

# The Tamarack

Our college. Our news. Our voice.

Naugatuck Valley Community College

April 1, 2017

Waterbury, Connecticut

Vol. 61, Iss. 3

## NVCC'S New International Center for the Arts Kick-off, April 17

Special from the LABSS Division

The rich cultural diversity of the NVCC community will be on full display April 17th with the launch of NVCC as an International Center for the Arts when, in collaboration with the Student Government Association, the college stages International Arts Festival 2017.

The International Center for the Arts (ICA) has teamed with SGA's "International Fest" to bring to students, staff, faculty, and the greater Waterbury and Naugatuck Valley area, a day of "common community" reflected in a dynamic celebration of our artistic multiculturalism through presentations of music, dance, theater, and art.

"The idea behind establishing NVCC as an International Center for the Arts is our desire to connect students and the community to a vibrant world that expresses itself through the creative process thriving around us every day," said Dr. Lisa Dresdner, head of the Center's steering committee and Associate Dean of the college's LABSS Division. "Our hope is that NVCC continues to grow as a significant cultural gathering place for discovery, learning, and engagement about traditional art forms and contemporary expressions that reflect the human experience."

"And this festival celebrating the arts," continued Karen Blake, NVCC's Director of Student Activities, "reflects ICA's, the SGA's, and the college's belief in the power of the arts to enrich the intellectual, cultural, and personal lives of our students and our communities. We want to promote the richness of the diverse creative traditions we've inherited and all the works yet to come."

So, what's on the cultural menu for April 17th? Artists from Greater Waterbury will arrive on campus to give students a taste of their artistic heritage. A sample of what's in store:

Dancing, dancing, and more dancing! The Horgan Irish Dance Academy will be on hand, as will performers from the Albanian American Islamic Cultural Center and the Terpsichorean Dancers. Student-led performances will include members from Diversity Factor Dance Company, as well as student demonstrations of Greek Folk Dancing and an interactive demonstration from NVCC's Hispanic Student Union to engage the audience with a dance called the Bachata.

The Art Club will facilitate an interactive art project, where festival participants will be invited to contribute to an Adinkra printmaking project, creating a 'community' tapestry

reflecting the aspirations of the day's events.

The soundtrack of the festival will be punctuated by performances and interactive activities with African drumming circles performed by Drums 4 Life, the Vitality Accordion Ensemble (highlighting songs of Polish, Italian, and French origin), as well as BRAVO Waterbury's children's ensemble.

Fueling the activities will be samples of various international foods from around the world. For those whose interest is piqued

program, a mix of conversation and performance that will include original musical compositions inspired by his Fulbright teaching and performing experiences. Included in the



Photo courtesy Drums 4 Life

regarding their own international roots, a genealogy station will be on hand with experts from NVCC's library staff sharing resources students can access to explore their ancestry and cultural heritage. And to whet readers' appetites, attendees will have an opportunity to participate in a drawing for free books by international authors!

The festival will be capped off with NVCC's own international cultural treasure, Felipe Karam, our Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence who hails from Brazil. In late afternoon, Felipe will welcome festival attendees into our main-stage auditorium to share in a special 'legacy'

**"We are all products of a rich cultural heritage and nowhere is this more observable than in the artistic works that 'beat,' 'sing,' and 'illustrate' the story of our shared community."**

Richard Blanco, poet laureate

program will be NVCC music and dance students, as well as a fellow musician with whom Karam often collaborates.

"With Felipe as the finale to our marvelous day," continued ICA faculty member Chris Rempfer, "the Naugatuck Valley community witnesses the undeniable bridge the arts affords our college and community to connect to the rich cultural heritage that links us to the world-at-large. I'm reminded of our country's latest poet laureate, Richard Blanco—who describes himself as made in Cuba, assembled in Spain, and imported to the United States. We are all products of a rich cultural heritage and nowhere is this more observable than in the artistic works that 'beat,' 'sing,' and 'illustrate' the story of our shared community. To borrow from Blanco's 2013 Inaugural poem, One Today: "Hear: the doors we open for each other all day, saying: hello / shalom / buon giorno / howdy / namaste / or buenos dias—in every language spoken into one wind carrying our lives..."

NVCC's doors will be open all day on April 17th, welcoming the artists and audiences of our community to share their connections through an international celebration of the arts.

[Note: Programs start at 1:30 PM in the Atrium open to all, especially students and classes. Evening finale featuring Felipe Karam starts at 5:15 PM, open to students and community.]

## Sad Truth

Alyssa Katz

April's is Child Abuse and Neglect Awareness Month, intended to make us conscious of abuse and promote prevention. The sad truth? Parents or caretakers are responsible in a majority of child abuse incidents, with more than half of reported cases perpetrated by female abusers. Most occurrences involve children under age three.

Three quarters of victims experience neglect, the number one form of child abuse in the US. Neglect, withholding physical or emotional necessities, comes in many forms, ranging from forbidding a child to eat, to denying love and affection. Also included is lack of supervision, and delaying proper medical care, like vaccinations. This is more difficult to recognize in older children who have grown used to lack of treatment and attention, often going day-to-day as if everything is fine. It's not always entirely a parent's fault; they could be physically or mentally incapable of tending to a child's needs.

What some parents call discipline is actually abuse. If caretakers are unpredictable, or a child is afraid of setting them off or not knowing what may set them off, that's a factor towards abuse. Abuse also includes a parent inflicting anger or instilling fear in a child to enforce obedience. It's not healthy to intimidate a child to assert control. Results of physical abuse include bruises or fractures caused by beating, kicking, choking, and other forms, using either one's hands or a nearby object. It still qualifies as abuse even if harming a child was unintentional.

Signs of abuse and neglect may include a child: being watchful, or afraid something bad will happen; having trouble in school or behavioral changes; showing resistance to going home; having unexplained bruises or marks; being fearful of a parent, or adults in general. Childhood trauma often has long-lasting effects. While the physical wounds may heal, emotional scars are not as easily treated. Children who suffer sexual, physical, or emotional abuse are more likely to develop depression, anxiety, and other disorders. Childhood abuse can also cause cognitive and behavioral issues. Maltreated children are more likely to develop heart disease and certain cancers as adults. Other factors resulting from abuse and neglect include relationship, trust, and self-esteem issues.

Originally passed in 1974 and updated in 2010, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act's goal is to ensure children receive proper care, and parents protect their child's safety and well-being. The Act holds organizations, like day cares and schools, accountable to reporter suspected abuse. This is a first step to providing a child and family help. If authorities verify abuse and/or neglect, Child Protective Services may step in to ensure child safety. In the most serious cases, children are removed from parental care while the family receives help.

Parenting, no doubt, is a stressful, unpaid job. It can be hard to control one's anger, but it must never erupt at an innocent child. Resources are available to support parents in creating a more loving household. Stable family members or neighbors may provide encouragement and support. A plethora of community-based programs provides professional resources, including psychiatric help and counseling, tips and intervention, assessments and evaluations. Many state and local governments offer information about support groups available to help those in need. Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline (1-800-422-4453) is on call 24/7 to provide support.

A child should never have to live in fear. No child should suffer abuse. There is hope for a caregiver who abuses a child; it's possible to change behaviors. Improving an abusive parent-child relationship will not only solve current problems, it may help break a cycle of future abuse.

### Poetry Around Us

Once again, *The Tamarack* honors April's distinction as National Poetry Month. Throughout this issue, you'll find original verse created by NVCC student poets.

#### Spinning Chambers

Your words  
wrapped around  
my chest, pumping  
poison through  
each ventricle.

A sharp pain  
played Russian  
Roulette until it

emptied from  
each chamber.

Musical strings  
that once lined  
my Larynx  
hardened, formed  
steel calluses.

~ Nicole Hayes

#### Haiku

I got accepted  
Too bad I can't afford it  
Mediocrity

~ Jenmark Barnini

## CSCU's Financial Future

Emily Verdosci

Friday, March 3rd, student representatives of Connecticut State Colleges and Universities gathered at Central Connecticut State University for an open discussion with BOR President Ojakian about the financial future of CSCU. With proposed budgetary cuts and tuition increases threatening our scholarly community, an outstanding twenty-one NVCC students came to represent and debate. Previously, at a February 15th hearing at the Capitol in Hartford, two NVCC students gave solid testimony about what NVCC has done for them, and what may happen to them as students if the budget is cut. And thus, at CCSU, we debated further.

President Ojakian insisted they are working hard to soften the direct impact of monetary issues on students as much as possible. In other words, he explained the entire budget shortfall will not be filled solely by a tuition increase, but will be spread throughout various sectors of state funding. NVCC thrives on its affordability, transferability, jobs on campus, advising, tutoring, speakers, and workshops to provide a number of opportunities and success for each and every student. In gratitude, our student representatives decided to give back and fight.

SGA President, Keila Franco, and SGA Vice President, Carlos Romero, presented their concerns about what may happen to students' tuition costs in the upcoming academic year. They asked if any thought had been given to awarding a discount to Connecticut Community College students transferring to a Connecticut State University. SGA Senator Jonathan Malia offered a solution, suggesting academic clubs could be formed to raise money towards funding specific aspects of the school. Many important concerns were brought up to President Ojakian by all of the representing colleges. He listened and took note of them all.

