

Media Bias: We All Lose with Fake News

by Sophia Schlegelmilch

OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

Students and faculty had the opportunity to discuss what defines fake news and how to distinguish reliable news sources during the Media Bias and Fake News Discussion Panel, the latest installment of the Tea Time Speaker Series.

The discussion included topics such as how to define fake news, how to spot reliable news sources, reporters' objectivity, and racial bias in the media.

The panel consisted of Susan Goldstein, Professor of English and advisor to the student newspaper, *The Mount Observer*; Anthony Simollardes, editor for the *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*; Sam Bonacci, MWCC Communications Specialist; and Ellen Pratt, MWCC's Distance Education and Outreach librarian. Professor Michelle Valois served as



Image from Pixabay, edited by Thomas Hill Jr.

It is easy to taint factual news with opinion, leading to much confusion as to what is considered actual fact, and what is "fake news."

“Get out of your bubble. Try to follow some sources that you don’t agree with... take a scientific approach.”

-Anthony Simollardes

moderator.

Among the questions asked, one audience member inquired about how students can begin to figure out the difference between real and fake news.

“Start with the basics.” advised Goldstein, “Examine the sources.” She also recommended that

students examine the publisher, the website, and the qualifications of the people involved in the story.

Simollardes suggested, “Get out of your bubble. Try to follow some sources that you don’t agree with.” He recommended that students “take a scientific approach” and look at multiple sources from multiple perspectives before deciding what is true.

“A great place to start is to actually read the article,” added Bonacci. “It’s really tempting to look at the headline and your friend’s comment and come to a conclusion, but that is far from actually reading the article.”

The panel was facilitated by MWCC’s Humanities Project, in accordance with this year’s theme, “Revisiting 1984.” This project was funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and

the Gateway to College program. A number of dual-enrollment students from the Gateway to College program were present in the audience, accompanied by the Gateway program’s Resource specialist, Sharmese Gunn, and had prepared questions for the panelists.



Image courtesy of MWCC

The theme of this year’s Humanities Project, George Orwell’s *1984*

“It’s really tempting to look at the headline and your friend’s comment and come to a conclusion, but that is far from actually reading the article.”

-Sam Bonacci

Come Work for Us!

Interested in becoming a member of the *Mount Observer* team?

Contact us at mountobserver@mwcc.mass.edu.

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

PROFILE

John Walsh: Dean of MWCC Leominster

by Mark Revesai

OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

John D. Walsh, Dean of the Leominster campus, said the campus is small, approachable, and he hopes it continues to be a place of choice for students.

Walsh, 51, who has held this position for seven years, said his job is equivalent to that of a high school principal, in that, he works with students, staff, and faculty. He sees the campus as the “front porch” of this college adding that the campus is small and easy to manage.

Prior to this position, Walsh served as the College Admissions Director and Registrar on the Gardner campus for eight years.

The campus, located at 100 Erdman Way in Leominster, offers many courses, both required and elective. Students may choose to attend full-time or in cycles, depending on their schedules. The campus also offers certificate programs in Administrative Assistant, Business Administration, Nonprofit Management, and Human Services Technician, as well as the English As A Second Language program.

Walsh said that he remains connected with the main Gardner campus through the same electronic networks used by all employees and he also attends faculty meetings at the main campus in person and sometimes via Skype. After hours, he stays connected from his home laptop.



Photos by Thomas Hill Jr.

One of John Walsh’s recent acts as Dean of MWCC’s Leominster campus was to order a new show of artwork hung in the halls of the school, made up of material from the Gardner campus’ Photography (above) and Graphic and Interactive Design (below) departments.

Walsh said he would like to be remembered as the most approachable dean, adding, “I have always wanted to do for others as I would like done to me.” He said he focuses on ensuring great experiences for both students and faculty.

In his personal life, Walsh’s priorities focus on family and health. He has an active lifestyle characterized by running. He easily covers 5–10 miles running daily and he has successfully participated in three Boston Marathons.



**Sunday, Oct. 14 or
Sunday, Oct. 28, 2018**
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell

Open House is a great way to meet students, faculty and staff from every program. Members of campus clubs and organizations are on hand to share what it’s like to be a student here. Campus tours run continuously, and a flexible schedule allows you to focus on what interests you most.

