a toll on the college's budget. MWCC has it slightly easier as it doesn't have any housing. MWCC also markets towards students of all ages. The majority of four year colleges only



Photo by Brianna Stevens

College campuses across the nation are getting more and more empty.

market towards 18-22 year olds. The diversity and affordability of MWCC has been a huge help during this difficult time. “It’s like a student recession,” said Zelesky.

There are a variety of reasons as to why college enrollment is on the decline. Some students, fresh out of high school, may be waiting longer to attend college, families may be in too much debt to afford sending

their children to college, and the harsh economy all factor into the low enrollment rate. Perhaps the biggest contributor, however, is looking back over eighteen years and seeing the low birth rates. Those babies are now college age and there aren't enough of them compared to the student population over the past twenty years.

Another major contributing factor

that led to a decrease in birth rates is the decision made by millennials to wait longer before starting families. Millennials are much more career driven and want to enjoy life longer before settling down to start their family.

According to Scott Farris, Director and Strategic Enrollment Management in the Admissions Office, the decrease in unemployment rates has also taken a toll on the student population. This is due to the fact that nontraditional students make up a good chunk of the student population.

The admissions office is counteracting these low numbers by “meeting students where they are,” and “accommodating students as best we can,” in order to make MWCC a more appealing option to potential students of all ages and backgrounds, Farris noted.

Although the decline in population has affected certain aspects of our college such as budget, the staff remains hopeful that we will make it through these next few years with ease thanks to the schools accommodations to such a diverse group of students.

The Final Straw: A Message About Recycling



by Sophia Schlegelmilch

OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

As communities across the U.S. propose measures to limit or ban plastic straws, Christine Nelson, President of the Green Society, discussed their environmental impact and offered some greener alternatives.

“We use 390 million straws in one day [in the United States],” said Nelson, “you just use it for a few minutes, and then it’s gone and we don’t think about it.”

According to Nelson, plastic straws are particularly detrimental to the environment because they are

in category #5, polypropylene, on the plastics grading scale and most curbside pickup recycling programs won’t recycle them.

“It’s really hard to find someone who will recycle a number 5,” she said. Instead, straws are thrown away, and their small size makes it easy for them to escape from trash cans and containers.

Eventually, these discarded straws make their way to the ocean, where they pollute the water and can harm wildlife. Rather than decomposing like a paper product might, plastics remain in the ocean water because they can only break down into

smaller pieces over time.

“It never disappears,” said Nelson, “It will always be there.”

While paper straws are definitely a better option than plastic, Nelson pointed out that, “We’re using trees to make that straw, and if we go through millions of straws, that’s a lot of trees.” Additionally, she noted, paper straws often end up in landfills where they never actually decompose due to poor air circulation from tightly compacted trash.

Instead, Nelson recommended students use compostable straws made

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Straws

>>> continued from page 1

from potato starch or cornstarch. She also urged concerned individuals to contact vendors and the businesses they frequent to request that they switch to a compostable alternative to plastic straws.

Nelson added that the straws in the campus cafeteria are compostable, but they are typically disposed of with regular trash where they may not break down due to poor air flow. The Green Society hopes to bring composting to campus in the future.

Plastic straw bans have been the subject of nationwide news coverage throughout 2018. California passed Assembly Bill 1884, banning single-use plastic straws in all full service restaurants unless requested by customers. A similar ban went into effect in Seattle, requiring all food service businesses to furnish compostable or recyclable alternatives to single-use plastic items including straws, cups, and utensils. Hawaii introduced Senate Bill 2284, which would institute a statewide ban of distribution of plastic straws by businesses and individuals.

According to the Massachusetts Sierra Club website, “As of October 2018, 84 Massachusetts cities and towns, representing almost 40% of the state’s population, regulate single-use plastic shopping bags,” and “bottled water bans have been adopted by the communities of Concord, Great Barrington, Lincoln, Sudbury, and Brookline.” At this time there is no proposed state legislation on plastic straws and no data could be found to confirm plastic straw bans in any Massachusetts communities.

Saying “Get Lost!” to Textbook Costs



Photo by Cassie Roy

The use of Open Educational Resources (OER) in college courses is cutting down on the need for students to purchase textbooks.

by Gabriela Villa

OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

Open Educational Resources provide high-quality teaching, learning, and research materials that are free for people everywhere to use and repurpose.

“The main benefit of OER is that it saves students money,” said Ellen Pratt, Distance Education and Outreach Librarian.

“There is a push across the country to create degree programs that have zero course material cost related to them,” said Pratt, who has been working to establish OER for a year and a half. OER is now beginning to replace textbooks in many classes.

“Stipends have been offered to professors to integrate OER into their courses, and many courses are now being taught with the use of OER,” said Pratt. “With a textbook, faculty is limited to using only what is in the textbook, but with OER they

can create their own textbook,” Pratt said.

