

# The Mount Observer

“Voices of the students of Mount Wachusett Community College”

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10 PAGES

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

## Faith, Compassion, and Determination The Values of MWCC Student Sabrina Alonso



Photo courtesy of Sabrina Alonso

by *Elysian Alder*  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Sabrina Alonso, a 29-year-old student majoring in human services at Mount Wachusett Community College (MWCC), is driven by her passion for helping others. “Ever since I was younger, I always naturally had compassion for people,” said Alonso. “I love to make people’s lives easier as much as I can, even if it is something simple like listening to them.”

Originally from Uruguay, South America, Alonso moved

to the United States at the age of 7, bringing with her a strong sense of determination and empathy instilled by her mother. “The most influential woman in my life is my mother because 22 years ago, she came to the U.S., leaving her birth land behind to give me a better future,” she shared. “She’s the most influential woman in my life and my best friend.”

Alonso attributes much of her individuality and strength to her mother’s guidance. “Her piece of advice [to me] was always the verse of the Bible, Psalm

139:4 ‘I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.’ She would always advise me to be who I want to be, never think less of myself,” she said. “...even the word reminds me that I am fearfully and wonderfully made, and that stuck with me ever since I was younger.”

A devoted Christian, Alonso’s faith plays a central role in her life. “I am a Christian who

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“Sabrina Alonso” >>>

## Need Input! LaChance Library Prioritizes Student Experiences for Library Services

by *Cody Mercarter*  
OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

The LaChance Library is the go-to place for a quiet study spot, with chairs and tables scattered throughout and shelves towering over even the tallest people at MWCC. Students seem to have no say in what books come in or what they need the most. But that is soon changing.

According to Robert Koch, Assistant Dean of the Collaborative Learning Commons, “We’re going to come up with a user experience board at the entry to the library. When you come in, there will be survey questions and opportunities to tell us more about what you need, not just in terms of the books, but in terms of the space and the

services.” Koch has only been with MWCC since November of 2021, but he has always tried to put the students first, and this experience board demonstrates that.

Professional Writing major Amal Elkhoury stated, “The books in the library seem to be in fair quality, [although] some are falling apart. [Overall] they seem to be...old.” That is an ongoing theme with the books in the library. According to statistics collected by librarian Matthew Raymond, the average age of books in the collection is fifty-three years old. Many of the books showcased on the “New Books” bookshelf at the front of the library were actually released years ago, but are newly acquired by the library. However, there is an

explanation for this.

Koch noted, “There was a seven-year gap when no books were ordered.” This occurred fairly recently, as he elaborated, “My predecessor, Elliot Brandow, who arrived in 2021, collaborated extensively with Sarah Williams to acquire numerous books focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion.” Koch has continued this practice of frequent book ordering, with assistance from Matt Raymond, the collections librarian at MWCC.

Raymond also oversees the removal of books in a process known as weeding. Koch explained, “In that process, we examine the collection, we determine what is old, damaged, outdated, and we see from what’s there: does it need

to be replaced or removed?”

In recent years, the library has prioritized the online library, making it more convenient and easier for students to get the information they need wherever they are. This focus became especially crucial during the COVID-19 pandemic when the majority of students shifted to online learning, a trend that continues to this day. Students love the idea of the accessibility of the online library. According to Liberal Arts student Jai Yang, “Online [materials] allow me to find more books on my topic and faster than if I were to physically look for them,” adding that, “Having access to online resources is the best and fastest way for students to get resources.”

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### PREVIEWS

#### Women of the Mount

Profiles Honoring Women’s History Month  
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#### You’ve Heard of AI Photos; Get Ready for AI Movies with Sora

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#### Who’s Your Fave?

We asked you to post your favorite female role models, celebrities, and fictional characters, and you responded!  
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#### Comics, Creative Writing & Polls:

A new creative writing piece, the debut of an all-new comic strip, and your favorite flavors of pie!  
see page 9

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# Library Input

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Despite potential limitations in the library’s collection, LaChance Library offers a solution for students. It is part of a system called CW MARS, primarily a public library system. Students can borrow books from most libraries in Central Western Massachusetts, maximizing this resource. Koch explained, “We can loan books from any other library to come to ours for you all to use.”