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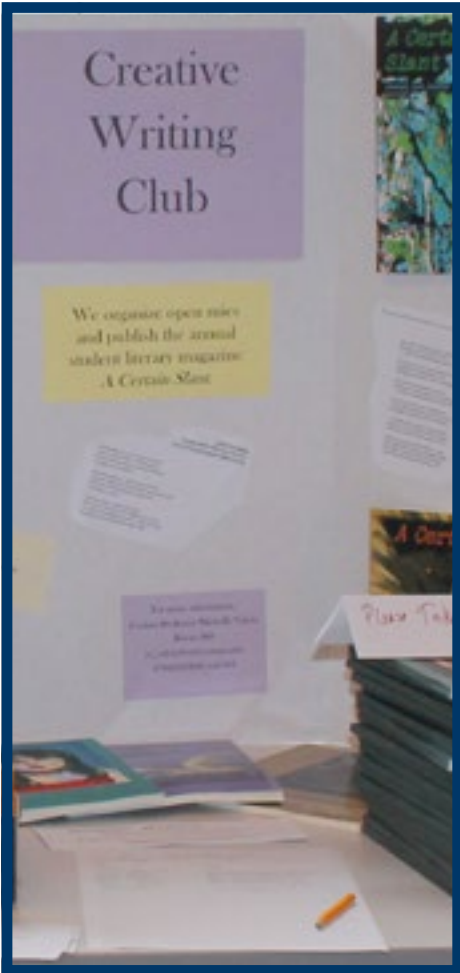


Photo by Cassie Roy

Creative Writing Club

by Sophia Schlegelmilch

OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

The Creative Writing Club offers students the opportunity to connect with other writers and to have their work published and is welcoming all new members.

Michele Walsky, a Professional Writing major, is the president of the club. She joined the club last fall, after taking a creative writing course with Professor Michelle Valois. Walsky says the class inspired her because it focused on “the love of words, not so much the organization. It was about breaking the rules, and it was very freeing.” Walsky has since completed and published a novel.

According to Walsky, the Creative Writing Club is responsible for publishing the annual Literary Arts Journal, *A Certain Slant*, every spring. The journal features works of prose, poetry, and artwork created by students. Individuals from all majors are invited to submit their work by contacting Professor Valois, the club’s faculty advisor.

In addition to publishing the literary journal, Walsky says the club hosts open mic nights twice yearly, in winter and spring. Specific date and time information will be announced later this semester.



Photo by Cassie Roy

Graphic & Interactive Design Club

Brittany Eldridge

OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

The Graphic & Interactive Design Club seeks out new members with an interest in aiding the local Gardner community.

Gina Khouth, the President of the Graphic & Interactive Design Club, urged individuals with an interest in both graphic design and community projects to join the club.

Members of the GID Club learn how to create designs for t-shirts. They also participate in projects that aid the community such as the Thanksgiving raffle and food pantry. Individuals involved in the club also participate in organizing a trip to New York City.

The treasurer of the GID club is Nicole Wetherby. The GID club meets once every two weeks in room 352.



Photo by Cassie Roy

Delta Alpha Phi

by Chad Blouin

OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

Amy LaBarge and Amanda Robichaud promoted Delta Alpha Phi, an international honor society, at Fall Fest.

Robichaud, the club president, was adamant about the club’s mission to promote and recognize the high achievements of students with disabilities. Members of the chapter are there to promote disability awareness and pride, and to also help foster friendships through various activities on campus.

Club Advisor, Amy LaBarge, was optimistic about the club’s future citing the growing number of chapters all throughout the country. As of now, the honor society stands at 140 chapters with one-eighth of them located in Massachusetts.



Photo by Cassie Roy

Human Services Club

by Briana Shelly

OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

Cassparina Carlson, a Human Services major, talked about the Human Services Club and what it means for the community.

Carlson, President of the Human Services Club, described her club as a group of people who are involved with giving back to the community and servicing people.

“I really want to get as many people, especially young people, involved,” Carlson said.

Carlson is hoping that she will get some newcomers to join the club and help make a difference in the community.

CAMPUS



Image from Facebook

Campus Activities Team for Students

by Brittany Eldridge
OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

Thomas Boupha, 19, is in his third semester and talked about what he has learned as a media communications major.

Boupha stated that he wishes to establish his own YouTube channel in the future. He hopes that his media classes will help him achieve his goal.

He enjoys dancing and fishing. His favorite type of dancing is hip-hop, but Boupha claims that he is interested in a variety of types of dance.