The economy is ever-changing, and college students will be affected, but we can have a voice in debates and discussions. It's crucial to become an informed student; it is vital we continue to come together and show support by getting involved. By attending future meetings like these, you can make a difference. Begin by coming as a guest to weekly SGA meetings at 4:00 pm Wednesdays in L501. If you have any questions about what is going on in our school or how to become more involved, pop in to the SGA office, room S516. Any of the officers will be happy to chat about how to become a more involved member of the NVCC community.

### Drought

Yellow brown yarn  
peeks through  
rough dry crumbs  
revealing how many  
days it has been since they  
were wrapped from  
the blazing ball of red....  
Crunch, crunch,  
as a two legged animal ventures  
in their own backyard,  
oblivious to the sounds,  
the scent of death all around,  
fills a pool for their  
offspring to wade.....completely  
deaf to the fact they are part of the cause.  
Across the way blades slice away  
at vibrant strong wood,  
wood that produces the breath  
that fills the two-legged animals  
with essence.  
Provides shelters for miniature life  
from the absent showers.  
The wheel of existence is crumbling  
as technical mammals  
repeatedly fill their wading pools.

~ Victoria Cyr

## Our Meaningful Journey

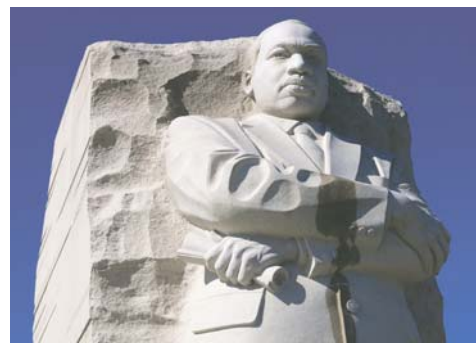
Prof. Julia Petitfrere



Courtesy of Yhara Zelinka

Tuesday, March 14, 2017, it snowed. For real. Though this seems no big deal considering NVCC was on Spring Break, with no scheduled classes, some members of our community had important travel plans for Wednesday—when roads (walkways and driveways) remained icy.

Thursday March 16, faculty advisors to the Black Student Union—with generous support



Courtesy Yhara Zelinka

of the SGA, the Director of Student Activities, WAVE coordinators, Deans of Students and Academic Affairs, and the President—were set to take a group of NVCC students to the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) on the National Mall.

To do that, we needed to leave CT Wednesday. Preferably Wednesday morning. That didn't happen. Luckily, we managed to leave early Wednesday afternoon. Twenty-two NVCC students and two faculty members, Professors Elma Solomon and I, boarded a southbound bus with gracious travel partners from Asnuntuck Community College (11 students, 3 faculty and administrators). At this juncture, I offer sincerest gratitude to ACC's Professor Marilynn S. Turner and Yhara Zelinka, without whom this would not have been possible.

Fortunately, roads were clear, traffic relatively light. We were full of energy, equipped

with movies for the six-plus hour drive to Cheverly, Maryland where we spent a fairly unremarkable night considering the anxieties of the nights before.

We arrived at the museum in awe at the bronze lattice exterior that calls to mind a living thing, and joined crowds of scheduled visitors; all unable, it seemed, to contain our excitement. The museum has had more than one million visitors since its much-lauded September 24, 2016 opening.

With a 10 am appointment and anticipated 3 pm departure, we needed every minute and then some. (Honestly, patrons should plan to go more than once, as there is so much to take in.)

Once inside, we were conscious how the building's design facilitated the deluge of natural light, a perfect complement to the energy our group (and other visitors) possessed. Students were tasked with two things: meeting on time at end of day (checking in with faculty at lunch, if they wished), and getting all they could from the experience. They did this in a way that should make the NVCC community proud.



Courtesy of Anthony Guichardo

Some opted to begin exploration in the history galleries below street level where the record starts in Africa and with the Trans-Atlantic slave trade and Middle Passage. Most

impactful was being inside "the belly of a ship," hearing audio of narratives written by enslaved people about the journey. As we moved through tight space, close to wood-covered walls, downlights seemed to purposely mimic sunlight slipping through portholes. Outside: tools and pieces of clothing.

There was data showing how many African people were taken from one shore and how many enslaved people landed on the other; the difference, always a reminder many did not survive. We moved through floors and time, into the Segregation Era and a sort of viewing room, if you will, with Emmett Till's original casket. Quotes by Rosa Parks and Emmett's mother, Mamie Till, on walls at the head and foot, add to the solemnity and sacredness of the space. It's easy to understand, standing there for the relatively small time you can, how Emmett's murder and his mother's decision to share its details with the world sparked a movement. It still saddens, still hurts.

Personally, I was grateful then to move into The Black Power section. I needed the hope of poets, artists, and activists after photo evidence of lynchings, news stories of Black women raped by gangs of white men (police officers, too), and records of entire Black towns destroyed following unsubstantiated claims of "race riots." I've never been so happy to see Angela Davis, Amiri Baraka, and Nikki Giovanni in all my life! After standing awhile in front of glass shards from 16th St. Baptist



Courtesy of Yhara Zelinka

Church in Birmingham, reminders of Black Panthers (many of them women) offering the Free Breakfast to School Children Program and Community School to educate Black children recalls the good in the world even in darkest times.

A tough day of exploration and education, but unforgettable in meaningful ways. Students took lots of photos—some included here, many more we're working to share with the campus community—to prove it. In addition to time in the museum, we were fortunate to have a charter bus driver graciously drive us to see the sights, even stopping to give us a gracious five minutes at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, just the right way to end the day.

We're not done yet. 1 pm Monday, April 3, the BSU screens the film *Hidden Figures* in L501. We'll follow this with a panel discussion on *Female Barrier Breakers*, Monday, April 24, at 1 pm in Café West. Please join us.

## Unjust Pipes

Alyssa Katz

Much controversy has brewed over the recent greenlighting of the Dakota Access Pipeline by the Trump Administration. This is a reversal of President Obama's decision to stop construction of the DAPL because it infiltrates Native American property, particularly the land of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.

Construction of the pipeline has already disrupted cultural sites—including burial grounds—and has the potential to contaminate drinking water and pollute the Missouri River. This has led to protests across several states. Such opposition is in response to the government violating treaties and land rights agreements with Native Americans. It is further proof of the disregard shown by our government for its native peoples.

One instance of protest occurred on New Year's Day during a football game, when a banner protesting the pipeline was displayed. Protestors who created the banner told reporters, "This pipeline is not ethical." Over 600

arrests have also been made since the pipeline proposal in August. Though protestors have peacefully assembled, their presence has been met with harsh response from officials. Along with arrests, there have been several serious injuries reported, as peaceful protestors have been sprayed with firehoses in freezing temperatures, and subjected to other indignities and dangers.

Energy Transfer Partners, dispatched from Texas, are the lead developer for the pipeline, which had been delayed due to legal issues. The Obama Administration halted construction of the pipeline because of the many concerns. President Obama ultimately found it important to respect the Native Americans and honor existing treaties. He was a proponent of finding an alternate route for the DAPL.

However, the Trump Administration has

signed an order to resume construction of the pipeline as planned. According to the Trump camp, the pipeline will help meet the demands for fossil fuel, and will not only increase production and profits, but will also create many jobs. Environmentalists do not approve, and

have joined many of the protestors in hopes of stopping construction.

A Native March on Washington was held on March 10th to protest the pipeline, and to underline the importance of respecting the interests of Native Americans, who have traditionally been marginalized and oppressed in the interest of expansion and economic gain. Marching into Washington, some protestors wore traditional native clothing, and carried signs such as "Native Lives Matter" and "Protect the Water." Dave Archambault, chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, spoke out at this march, saying protestors were "Here for our youth, and here for our future." How the Dakota Access Pipeline's completion will affect that future remains to be seen.

**Construction of the pipeline has already disrupted cultural sites—including burial grounds—and has the potential to contaminate drinking water and pollute the Missouri River**



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



## Stay the Course

Hi everybody. Here we are in April, and things are starting to get real. Midterms are behind us and the end of the semester is quickly approaching. For most of us, this is a good thing. We've worked hard in this race, and the finish line is coming into sight. Just like the hare in the old fable, though, now is not the time to take a rest.

A word of advice to those with high midterm marks: don't get cocky! Those grades came with hard work, and it can be easy to fall into the trap of assuming you won't have to work so hard for the same type of grades from here on out. Don't lose your way now; you've worked too hard to see success slip away in the final moments.

Now that I've gotten the hares out of the way, let's address the tortoises out there. To those not making the kinds of grades you hoped, don't panic. Midterm grades are merely a guide. By increasing your study time, utilizing ACE, and talking with your professors about alternate study plans, you can bring any grade up. Slow and steady does win races.

All of us are in the same race; luckily, we're not actually racing each other. Having the highest GPA would be nice, but that's an extra stress. Comparing apples to oranges is a bad idea; the criteria for both are vastly different per item. How can an English student who works hard compare herself to a Math student working equally hard?