LaChance Library and its staff are committed to assisting students. The development of the new user experience board shows that they care about what students think, and they’re doing what they can to continue to support students at the Mount.

Some of the online materials tend to be out of budget for the library. Koch touched on that subject, saying, “Sometimes we simply cannot afford to purchase, for example, two journals in one of the STEM fields. The company wanted to charge us \$11,000 for two journals, in one branch of the STEMs.”

However, not all students prefer online materials. During interviews, some expressed a preference for physical books. First-year student Abbie McClanahan explained, “I prefer physical books over digital because I’m able to stay more focused when I have the actual book in front of me.”



Photo by Tom Hill Jr.  
The Leo & Theresa LaChance Library on the Gardner campus

## WOMEN OF THE MOUNT

PROFILES HONORING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

# Sabrina Alonso



Photo courtesy of Sabrina Alonso  
Sabrina and her mother

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attends a non-denominational church,” she shared. “My goal is to love and accept everyone, regardless of their race, sexual orientation, or beliefs.” She emphasized her approach to spirituality, clarifying that she does not consider herself ‘religious.’

“Instead, I just say I have a relationship with God,” she said. “Religion often comes with rules and the way religion is organized is far from what I believe.”

Discussing womanhood, Alonso reflected on the notion of strength, saying, “In my opinion, being a ‘strong woman’ means not being afraid to face challenges and never backing down in the face of difficulties.” She explained, “What also makes me a strong woman is that I LOVE seeing other women shine and grow. I first actually realized that I am a strong woman when I encountered other people trying to belittle me. I noticed it did not affect me; instead, it strengthened me.”

Her involvement in MWCC’s Student Government Association reflects her commitment to empowering others. “What drew me to [SGA] is that I admire how this organization’s effort is supporting the student body. I want to be involved as much as I can to advocate for students and contribute in any way possible,” Alonso said.

Outside of academics and campus activities, Alonso finds solace in nature. “My hobby outside my studies and MWCC is spending time in nature. I love going hiking or just walking in general,” she shared. The outdoors provide her with a sense of peace and tranquility, allowing her to recharge and reflect on her goals.

Despite facing the stigma of being diagnosed and labeled as having learning disabilities in her youth, Alonso remained steadfast in her pursuit of education. Thinking about what advice she would give to her younger self, she said, “To accept myself for who I am and pursue all my dreams without underestimating my abilities.”

Her determination has served her well, earning her a spot on the MWCC Academic Excellence list for the fall 2023 semester. Her ultimate goal is to become a clinical social worker, with plans to continue her studies at Fitchburg State University after completing her degree at MWCC.





# Kourtney Tibbets

Empowering Education Through IT and Grit



Photo courtesy of Kourtney Tibbets

by **Kent Yang**  
STAFF WRITER

Kourtney Tibbets, an extremely motivated Computer Information System student at Mount Wachusett Community College, is driven by her overwhelming passion for the IT industry and education sector. Tibbets is a dual enrollment student, attending Southern New Hampshire University in addition to the Mount.

She hails from southern New Hampshire and has an incredibly diverse heritage stemming from Northern Europe and Nigeria. “I have been to the United Kingdom but looking forward to exploring both Europe and Nigeria,” she said. “I am excited to learn more of my heritage! I was proud to learn that [my great-great-great grandfather] also fought in the Civil War for the Union Army. It is amazing to be able to connect my heritage to a specific time in American history.” Tibbets is an outdoor enthusiast who enjoys the thrill of activities like hunting and trapping. She also finds joy in culinary pursuits, her favorite food being sushi. In her spare time, Tibbets also channels her passion into coaching and mentoring the younger generation; she loves to teach “Many of the young adults I have mentored have been to focus on life skills,” explained Tibbets. “I have also mentored those who are pursuing IT. I feel it is important to invest in the growth

