

The Mount Observer

“Voices of the students of Mount Wachusett Community College”

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12 PAGES

Fond Farewells

Retiring MWCC Professors Leave Behind Legacies of Learning

by Elysian Alder
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As the spring semester comes to a close, the Mount is bidding farewell not only to the 527 students who are graduating (between December 2023 and May 2024), but also to several faculty who are departing for their well-deserved retirements. Among them are two professors from the English department and three from the Health Sciences department.

Paula Pitkiewicz has been a professor in the English department for 41 years. “I was a student at MWCC,” she explained. “So, in a way, you could say that I have grown up at the college.”

Pitkiewicz was a first-generation student, the first in her immediate family to pursue a college degree. She received a BA from Fitchburg State College and an MA from UMASS/ Amherst. “Getting a degree in literature just seemed a natural extension of who I was as an avid reader all of my life,” she said. “I was a quiet kid living in a small town, and reading gave me a way to escape into my imagination.”

One of Pitkiewicz’s favourite novels to teach has been *Jane Eyre*. When a male colleague dismissed it as shallow romance, Pitkiewicz insisted he revisit the novel. “That novel was a

revelation,” she explained. “You can be female and define who you are, even though society may tell you otherwise.”

After 41 years of teaching, the thing that Pitkiewicz will miss the most about teaching is watching students grow academically and personally from one end of the semester to the other. “I think that being around young people for so long has kept me young in spirit and challenged me to keep growing,” she said, adding that she’ll also miss her friends at the college: “Faculty at MWCC are supportive of each other. I consider some members of the English department to be life-

long friends—some are like family to me.”

Pitkiewicz looks forward to having the time to travel and explore; despite her anticipation, not being in a classroom and not organizing her life around the requirements of a semester will be “a lot to get used to, at least in the short term.”

Lorie Donahue, an English professor, has been teaching at the Mount since 1989. She obtained her master’s degree from Boston College and her bachelor’s from Fitchburg State University.

An extended profile feature

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Position Filled?

Multicultural Center and Director Could Be Coming to MWCC Soon



Photo by Brittani Burns from Unsplash

by Jordan Chila
OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

The Mount has been holding a 2-year vacancy for a multicultural director. This position is for the benefit of the students and the college to spread awareness to different backgrounds in the student population. That job, however, according to MWCC President James Vander Hooven was put on “hold for hire” due to funding being cut. The Mount can have high hopes for seeing the position filled soon. Vander Hooven explained that other funding has been allocated in the full-year FY25 budget to acquire someone for the job. He said, “...We’ll be good to go beginning July 1.”

MWCC was granted a SUCCESS fund (Supporting

Urgent Community College Equity through Student Services) that will be utilized for the hiring of a multicultural director. This fund was created for community colleges to invest in supports and services for students that face “systemic barriers.” The job listing for the position is posted online and open for applicants. In a general statement of duties that was pulled from the MWCC job posting, it states that a multicultural director will “develop and lead co-curricular programs and create inclusive spaces supporting students’ retention and holistic development.” The MWCC diversity statement indicates that the goal for the college is to have an environment

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It's Official: The MWCC Devens Campus is Closed

But Wait, There's More....

by Kevin Hayes
OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

They say 'Time Flies.' It seems like only yesterday that MWCC closed its Devens campus. According to an April 25, 2023 memo issued by James Vander Hooven, President of MWCC, the closure coincided with the end of MWCC's lease at the Devens location at the end of 2022, which the college chose not to renew. Vander Hooven was unavailable for comment; however, Sandra Quaye, vice president of Finance and Administration, confirmed the closure's official status when questioned on Friday, April 19, 2024.