The differences pushing a grade higher or lower are too numerous to fully consider. Someone learning math with no head for numbers can't compare to a math prodigy, but suppose that struggling math student is a wordsmith on par with Shakespeare. Now consider the prodigy with numbers who has trouble constructing a sentence. Both are great in their respective fields, yet both struggle with the other's specialty. Who's "smarter"? The answer is, of course, Stephen Hawking. Jokes aside, we all have strengths and weaknesses that are impossible to quantify.

Working to improve ourselves is the only true measure that counts. That's where measurements will be close to equal. We're all unique. We're all prodigies (in some way). We all have the potential to win our race.

Regards,  
Christopher Gordon  
Editor-in-Chief  
tamarack@nv.edu

### Tamarack Edit Meetings

Fridays, 11:30 - 12:30, S519  
ALL WELCOME!!

## Dedicated to Campus Safety

Jessica Ney



Courtesy of Johna Yashenko

Naugatuck Valley is gaining another positive, dedicated community member, Johna Yashenko, employed by Safe Haven, the non-profit organization that strives to educate and protect residents from sexual assault and domestic violence. Safe Haven helps people of all ages in the Greater Waterbury area to reclaim their lives and confidence after experiencing trauma. I had the pleasure to speak with Johna about her role as our campus advocate against sexual assault.

Working completely confidentially and professionally, Safe Haven has been a long-time resource, and Yashenko sees her on-campus presence as a way to reach a segment of the community with specific needs: college students, who often feel stuck when finding themselves in situations of assault or abuse.

She will be reaching out to survivors, as well as educating others to become active bystanders, equipped to recognize signs of abuse and become voices for victims.

Yashenko recently graduated from Tunxis Community College with a degree in Human Services and a minor in Family Violence Intervention, and she is excited to be in a college environment while she continues her education. She looks forward to making a difference for survivors on our campus. Johna is passionate about her job and the confidence it gives survivors. Helping people feel they are not alone is one aspect she finds especially rewarding about her field.

In recognition of April being Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Johna and the Safe Haven team will host a table event on the April 11th. They will be on campus to answer questions and give information. For the rest of the year, Yashenko will be on campus twice weekly. She and her team implore you to contact the following 24-hour hotlines if anything happens to you or someone you know.

**Domestic Violence: 203-575-0036**

**Sexual Assault: 203-753-3613**

Assault and abuse are serious issues that often go unacknowledged; organizations like Safe Haven, and people like Johna Yashenko work every day to inform and support community members. Their work helps give individuals the courage to speak up and helps make survivors regain the strength to live without fear. I hope you'll join me in offering a warm welcome as Johna becomes a regular presence on our campus.

The Human Services Club will sponsor a  
**Safe Haven Sexual Assault Awareness Event.**

Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup>

9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Prism Lounge

*Featuring: Teal Nail Painting*

*Sweatpants Drive for Safe Haven Survivors*

Come join us to raise awareness and show support!

## SGA PRESIDENT



## Spring Fun

Hello again, NVCC students, and welcome back from

spring break! Congratulations on making it halfway through the semester—and past midterms. With all the homework, tests, quizzes, and different assignments filling our schedules, I can only imagine how much you want this semester to end. Well, I have good news for you: we only have a month and a half left. Time will fly, and graduation is near for those who will be participating.

Before we finish the semester, though, the SGA wants to end with a big bang. We have many events in store, from different campus conversations—posted on all SGA boards—to Spring Fling, and “NVCC Dancing with Professors”. We’re looking for students to participate in all these events, especially “Dancing with Professors,” which will be held in the Playbox Theater, April 28, from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. I look forward to seeing the participants get their groove on and compete against each other. It will be a night full of laughter and fun. I can't wait!

“Dancing with Professors” is open to all, even if you have no dance experience. If you're interested in competing, you can sign up in S516 in the Student Center. There will be prizes for first, second, and third place! We always hold events for students, but we're excited to put something together where students and their professors can get together and have fun, proving that the college experience is much more than sitting in a classroom, reading a textbook, or receiving a diploma.

I always love to see students involved in campus activities. Not only do they have a good experience, but they're also able to network. There are so many great opportunities in the coming weeks to try something new.

I wish you all the best in the rest of the semester, and I'll leave you with a reminder from author, Karen Salmansohn. “The best things in life are often waiting for you at the exit ramp of your comfort zone.” So take advantage and get involved!

Keila Franco

### Bare Walls

open planes scream for color,  
life,  
memories.  
hole-punched plaster  
aches for cover  
a band-aid to conceal  
the hurt,  
tears,  
raw throats.  
nothing  
is good enough

~ Autumn Blackwood

# FINISH WHAT YOU STARTED!



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## Transfer Information Session Dates

Wednesday, May 10 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Wednesday, May 24 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Wednesday, June 7 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

*Don't Just Transfer to Bay Path, Transform Your Life.*



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FACES IN THE CROWD

Standing Out

Gerald Mullings

I, Gerald Mullings, swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. In complete honesty, when asked to write about myself by my previous English professor, I was pleasantly surprised. If you knew me prior to NVCC, you'd be surprised as well.

In 2014, I began my senior year, the year said to be most fun and eventful—with senioritis, senior skip day, and super senior dinner. I didn't take part in any of these. Instead, I spent senior year trying to cram in three years of English classes. My past mistakes did indeed come back to haunt my future, but I didn't let that deter me.

Throughout that year, I struggled to balance class, acting, and an abundance on my plate. It was hard, but without that experience, I wouldn't be working as hard as I am now to reach my goals. I didn't get through this experience alone. I had so many people in my corner, including amazing friends, family, and two teachers who made a tremendous difference. Bruce Post and Kristin Winstanley had my back, though most of the world did not believe in me. When rumors like "Gerald's not going to graduate" floated around they kept me above water when I was sinking.

Though I still occasionally have doubts about school and pursuing a degree in the career I'd like to have, I push forward. Sometimes life is too much, but it's never okay to give up. For example, when writing a song for the United Way of Greater Waterbury, I almost quit. My friend Myles, and I couldn't find a melody or figure out how the song should sound. After creating a few drafts, we came up with a chorus; then,



finally figuring out the sound we wanted, we finished. The board immediately loved it, later admitting they were prepared to shoot us down if the song was not what they wanted. The piece we delivered surprised them. It ended up being popular, and I performed it at a bunch of United Way events. These opportunities to help people never cease. They motivate me to be an inspiration to people who feel the world's against them.

I'm involved in multiple extracurricular activities, as SGA Senator, Stage Society member, and part of the Terpsichorean Dance Ensemble. I've participated in Black Student Union events and different SGA projects. There are parts of myself I couldn't present prior to NVCC. I've always been very fond of dancing, and I now have another creative outlet. The many groups I'm part of offer amazing ways to relieve stress. I've been through tough times where only acting, dancing, or improv helped me escape my problems. I believe everyone deserves an outlet for creative expression. I've made up my mind to push and strive for greatness, and I want to encourage everyone to refuse to let anything deter you from reaching for any goal you've set.



Job and Career FAIR

APRIL 5, 2017

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

CAFE WEST & PRISM LOUNGE

Explore Careers - Meet Employers Network

Bring plenty of resumes and dress professionally.

List of employers available starting March 1

Log into your College Central account at:

[www.CollegeCentral.com/nvcc](http://www.CollegeCentral.com/nvcc)

Hosted by the Center for Job Placement and College Opportunities

**Continuing Notice of Nondiscrimination**  
 Naugatuck Valley Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious creed, age, sex, national origin, marital status, ancestry, present or past history of mental disorder, learning disability or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression or genetic information in its programs and activities. In addition, the College does not discriminate in employment on the additional basis of veteran status or criminal record. The following individual has been designated to handle nondiscrimination policies regarding disability policies: Robert Dziwyk, Director of Facilities/Section 504/ADA Coordinator, Room C216, Naugatuck Valley Community College, 750 Chase Parkway, Waterbury, CT 06708; 203-575-8235. The following individual has been designated to handle nondiscrimination policies regarding sex discrimination as well as other forms of prohibited discrimination: Jacquie Swanson, Associate Director of Human Resources/Title IX Coordinator, Room K704, Naugatuck Valley Community College, 750 Chase Parkway, Waterbury, CT 06708; 203-575-8043.

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Register today for LAS201  
Introduction to Latino Studies  
Fall 2017 - CRN 4090 Wednesdays, 2:20 - 5:15 pm K711



Instructor: Daisy Cocco de Filippis, Ph.D. President, NVCC

My Dear Students,

I am writing to invite you to join me on a journey of discovery and learning about the history and contributions of Latinos in the US. To that end, I am pleased to announce I will be teaching "Introduction to Latino Studies," LAS 201, for the fall 2017 semester. The course, scheduled for Wednesday afternoon, 2:20-5:15 p.m. in Kinney Hall, Room K711, will provide you, dear students, with an introduction to the history, literature, ethnicity, culture and socio-economics of Latinos in the United States.