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“Kourtney Tibbets” >>>

# Katy Houghton

Maybe She’s Born With It, Maybe It’s *Neighbelline*

by **Lindsay Mahoney**  
OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

“I love getting lost in my little fantasy worlds, I just start writing, and I melt away. I just feel like this is my home,” said Katy Houghton, a first-year student in the Professional Writing track at the Mount. Like many students, Houghton juggles work, school, and her personal life. A typical week for her includes working a physically demanding overnight shift at an Amazon warehouse from 1:30 am to 9:00 am. Afterward, she attends school in the afternoon, completes her homework, and repeats the cycle for the entire week. While balancing her busy schedule is stressful, Houghton finds solace in writing fantasy stories and poetry. She draws a lot of her creativity for her poetry from her own mental health struggles, which she’s been grappling with for several years. Houghton was born an only child in Salem and later raised in Townsend, Massachusetts; she graduated in 2022

from the Parker Charter School in Devens, Massachusetts. While in school, she enjoyed her senior year the most as she had a group of friends that she was close to, who she felt understood her at a time when finding good friends can often be difficult, as we enter the adult chapters of our life. When asked how she felt about the change, Houghton said: “It was a pretty big change, it did affect me a lot.” She acknowledged that it can feel isolating and discouraging to be separated from your friends after graduation. Houghton doesn’t let her mental health or even a 900-pound horse get her down. Yes, that’s right: in 2021, a toothless yet adorable 900-pound horse named Louie fell on top of Houghton. It was just a regular day at the barn, but Louie had other plans and bucked her off of him. Houghton did what any strong-willed Leo would do: she got right back on the saddle.

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“Katy Houghton” >>>

# Martha Morris

History Professor and World Traveler

by **Amal Elkhoury**  
OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

Martha Morris, an adjunct history professor at Mount Wachusett Community College and Berkshire Community College, is currently teaching three history courses across both institutions. She holds a bachelor’s degree in History with a minor in Geography from the University of Washington and earned an MSc and an MPhil in Economic History from the London School of Economics (LSE). “LSE was my first choice for graduate school because I wanted to focus on the British industrial revolution and the earlier period of import substitution,” said Morris. Her passion for history and civilizations shines through in her teaching and anecdotes from her travels across Canada, Egypt, Mexico, Bolivia, Peru, various European countries, Thailand, Vietnam, Turkey, Jordan, and beyond. Legend has it that she once impressed a Pharaoh with her extensive knowledge of ancient Egypt. During her time in London, Morris

at it on the hill. It was a great ride.” Morris had plenty of stories to share about the sights she saw and the experiences that she had, particularly during her backpacking adventures in different areas. But backpacking was not always easy, especially on unfamiliar trails in different countries. She noticed a common trend in her travels was her getting lost. “I got lost a lot. I got lost in the Himalayas, I’ve been lost in the Alps, the Andes...I’ve been lost in the Brazilian forest, which would be the Amazonian forest.” She had many additions to add to her global collection of “Lost and Rediscovered” adventures! The incredible adventurer found herself in wild chases more exhilarating than any history lesson! She shared a wild experience she had in Zimbabwe, where charging elephants sent her running for safety. “The elephants just started charging the hill. We didn’t know where we were, just knew to run. So, we ran like crazy,” she recalled. Another heart-

A conversation with her is like being taken on a journey through history and daring exploits.

supported herself by cooking and providing childcare for a professor’s family. She also started a tutoring business, allowing her to maintain independence while spending approximately six weeks each year traveling the globe. “I’ve got my scuba diving certification in Jordan,” Morris shared when asked about her accomplishments while living in London for 10 years. “I really didn’t want to do my open water in the River Thames, the polluted river, so I thought, ‘where would I like to do my open water...?’ I know: the Red Sea!” Vietnam held a special place in Martha Morris’s adventurous heart, standing out as her favorite among the many countries she’d explored. Although she had no interest in seeing the Viacom installation from the war, Morris fondly recalled her experience canoeing on traditional Vietnamese boats. “There was a little old toothless lady guiding us, sitting in front with a pole... and every now and then she would turn around and just grin at us,” Morris reminisced. “Then we passed the military installation, and she just pointed