“True OER should allow the teacher to be able to remix, reuse, revise, and redistribute the material,” Pratt said. The logic behind this is that if it’s truly free, then it is free to

“There is a push across the country to create degree programs that have zero course material cost related to them,”

-Ellen Pratt

be used in any way, so it should be out there for others to revise, reuse or redistribute it.

“It is continually evolving to address concerns or criticisms, in order to be what it intends to be, which is a social justice endeavor,” Pratt noted. Students who are economically challenged can still be prepared with their OER textbook on the first day of classes, which increases their chances of succeeding.

“According to student learning needs, many OER formats can be made larger or double-spaced for accessibility,” said Pratt. The texts also come available in many formats that are compatible with audio readers.

“There has been more of a focus on OER material in introductory courses, but it’s expanding to include more specialized courses,” Pratt said. Teachers often think their course subject won’t be available in the form of OER, but often it requires more than a basic Google search. Pratt suggested searching for a particular module topic or theory instead of the course title. She also suggested putting OER in quotation marks. Pratt stated that just a section of a course may be available and teachers can use that to supplement their course.

“One misconception about OER is that it’s not as good as the publisher’s version; that ancillary materials are only available through the publisher’s version,” Pratt said. But OER includes modules, assignments, tests, and other supporting materials for classes.

“OER is constantly evolving and improving,” Pratt said. Whenever OER surveys are done, if there is a critical flaw that stands out, OER seeks to address it.

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Work Study positions are available to those who qualify! See Scott Farris in Admissions for details.

No, He Can't Read My Poker Face

by Gabriela Villa

OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

Julie Capozzi, Associate Professor of Sociology, spoke about the issue of body language and its correlation with honesty in court cases.

Capozzi said, "Certain body language, gestures and behaviors can be correlated with verbal testimonies for inconsistencies but cannot be used to determine guilt or innocence."

She used Brett Kavanaugh's testimony as an example. "One thing we look at to determine if someone may not be truthful is micro gestures, or facial idiosyncrasies," Capozzi said.

Kavanaugh displayed a micro gesture in the form of a nose twitch or 'sniffle,' which he did at two distinct times--once when he cried, and another when he was pensively thinking, Capozzi said. This may be a gesture that could be triggered by a false testimony.

Kavanaugh's yelling during the testimony was an aggressive behavior, which "is a tactic that tries to intimidate people," Capozzi said. By not using words in a calm way to support himself, he showed a lack of confidence in the truth of what he



Image by Ninian Reid

Brett Kavanaugh appears before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Capitol Hill, on his nomination to be U. S. circuit judge for the District of Columbia Circuit

was saying.

Another sign of possibly not being truthful is blinking, Capozzi said. This can be exhibited in two ways--excessive blinking, or a lack of blinking--and Kavanaugh did both. Along the same lines, someone who is not stating truthful comments may make a lot of hand gestures or stay

very still, added Capozzi. Kavanaugh stayed very still at times.

Repeating words or phrases is another possible indicator of not being truthful, noted Capozzi. Kavanaugh did this when he was asked if he wanted an FBI investigation. He asked the question right back, and then stated multiple

times that he would "do whatever they wanted." But when asked directly if he wanted an FBI investigation, he was silent. Other points noticed: when photographed, his appearance was often in an aggressive pose, like a growl or snarl; and there are inconsistencies in his testimonies concerning alcohol use when in college.

In contrast, Christine Ford's responses were direct, thoughtful, and concise, Capozzi said. She provided examples from past memories, gave specific names of the other people involved in the court case, and both her verbal and nonverbal communication was in sync.

By clarifying specific details, she showed a willingness to recall the events as accurately as possible, Capozzi said. She did not repeat statements unnecessarily, and her story remained consistent.

Ford did also not display excessive blinking or non-blinking, unnatural stillness, or aggressive behavior. "If anything, she seemed a little nervous and vulnerable, which could be a correlation with honesty," Capozzi said.

The Selfless Act of Giving Back

by Briana Shelly

OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

Shelley Nicholson, the Director of the Stephen M. Brewer Center for Civic Learning and Community Engagement, talked about the different ways that students can volunteer their time to give back to their community.

One way in which students can give back is during the Day of Caring event; a program originally started by the United Way of North Central Massachusetts. This was the fifth year that the event was hosted on campus.

Students making paper flowers

and cards for the Leominster Senior Center is one example of past volunteer service projects. Students also put together hygiene bags to go towards assisting Worcester's AIDS Project Community and cat toys were made for the Gardner Animal Shelter.

There is a list of places that are always seeking help from volunteers. Whether a student is looking to volunteer on a specific day, or for just a couple of hours, Nicholson and her staff can provide students with the necessary contact information.

Nicholson said that by sponsoring

this event and coordinating with student leaders, they were able to come up with the ideas for the service projects, set up the stations for each project, and attract more prospective volunteers.