I am so happy for this opportunity to work with students and share my love not only for the subject, but also the civic process, because I think, in a lot of ways, that's what this course is about, and that's what community college is about. It is imperative our curriculum represent the experience of a significant number of members of the communities we live in and, of course, of our students. It is particularly relevant here at NVCC where we all strive to learn about, celebrate, and support the diverse contributions made by all members of the human race.

LAS 201 was developed in response to several student requests for a credit course in Latino studies and as part of the diversification of cultural and academic offerings at NVCC. In 2015, a quarter of the total enrollment at NVCC self-identified as Hispanic, and NVCC was designated an Eligible Institution by the U.S. Department of Education under Titles III and V of the Higher Education Act of 1965. This allows the College to pursue grants under the Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) Program to expand educational opportunities for, and improve the attainment of, Hispanic students through enhanced academic offerings. The enrollment of Hispanic students continues to grow, with 28.3% of Naugatuck Valley Community College's 6,019 students self-identifying as Hispanic in spring 2017.

Won't you join me? I look forward to sharing with you some of my favorite writers as we continue to integrate to our knowledge base pieces of history, culture, literature and the arts sometimes not readily accessible in traditional texts.

I look forward to seeing you on Wednesdays, beginning August 30 at 2:20 in K711.

Mil gracias y bendiciones,  
Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.  
President

## FACES IN THE CROWD Inspired to Inspire

Abigail Ramirez

Ever since I can remember, even as a very young girl, I always told myself I would go to college. Although only one of my parents finished high school, and neither had attended college, I was determined to accomplish my dream. The youngest child of six, I am currently studying at Naugatuck Valley Community College, working toward a degree in Criminal Justice - Forensics. Not only am I just the second child in my family to graduate high school, I will be the first to graduate college.

Once I graduate from NVCC, I plan to attend the University of New Haven to complete my bachelors and masters degrees. At times, it was hard to believe I would ever get here. I didn't have support from home; no one was pushing me to continue with school. I had to find the courage to push myself, and it worked, because here I am.

Now that I am here at NVCC, not only am I one step closer to my goal of graduating, I have been able to get involved with other activities around campus. I am proud to serve as the Hispanic Student Union President. I am also an active senator in the Student Government Association. In addition to those roles, I'm employed as a student worker in the Admissions Office.

As HSU President, I'm excited to announce our upcoming event, the Glow Party, an evening of music and entertainment,



**"Because of the inspiring people I've met here at NVCC, I have a second important goal: to be an inspiration to everyone whom I meet."**

taking place April 27 from 7:00 - 10:00 PM. I'd like to invite everyone to stop by Café West to join us for a great time.

NVCC has become a big part of my life, and I am grateful for the many friends I have made along the way. They are all an inspiration in helping me reach my goal, to become a forensic scientist. Because of the inspiring people I've met here at NVCC, I have a second important goal: to be an inspiration to everyone whom I meet.

### Opioid Soundtrack

You're my drug,  
constant addiction,  
when we make love,  
the beat causes friction.

Every loop of each line,  
my fingers wrap around,  
your tender waistline.

From the needle  
entering each vein,  
injecting adrenaline  
into my entire frame.

When I close my eyes  
hearing your beauty,  
I see each sound  
pumping through me.

As we near the end  
of our journey,  
you are my disease  
the only one  
who cures me.

~ Nicole Hayes

### Haiku Series

Boys roll gambler's dice  
While girls comb bristly yarn hair  
Thus, what jollity

Wires drape soft skies  
While people observe blue glass  
They need to unplug

Ruins scattered 'round  
Reason conquered by the brawns  
Careful, or we're next

Images of peace  
Are graffiti on blank brick  
But not to prestige

Such excitement here  
Such a pretty neon burg  
Such wishful thinking

What's carved out with ink  
Won't perish even in flames  
But in memory

~ Dayton Fenwick



CAPSS  
CORNER

That's the Ticket!

Whether it's the golden ticket from *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*, a winning Powerball ticket, or an airline boarding pass, each provides the bearer with an opportunity, money, or a new destination. At NVCC and all Connecticut Community Colleges, there is a new ticket available that doesn't rely on playing the odds. However, it does provide students with opportunity, monetary savings, and the ability to better their lives. The Transfer Ticket is a new program, offered by the Connecticut State College and Universities (CSCU), offering students a chance to save time and money, while pursuing a degree within the CSCU system.

The main benefit to the Transfer Ticket Program is that students can seamlessly transfer from a CT Community College to one of the five CT State Universities (Central, Eastern, Southern, Western or Charter Oak) in a convenient manner, without wasting time or money. Transferring from one school to another can be difficult when credits earned at the community college level are not accepted at the university level. This often requires students to spend extra time and money completing their Bachelor's degree. The Transfer Ticket Program provides a clearer path of courses needed at both the community college and the university level. It also provides a guarantee that all courses taken within the program at a CT Community College will be accepted at a CT State University, so students who have completed an Associate degree will start with guaranteed junior status when they arrive at the University. They will then be able to complete their Bachelors within 60 more credits for most programs.

The CSCU Transfer Ticket helps students meet their educational and career goals by offering a pathway to obtaining a Bachelor's degree quickly and economically. The Transfer Ticket currently offers students a choice of eleven majors: Biology, Chemistry, Communications, Criminology, English, History, Mathematics, Political Science, Psychology, Social Work and Sociology. If your major isn't listed here, don't panic. Programs continue to be developed and will be added to the list of options in the near future. If you'd like to learn more about the Transfer Ticket Program, or find out if it is the right choice for you, speak with your assigned academic advisor, stop by the CAPSS office in Kinney Hall Room 520, or check out the Transfer Ticket website: <http://www.ct.edu/transfer>. All aboard for a bright future!

Bonnie Goulet

## Fooduary and Mmmmmarch!

Christopher Gordon

February and March were flavorful months for international food lovers at NVCC. Events offered students a chance to explore the tasty world of desserts and appetizers from places near and far.

On February 28, professors of the LABSS Division held a Mardi Gras celebration for students. Many participants brought traditional party treats enjoyed around the world to celebrate Fat Tuesday before giving up such earthly indulgences for Lent. Dr. Anne Mattrella, Professor Bill Foster, and Professor Amy Lenoce provided green, purple, and yellow beads, traditional colors of Mardi Gras in New Orleans. Students provided baked goods galore to share.

The Hispanic Student Union hosted another food-tasting event March 22 in the ACE. Students tasted Puerto Rican delicacies paired with a cup of espresso. Many students enjoyed the HSU's generous offer of free treats and a mini-lesson in Puerto Rican customs.

## alumni SHOWCASE



Katherine Abreu

Closing a chapter of my life always seemed like a hard thing to do. The memories, friendships, professors, and frequent trips across the 5th floor at Naugatuck Valley were hard to leave behind. That's why I'll always keep that chapter of my life open. I'm grateful I was able to be a part of something bigger. I was not "just another student". I was close to the staff; I made sure people felt appreciated by handing them random gifts of gratitude.

## Presidential Advice

For me, NVCC meant more than just going to school every day and getting work done.

Moving to Danbury and going to college away from home was a tough transition. I'm not going to lie, I cried. I might have been only 40 minutes away, but I missed many things were no longer obtainable every day: my mother's cooking, my dog's cuddles—and NVCC. Through all that, I made sure not to change my character or what I lived for because I was in a different location. I applied for an internship at the mayor's office and interned for a semester. I'd walk from WCSU's main campus to City Hall every Wednesday and Thursday. I was determined to continue the type of work I'd done as NVCC's SGA President, serving my community as much as I could. The staff was very welcoming and made my transition to Danbury easier.

Last semester was not an easy one, though. On top of seven classes, I was also going through many hardships in my own life. I can testify the same for this semester, when my grandmother passed away, and I had to take a week off from school. What I can say about WCSU, though, is that the staff—many of whom also teach at NVCC's Danbury and Waterbury campuses—are very understanding.

As a college student, life is never easy. The unexpected happens. Relationships and friendships might end. Your heart can get shattered the same night you have a 10-page essay due. Anxiety kicks in. You feel like you might not be able to do it. You stress yourself out way too much. You do not always meet your own high standards. But guess what? You are human. You need to remember the most important thing: taking care of yourself.