pounding moment occurred during a Jeep safari when “the big matriarch... took one look at us and charged the Jeep. The driver put it in reverse and drove backward just as fast as he could go... the elephant came right up to the front of the Jeep and swerved off right before she was gonna ram us.” Her advice for those who want to travel is to pick a place, and buy a backpacker’s guide or two. The flight is the most expensive part so shop around for deals. Keep valuables attached to yourself under your clothes, day and night. Don’t be afraid of street food, eat only what’s cooked, and don’t drink the water, stay sober at all times, and always be on the lookout for adventure, but most importantly: “just go with the flow.” Morris is full of many stories from all the countries that she has visited. A conversation with her is like being taken on a journey through history and daring exploits. Just ask, and she is eager to tell riveting stories that span continents, each one a testament to her endless curiosity and boundless spirit of exploration.



# Kourtney Tibbets Katy Houghton

>>> continued from page 3

of young adults to help foster skills they may not have been able to learn in their home environment.”

Having faced the challenges of navigating her own path without guidance, she understands the importance of offering support to the younger generation. Tibbets aims to learn all she can through the power of education and make even more meaningful contributions to each organization she works for. Her dream, she said, lies in “leveraging technology to further enhance online education, specifically in the healthcare sector” where she finds it most valuable.

Despite being currently unemployed, her extensive 27 years tenure in the IT field led to her most recent title to be “Solutions Analyst Director.” On her journey within the male-dominated industry of IT, she has overcome many challenges and hurdles thanks to her unwavering resilience and determination. Because of this, she has propelled to new heights after every struggle.

One of the biggest struggles Tibbets

more vague for my point of view to be considered. I found it as an opportunity to adapt and overcome it!”

Among her numerous accomplishments, Tibbets takes the most pride in a project that had significantly improved usability of online education platforms to both educators and students improving user self-service capabilities. As a result, calls to the help desk were massively reduced altogether. She explained, “I found it rewarding mainly because I was able to help a much broader population of customers. So thinking smarter on what would make it easier for them, and in turn help my teams be more effective was [also] very rewarding.”

Her commitment to her field is a testament to her unwavering belief that anything is achievable with perseverance. To all aspiring students entering the field of IT, she imparted invaluable advice: “Don’t merely aim to get through school just to get through, strive to acquire the skills necessary to excel in the field. Don’t do the minimum, but set your sights and attain those advanced skills.”

**“It has always been difficult working in a very competitive male dominated industry ... I found it as an opportunity to adapt and overcome it!”**

**- Kourtney Tibbets**

faced in a male-dominated industry was the lack of acceptance of women. Within an organization of 1,200 employees where 95% were males, and only 5% were women, Tibbets worked her way to the top, becoming not only 1 of 3 directors, but also the only woman director. “It has always been difficult working in a very competitive male-dominated industry,” she shared. “I found that sometimes communicating directly was not always well received by my peers, so I had to develop skills to be

Tibbets considers her faith a cornerstone of her life. Reflecting on this, she shared an uplifting biblical verse from 2 Timothy 2:15: “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a worker who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.” She emphasized, “My faith is what drives me to help others in my community. I will always return back to one of the most fundamental principles: to love your neighbor as [you love] yourself,” said Tibbets.

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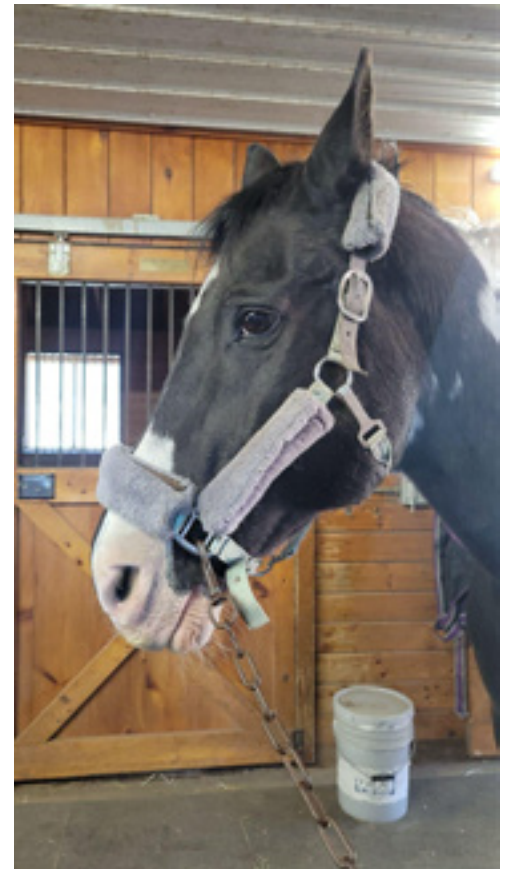
Her love of horses knows no bounds, considering she grew up around these beautiful animals and worked at a barn when she was younger, solely taking care of dozens of horses, raising, training, and showing horses since she was little. Her favorite riding style is Western horseback. Houghton explained her preferred riding style as being, “...pretty informal, rugged, and cowboy-like. I’m just kind of drawn to that.” Her favorite discipline that she has learned is jumping, an incredibly brave craft within the equestrian sport.