As it turns out, students were left off the distribution of the memo, potentially explaining the delayed awareness. Enrollment was low at the time and the lease was about to expire, according to Jason Zelesky, Vice President of Student Affairs, Dean of Students. He stated, "There were staff offices, some community and lifelong learning, and workforce development courses happening there" before the Devens facility was vacated. However, according to Zelesky, courses offering credits at Devens were nonexistent at that

time and had been for a while. Quaye was asked if she could add any context to the happenings around Devens and said, "At this point, I can be up front with you. We are going forward with a new lease with DCAMM (Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance)." DCAMM is a state agency responsible for capital planning, construction and facilities management for public buildings in Massachusetts. Quaye added, "A new lease and RFP (Request for Proposal) has just been drafted with DCAMM with a smaller footprint. It will incorporate the manufacturing component of what had been [at the Devens campus], and some office space." Quaye said the RFP will be going out to the Devens area and surrounding towns.

According to Zelesky, when MWCC opened classes for students at the campus in Devens, the biotech companies like Bristol Myers Squibb were just beginning to take over the Devens area. "We were providing some really good training for those companies. But what ended up happening was the biotech companies were not hiring students with associate degrees," said Zelesky. While some students were not



The directory in the lobby of 1 Jackson Place, former home to MWCC's Devens campus

Photo by Kevin Hayes

even aware MWCC had a campus on Devens, others were impacted by the closure. Lindsay Mahoney, a student who was attending the Devens campus in 2019 taking Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) courses, said, "I was looking to start classes, and Devens is closest to where I live, so I wanted to take classes there. After COVID, I found out it wasn't an option anymore, so I started over in Leominster and now Gardner." Even though low enrollment after COVID-19 seems to

have been part of the problem, since the time of the Devens closure, recent studies show that enrollment is on the rise. According to a recent article dated January 24, 2024 in the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, undergraduate enrollment in the U.S. grew by 1.2 percent in the fall of 2023. Community colleges saw the highest growth at 2.6 percent. While the precise location of the new facility is still unknown, there is at least the assurance

that it is on the way. Regarding the timing of the Devens facility closure announcement, it could probably be attributed to the fact that since students hadn't been going there for a while, there was no urgency to announce it to them. Looking ahead, there's hope that lessons will be learned from this experience, and students can close the book on that chapter and open to a new one at the future facility.

Fond Farewells

>>> continued from page 1

on Professor Donahue written by Observer writer Desiree Leader can be found on page 4.

Ellen McCracken, associate professor in the Dental Hygiene program, has been a professor for 18 years. Prior to being an

educator, McCracken lives by a mantra inspired by Dr. Seuss: "To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world." For her, teaching is about more than just imparting knowledge; it's about making a real impact. She fondly reflected on her time as an educator,

realize existed. I will be forever grateful for the opportunity given me to educate dental hygiene students all these years." Jacqueline Shakar, professor and physical therapist assistant program director, has been a professor for over 22 years of teaching and has 29 years of

clinical experience as a physical therapist. According to MWCC's college faculty director, Shakar holds a Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.) from the MGH Institute of Health Professionals. She is certified as a massage therapist (C.M.T.) from the Bancroft School of Massage Therapy. She earned a master's degree from Boston University and a bachelor's degree from Worcester State University.

Her dedication to her students and the PTA Program has been extraordinary. I wish her well in her next adventure!" Virginia Heroux, associate professor, has been a full-time educator at MWCC for 15 years, teaching dental hygiene pre-clinic and clinic with emphasis

professors and clinical instructors modeled professionalism, pushed us to perform our best, and held us to high standards of care in the treatment of patients and in how we practiced dental hygiene. Most of all, I was taught how to assess myself and to continue learning." As she approaches her retirement, Heroux stated that she will miss the energy and enthusiasm of the students in her classes and advocating for dental hygiene at Lobby Day at the Massachusetts State House and the Student Summit. "I will miss seeing the growth of each student from the first week of school in the program to the last week of their second year when they are ready to take their boards and become a [Registered Dental Hygienist] (RDH). I am so proud of my students and am happy to call them colleagues! It has been an honor and a pleasure to be part of MWCC and to mentor future professionals in the community."