Boupha lives in Gardner and works as a dishwasher at Cruisers Malt Shoppe.

by Alexa Russo
OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

Ismael Berroa, a Computer Information System major, talked about the benefits of the CATS club (Campus Activities Team for Students).

CATS helps with major school events such as Scary Karaoke, Mardi Gras, Fall Fest, and the Welcome Back barbeque. Berroa is the leader of the club and stated, "It is a fun, free, and rewarding experience."

Berroa also talked about how the club looks good on a resume and it is a good way to connect with students and make new friendships.

Berroa joined because in the past he has helped out his church and liked the idea of helping his community. Berroa is in his seventh and final semester.

by Alexa Russo
OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

Professional Writing major Corey Sanderson talked about his love for sports writing and his plans for the future.

Sanderson hopes to become a sports writer. According to Sanderson, "There are multiple directions a sports writer can go into." He aims to work for a sports magazine or website in the future, where he would be interested in writing opinion pieces on sports.

Sanderson played baseball up into his junior year of high school. He watches many sports and has attended many Celtics games.

Sanderson, 18, said he enjoys playing video games, reading, writing, and playing golf. He also works at the Hannafords deli in Athol.

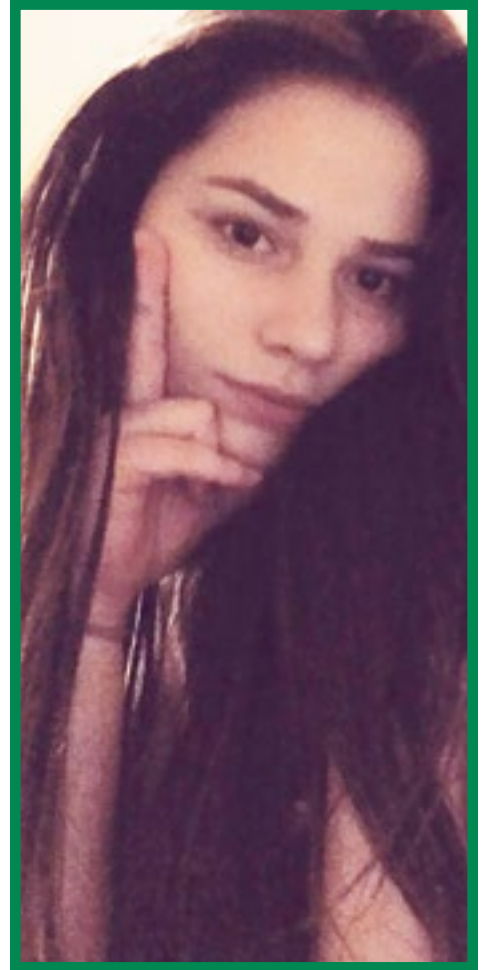


Photo by Gabriela Villa

Gabriela Villa

by Briana Shelly
OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

Gabriela Villa, 24, is majoring in Professional Writing and wants to use her writing to influence her readers to become vegan.

Villa is originally from Dedham but now lives in Worcester, where she lives with three other women. Her commute is about fifty minutes one way.

Villa is currently not working as she is looking to focus more on her schooling, but stated that she may get a job soon. She is currently taking four classes: art, two English courses, and a statistics class.

"I really want to take time to just focus on myself," Villa said.

Thinking about her future goals, Villa is not sure where she sees herself in ten years, however, she would like her writing to "contribute to the world in an enlightening way." She does plan on transferring once she graduates; she is just not certain as to where.

Villa, who is in her first semester, has been a vegan for 5 years and enjoys dancing as one of her hobbies. She said she enjoys yoga and will soon be taking an aerial silk class.

November 2018 Ballot Questions Explained

by Brittany Eldridge

OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

MWCC students who are registered to vote will have the opportunity to express their opinions on three ballot questions in the upcoming November State Elections. Students must be familiar with the ballot questions in order to make an informed decision.

Question One describes a law that requires nurses working at medical facilities to be held responsible for a set amount of patients. The maximum number of patients a nurse can care for depends on the physical state of the patient(s) and the type of facility (for example, an emergency room).

This law will result in smaller patient to nurse ratios if passed. This change will make it easier for nurses to provide patients with consistent specialized care. Nurses must write evaluations on their patients' conditions.

Hospitals can be fined if they do not follow the staffing rules. Nurses cannot care for more patients than they have been assigned even if they believe it is necessary.

Question Two describes a law that, if passed, will create a citizens commission. This group of elected citizens would gather to talk about, research, and report on political spending.