With "51 excited volunteers ready to help," Nicholson said that Day of Caring is about, "a chance to give back to the community and really get involved."

Nicholson stressed that the event was open to all and that anyone can participate. She also mentioned that there was, "even help from the Garrison Center."

**For more
information,
stop by
Nicholson's
office, room
152 or call
978-630-9219.**

Hey Alexa, Are You Listening?



Image by RickySpanish

Security cameras have become more and more prevalent as the years have gone by.

by Dylan Cernoia

OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

The Humanities Project hosted an event at the Levi Heywood Memorial Library in Gardner called “Hey Alexa, Are You Listening?” that discussed modern day surveillance as compared to the book *1984*.

The event informed students and the public about the current situation surrounding modern surveillance. It was led by James Bigelow, a 7-year Criminal Justice professor and former detective, and Reed Hillman, a 10-year Criminal Justice professor.

People often hear about surveillance and it can be difficult to decipher fact from fiction. Are we always being watched or is it paranoia? In short, yes; Hillman said, “There are surveillance cameras everywhere.

Even if you’re in the deep woods, there are game cameras.” While that seems like it bears a resemblance to the state in *1984*, Bigelow said people shouldn’t worry about the thought police just yet saying, “We have oversight of separate branches, so if the police want to listen to your phone they got to get a warrant. They have to go through a judge; he’s got to review it and he’s got to agree that there is probable cause. Our system of checks and balances does work.”

Wiretaps even have restrictions once they have been authorized. Known as minimization, the listener must turn off the wiretap if it is not gathering any criminal information. Currently it seems like our system, while slightly flawed, works, but technology is constantly changing,

getting better and more advanced. With such improvements, will the authorities begin watching the public more or less?

Hillman believes that as technology advances, we will become more heavily surveilled. Hillman does warn students that “They should be very cognizant of the fact that it can be abused.” He said that this new wave of surveillance helps catch criminals. Simple things such as parking tickets and traffic cameras can allow the police to track and catch criminals. However, Hillman also said that this balance between privacy and surveillance is achievable but must adapt with technology.

Student Veterans Receive Free Textbooks

by Briana Shelly

OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

Since 2010, the Veterans Textbook Donation Program has been successfully assisting students with borrowing books free of charge every semester.

Robert Mayer, military veteran and the Director of Veteran Services, has been in charge of the program since 2014.

“Doesn’t matter what ranking or branch or service, they will tell you the wrong information,” Mayer said. Referencing the many students who are unaware of all the benefits they can reap once getting into college, Mayer stated that there have been plenty of occasions where students are coming straight from serving and are misled on their educational path.

A student must have served in the military or be a dependant of someone who is currently serving in order to qualify for the program. The program is free of charge to all veterans and the process is similar to checking out a book from your local library; sign the book out, date it, and put down your student ID number.

Mayer noted that the program has received well over one hundred books for students and donations are always in demand during the semester. The books will need to be in fair condition and it does not matter which edition of the respective book is donated; any and all are accepted. So long as the book’s material matches the class material, Mayer will add it to his library.

When asked how students as a whole can help the cause, Mayer suggested word-of-mouth and social media could generate a larger outcome for the program. Students who have textbooks lying around that are no longer being used can drop them off in Mayer’s office where he will put them to use for a student veteran in need.

Mayer also mentioned that students who are not veterans can receive textbook donations through the MWCC Facebook Textbook Exchange page.

For any students who are looking to offload a textbook, Mayer said, “You may never know when there will be a student in need.”