Although Heroux will miss her students, colleagues and friends dearly, she shared that she has plans for her future. "I plan to travel, play piano, have coffee with alumni, and continue learning. I am so excited to start a new chapter with my family, friends and fellow RDHs," she said. "Thank you for the wonderful memories!"

"I think that being around young people for so long has kept me young in spirit and challenged me to keep growing"

- Paula Pitkiewicz

educator, McCracken worked as a clinical dental hygienist in a private practice. In 2004, she served as a dental hygienist for the Community Health Center in Fitchburg. They began plans to open a Dental Hygiene Clinic and a MWCC Dental Hygiene program in collaboration with the Community Health Center was also in the works. "I decided to go to graduate school and obtain my Master's Degree in Health Education and eventually apply for a faculty position in the new program," she said. "This just felt right in my heart. I truly believe that I was meant to be an educator."

stating that "the feeling of accomplishment and the amazing student engagement and fun" is what she will miss the most about teaching. "I know the students have made such a difference and touched so many lives as a result of this [community outreach] program," she added. Although McCracken is somewhat uncertain about what the future holds for her, she said, "I will always volunteer in some aspect. I plan to spend a lot of time with my grandchildren as they hold a special place in my heart. I will take walks and be open to opportunities that I may not even

clinical experience as a physical therapist. According to MWCC's college faculty director, Shakar holds a Doctor of Physical Therapy (D.P.T.) from the MGH Institute of Health Professionals. She is certified as a massage therapist (C.M.T.) from the Bancroft School of Massage Therapy. She earned a master's degree from Boston University and a bachelor's degree from Worcester State University. Jennifer Gentile, fellow Physical Therapist Assistant Program faculty, said: "Jackie Shakar has been a great influence and role model for me during my

second year advanced periodontal instruction and serving on the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) from 2020-2022. Heroux practiced dental hygiene for 25 years in general and periodontal practices in MA, RI, and CT before teaching dental hygiene. "My instructors at the Forsyth School for Dental Hygienists inspired me to pursue a career in education," she explained. "As the first person in my family to graduate from college, a new world was opened to me when I left home and attended college. My

Multicultural Center

>>> continued from page 1

for students, faculty and other college members that values the backgrounds of all people.

The position of multicultural director was 1 of 4 positions that were being hired as part of the grant. These positions were put on an immediate hold for search due to the state of Massachusetts implementing 9c funding cuts. In other words, this occurs when the Governor's authority reduces state funding due to tax revenues not meeting goals. When the

position was put on a "hold for hire," Vander Hooven revealed that he was not aware of what positions were put on hold, making the decision one that did not involve emotions. Chief Diversity Director, Stephanie Williams stated that she wasn't aware that this position was 1 out of 4 that was put on hold. However, she is excited that the college has put this position into place and further expressed that the hiring for this position is "Not something we wipe our hands of. Our foot is on the gas pedal!" With

a continued positive outlook on obtaining a multicultural director, Williams feels that the college is not at a high impact due to the vacancy because no one has held the position to date, therefore the college can only gain at this point. The Brewer Center staff is also excited about the development of a multicultural director and center. Contrary to misconceptions, the Brewer center does not serve as the Mount's multicultural center. Mike Mosher, Student Leader in Civic Engagement (SLICE)

and Give Pulse ambassador for the Brewer Center stated, "Having somebody that can run a multicultural department on its own, as its own entity, would be a big benefit to the college." Mosher explained that while the Brewer Center focuses on diversity training and implementing dialogues for students that meet their academic needs, there should still be a space for students' diverse needs. Mosher emphasized the importance of this designated space to talk by stating that

"having that space for diverse communities talking together is the only way to see where struggles are happening."

Even with financial shortage and continued vacancy, the Mount is on track to meet the demand for multicultural awareness and following in local community colleges such as Bristol and Middlesex Community College's footsteps. The position for a multicultural director is expected to be filled soon.

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!