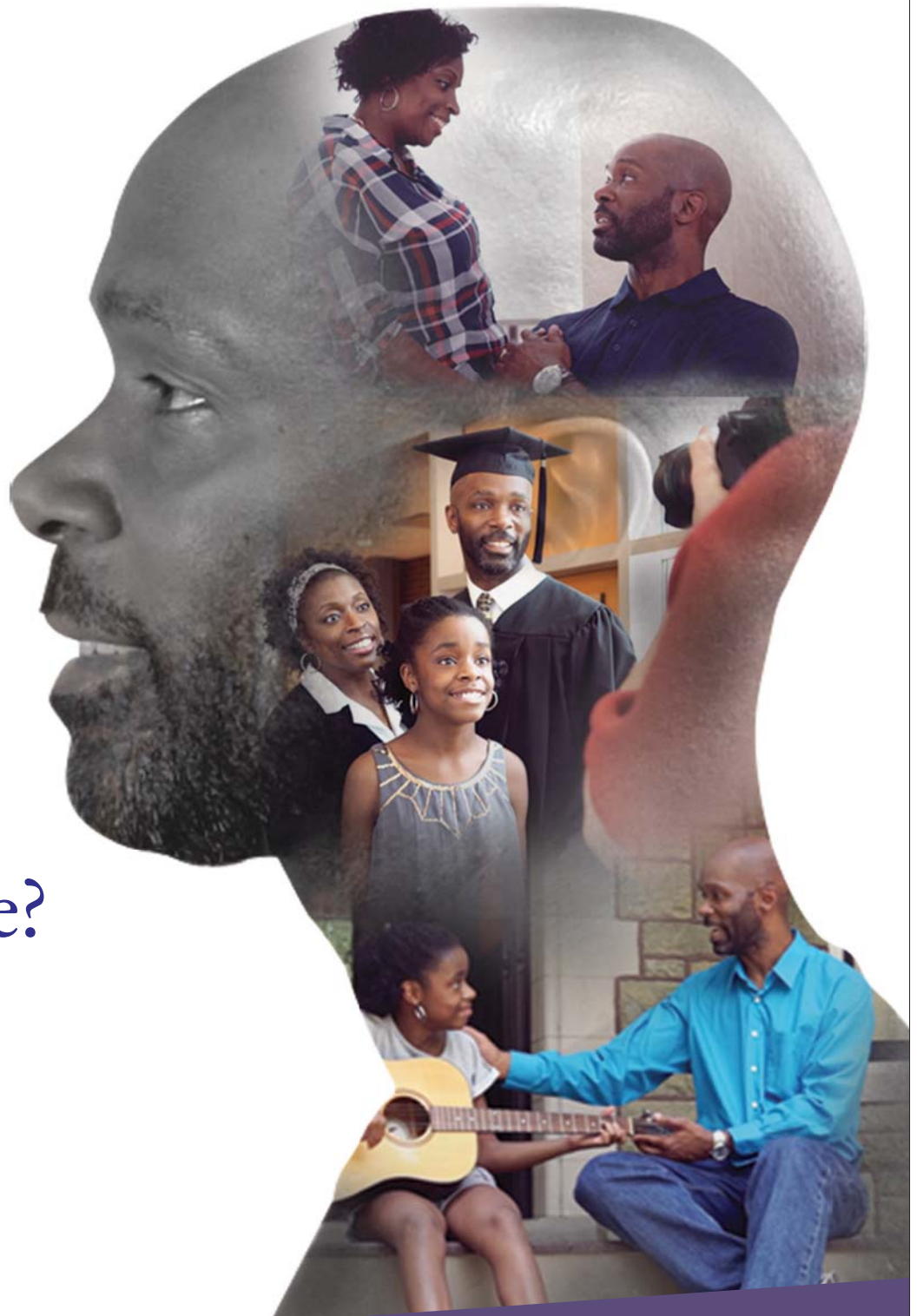
That's something I forgot last semester. I would care more about papers and exams than my wellbeing. I would not take breaks. I overwhelmed myself to the point where it affected all aspects of my life. School matters. By no means am I saying to push it to the side. But for people like myself, sometimes it matters too much. So much I missed family events and moments I wish I hadn't. So much I'd build up anxiety and not stop to eat or just relax for a moment.

Some advice I wish I could've given myself last year, when transferring, would be to take it one day at a time. It's too late for me to follow that advice, but, after reading this, I hope it helps you. Slow down. Take a moment to set up a schedule for your assignments; manage your time better. And remember to set aside time for the person who matters the most: YOU.



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## Pencils for Nepal

Anju Gautam



It took 26 hours via car, plane, and taxi to get to our eco-friendly Kathmandu hotel. Not the best choice, freezing in the hotel room, because they don't have heaters. Next time I visit Nepal in winter I'll know. The city is still in rubble, and people are still in temporary shelters and camps. With everything going on with the government it will take at least 10 years for Nepal to recover from the earthquake.

However, there are hope and love among the people; after everything, they still welcome travelers. They smile and laugh. Elders bask in the sun sharing stories of childhood. Fathers still go to work on 120cc Honda bikes, wearing masks to protect from the dust. Mothers still wake early to cook for family, help children dress, and send them to school. Teenagers still hold hands and attend schools and colleges. Many things have changed, economically and geographically, but the people's hearts are still the same.

Levi and I collected tip money from work. I put a little jar at the winery labeled "Pencils for Nepal." We were on our way to visit my family. I miss them a lot. Tickets weren't as cheap as we thought, but finally, on a very sketchy site, we booked two economy seats on China Southern Airlines.

Going to my home was a gift to ourselves, but our hearts wanted to bring something for the Nepalese children. With the jar money, we purchased lots of stationery materials. We bought pencils and shopped for a soccer ball, chocolates, and puzzle games. My wonder-



ful CT family and friends donated used toys (Levi's Legos), clothes, and more chocolates. With only 4 large suitcases filled with gifts, and one suitcase for ourselves, we were on our way.

After 2 days of rest in Kathmandu we went to Polchara, distributing pencils to street children. They would ask for 5 rupees (5 cents); in return we would give them a pencil and an eraser. We spent a few days cleaning the house, fixing the Wi-Fi, digging sewers, and

taking Mom and my sisters to the hospital. It wasn't a vacation, but we were happier than we would've been anywhere.

Day 7 we went to "shree prabhat prathamil vidhlaya," a school with maybe 150 students: homeless poor children who cannot afford to school. We hiked almost 45 minutes uphill from our farm with two huge bags of goodies for the children. Levi wore his NVCC shirt, because, without our education and opportunity from NVCC, we wouldn't have been doing what we were doing as proud NVCC Secretary and Senator.

We spent a few minutes talking to the school principal. He was overwhelmed with happiness. At one point I could see tears in a lady teacher's eyes. We didn't have much, but it meant the world to those teachers and children. We gave them pencils and chocolates (not a very good idea in the middle of a school day); they were very excited! Some had never eaten chocolate, or seen Legos or puzzles.

The principal, a soccer fan, said, "You came just in time." They were having a tournament



for the elderly. We played with the children and talked to them about the importance of education. I used to go to that school on weekends to play and teach kids English. Now when I look at them I see myself as a little girl.

That feeling of happiness, the moments with those kids are priceless. With a heavy heart we said goodbye. They said, "See you soon. Namaste. Thank you," all the English they'd learned. We flew back to America, above the clouds saying goodbye to those majestic mountains, saying goodbye to the green hills, the rivers, and those beautiful people. We left with a promise—that we will come back and help, to see those smiles again.

Nepal's future is in the hands of those kids. Education is the weapon to help them fight against a cruel society segregated by caste and wealth. It is our duty as educated youth to empower them. It does not take much to give a child a better perspective. Just fulfill their need to know someone is there. It is not what we have that makes us great; it is what we choose to share. What drives you?

## Revolutionary Rhythms

Queen



The music of Queen is still infinitely popular today. How could anyone forget "We Will Rock You" and "We Are The Champions"? These remain as anthems and chants worldwide—including at major sporting events. However, without the talented vocals of Freddie Mercury, the band's success probably would not have been possible.

Coming from two separate bands, Smile, and Wreckage, Queen's four band members merged together and played small venues while in college, then began touring the U.S. in 1973 when their debut album was released. With a combination of glam rock, heavy metal, and Mercury's leveled harmonies, Queen's popularity began to climb into the U.S. top ten. Heavy metal fans were in love with Queen, even though Mercury admitted his influence was more Liza Minnelli, a theatrical performer, than Robert Plant, Led Zeppelin icon—the epitome of heavy metal.

With other successes such as "Bohemian Rhapsody," which was number one in England for nine weeks, the gold and platinum records

began piling in. The band also tried branching out into more disco and rockabilly such as "Crazy Little Thing Called Love" in the late 70s and early 80s. While many British bands have seen great success in America, perhaps more so than their home country, Queen's popularity was actually more based in England, where most of their hits reached number one or at least cracked the top ten.

For many years there had been rumors that Mercury suffered from AIDS, but it wasn't until before his death in 1991 that he confirmed the gossip. After his death, the rest of the band members held a special concert for Mercury. Included were Elton John, Axl Rose of Guns n Roses, the members of Def Leppard, David Bowie, and others. The concert was not only a memorial, but it also raised money and awareness of the disease.

By 1995, Queen had released its last music, "Made in Heaven," which featured vocals Mercury had recorded before his death. The remaining members disbanded into solo careers or other bands and produced hits of their own, but re-grouped when Queen was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2001.

In recent years, Queen has gotten back together—minus bass player, John Deacon, who retired in 1997. The latest version of Queen features new lead singer, *American Idol* runner-up, Adam Lambert. Since 2012, Lambert and Queen have toured the country singing the hits everyone knows and loves, but more importantly, keeping Freddie Mercury's legacy alive. Look for Queen and Lambert who will be touring the U.S. this summer.