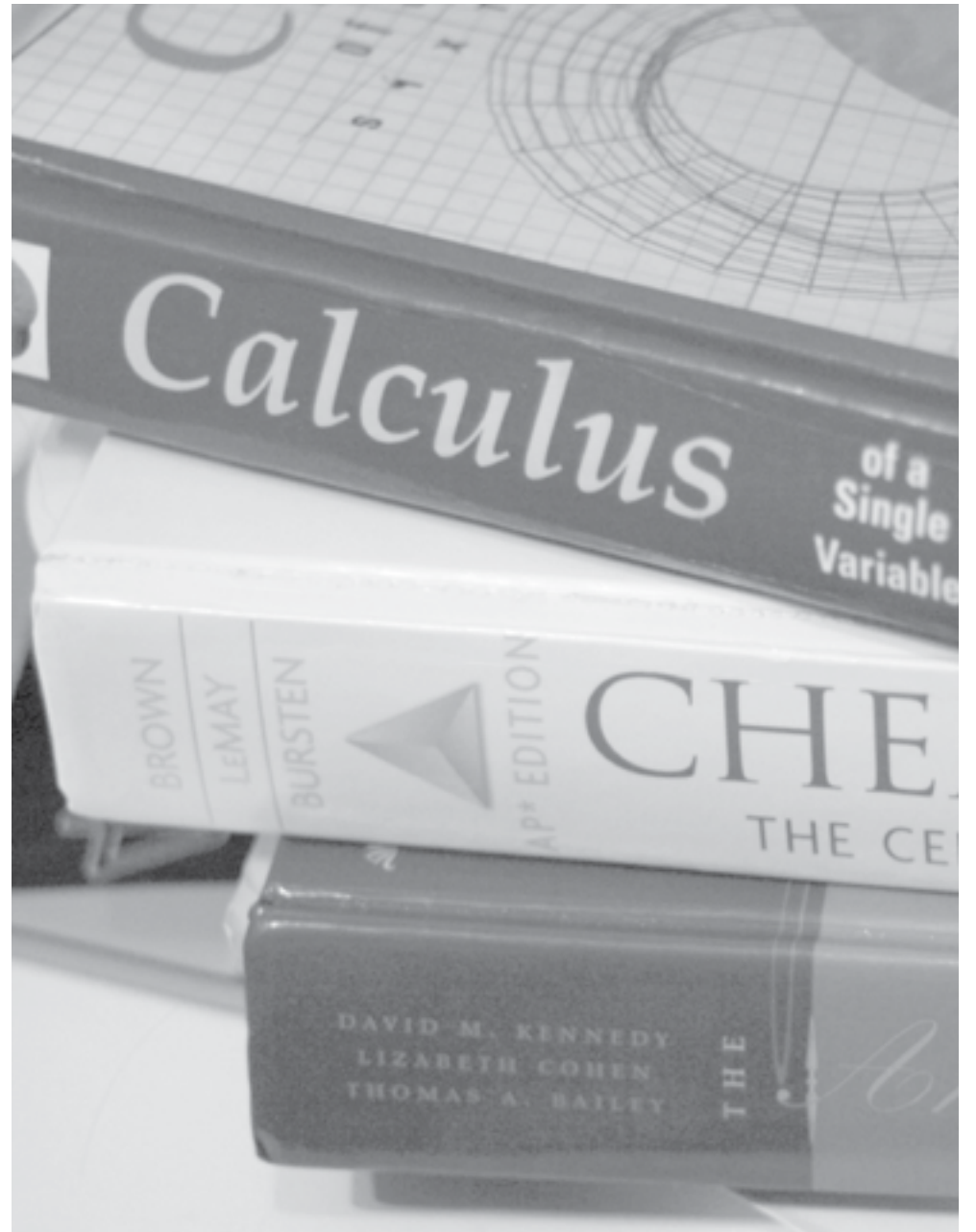


Image by Amanda Munoz flickr:/com/photos/amanda_munoz

The Veterans Textbook Donation Program helps to bring college textbooks to student veterans or students in the care of someone who has served in the military, lifting a great financial weight from their shoulders.

For more information, or to donate used textbooks, visit Room 145 in MWCC’s Gardner Campus.

PROFILE

Professor Elmer Eubanks-Archbold: Running for Change



Photo from electelmer.squarespace.com

Elmer Eubanks-Archbold, MWCC professor and candidate for Representative of Worcester's 3rd District

by Mark Revesai

OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

Elmer Eubanks-Archbold, Business professor, hopes to unseat Democratic Representative Stephan Hay to represent Worcester's 3rd district.

Eubanks-Archbold, is running as a Republican against a Democratic incumbent who has held the seat since 2016. He said hard work, education and self-reliance are important attributes, and that while government should be there, it should not be the only solution.

Eubanks-Archbold has been actively participating in politics from the time he became a United States citizen in 1997. As an immigrant from Costa Rica, Eubanks-Archbold is no stranger to hard work. He has worked as a janitor, earned extra money working in a bookstore, and was even a Certified Nursing Assistant; all while working towards his bachelor's degree.

He said, "The reason I am running is because the district requires not only a minority to represent it, but also someone who represents all residents. I want to make sure we all get access to great constituent service, fix our roads and repair our school buildings, as well as improve educational funding. I would also like to work on fixing our school loan system."

When the professor was asked whether he would quit teaching if he wins, he said he would not quit as he felt there was no conflict of interest. He also said, "I think we need a teacher representing our interests since we currently have none at the state house." He added, "I would love to stay working, as I think it would be great to have a legislator in the classroom."

Eubanks-Archbold believes that he is suitably qualified to be the next representative because of the experience gained over the years in such fields as education, business, government services and the private sector, claiming that these credentials

make him better qualified to solve problems besetting the community such as bad roads, boarded homes and abandoned properties.

Asked what he would do differently, Eubanks said that he would re-open the district office and be more accessible to the people. Transportation to the community college needs to be improved. For example, there is a need for more bike racks on buses that take students to and from the college.

"I think we need a teacher representing our interests since we currently have none at the state house."