Have your own opinions on current events, hot-button issues, or events on campus? Write an opinion piece and send it to mountobserver@mwcc.mass.edu

It may just end up in our next issue!



Profile: Lorie Donahue

A Mentor and Friend to Many



Photo courtesy of Lorie Donahue
Professor Lorie Donahue

by Desiree Leader
STAFF WRITER

Lorie Donahue, a retiring English Professor at Mount Wachusett Community College, has been teaching at MWCC since 1989. Although she got her master's degree from Boston College, her educational journey actually began right here at the Mount.

One colleague, Professor Michelle Valois has worked alongside Donahue for 22 years. Valois mentioned that with her history of the school as both a student and a professor, Donahue "holds an abundance of institutional knowledge" that goes beyond her subject matter. "She has a lot to share with her students," she said.

Donahue said, "I loved being part of the community college...you just sort of know how important the college is to the local area." She loves that at the Mount, everyone

just wants you to succeed. It is that supportive atmosphere that made her want to return here to teach at the college level.

Ironically, when Donahue started her college career, she planned on taking biology courses, but because they were filled, she enrolled in an Irish poetry class and fell in love with literature. It is that love for literature that she brings to her students. One of her passions is teaching children's literature, a course she developed at the Mount. According to Professor Kara Roche, "She was known as the guru of children's literature." The class is part of the curriculum for the early childhood education program, and Donahue stated that "Working with future teachers is very exciting" and she added that she loved teaching with picture books, where you "have to learn to read the art."

Roche, "Lorie's preparations of our...students is unmatched. She is a dedicated professor." She added, "I instantly know when I have one of Donahue's students in my ENG 102 class. They are so prepared."

This sentiment is echoed by a former student of Donahue's, Princess Yeboah, who admitted that while Donahue's classes can be challenging, she felt that she was being prepared for the real world, to work hard to achieve her goals. She also said that she learned so much from Donahue.

According to Professor Valois, "The students who have her are so fortunate," and she can tell which ones truly appreciate her because they are "the best students."

Students aren't the only ones who have learned from Professor Donahue. Kara Roche explained that she has "learned so much from her about integrity, grace, and work ethic...I will carry those lessons for a lifetime, in

she stated, "If not now, when?" Donahue hopes that her students will leave her classroom with a 'wider perception of the opportunities available to them.' One of her favorite things about teaching is being able to spend time with incredibly talented and wonderful students, some of which continue on to schools like Smith and M.I.T. "I got to hang out with them through their journey," she enthused. She will mostly miss the students that teach her new things.

She acknowledged that one of the greatest blessings is her colleagues, emphasizing her appreciation of "all of these great people that I got to work with, who keep you going and you draw strength from."

Donahue will be missed by students and professors alike. According to Michelle Valois, "she's just a deeply, deeply caring person, and we'll miss her

"She's just a deeply, deeply caring person, and we'll miss her greatly."

- Michelle Valois

well as interconnection between departments. She believes that much of this grew out of a team-teaching model which allowed the departments to work together to create the best experience for their students.

Donahue is a professor who manages to get the best from her students. According to Professor

and outside of the classroom." Donahue reflected on her retirement, explaining that the work/life balance can be hard, and that there are so many things that she would like to do, such as taking classes, spending time with her nieces and nephews, hiking with her husband, maybe doing some volunteer work. As

greatly." Kara Roche extolled, "I'm proud to call Lorie my friend, and I know, everyone else in the department feels the same. She's earned her retirement, and I can't wait to see what's next for her!"

Profile: Jordan Chila

A Lifelong Journey

by Princess Yeboah
OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

Jordan Chila, a hardworking, independent, headstrong mom and student, grew up in the bustling town of Boylston, Massachusetts. Chila has ambitions to be a writer one day, and this passion graces her with endurance as she tackles her studies at MWCC, studies that challenge her to improve her writing skills. She has had a lot of support when it comes to her academic success, including support from her fiancé whom she met in elementary school; the pair got engaged in fall of 2020. Chila's mother is another important supporter of hers, having not only supported her with schooling, but

College in Worcester, Massachusetts. Chila recalls the administrators and advisors being cold and not very helpful. "It was really big and hard navigating the campus," explained Chila. Making the decision to leave Quinsigamond, she decided to take a break from school to focus on being with her beloved family.