Another hobby that gets her heart racing is motorcycles. This comes as no surprise as Houghton shared that one of the items on her bucket list is to obtain her motorcycle license and race someday. Houghton’s love of motorcycles comes from experiences shared with her father. She said, “My dad used to let me ride on his bike when I was little, and I guess I just want to do something my dad does.” Houghton said she would love to try white water rafting someday as well.

Houghton incorporates her passion for adrenaline and horses into her fantasy writing, along with werewolves, mermaids, and general feminist badassery. After enduring a long day filled with work and no leisure, Houghton unwinds by playing Lego Star Wars and Minecraft.

Something that Houghton is never without is her notepad and pen, just in case inspiration strikes, which is almost a daily occurrence. She has decided to share her visceral, heartfelt poetry online on a dedicated Instagram page. “I wanted to get my work out there to get the weight off my shoulders,” she explained. It seemed that in doing that, it was cathartic for her to be open with others about her afflictions.

Houghton’s dream is to move to Texas after earning her associate degree from the Mount. Her goal is to work as an editor while simultaneously publishing the book she’s been working on for the past six years. It started as a school project



*Photo courtesy of Katy Houghton*

**Louie**

and has since evolved into a full-fledged novel. Houghton has written about 300 pages thus far. When asked about the plot, she wouldn’t reveal much, but it sounded like a fairytale with a medieval twist, intricately woven with elements of science fiction and magical delight.

After speaking with Houghton, it is clear that she is a determined student and a brilliant force to be reckoned with. Managing homework deadlines while working is something a lot of Mount students have on their plates, and it can be very overwhelming. One takeaway from Houghton’s story is to ensure that you allocate time to “get lost in your little fantasy world” like she does when she writes. Prioritizing time to do what you love is key to lesson the stressors of life. It is no easy task jumping through the everyday hurdles of life, but there’s no doubt that Houghton will persevere. Even while seemingly saddled with a multitude of responsibilities, Houghton, the horse-loving poet, will ride off into the sunset.

**“Get lost in your little fantasy world.”**

**- Katy Houghton**

**GET INVOLVED!**

**Want to join a club or participate in a community event? Then visit InvolveMOUNT at <https://mwcc.campuslabs.com/engage/> and get started today!**





# You’ve Heard of AI Photos; Get Ready for AI Movies with Sora

by **Kent Yang**  
STAFF WRITER

Imagine a technology so advanced that words can conjure breathtaking worlds, complete with sights and sounds mirroring reality. Well, now it’s possible, or at least it will be soon, with Sora by OpenAI.

OpenAI is an AI research and deployment company that aims to ensure artificial intelligence will benefit all of humanity. Sora is an artificial intelligence model capable of translating text into videos up to 1 minute long, simulating the physics and dynamics of our reality. This AI model not only comprehends text but also grasps its nature and how it exists in the real world too.

Before delving too deeply, here’s a fun fact: in Japanese, “Sora” means “Sky” and often

carries metaphorical and spiritual meanings such as transcendence, boundlessness, freedom, and the infinite expansion of the universe. With Sora and the future of AI, the potential is limitless.