-Elmer Eubanks-Archbold

"It would be great to have a shuttle between Fitchburg State University and Mount Wachusett Community College," said Eubanks.

Asked to explain why he was running for office, Eubanks said he saw boarded up homes in Fitchburg and abandoned properties. After purchasing property in Fitchburg, he went through some bureaucratic red tape which makes it hard to accomplish a task in a timely manner. From that moment, he vowed to run for office one day and fix the issues and make it easier for people to want to live and do business in their community. He also describes himself as a good listener and a problem solver.

He said, "I have experience in government as well as in the private sector. I know what it is to lose everything and having to start fresh and will fight hard for the citizens of my district. I am here to serve and to make a difference in my community."

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MWCC Art Department Celebrates 50 Years!

Photo courtesy of MWCC

The Art Department celebrated its 50th Anniversary last month, with visitors coming to celebrate all of the artists, past and present, that have passed through its doors, as well as the founding members of the department; John Pacheco, Jean Tandy, and the late Gene Cauthen.



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FEATURE

Remembering Gene Cauthen

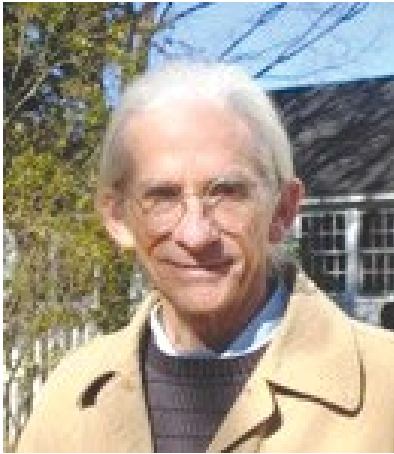


Photo courtesy of MWCC

Gene A. Cauthen

by Observer Staff

Gene A. Cauthen, Sculpture and Drawing professor, has died.

During Cauthen's 35 years teaching at MWCC, he served as both the East Wing Gallery Director, Chair of the Art Department, and was the school's first Sculpture professor. The early success of the art program was due, in large part, to Cauthen, as he was one of the founding members.

Cauthen was a strong advocate for a curriculum based around sculpture. He taught mold making and bronze casting, and for 50 years, MWCC has remained the only community college in the state that offers bronze casting to art students.

Joyce Miller, Art Professor and current East Wing Gallery Director, had this to share about Cauthen:

"Gene was one of the most optimistic and positive faculty. He always offered encouragement to students and colleagues and had a great eye for seeing potential in students and their art; often where others may not. He was so generous with his time and spent hours helping students with their bronze pieces;

whether it was chipping them out of the molds or creating the perfect patina for the piece with a torch and chemicals. I always enjoyed our in-depth conversations about art, films, books and hearing stories about family, college or life growing up in Texas in the 1940s. He was a brilliant man, an impressive artist and was like no other person I have ever met. I am so glad that our paths intertwined. I cherish my memories of working with him, sharing a studio, his insightful book recommendations and his enthusiasm for life and art. He will be truly missed."

Art Professor, Thomas Matsuda, spoke of Cauthen's work and his love for teaching:

"Gene Cauthen was an invaluable part of MWCC's art department. He was instrumental in setting up the sculpture program and studio. He designed and started bronze casting, clay figure sculpture with armatures, plaster mold-making, plaster casting, and kiln firing in the sculpture studio. Gene taught 3D Design and all levels of Sculpture and Drawing. When Gene retired, I took his place. I sat in on Gene's classes and he mentored me in his bronze casting technique. I sincerely believe Gene was a genius. I learned so much listening to him teach and instruct his students. As with many gifted artists, his comments would sometimes perplex his students. It took patience to realize his brilliance and absorb his valuable words.

I visited Gene at his home studio and admired his own work. He did many public art commissions with many permanent statues around

Boston. He was a talented painter and draftsman. He had many of his drawings displayed in his office. Because of his talent and passion, he was a great drawing professor as well as a sculptor.

Gene was the gallery director of the East Wing Gallery for many years. He cared so much for art students and their artwork. The permanent collection displayed in the art wing is all purchased student artwork. Many of the sculptures were Gene's students. Gene assisted his students

"My years of teaching in the Art Department, in a close collaboration with my fellow teachers, was a most memorable aspect. I was pleased to have set up and developed a bronze casting facility for the sculpture department. The level of the students who went through the art program and beyond made it the rich experience it was."

-Gene A. Cauthen

in putting beautiful patinas (colors) on them. He was passionate about the artwork and in turn was very protective and made sure it was safe."