In 2020, at the peak of COVID-19, Chila learned that the Mount was holding a free course to become certified for her writing major. "I really enjoyed the people at the Mount," said Chila who is now working towards her associates in Professional Writing, and

eventually became good friends but she never thought they would become a couple. Years later, still only having a "friends-only" connection with him, she received an unexpected message from him, asking her out on a date. Chila explained that she was hesitant at first because of his known history of not treating his girlfriends nicely but his persistence to redeem himself won her over. "I finally relented because he wouldn't leave me alone," she said. After a few dates, a family trip to the White Mountains in October of 2020 led to a spontaneous proposal, the likes of a romantic fairy tale story. "The rest is history," said



Photo courtesy of Jordan Chila
Jordan Chila

For Chila, her family is dear to her heart, and she cherishes the moments she spends with them.

also being her backbone as she navigated motherhood.

For Chila, her family is dear to her heart, and she cherishes the moments she spends with them, reminiscing on watching Lord of the Rings and eating yummy brunch, and enjoying the view of her kids watching a movie and basking in the joy of creating new memories with her own family.

Chila's journey as a first time college student presented some challenges as she decided to return to her education at Quinsigamond Community

eventually her bachelors in a writing-related field.

Speaking of story-telling, Chila's love story is one for the ages. Chila and her now fiancé met in their elementary school office, where her fiancé was known for his shenanigans, and leading up to high school, she simply could not stand him. Chila recalled him being "annoying and obnoxious" as opposed to her own quiet and introverted nature.

After graduating from Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School in 2011, the two

Chila, recalling that sweet day. Chila and her fiancé now reside

in Leominster, Massachusetts and share two daughters and one stepdaughter. Aside from her fiancé being one of her greatest blessings, Chila considers her mom her "best friend" and believes that she would not be where she is today without her support.

Growing up in a relatively big family with three other sisters, Chila knew she could always rely on her mom. She described her mother as being "the strongest person she knows." Her story and her mother's are

very similar: both were single parents who raised their firstborn children on their own. As her mother worked hard for Chila and her three sisters by herself, she showed them the value of determination and hard work. Although Chila described being a single parent as "rewarding but also stressful," she also recalled the loneliness of it. "I would have dinner at my mom's house almost every night," she said. "I didn't want to go back to my apartment for hours by myself." Chila holds her family at the center of her world. "My family is my whole life," she said. This is the type of person she is: devoted to her family, with cheerful memories as her motivation to become a successful writer.

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!





Left page: Photos by Desiree Leader

Clockwise from top-right: A student with lightsabers and Star Wars-themed Mouse Ears; Darth Vader poses in front of a Tatooine backdrop; the "Mos Eisley Cantina"; a face-painting station