Alyssa Katz



## Campus Conversation Self-Esteem

Alyssa Katz

Everyone struggles with insecurities. Safe Haven's Louisa Printz hosted a March 20th campus conversation to change that. To begin, she handed each person two sticky notes. On one we write a physical characteristic we don't like about ourselves. On the second we wrote a personal physical and emotional characteristic we do like. The purpose was to see which came easiest. Writing something negative was found to be easier because that's immediately where our brains go.

Printz dove deeper. A small number exuded confidence, saying they didn't care what anyone said about them. She threw them a question: "Do you build up walls so thick you don't show people the real you?" Her point was people avoid being vulnerable because they fear getting hurt, having their insecurities mocked or used against them. Worse, they fear someone they love will hurt them, tearing them down instead of building them up. Printz stated hiding things from others can hurt us instead of working to protect ourselves.

Society plays a role. For example, models became a topic. They may look completely flawless—perfect skin, size 00 attire—but what's behind the mask, the layers of make-up? Often,

eating disorders. While other countries find larger women more beautiful than skinny women, American society pushes us to hate ourselves by continuously pointing out "imperfections". Another factor about disliking ourselves relates to bullying. People insult others to feel good about themselves. But the bully is really giving a subliminal outburst of her or his own insecurity; inflicting it on others makes the bully feel better.

Printz encouraged us to "take your flaws and make them work for you. Learn to love your flaws." She said vulnerabilities shouldn't be negative things; they can really be made into positives. She also added that just because someone is beautiful, doesn't mean they're the nicest or healthiest person to be around.

In closing, Printz gave each attendee homework, or more accurately, "lifework". The task: Look in the mirror for at least three seconds every day; then say the first word that pops into your head. If it's positive, write it down and post it somewhere you can see it. If it's negative, don't write it down. As positives pile up, you'll begin to see and feel your self-worth. It could take days, weeks, or months, but Printz guaranteed it would work, adding, "Find your true self. If you don't, people are guiding your life for you."

## Supporting Parent-Students

Yovany Cruz

The face of college students is rapidly changing as growing numbers of parents with dependent children steadily enroll. According to the Institute for Women's Policy Research, in 2014, nationally, 2.1 million students attended community college while raising children. These parents matriculate to improve their economic status by retraining for job skills or striving to attain a degree to move up from low paying jobs.

However, nontraditional status brings a unique set of challenges that can impede success. The conflicting roles of parent, employee, spouse, and student can cause overwhelming stress. The Institute for Women's Policy Research also identifies barriers such as financial troubles and lack of social and familial support and childcare—to name a few—experienced by parent-students as causes of increased attrition and lower degree completion rates. It

is clear this group requires supportive services; however, unless their needs are acknowledged and addressed, efforts to improve degree completion and retention rates are likely to fall short.

Addressing those needs has helped these students persist and complete degrees. Supportive services, such as connecting students to available resources available on and off campus, intrusive academic counseling, and mutual aid peer groups increase retention rates, as well as connecting such students with college culture.

The idea of a support group for students who are also parents was inspired by a Human Services alum. As a parent and NVCC student, she found it particularly challenging to balance multiple roles and responsibilities, and she noticed other parent-students faced the same challenges. However, she recognized no supportive services on campus geared specifically toward helping the parent-student

population.

Like that student, I too am a parent in college, so I know firsthand the difficulty of conflicting roles. I also attended NVCC for three years, managing to graduate with an Associate Degree in Human Services; however, it was not an easy road. Not only did I face the challenges of being a low-income, first-generation college student. I struggled with feelings of guilt knowing I had less time to devote to family. While I completed my degree quite successfully, it was difficult navigating my college years without structural supportive services specific to parent-students.

My experience, coupled with my return to NVCC as a social work intern, led me to propose and facilitate a parent-student social support group. The goal is not only influenced by NVCC's mission, to value diversity and to offer services and support to all students to help them achieve excellence in school and in their lives, it is motivated by the fact that as a social worker, I am called to help empower diverse groups in need.

The parent-student group is geared

towards bringing parents together to discuss ways to successfully complete their semester, while meeting individual and familial needs. Through peer mutual aid, meetings are intended to lessen students' perceived challenges and promote skills that increase the likelihood of degree completion. Some meetings provide information about community resources, while others address members' parental concerns. We have cool meetings, too, like guided meditation/mindfulness with Professor Kate Pelletier. It really is wonderful providing time and space for these students, building supportive alliances over coffee and tea.

My goal is for NVCC to continue developing supportive services specific to this population. I want this group to thrive, informing different college departments—academic divisions, counseling and advising, student services—on how best to address parent-students' unique needs. Norwalk Community College has a very successful permanent program for students who are parents; we should, too.



## Empty Bowls

Bayley Shean



Want to give back to the community and get a meal out of the deal? Not to mention, bringing home a handmade bowl? Come to “Empty Bowls” on April 18th in the Atrium! From 11:30 am -2:00 pm, you can pay just \$12 for a bowl of delicious soup of your choosing. The Hospitality Club will be providing a variety of soups, and the Art Club is creating handmade bowls. There will be a choice of chicken noodle, or corn chowder, as well as vegan, gluten-free lentil soup. Soup (and bowls) will be available on a first-come/first-served basis, with \$12 payable at the door. There will be additional pottery items for sale at the event, with proceeds going to a local food pantry. If you have any questions, please contact Art Professor Amanda Lebel at [alebel@nv.edu](mailto:alebel@nv.edu).

## Games for Cheap

Bradley Edwards



At conventional video game retailers, like GameStop or anyplace selling games, prices are fairly sharp. Twenty-dollar games can be found, but, typically, games are priced at forty or sixty dollars. This is for a myriad of reasons: retailers need money; developers need to be paid for their work; prices must cover disc costs, and so forth.

However, there’s a cheaper alternative, if one is willing to purchase online. Popular videogame library client, Steam, sells games with a wide price range. Developed by Valve Corporation, the online marketplace Steam offers boasts prices ranging from cents and dollars, to multi-hundred dollar collection packs few people buy when not on some crazy sale. Sales are Steam’s biggest attraction. Unlike retail stores’ superficial sales of a few bucks or 10% off a game’s net cost, many Steam sales are substantial. Fifty to eighty percent markdowns on games and collections are common, reducing hundred-dollar “value packs” to affordable twenty-dollar bundles.

Wondering *what’s the catch?* Well, the catch is most games on Steam can only be launched from the Steam client. However, this allows users to redownload games on different devices (or even stream to other devices) with no need for an external disc or proof of purchase. Arguably, games on Steam are more permanent than those saved in physical copies. Ultimately though, it’s the individual’s preference. If one’s bad at keeping track of online accounts, physical copies are probably the more permanent option. It’s vital to realize the limitations of all media formats.

The next question: *If they can only be launched from Steam, what happens if Valve goes out of business?* Valve has said they’d “patch all games to be runnable and backupable without the Steam client.” While game companies are not fond of this notion, they’ve been forced to swallow it since Steam is the biggest online game retailer. Regardless, the likelihood of Valve going out of business within the next five or ten years seems implausible, especially since its founder has become a billionaire simply by owning half his company.

## Writer’s Lab

Halit Basuljevic

Arrived at home, a warm and welcoming darkness invites you to seat yourself in unburdened contemplation while music drifts. As thoughts surge from every direction, they eventually become random and vague, leading you to let go and fall asleep. But, alarmingly, there is a nagging current underlying all these thoughts: that *damned* reminder that as an artist you’d be stricken with guilt if you let yourself sleep another night without writing. In fact, this may be the fifth consecutive night you’ve put off a new story, waiting for the creative floodgates to burst open, even though at this point the build-up has truly overstayed its welcome... However, you do eventually get to it, with your fingers on the keyboard and a list of words mentally composed that you just have to *have* in your story. This list may be something like this:

slew  
iridescent  
emblazon  
stillicide  
stelliferous  
Luminescent

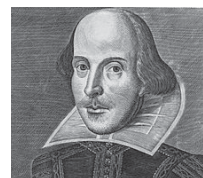
And other similar words that have glamour and an undeniable aura. It’s often thought amongst writers that *beautiful* prose is the best kind of prose, simply due to the show-stopper elation one gets when one encounters such a good-looking word. How are you not going to stop in awe at words like iridescent, ebullient, and opulence? Not being able to *express* and *simply* describe the colorful world which we strain to create, writing at this stage never moves beyond the author and his words—it merely recoils back towards the author’s superficial attempt at trying to write well. So when we encounter a word like “stillicide” within the scene, and its use seems awkward and dislocated, then the intention is clear that the author only cares to show how good he is, not to convey the story. What this means is that as a writer experiences and grows, the goal is to move away from what is deemed beautiful into the creative possibilities of what an expression can do.

Luckily, this tendency—call it “Maximalism”—becomes sublimated into writers who are merely concerned with different layers of the world. Through multiple lenses, authors like this, who are lucky enough, are able to create profound and engrossing works without belittling the story itself. If you’re like me, this aesthetic excess is your pre-eminent mode of writing: a pattern-recognition overload. You synthesize rather than analyze.