Art Professor John Pacheco shared his thoughts on Cauthen's talent and renown:

"Gene Cauthen began his art education as a painter and was later accepted at Yale Graduate School as a sculptor. He brought his

exceptional talents and knowledge to MWCC early in the formation of the Art Department. He introduced and ran bronze casting at the College, a facility rare among two year art programs. He accompanied then President Daniel Asquino to Washington, DC, along with a student who he inspired to paint a picture of downtown Gardner for the hanging of the work in Mark Gearan's office in the Capitol. He initiated the very popular High School Art Competition held annually in the East Wing Gallery. He presented innumerable exhibits as Gallery Director and fostered the purchase and hanging of many student pieces in the College. Professionally, several of his commissioned bronzes are on permanent display in Cambridge and Boston including two monumental pieces: a fountain in Worcester Square and an angel on the wall of the Gund building on Mass Ave. He was much loved and admired by his students for his patient dedication as a teacher and his many contributions to the quality of art education at MWCC."

A quote from Cauthen, found on the MWCC website, reads:

"My years of teaching in the Art Department, in a close collaboration with my fellow teachers, was a most memorable aspect. I was pleased to have set up and developed a bronze casting facility for the sculpture department. The level of the students who went through the art program and beyond made it the rich experience it was."

The latest exhibit, held in the East Wing Gallery, was the 50th Anniversary Exhibition of the Art Department, which celebrated Cauthen's work and dedication to the college, along with the work of Jean Tandy and John Pacheco, the three original Art Department faculty.

There is also a fundraiser aimed at purchasing one of Cauthen's cast bronze figurative pieces for the Art Department's Permanent Collection of Art. The fundraiser is expected to hit its' goal soon.

Online donations are accepted at: mwcc.edu/giving, or call 978-630-9387, or mail checks to MWCC Foundation.



Photo courtesy of MWCC

Pictured, from left, Professors Joyce Miller, Gene Cauthen, Tom Matsuda, department founder Jean Tandy, and John Pacheco.

President Trump: 2 Years Later



Image by Shealah Craighead

President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence

by Mark Revesai

OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

Students from the Gardner and Leominster campuses offered their opinions on how they feel about President Trump two years after his election.

A total of 69 students were asked a series of questions related to the current administration.

Students were first asked if they were registered to vote. Nearly half of those who were polled, 34, were not registered to vote. Being uninterested in politics, thinking their opinion doesn't matter, and not being a U.S. citizen were some reasons for them not being registered.

Students were then asked to talk about what they think of Trump's work, so far, as president. The final question posed to the students was who they would vote for if they could go back to November 2016.

What do you think of Trump's work, so far, as President?

"He is a sexist, perverted creep who is set on leading us into a war."

"The economy is booming, so in that respect he is doing good work. His awareness on border security has also been good work."

"Made some good changes in terms of the economy and foreign policy, but has alienated allies and trade partners and that hinders progress. His social policies are a disaster."

If you could go back to vote in the 2016 election, who would you vote for?

"Probably Bernie Sanders. I don't know a lot about the other candidates, but I thought Sanders' plan for the country was reasonable and fair."

"Hillary. She may have been a snake, but she would not intentionally irritate people."

"I would vote for Trump because he has changed our priorities to be the most important."

Let Your Voice be Heard!

Send your stories, poetry, artwork, photography, or other content to
mountobserver@mwcc.mass.edu

Like Father, Like Son



Images courtesy of Wikimedia and Gage Skidmore, respectively

President Donald Trump and his son, Donald Trump Jr.

by Zach Pavlosky

EDITOR IN CHIEF

As the #MeToo movement swept away Hollywood heavyweights such as Harvey Weinstein and Kevin Spacey, men in positions of power soon began to question the future of their respective careers. Actors, writers, producers, directors, CEOs, the guy running the craft services table (you never know) were all struck with the same panic inducing thought – “Am I next?” Whether it was a simple hand on the shoulder or a compliment that came off as just a bit too flirtatious, the movement had a seemingly endless supply of ammunition to use against those who abused their power. As the reshaping of the Hollywood power structure forged on, the movement set its sights on a new male-dominated medium – news and politics.

Chairman and CEO of *Fox News*, Roger Ailes, was the first domino to fall. Ailes resigned in July 2016 after being hit with a sexual harassment lawsuit – he later died in 2017. From then on, one by one, they fell. *Fox News* anchor and host of “The O’Reilly Factor”, Bill O’Reilly, was ousted from the network after allegations of inappropriate behavior. One of the more prominent exits was *NBC News* and “Today” co-host Matt Lauer. *Variety* published a story containing sexual harassment allegations against Lauer. The story cited accounts from three unnamed women. Lauer exited due to “inappropriate sexual behavior in the workplace,” the network announced.

Overall, I believe that the #MeToo movement has been a force for good.

Nearly every firing and resignation that has occurred over the past two years or so has been deserved. The one resignation that I strongly opposed of was that of former Democratic Senator of Minnesota, Al Franken, who resigned in late 2017 over claims of sexual harassment.