From the demos of Sora, it appears almost perfect. However, like all early AI models, Sora has its flaws. Users with early access have reported issues such as a lack of attention to detail, inaccurate motion representation, unrealistic transformations, difficulties with complex scenes, and unnatural facial expressions.

So, how does Sora really work? With its massive database filled with high-quality images, videos, and highly descriptive captions, Sora constantly learns and analyzes these materials using nodes. The nodes in this

neural network help teach AI models like Sora to process data in a manner resembling the way a human brain processes and understands information. Thus, when Sora encounters a written prompt from a user, it generates a video response by utilizing various models or dedicated programs with specific functions to find patterns or make decisions based on previous datasets.

One model in particular is called Cascade Diffusion. It starts by creating a basic version of an image or video, then gradually improves its quality through an iterative process until it reaches a high-resolution output. Another model, Latent Diffusion, compresses the image into a lower-dimensional latent space, then uses encoders to adjust the latent variables, enhancing



Image from [openai.com/sora](https://openai.com/sora)

**“Prompt: Animated scene features a close-up of a short fluffy monster kneeling beside a melting red candle. The art style is 3D and realistic, with a focus on lighting and texture. The mood of the painting is one of wonder and curiosity, as the monster gazes at the flame with wide eyes and open mouth. Its pose and expression convey a sense of innocence and playfulness, as if it is exploring the world around it for the first time. The use of warm colors and dramatic lighting further enhances the cozy atmosphere of the image.”**

its quality in the process. Once finished, it is decoded into a high-resolution image. In AI, a latent space represents the characteristics of a dataset.

Sora also employs Diffusion Transformers, known for their flexibility and scalability in handling data and computing. In this context, a transformer is a type of neural network designed to convert one sequence of information into another. Diffusion Transformers approach problem-solving like solving a giant puzzle. Instead of tackling it all at once, the model breaks it down into smaller pieces, making estimates and gradual refinements until the puzzle is solved. These refinements include adding and removing noise to learn how to

reverse the process and construct the next part.

Aside from generating text-to-video, with its versatility, Sora can transform still photos into videos, create looped sequences, and merge elements from two videos into one. As of March 2024, Sora has not been released to the public, but according to Mira Murati, OpenAI’s Chief Technology Officer, it will be available later this year.

As AI technology evolves, Sora stands at the forefront of text-to-video-based artificial intelligence. Perhaps someday, Sora will enable text-to-videos beyond the 1-minute limit and even lead to full-quality movies. However, this advancement may bring its own challenges in data ethics, a discussion for another time.



Image from [openai.com/sora](https://openai.com/sora)

**“Prompt: Several giant woolly mammoths approach treading through a snowy meadow, their long woolly fur lightly blows in the wind as they walk, snow covered trees and dramatic snow capped mountains in the distance, mid afternoon light with wispy clouds and a sun high in the distance creates a warm glow, the low camera view is stunning capturing the large furry mammal with beautiful photography, depth of field.”**

Join the *Mount Observer* crew and get your writing, photography, artwork, or reviews out into the world! Or maybe take on a behind-the-scenes role and help run the *Observer’s* website or social media. Whatever your interests, you can find a place on our team!





# WHO'S YOUR FAVE?

We sent out a poll asking you to show some love for your favorite female role models, celebrities, and fictional characters.

Here are your responses:



(Copyright - George Ballis//George Ballis/Take Stock/The Image Work)

“Dolores Huerta is a Latina like myself! She has received awards for her community service and advocacy for migrant workers’, immigrants’, and women’s rights.”

– Sabrina Alonso, Human Services major



(Copyright - © The Walking Dead/AMC)

“Michonne was always wonderful! When life was “normal,” she was a good person, a wife, a mom, a good friend like so many of us. Maybe she would never have known her true inner strength and potential... then, during COVID-19 (oops, that’s a different pandemic), she faced enormous hurdles, fears, and potential death almost constantly. She lost her husband, her friends, her small child, and at some point, her desire to bond with others. But, she managed to find HOPE in the faces of evil and terror, trying to “TURN” them toward human compassion again. She did whatever she could to become stronger to survive and to save others. She would have gotten vaccinated...if the CDC was ready and Eugene didn’t lie (just sayin). But, she never lost sight of her humanity and was incredibly brave, logical, sympathetic and helpful to those she met along the way. She’s definitely someone you’d want on your side.”