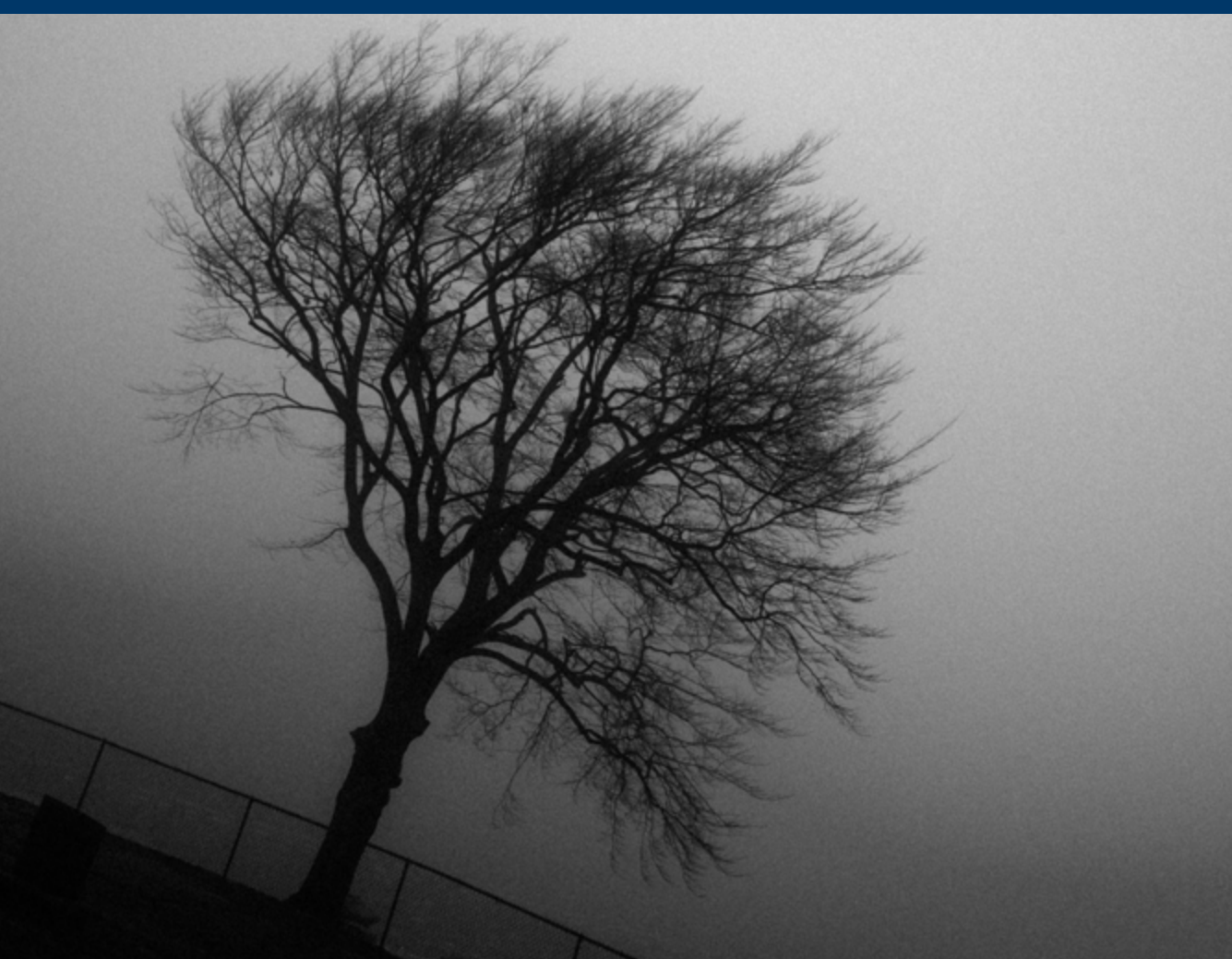
Right page, clockwise from top-right: Photos by Sabrina Alonso (2), Connor Paas, and Jamila Machado

Clockwise from top-right: Darth Vader's helmet, and a large Darth Vader figure; Sabrina Alonso poses as Han Solo in carbonite; Connor Paas poses in his Jedi gear; an assortment of Star Wars helmets (Clone Trooper, the Mandalorian, white concept Boba Fett, Stormtrooper, Luke Skywalker Red Five, and Poe Dameron)

A PARTY FAR, FAR AWAY

MWCC CELEBRATES STAR WARS DAY





Photos by Gary Brayboy



Gary T. Brayboy Photography



Gary T. Brayboy Photography



Gary T. Brayboy Photography



Gary T. Brayboy Photography



Gary T. Brayboy Photography

Tech & Mental Health Awareness

Discussing Social Media's Role

by **Kent Yang**

STAFF WRITER

Did you know May is Mental Health Awareness Month?