All U.S. citizens can apply to join the citizens commission. The group will include a variety of individuals with different backgrounds.

The citizens commission will only consist of fifteen people. All of the members must be residents of Massachusetts.

Question Three, if passed, states that those working in public places cannot treat others in a negative way or dismiss others because of their gender identity.

This addition to a pre-existing law will allow members of the LGBT community to freely enter public places. Legal action will be taken against businesses that discriminate against others based on gender identity.

This law only applies to discrimination that takes place in public businesses. Also, it must be clearly visible that the person was treated differently because of their gender identity.

Registering to Vote in the November Elections

by Brittany Eldridge

OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

The state elections may be a month away, but it is important to register to vote now.

The deadline to register to vote in the November elections is October 17th, 2018. You can register by going online to www.RegisterToVoteMA.com, by visiting your city or town hall, or by completing a mail-in form.

The polls for the November state elections open on November 6th, 2018 at 7:00 A.M. and close at 8 P.M. on the same day.

On November 6th visit your assigned polling place. Your polling place depends on your street address and can be found online at www.sec.state.ma.us. First visit the check-in table, next confirm your name and address, and then fill out the paper ballot at your assigned booth.

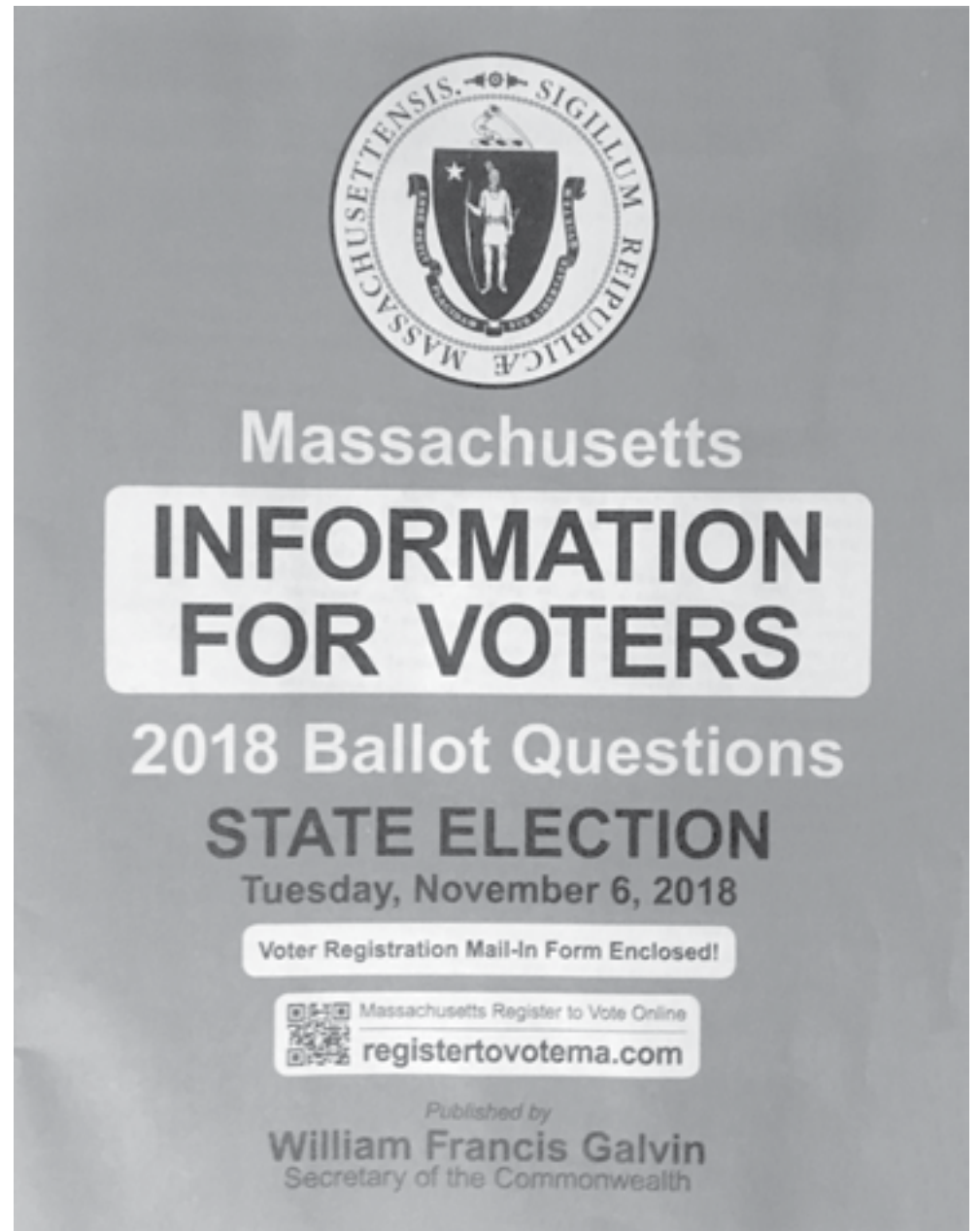


Photo by Thomas Hill Jr.

Information on each 2018 Ballot Question can be found in these Voter Information booklets. They also include information on how one can register to vote.

Why You Should Vote: A Student's Thoughts

by Brittany Eldridge

OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

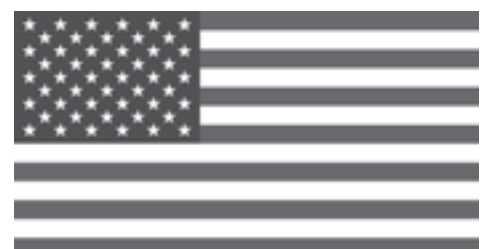
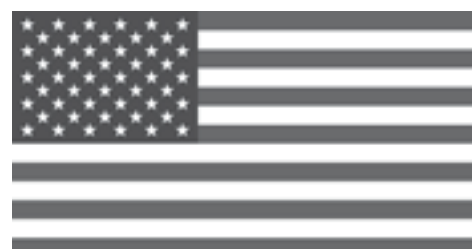
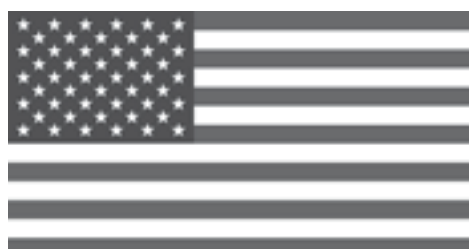
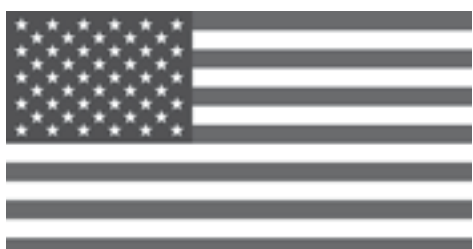