Of course, a lot of mistakes happen. A lot. That’s why such a temperament needs to be regulated and fine-tuned so the prose doesn’t come off as pompous (a misnomer, in most cases) and long-winded. So, I hope to offer some advice in the future that still helps me better refine my way of writing. I hope to focus on the distinctions that make such a writer and the various tools they can use to avoid or surpass those mistakes commonly associated with maximalist prose.

## The Bard is back!

Prof. Lou Lombard



On April 25th, Assistant Professors Burton Tedesco (Drama) and Lou Lombard (Literature) will collaborate for their third annual Shakespeare presentation in the Playbox Theater. Entitled, *Shakespeare and Love*, the presentation will enlist the participation of both drama and literature classes here at NVCC. Several love scenes from Shakespeare’s romantic and comedic plays will be dramatically re-enacted by students from the drama class, while literature students will read selections from Shakespeare’s love sonnets and share “imitation” poetry as well. Following the presentation, which will run from 11 A.M. - 12:30 P.M., cake will be served in celebration of Shakespeare’s April 23rd birthday.

All are welcome to attend!

## We Are Not Alone

Trevor Lilly



NASA has sought signs of life outside Earth’s atmosphere since its founding in 1958. While they often find new planets, they rarely meet the requirements for sustaining life. However, on February 22nd, NASA’s Spitzer Space telescope made a revolutionary discovery.

Roughly 40 light-years (235 trillion miles) away, lies a dwarf star housing seven Earth-sized planets, all within appropriate distance to house liquid water, and potentially support life. These new planets are called exoplanets because they lie outside our solar system. The exoplanet system, named Trappist-1 after Chile’s Transiting Planets and Planetesimals Small Telescope (TRAPPIST), is the largest collection of potentially habitable planets revolving around one star ever recorded.

Because of the star’s relatively small size, all seven planets are within an orbit five times smaller than Mercury’s around our Sun. It takes the furthest planet roughly 20 Earth days to complete one revolution. The closest planet only takes 1.51 Earth days.

Scientists speculate the planets’ orbits may be tidally locked to their host star, meaning one side is always facing it, similar to our moon’s orbit to Earth. This would cause very different weather patterns from Earth, such as extreme winds and temperature changes. It would also mean one side of each planet exists in perpetual

darkness, with the other in perpetual light.

Due to their proximity to each other and to their host star, from one each planet’s surface, neighboring planets would appear roughly the same size, maybe even twice as large as our moon appears. The star itself would appear three times as large as our sun, but would be 200 times less bright and emit a red hue due to its

small size.

As a joke, NASA asked Twitter to help name the planets in the TRAPPIST-1 system. Results did not disappoint. Participants suggested the seven days of the week, Snow White’s Seven Dwarfs, the seven deadly sins, the Star Wars movies (excluding Clone Wars and Rogue One), the Harry Potter books, and the seven crew members killed in the Challenger disaster. Others got more creative. Below, a list of some favorites:

1. Earth II, Earth 2, Earth Two, Earth To, Earth Too, Earth Teux, Earth Also
2. Earth 2, Earth 2s, Earth 2s Plus, Earth 2s Plus 128GB, Earth 2s Plus 128GB Black, Earth 2s Plus 128GB Rose Gold, Earth 3
3. Planet McPlanetface, Moonie McMoonface, Rocky McRockface, Icy McIceface, Dusty McDustface, Gassy McGasface, Wanda
4. Far from Trump 1, Far from Trump 2, Far from Trump 3, Far from Trump 4, Far from Trump 5, Far from Trump 6, Far from Trump 7
5. Pluto, Long Live Pluto, Pluto Forever, We Love Pluto, Screw You For Killing Pluto, Planet of the Keks, Pluto
6. Rick, Astley, Never, Gonna, Give, You, Up
7. This one, That one, The other one, No that one, More to the left, To my left, My other left

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## That's What She Said



Jessica Ney

### Headline??

Lately, a new trend in feminism has been recognized in the popular media. This movement is leaning towards intersectional feminism as the only accepted kind of feminism. Intersectionality is defined as an interconnected nature of categorizations. That means considering social class, gender, race, religion, and how these different distinctions intersect. This trend could mean a lot for feminism as a political and social stance. It can give our movement power, credibility, and the increased level of support it desperately needs.

This intersectional push has grown recently, along with the social unrest in our country seen in the multitude of protests focused on our new commander-in-chief. There have been fingers pointed, particularly towards white women, and accusations that their feminism is a brand that helps only them. With minority groups voicing these opinions, privileged people suddenly stand out in stark contrast, branded as selfish feminists. Thankfully, the response has generally been to stand with those calling for intersectionality.

After all, intersectional feminism, as the original movement was envisioned, focuses on ALL people: the trans community, their safety and respect; the Latina community, that negative stereotypes might finally be broken; the Black community, that police brutality might be stopped; for the economically-struggling, that the ever-growing disparity in wages and in schools is tackled. Intersectionality embraces the LGBTQ community, that they may be validated. It is for white women, supporting them as they find confidence in their voice; it's for the Asian community, that they be respected for their many cultural contributions; and it is for Muslim people, that they may co-exist and continue contributing to American society without being hated or shamed. Intersectional feminism also embraces men, allowing them to reveal their vulnerability, to see how they share in the responsibility and benefits of an equal society, and to recognize the validity of this movement.

We are on the cusp of the next wave of feminism. We can all take part in this social movement, but only if a few things happen. Our society needs a drastic change, in education, in acceptance, and in humanity. But for this to work, we all need to swallow our pride, get our hands dirty, and take part in our world. Listening to Beyoncé doesn't make you intersectional; that just means you have good taste. True intersectionality—understanding and embracing different ideals and standing up to protect them—requires education, hard work, and open hearts.

### Altar Wine

The scent of musty wood beckons back to our temple where we were the gods of idolatry

In return, I cry to the True God that my idol mustn't be smote despite our taste for delectable sin

Indeed, the ambrosial hibiscus you swig and offer to me is the transubstantiated blood boiling in me at the sight of you

Magenta, then blue like my eyes when your brown irises bring us back to our temple I recall in memory, after being

Excommunicated

~ Dayton Fenwick

## Readers Respond

Of the articles I read in this month's *Tamarack*, one caught my eye, "Women You Should Know," by Alyssa Katz. This article is important because of current events. Women and men are made to be equal, and for the most part, they are. That said, heroic women are often forgotten. The conflicts these five individuals faced proves each is unique but with one thing in common: they are all extremely strong. Malala Yousafzai, known as "The Schoolgirl who Stood up to the Taliban," is a perfect example. Malala refused to be deprived of education. At age eleven, she was willing to risk her life just to prove this point, despite the Taliban attacking many girls' schools near her. In the article, Katz states "When her identity was revealed in 2009, she faced threats culminating in a 2012 assassination attempt. Surviving the near-fatal gunshot to the head at 15 years old, this Pakistani teenager refused to stop speaking out on women's rights." This is pure bravery at such a young age. This article was an eye-opener to the positive impacts women have had. The author was so clever to come up with this topic, and I'm pleased to have had the opportunity to read it.

~ Sincerely, Shannon Tagg

It is so important for people, especially college students, to get out of their little town and journey into the world. What stops people is the lack of knowledge on where to start and how to use a budget wisely. Luckily, in the article, "Adventure on a Budget," the reader is guided from start to finish, with options suiting their preference. Reading through truly inspires people to get going, explore, make new friends, and much more. [Travel] is very uplifting; I personally recommend for others to try it out. After reading this article, I was inspired to get going myself—already planning the details for my first, but far from last, trip. Thank you, Jess Ney.

~ Sincerely, Faith Malo

The editorial, "Show up or Shut up!" is just funny and relatable. It verbalizes many students' thoughts on people who are ridiculously late to class and decide to be as loud as possible when entering, almost as if on purpose to disrupt class. When somebody walks into a class late, it is presumed they will just walk in and go to their seat. Sadly we live in a reality in which a [late] student will open the door, walk in on their phone, slam the door shut, and flop in their seat as loudly as possible, dropping their 30 pound bag to the floor. The editorial is just pure gold, a verbalization of how people feel about the situation. Personally, I would like to see people who enter a classroom late like this be punished in some way that is more than a stern, "Next time could you try that a bit more quietly?." It would take nothing more than kicking them out of class for that day. I'm sure they wouldn't do it again if [it was] explained why they were removed from our learning environment.

~ Michael Ashley

## Considering April's Autism Awareness Month

Nicole Hayes

It's important to realize each person on the autism spectrum is unique. With this in mind, I'd like to share my experience working with such individuals. This field can be challenging, requiring an ample store of patience. For the past two years, I've worked with twins on the spectrum. I'm responsible for teaching them basic daily living skills and ensuring their safety. Because both have limitations with their vocabulary, frustration communicating can cause behavioral outbursts that may last for hours. Remaining calm during these behaviors can deescalate the situation, as both twins sense when frustration takes over. Despite some challenges, it's rewarding teaching my clients everyday tasks taken for granted by most.