Back in 1949, Mental Health Awareness Month—which was then Mental Health Awareness Week—was launched by Clifford W. Beers, the founder of Mental Health America. After struggling with his own mental health and being admitted to multiple public and private institutions where he witnessed abuse and other cruel and neglectful treatment given to patients with mental illnesses, he exposed these practices and founded the National Committee for Mental Hygiene, later renamed the National Mental Health Association and known today as Mental Health of America. The organization's goal was to improve the quality of life and care for mental health patients and to raise awareness about mental health illnesses and psychological disorders.

A 2020 report by the World Health Organization revealed that approximately one billion people worldwide are affected by the global mental health crisis. In low-income countries, more than 75% of people with a mental health disorder do not receive treatment. Even in the United States, where society has come a long way with how mental health issues are handled, recent studies still indicate that many

Americans are not seeking—or don't have the resources to get—treatment for their mental health disorders. In 2021, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) reported that 1 in 5 U.S. adults experience mental illness each year. In that same year, the National Institute of Mental Health reported that only 47% of U.S. adults with any kind of mental illness had actually sought treatment. These numbers are staggering to say the least.

In the early 2000's, social media platforms such as Myspace, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter gained traction with their online audience by offering members the ability to connect with other users globally via instant messaging and audio/video calling. This social network could include friends, family, colleagues, and even strangers. Platforms like Facebook also introduced the ability to look up someone's profile by name, email, or phone number—a feature new to many users at the time. With all of this innovation, the speed at which users were able to network was groundbreaking. As early as 2004, social media had become mainstream, and by 2009, Facebook was the most popular social media platform, surpassing Myspace with more



Photo by Emily Underworld from Unsplash

than 500 million users.

The rise of social media meant more and more people were spending their time online, but this became especially true for young adults. In a 2022 survey conducted by the Pew Research Center, 95% of teenagers between the ages of 13 and 17 reported using social media, with more than a third spending an average of 3.5 hours each day on these applications. For some, this affected their mental health. In the spring of 2023, United States Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, MD, MBA, issued an advisory titled "Social Media

and Youth Mental Health," which highlighted mounting evidence for social media's detrimental effects on young people's mental well-being, citing it as "the defining crisis of our time." Social media itself can be an addiction, and one that can impact a person's mental well-being by perpetuating the "perfect illusion." For most people, when we post on social media, we are creating a highlight reel of our best and brightest moments. But it's easy to develop the misconception that these moments represent everyday life, which can lead to

comparison and feelings of social inadequacy, enabling negative mental health consequences like low self-esteem, perfectionism, anxiety, and self-isolation. In the modern age, social media has changed how individuals talk and bond, but it is crucial to be aware of its effects on mental health. Understanding the issues technology can create with strategies to help deal with them, harnessing the benefits of technology while maintaining our own personal and mental well-being.

If you or someone you know needs help with mental health, here are some resources:

MWCC's Counseling and Wellness Services (Students/Staff/Faculty ONLY)

- Counseling Services appointments available – contact Leeanne Hadsel, Senior Mental Health Counselor at lhadsel@mwcc.mass.edu or visit Student Services at the Gardner campus.
- Wellness Room (for meditation, yoga, etc.) available Monday through Friday from 11:30 to 1:30 pm. Book through the Student Services office.
- Be Well at the Mount – MWCC offers mental health support through Be Well at The Mount. Here, students have access to more pathways for mental health support including:
 - 24-hour, 7 day a week, 365 day a year access to counselors
 - Free telehealth visits
 - Virtual prescribing
 - Call the 24/7 Support Line at 833-434-1217 or visit bewellthemount.com

Massachusetts Behavioral Health HelpLine

- Call or Text: 833-773-2445
- Live chat: <https://www.masshelpline.com/>
- Crisis and Mental Health Support 24 hours per day, 365 days per year