When asked about the upcoming elections, Betsy Torres said that it is the responsibility of all U.S. citizens to vote.

As a registered voter, Torres hopes to vote in the elections in November. She said voting is a valuable tool that students can use to their advantage. "It is a way for us to take part in society," said Torres.

Voting is a way in which students can express their opinions openly.

Torres believes this is true even if the opinions of students differ from her own. Torres explained that "opinions matter" and that expressing those opinions, no matter what those opinions are, is a right.

When asked if she is familiar with the ballot questions, Torres responded that she is familiar with two of them. She answered that she knows about the nursing and campaign funds questions listed on the ballot.



Review: *The Nun*

by Cassie Roy

ASSISTANT EDITOR

The backstory to the backstory, *The Nun* came out in theatres on September 6th of this year. This movie, produced by Peter Safran and James Wan, is a part of a series of Annabelle movies that were released out of order. The first movie to be produced was *The Conjuring* in 2013, *Annabelle* in 2014, *The Conjuring 2* in 2016, *Annabelle: Creation* in 2017 and finally *The Nun*. The actual order of the movies however is *The Nun*, *Annabelle: Creation*, *Annabelle*, *The Conjuring*, and ending with *The Conjuring 2*.

As a fan of the Annabelle series it pains me to admit that the trailers scared me more than the actual movie. There were certain times where the humor took away from the fear they were trying to portray. This generation is very cynical,



Image by junaidrao from Flickr (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)

finding comedic relief in the darkest of situations. It felt that the producers tried to relate the movie to modern day humor, even though

the movie takes place in the 50's in the backwoods of Romania. If you haven't always been a fan of the horror genre, this could be the movie for you.

Aside from not being as terrified as I had hoped when I left the movie theatre, I would still highly recommend seeing this movie. The cinematic visual effects, the makeup, even the costumes created a realistic look to this fantastical horror.