Franken did, however, issue some final thoughts on the matter: Per *The New York Times*, “I, of all people, am aware that there is some irony in the fact that I am leaving while a man who has bragged on tape about his history of sexual assault sits in the Oval Office, and a man who has repeatedly preyed on young girls campaigns for the Senate with the full support of his party,” said Franken.

This sort of a movement should not instill fear in the hearts and minds of young men, but rather inspire them to be better. They don’t need to worry about being a target if they don’t deliberately make themselves targets. Being the best person you can be should be the only concern you have in life; not whether a female colleague wants to date you. Two people who are having a difficult time understanding that are President Donald Trump, and his son, Trump Jr.

During the Brett Kavanaugh confirmation hearings, Trump said to reporters, “It is a very scary time for young men in America.”

No, it isn’t.

If anything, young men are being handed free examples of how not to act around women. If not for the

movement, powerful men would still assume that they could get away with anything; that their actions would have no consequences.

“It’s a very scary situation where you’re guilty until proven innocent,” said Trump to reporters on the South Lawn of the White House. Yet another absurd statement. The evidence of guilt against these men was overwhelming, whereas the evidence of innocence was nowhere to be found (I’m looking at you Jim Jordan).

Trump Jr.’s thoughts on the matter echoed his father’s comments because of course they did.

While being interviewed by the *Daily Mail*, Trump Jr. was asked if he feared for his sons more than his daughters.

His response will shock you!

I’m just kidding. No, it won’t.

“I mean, right now, I’d say my sons,” Trump Jr. said in the interview. “I’ve got boys, and I’ve got girls. And when I see what’s going on right now, it’s scary.”

Comments like these only further reinforce the fact that men need to be better. Fathers must do more to teach their sons to respect women; at the workplace, in public, at home, everywhere. There is such a thing as toxic masculinity; I know – I live with someone who exhibits it. I’m just glad that none of it rubbed off on me as I was growing up without a mother.

My high school drafting teacher had a saying: “You want to know what a good excuse is? Just another excuse.” Be better.

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Price, Pearce Lead Sox Past Dodgers to Clinch 4th World Series Title in 14 Years

by Corey Sanderson

OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

After losing a heartbreaking 18 inning marathon on Friday, the Boston Red Sox outscored the Dodgers 14-7 in games 4 and 5 to clinch their 4th World Series title over the last 14 years, and their 9th title ever.

Due to the struggles of likely AL MVP Mookie Betts (.217) and JD Martinez (.277) *Stats via Foxsports.com*, the Red Sox needed the contributions of some unlikely heroes to take down a loaded Dodgers team.

Boston got just that from World Series MVP Steve Pearce. Pearce hit 3 home runs (1 in game 4, and 2 in game 5) and drove in 7 runs to help pace the Red Sox offense over the last two games of the series. His home run in the 8th inning off Dodgers closer Kenley Jansen in game 4 tied the ball game, and his 3 run double in his next at-bat helped put the game out of reach. His 1st of 2 home runs in game 5 put the Sox on top for good in the first inning and helped give starting pitcher David Price plenty of confidence to go out and dominate the most important start of his life.

Speaking of Price, his last 3 postseason starts were a total 180 degree flip from his previous postseason outings. Before this year's playoffs, Price was 0-8 as a starter (2-8 overall) with a 5.03 era. After Price went just 1 2/3 innings in a game 2 loss to the Yankees, he went on to win 3 of his next 4 seasons



Image from Wikimedia Inc.

The Boston Red Sox emerged as the victors in the 2018 World Series.

starts (1 against Houston, 2 against Los Angeles). In those starts, Price allowed just 3 earned runs over 19 innings. Price has completely rewritten his postseason narrative thanks to his excellence over his last 3 starts.

When the dust settles, the Red Sox will have some big decisions to make this offseason regarding their future. The Red Sox have 7 impending free agents on their roster. Assuming the team lets Brandon Phillips walk, the Red Sox, who have baseball's highest payroll, will have to decide which is more important: paying their young players or retaining valuable veterans.

Young stars like Mookie Betts and Xander Bogaerts are still under team control for the foreseeable future, but due to their performance, both guys are due for pay raises. Betts earned \$10.5 million this year. Considering he's going to be named this year's AL MVP, Betts is surely due for a long-term extension and

a big pay raise sooner rather than later. Bogaerts earned \$7.05 million in 2018. Bogaerts will likely go through salary arbitration like he did last year and should earn himself another increase in salary for 2019.

All star closer Craig Kimbrel highlights this year's group of free agents. According to *spotrac.com*, Kimbrel is due for a pay raise of about \$3 million next season (\$13.05 million to \$16.5 million).

Joe Kelly, who was a force in the playoffs for the Red Sox (.87 era in 8 Appearances) is also due to hit the free market. While his regular season numbers in 2018 weren't great, he should still draw considerable attention on the market as a mid-tier relief option from a lot of teams. Retaining the hard throwing 30 year-old should be an easy decision for Boston, as he has been one of the most important pieces in their bullpen over the last two seasons.