– Tami Morin, Business major

For the results of our  
other poll, Favorite  
Flavors of Pie,  
see page 9

Want to join in on the fun yourself? Check out the new MWCC Mobile App at <https://mwcc.edu/campus-life/mwcc-iconnect-mobile-application/> and get started!





(Copyright - Paramount Pictures, Mean Girls the Movie Musical)

“I saw **Reneé Rapp** in the *Mean Girls* musical movie that came out in January and I was immediately amazed how a woman at just 24 years old could have such a beautiful, angelic voice. She was my favorite part of the entire movie.”

–Benjamin Heffner, Early College Academy



(Copyright - © Parks and Recreation/Universal Television)

“**Leslie Knope** is a strong woman who fights for what is right! She doesn’t take no for an answer and always finds a way to get what she wants. She fights for the down and out and won’t let big corporations slow her down. And I’m pretty sure she invented Galentine’s day!”

–Anonymous, Business Administration major



(Simone Biles Image Copyright - Agência Brasil Fotografias     Taylor Swift Image Copyright - Getty / Hector Vivas/TAS23)

“I love **Simone Biles** because she never let anyone or anything hold her back. She got bullied for her skin color, and she was adopted but she is now famous. It shows how perseverance works.

I like **Taylor Swift** because of how she helps people and how she is so kind. She brings light into the world.”

– Abigail Mackinnon, Business Administration



(Copyright - CBS Television)

“**Lucille Ball** has always been a fascinating figure to me. *I Love Lucy* is my comfort show! Though it contains themes that are problematic by today’s standards, it was actually pretty progressive for its time. *I Love Lucy* broke early television barriers with its depictions of pregnancy and a multiethnic marriage. Lucy’s brand of physical comedy is timelessly funny, and she paved the way for generations of funny women to follow. She also holds the distinction of being the first woman to own her own major television production company-without Lucy we would not have *Star Trek*!”

– Jill Vescovi, Business Administration/Accounting





## Option 1 Just Travel

ALL MATRICULATED  
MWCC STUDENTS,  
18 OR OLDER AND IN  
GOOD STANDING,  
ARE ELIGIBLE TO  
TRAVEL.

# Travel to PARIS



## Option 2 Class + Travel

STUDENTS WHO  
TAKE AND  
SUCCESSFULLY PASS  
HUM 283 ARE ELIGIBLE  
TO APPLY FOR A FULL  
SCHOLARSHIP.

## ONE WEEK TRAVEL MAY 2025



## Option 3: Just the Class

### **HUM 283 AN AMERICAN IN PARIS FALL 2024**

EXPLORING FRENCH CULTURAL AND LITERARY HISTORY THROUGH A  
TRANSATLANTIC LENS

- OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS WHO HAVE COMPLETED ENG 101 & ENG 102.
- COUNTS AS A HUMANITIES OR GENERAL ELECTIVE.

### CONTACT:

- Katie Fuller: [kfuller10@mwcc.mass.edu](mailto:kfuller10@mwcc.mass.edu)
- Candace Shivers: [c\\_shivers@mwcc.mass.edu](mailto:c_shivers@mwcc.mass.edu)







COMICS

GUBBINS

Created by Tom Hill Jr.



Copyright Tom Hill Jr.

Creative Writing Redemption

by Desirée Leader

A pure white offering blankets the ground  
hiding the sin of leaves decaying, unlevel trails, rotting  
litter...