The Annabelle series includes five movies; it's because of this that every movie leaves you with burning questions. *The Nun* explains everything and even ends with a very obvious connection to the ending of *The Conjuring*. All of the questions have finally been answered, except for one- will there be a sixth?

Crying Over Spilled Milk

by Cassie Roy

ASSISTANT EDITOR

While working in a restaurant one can have some pretty crazy experiences. Customers can be mean and don't understand that not everything is the servers fault. But let's face it, sometimes we (the servers) mess up too. Here are the top five worst things my coworkers from the British Beer Company have done to a customer.

"When I was 21, I worked a catering job at a wedding. I wasn't comfortable yet using food trays. When I arrived to one of the tables, my tray packed with food, I started to take it all off. The tray tipped to one side and spilled salad dressing all down the woman's back next to me. The worst part? Her gown was gorgeous." –Kathleen Woodworth

"A couple of years ago, I was carrying a tray of six beers to a table of all guys. As I set down the first beer on the table the tray tipped and I spilled the remaining five beers down the head and back of the guy next to me." –Shawn Borous



Image by Joel Montes de Oca on Flickr (CC BY-SA 2.0)

"Back when my nails were really long, at least a few years ago now, I went to reach for something on a table and stabbed my customers hand. We were trying to reach for something at the same time. I cut her so deep she even started bleeding." –Kristine Bachelor

"One time at a table I had a tray of drinks. As I started to reach for the first beer the tray tipped and the whole drink spilled on the baby next to me, cup and all. The baby started screaming, I started crying. I almost quit." –Jessica Eliasson

"One time I was delivering food to a table and as I started to bring over the last plate I tripped on the chair leg. I completely dropped the entire steak on the bald spot of this man. I was mortified." –Ashley Wruck

Although restaurants may be filled with crazy experiences, you meet a lot of amazing people. In my coworkers case, she met her husband. One night he went out for a couple of beers with a few of his friends and she was their server. He proposed that night. She said it was love at first sight. Sometimes working in a restaurant isn't so bad.

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Get into the Student LIFE

Fall 2018 Leadership for Life program - a series of nine short presentations or service opportunities on topics that will help you feel more comfortable and be successful at MWCC. From the first one in September to the last one in November, *Leadership for Life* will help you. Upcoming workshops are being held: October 10, 12, 24, November 8, 28, December 12. Most workshops are held from 12:30 to 1:30 pm in the Murphy Room. For more information: Contact Sarah Savoie in Student Services at ssavoie7@mwcc.mass.edu, 978-630-9855 or stop by room 141.

Intramurals

Open Gym - Come try out all that Mount Fitness has to offer. Use the equipment, try a class, or swim in the pool, student ID required. On the following dates: 10/1, 10/9, 10/17, 10/25, 5am-9pm.

Intramural Soccer - Join us for pick-up soccer at Mount Fitness. Mondays at 12:30pm.

Please see the reverse side for detailed information.

For further information or to inquire about an event, please contact the Student Life Office at studentlife@mwcc.mass.edu or 978-630-9148. Full details may also be found on the Student Life webpage at <http://mwcc.edu/studentlife/>

10/12-10/19

Empty Place at the Table

10/2 Breast Cancer Awareness 11:30-1:30 Student Center	10/2 Pool Tournament Begins Preregister in Room 151	10/3 Film: Dolores 12:30pm North Cafe	10/4 "It's Your Birthday" 12:30pm South Cafe	10/8 Steps Challenge Kick-off Preregister in Room 151	10/9 SGA Mtg. Murphy Room 12:30pm Open to All!	10/10 CATS Programming Mtg., 12:30pm Room W12	10/11 Sabor Latino 12:30pm South Cafe	10/12 Leadership Retreat Registration Required	10/16 Financial Literacy Fair 11:30am-1:30pm Commons				
10/31 Pool Tournament Final Round 12:30pm	10/31 Film: Ghostbusters 12:30pm North Cafe	10/30 SGA Food Drive 3-7pm Walmart Gardner	10/30 Mocktails & Fatal Vision 12:30pm South Cafe	10/29 Mocktails Presale 12:30pm Student Center	10/29 Tea Time Speaker Series 12pm-2pm Multipurpose Room	10/29 Steps Challenge Celebration 12:30pm North Cafe	10/25 Scary Karaoke 6-9pm South Cafe	10/23 Pumpkin Decorating Workshop 12:30pm South Cafe	10/22 SGA Meeting Murphy Room 12:30pm	10/17 Monster Costume Show 12:30pm South Cafe	10/17 Film: Love Simon 12:30pm North Cafe	10/15 CATS Programming Mtg., 12:30pm Room W12	10/16 Domestic Violence Awareness 11:30-1:30 Student Center

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

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

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

Intramural Activity - Open Gym - Try a class, take a swim, shoot some hoops, lift some weights, etc. Wearing appropriate clothes and footwear try out the Fitness & Wellness Center at no cost from 5am-9pm. Anyone under the age of 18 needs a parental signature.