- It's free, confidential, and no health insurance is required.
- Real-time interpretation in 200+ languages
- Deaf or hard of hearing? Contact MassRelay at 711

National Mental Health Hotline

- 866-903-3787, free and confidential service that can answer questions and provide information about mental health treatment centers

NIMH Information Resource Center

- 866-615-6464, live online chat and email service available Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM–5 PM ET

NAMI HelpLine

- 800-950-NAMI (6264), free peer-support service that provides information, referrals, and support to people with mental health conditions, their families, caregivers, and mental health providers

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

- Call or text 988 or chat at 988lifeline.org, 24/7 to connect with a trained crisis counselor

Crisis Text Line

- Text HOME to 741741 for free, 24/7 support



COMICS

GUBBINS

Created by Tom Hill Jr.



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MWCC's Literary Magazine *A Certain Slant* Hits the Shelves

by *Desiree Leader*
STAFF WRITER

The Mount Wachusett literary arts journal, *A Certain Slant*, was released on April 30, 2024. Faculty advisor Michelle Valois invited contributors to room H156 for a celebratory reading. "The magazine has arrived from the printers, and it looks beautiful," she wrote. "It is filled with really strong work."

The journal, which contains the work of 17 students, sports a beautiful cover with artwork by Mount Wachusett Community College student Margaret Love. It is filled with poetry, artwork, and short stories.

The reading was attended by students, faculty, and family members, as well as contributors who read their work out loud. Jayden Hooper, Lindsay Mahoney, Desiree Leader, Maddy Kaijala, Daniel Hammond, Ava Crenney, and Luke Guertin took to the podium to share their poems and stories, and Professor Valois was even coaxed into sharing a lovely poem she had written.

Lindsay Mahoney, a liberal arts major on the professional writing track, said, "Seeing my poems in the literary magazine made my work feel appreciated, and that was such a validating feeling." She continued to enthuse about the experience, "It was nice seeing people show up that wanted to hear our stories and poetry. We have an amazing writer's community."

Copies of *A Certain Slant* are available at the Mount Wachusett LaChance Library free of charge. Supplies are limited, so grab yours today!



Photos by Desiree Leader

Clockwise from top-right: Copies of *A Certain Slant* on display at the reading; Professor Michelle Valois; student Lindsay Mahoney reading her poem "Walk of Shame"; the cover of the literary magazine's 2024 edition, with artwork by Margaret Love

Option 1
Just Travel

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



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
• Candace Shivers: c_shivers@mwcc.mass.edu



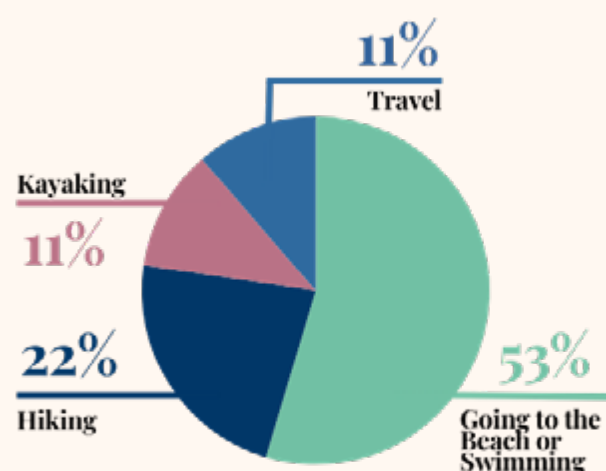


The Mount Observer Polls presents

Your Thoughts

In honor of Mental Health Awareness Month,
what is your go-to self-care activity?

What is your favorite
summertime activity?



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

The 53rd Annual
MWCC Student Art Exhibition
May 6 - 19, 2024

Student work from the foundation & advanced art degree program courses offered this Spring is on exhibit in the East Wing Gallery. Some of the student work from the introductory art courses is on exhibit in the upper lobby Gallery, behind the Box Office.



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