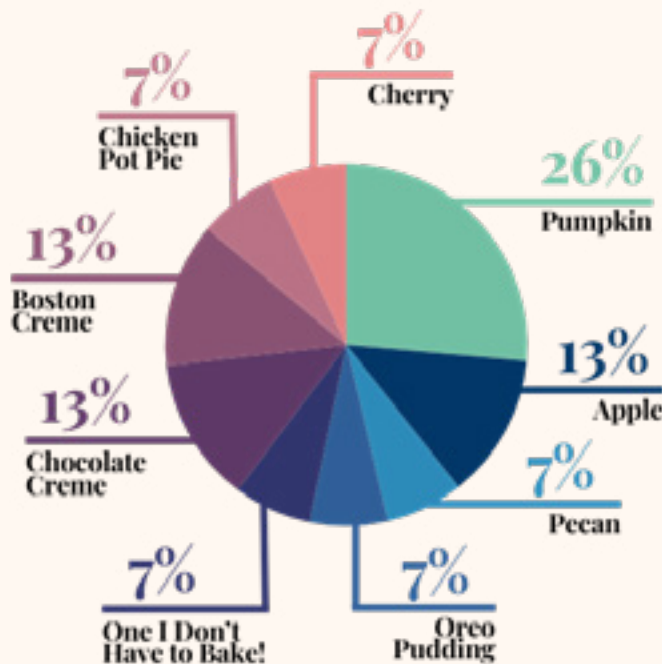
The silent wood beckons me, behold  
as mighty oaks bow down under the weight of snow  
to welcome me  
into their majestic abode.

From the branches, a choir’s song rises -  
first one, then two, until a myriad of birds  
herald my arrival.

I am welcome here –  
undeserving, humble, I am celebrated,  
loved, forgiven, redeemed.

The Mount Observer Polls presents  
Your Thoughts

In honor of Pi Day (3.14), what  
is your favorite flavor of pie?







# InvolvementMOUNT Events

**Monday, March 25 2024 at 4:00 PM to Monday, March 25 2024 at 6:00 PM -**  
Perley Brook Hike @ Perley Brook: 110 Clark Street, Gardner, MA

**Tuesday, March 26 2024 at 12:30 PM to Tuesday, March 26 2024 at 1:30 PM -**  
JINDO- BINGO with a Beat @ Zoom

**Tuesday, March 26 2024 at 12:30 PM to Tuesday, March 26 2024 at 1:30 PM -**  
Pizza & Chat: Roadmap to Medical School @ Murphy Conference Room

**Tuesday, March 26 2024 at 12:30 PM to Tuesday, March 26 2024 at 1:30 PM -**  
Stolen Inventions: STEM and Women & POC @ S105

**Wednesday, March 27 2024 at 12:30 PM to Wednesday, March 27 2024 at 1:30 PM -**  
DEI Leadership: Debunk Unconscious Stigmas and Stereotypes @ Student Center

**Tuesday, March 26 2024 at 2:30 PM to Thursday, March 28 2024 at 2:00 PM -**  
Yard Sale @ Gardner Campus | North Cafe

**Thursday, March 28 2024 at 10:00 AM to Thursday, March 28 2024 at 2:00 PM -**  
Relaxation Event with Campus Spa @ Commons Area

**Monday, February 26 2024 at 7:00 PM EST to Monday, February 26 2024 at 7:30 PM EST -**  
Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women (MCSW) Public Hearing @ South Cafe

**Tuesday, April 2 2024 at 11:30 AM to Tuesday, April 2 2024 at 1:30 PM -**  
Headphone Disco @ Commons Area

**Tuesday, April 2 2024 at 1:30 PM to Tuesday, April 2 2024 at 2:30 PM -**  
JINDO- BINGO with a Beat @ Zoom

**Tuesday, April 2 2024 at 4:00 PM to Tuesday, April 2 2024 at 6:00 PM -**  
Evening Student Pizza with the President @ Commons Area

**Tuesday, April 2 2024 at 7:00 PM to Tuesday, April 2 2024 at 9:00 PM -**  
Glow Party & Headphone DISCO @ South Cafe

**Wednesday, April 3 2024 at 12:30 PM to Wednesday, April 3 2024 at 1:30 PM -**  
Managing Anxiety Workshop @ Gardner Campus | Room H171

**Thursday, April 4 2024 at 5:00 PM to Thursday, April 4 2024 at 6:00 PM -**  
Budgeting Tips @ Gardner Campus | North Cafe

## THE MOUNT OBSERVER | VOLUME 18, ISSUE 6 | MARCH 21, 2024

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