While Pearce and Ian Kinsler seem like no-brainers due to their success

this season, another intriguing name to look out for is Drew Pomeranz. Pomeranz missed a considerable amount of time this season due to a Biceps injury, and when he did take the mound for the Red Sox, he struggled mightily (2-6, 6.08 era). Pomeranz was an all-star in 2016 (then with San Diego) and was very impressive in 2017 with Boston (17-6, 3.32 era). His injury combined with his performance this year should scare most clubs away in free agency, which should then open the door for the Sox to offer Pomeranz a low risk- high reward type contract.

Red Sox fans should take the next few weeks to enjoy this year's championship. But come late November, the hot stove will be heating up. With some big decisions to be made this winter regarding some important veterans and bullpen pieces, the Red Sox may be forced to part with some key cogs from this past year's team.

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Review – Call of Duty: Black Ops 4



Image from PlayStation.com

Promotional cover art for Call of Duty: Black Ops 4

by Corey Sanderson

OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

After playing through roughly 35 hours of *Call of Duty: Black Ops 4*, I can say that it is one of the best games I've seen from the franchise in years.

Black Ops 4 was developed by Treyarch Studios with the help of Raven Software. The Battle Royale mode, Blackout, was developed by Beenox Studios.

This is the first *Call of Duty* game to not feature a single player campaign. While I have enjoyed playing through *Call of Duty's* campaigns in the past, I believe that choosing to not spend resources on a campaign has benefited the game as a whole.

Black Ops 4 goes back to the series' roots by keeping the gameplay solely boots on the ground. Past titles like *Black Ops 3* and *Advanced Warfare* all featured an advanced movement system that allowed players to run on walls, fly through the sky, and jump from building to building without touching the ground.

Black Ops 4 sees the return of fan favorite multiplayer modes such as Domination, Kill Confirmed, and Search and Destroy.

Heist, the newest multiplayer mode, pits players against each other

in an attempt to steal a bag of money located somewhere on the map. Players don't not use custom classes like they would in other modes, but instead are rewarded cash based on their performance that can then be used to buy weapons and gear for your player to use during the match. Heist has been the mode that I have played the most and it is a ton of fun. It adds something new that has been desperately needed in a tired multiplayer formula that has grown repetitive over recent years.

Multiplayer features 55 levels and 10 prestige levels at launch. *Black Ops 4* features most of the same weapon types from past titles.

There are 5 primary weapon types: assault rifles, sub-machine guns, light machine guns, snipers, and one new weapon type: tactical rifles. Tactical rifles are basically designated marksman rifles, which were last featured as a main weapon type in *Call of Duty: Ghosts*. Secondary weapons include pistols, launchers, a combat knife, and shotguns. Shotguns have appeared as a primary weapon in every *Call of Duty* game besides *Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2*.

Zombies mode sees a few drastic changes this year. Standard perks are no longer a part of the game. Players

can no longer purchase fan favorites like Speed Cola and Juggernog, but can now purchase newcomers like Death Perception and Timeslip. Death Perception allows the player to see enemies through walls and receive an indicator when enemies approach outside of their line of sight. Other new perks include Dying Wish, Stone Cold Stronghold, Winter's Wail, and Deadshot Dealer.

I really do like the approach that Treyarch has taken when it comes to innovating on Zombies. The mode has grown stale over the last few installments, so it's nice to see that the developer is committed to keeping things fresh.

Black Ops 4 launches with 3 maps, but players who purchase the season pass can access a 4th map as well.

These maps include IX, Blood of the Dead, and Voyage of Despair. The 4th map is a remake of fan favorite "Five", which was last featured in *Call of Duty: Black Ops*.

Blackout is *Call of Duty's* take on the popular battle royale mode. It features a large scale map that takes inspiration from past *Call of Duty* maps. Blackout currently supports

up to 100 player matches at launch. It plays much like a highly polished *Playerunknown's: Battlegrounds*.

Despite being locked in a first person perspective, Blackout doesn't at all feel limited. I would argue that it is actually the best battle royale experience that you can play right now.

Blackout features all of the weapons found in multiplayer, as well as several other secret weapons. These weapons include an MP-40, a ray gun, a death machine, and even a samurai sword. I've spent countless hours already going around the map searching for these weapons, just to get a chance to try them out. The fact that these weapons are so difficult to obtain adds to the replayability.

Black Ops 4 is by far the best entry in the franchise I have played in the last 5 years. It's a really nice combination of innovation and familiarity that will appeal to both franchise vets and newcomers to the series. *Call of Duty: Black Ops 4* is available now for the Playstation 4, Xbox One, and PC.

Rating: 8.5/10

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