Intramural Activity – Pickup Soccer – Mondays at 12:30pm. Appropriate clothing and footwear are required. Players under the age of 18 need an adult signature to participate.

Pool Tournament – Join the fun and win a cash prize. Sign up by sending an email to studentlife@mwcc.mass.edu no later than 10/1/18

Breast Cancer Awareness – 11:30am-1:30pm, Student Center. Come pick up information and giveaways and show your support.

Film: "Dolores"- 12:30pm, North Café
History tells us Cesar Chavez transformed the U.S. Labor movement by leading the first farm workers' union. But missing from this narrative is his equally influential co-founder Dolores Huerta, who fought tirelessly alongside Chavez for racial and labor justice and became one of the most defiant feminists of the twentieth century.

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

Steps Challenge Kick-off. Register your team of 2-4 members and log your steps every week. Prizes will be awarded for the winning team and everyone will receive a raffle ticket for every 1,000 steps logged to entered to win various prizes. Register in room 151. Open to currently registered students only.

Sabor Latino – Music and Ethnic Food, 12:30 pm, South Café. Come enjoy a taste of Latino food and dance to ethnic music.

Leadership Retreat – 8:30am-3:30pm, McNally's Catering
Join other student leaders in a variety of team building and interactive workshops. Preregistration is required, see Kathy in Room 151 for more information.

Empty Place at the Table Exhibit, Commons Area,

Stop by this display that commemorates the lives lost in Massachusetts over the past year as a result of domestic violence. The display was created by Battered Women's Resources, Inc., and consists of a formal dining room table set up with 2 plates for each victim, one with a name and the other with a brief description of the murder.

Financial Literacy Fair – 11:30am-1:30pm, Commons Area. Check out the fair and learn more about your finances. Contact Gloria Correa at g_correa@mwcc.mass.edu

Domestic Violence Awareness – 11:30am-1:30pm, Student Center. Come learn about healthy relationships and use social media to promote awareness.

Monster Costume Show and Food Drive – 12:30pm, South Café.
Come dressed in a costume and take part in the costume show; bring a bag of non-perishable foods and get a raffle ticket for the big prize.

Film: "Love, Simon" – 12:30pm, North Cafe
Everyone deserves a great love story. But for Simon, it's complicated. No one knows he's gay and he doesn't know who the anonymous classmate is that he's fallen for online. Resolving both issues proves hilarious, scary and life-changing.

Pumpkin Decorating Workshop – 12:30pm, South Café
Bring your own pumpkin or choose one of ours, decorate it and enter it into the Decorated Pumpkin Contest at Scary Karaoke.

Scary Karaoke, 6pm-9pm, South Café
Join your friends and fellow students in an evening of fun and prizes. Come dressed in costume to take part in the Costume Contest or just come for the food and fun. \$100 cash door prize every hour!

Tea Time Speaker Series – 12pm-2pm, Multipurpose Room
Disparities in Mental Health: A multicultural perspective. Contact Sharmese Gunn at s_gunn@mwcc.mass.edu for details.

Mocktails & Fatal Vision – 12:30pm, South Café.
Enjoy an alcohol free Pina Colada or Strawberry Daiquiri for a \$1.00 donation that helps support the SGA Food Drive. Take a few minutes with Campus Police to see how alcohol impairs your judgement.

Film: "Ghostbusters" – 12:30pm, North Cafe
Paranormal researcher Abby Yates (Melissa McCarthy) and physicist Erin Gilbert are trying to prove that ghosts exist in modern society. When strange apparitions appear in Manhattan, Gilbert and Yates turn to engineer Jillian Holtzmann for help. Also joining the team is Patty Tolan, a lifelong New Yorker who knows the city inside and out. Armed with proton packs and plenty of attitude, the four women prepare for an epic battle as more than 1,000 mischievous ghouls descend on Times Square.

Events are held on the Gardner Campus unless otherwise noted.



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