On a typical day, I help the twins transition from school to their home routine. They require a detailed schedule with minimal change. If their routine is altered, it could cause confusion, resulting in outbursts. The twins have a behavioral analyst who works directly with their school and parents to assist in creating schedules and strategies to deescalate outbursts. For example, each twin has a "work" routine in the afternoon, teaching them how to identify basic daily living skills. This helps the transition from school to home because it's an engaging activity. Like many of us, though, they consider "homework" undesirable, so it can be challenging to have them participate.

After their work is complete and they've finished other afternoon activities, we have free time. This is when outburst behaviors are at their peak, and patience is greatly needed. There have been times when a behavior has lasted an hour because I asked them to place their shoes or jackets in a designated spot. This is also the time when the twins' persistence is at its finest; "Keys, keys," is their way of asking for a car ride. If the car is unavailable, they may become agitated. Then, the clickers come out, counting the number of aggressions towards property or staff as a way of teaching consequences. Tantrums sometimes last until bedtime. Working with this population can be tiring, but it's important to stick with the routine and be firm with my answers, always remembering the goal of helping them navigate daily life.

Although my patience can be tested, I enjoy being a support for them. They're at the age where their personalities are developing and changing frequently. It's important I familiarize myself with their individual communication styles. Ultimately, this decreases behavioral outbursts and builds stronger relationships with them. This field of employment has taught me the importance of not allowing a disability to define someone, as their personalities tend to shine brighter when I recognize their individuality. April is Autism Awareness Month, and I'm honored to work closely with these twins who've taught me so much.

### Don't mind my color; I am still an American.

At times, I wonder if the color on my skin does matter  
The caramel tone paved and marked on me is there for the rest of my life.  
I tend to wonder why girls like me may not like the curly fries looking hair thing.  
Because, girl, if only you knew how many women pay to have this.  
I tend to wonder if us Americans can come close together like the knot I may have in this curly messy hair.  
We tend to divide ourselves from the rest.  
Yes, our past makes us angry. But it does not change the fact that we are Americans  
Yes, African Americans  
But still Americans  
I want you guys to know that no matter where you're from or what color you are,

You still have meaning in this world.  
If you came to this country to do better in life, it does not matter if you came here with a green card or even an alien card. And it might have taken you years to even get an American citizenship.  
No matter how, when, where or even why.  
You are still an American  
I'm still an American  
We are all still Americans  
I want you guys to not mind my color, because no matter what you see, I am proud.  
So please don't mind my color.  
Because I am still an American.

~ Yazmelin Rodriguez

## RECENTLY READ



Archie Barwick's  
*In Great Spirits*

*In Great Spirits*, the extensive World War I diary of decorated Australian, Archie Barwick, is a gripping first-hand account of the atrocities of war, providing insight into the unshakeable spirit of Barwick and his fellow soldiers. Eventually earning rank as Sergeant, Barwick fought in some of WWI's worst battles.

The author reminds readers Australia produced some truly fearless soldiers. Routinely saving Britain and France, scaring the hell out of the Germans, they made a name for their country that was held in highest regard by soldiers on both sides. Later in the war, Australian soldiers were given command of British companies, and Americans were told to follow the Aussie Army's example.

Unfortunately, participating in the fiercest fighting, ANZAC (Australian / New Zealand Army Corps) divisions suffered some of WWI's highest casualty rates. When things got too rough for other allies, Australians were sent in. For example, at Pozieres, Australians, led by the 1st Division—Barwick among those leading the charge—took a German trench on the first assault after British forces failed three times. Winning at Amiens, they saved the whole British army. During the 1918 German Offensive, with Germany within fifty miles of Paris, Australians pushed them back.

Twenty-four when the war started, he enlisted, leaving life as a shepherd behind. Barwick fought in 1915 against the Turks at Gallipoli, encountering some of the war's fiercest combat at the Battle of Lone Pine. Recalling the rush of bayonet charges, soldiers picked off by snipers, non-stop bombardment by shells, and treacherous conditions, he describes trenches so packed with dead bodies they fought standing atop corpses piled three to four deep. Barwick also recalls maggots thriving in the awful conditions, crawling over sleeping soldiers.

After ANZAC divisions progressed to the Western Front, Barwick fought in several infamous battles: Ypres, the Somme, Bapaume, Amiens, and others. He describes a near-death experience: "I'll swear a 4.2 [artillery shell] did not miss my head by more than a few inches; I felt the backwash of the air as it shot by my face." Despite such daily incidents, Barwick survived, while many, suffering frostbite, succumbed to the weather alone. Barwick often lay awake, wet clothes freezing, having fallen in shell holes filled with water in the dark, in zero-degree weather.

Marching through mud and waist-deep snow, encountering rats in the trenches, they faced gas attacks and constant artillery bombardment shaking the ground. Many suffered concussion from shell impacts, attained shrapnel injuries, and witnessed body parts and other horrors. Barwick describes a grim reality: "It looks very much as if one of our chap's words will come true. He said...we would be able to bring all the men who were leaving with the 1st Division back to Australia in a rowing boat. How we all laughed at the idea but unfortunately it's fast coming true. There are but four left now in my old original Company." Later, during roll call, Barwick was asked to step forward as one of 17 men left of the original 1,000.

In 1918, fighting the German offensive, Barwick was finally relieved of duty. A shell landed beside him, lodging two large metal pieces in his ribs; he said the bone was nearly visible. Still, his incredible luck continued. That same shell killed another man, wounding four others. By the time Barwick was ready to return to combat, WWI was over. He headed home to Australia after nearly five years.

He lived to the age of 76 with his wife and three children, crediting the diary for keeping him sane through his ordeal. Many friends struggled with alcoholism and depression after the war. On the boat home, in 1918, his commanding officer committed suicide. Archie, however, had an unshakeable resolve and remarkable faith and courage through the most inhumane conditions. One thing I learned from his book: I'll never mess with an Australian.

Steven Delvalle

## Thank You All



### Poets and Prose-ets United

April is National Poetry Month, and as such, I offer this short poem in thanks:

Christopher Gordon

*Generosity and Poetry, are the themes of springtime in April, or so it seems.*

As you can see my poetic nature is strong this month. In all seriousness, though, I would like to offer a strong thanks to everyone who works hard in the creative writing field, creating poetry (and prose) of the sort that changes hearts and stirs souls. There is power in creative writing, and a little time and care can hone words into an interdisciplinary tool.

To those who take on the extracurricular task of writing and reading fellow students' work, I am impressed. Working as an editor for a newspaper is a challenge, but to help others develop the less rigid world of prose and poetry takes imagination and generosity. Helping each other tap into a wealth of emotion—and express it in hidden and overt ways—is a truly worthwhile skill.

*Sweet yet short line each page  
The words are seen in sepia  
Tone and dark running ink  
Of worldly happenings  
To impress readers all*

Thank you all Poets and Prose-ets for sharing with courage the gathered worlds you create together.

## Snow Day

Alyssa Katz

Remember being little and loving snow? Sledding, snowmen, forts, igloos, snowball fights. I remember piles so high I loved climbing to the top. My neighbors even had a snowmobile we rode around on; man that was fun.

It's not until we get older, driving and working, that snow becomes less desirable—shoveling, scraping the windshield, worrying about getting to work, fearing accidents caused by black ice. Non-car owners and those not living in the suburbs may escape these problems, but there are others for city-dwellers.

My parents finally bought a snow blower last year. During the worst storm this winter, it broke. Picture a long, steep driveway. Now, we'd dealt without a snow blower all my life, but shoveling is back-breaking, and it makes you dislike snow even more when the piles are so high you can't fling the snow on top anymore. Climbing them no longer seems fun.

Despite the complaining, this is New England, so we're going to get our share of snow. Once those flakes stick, you have to shovel, blow it, or have someone plow for you. The other option is to do nothing at all and let the radiant sun melt it. Relying on the sun may be impractical, since it takes about 7 minutes for sunlight to reach Earth's surface, and when temps are cold, melting takes forever. You've got to get out there and freeze your butt off to help the sun melt the snow. Then scurry inside for some hot chocolate or soup.

I'm reminded of a Campbell's commercial that used to run in winter, featuring a snowman who, ironically, wanted to be inside. Hanging his scarf and hat, he sat at a table with some chicken soup. As the soup's warmth melted away the snow to reveal a little boy, "Let it Snow" played in the background. Charming.

For all the people who enjoy warm weather, it's April, and winter has transitioned to spring. Celebrate the glorious rejuvenation of floral blooms! Go coatless! Ditch the boots and gloves! Bask in the sunshine. Of course, flipping the calendar page doesn't guarantee snow is over. We have had April snow before...not to spoil your joy.

## Model Behavior?

Jessica Ney

Our society is plagued by anxiety, anorexia, bulimia, self-harm, self-doubt, and all sorts of negative feelings—perhaps moreso than there has ever been. This social plague results almost completely from the effects of our fashion industry. Some may scoff at this, claiming a few photos don't have that effect, but we fight much more than simple print media.

The fashion industry absolutely floods our society with catalogs for every store, magazines filled with ads from cars to purses, whole TV series and specials devoted to fashion and modeling. We are buried in images of thin, flawless, glowing people, who never seem to have a hair out of place or even a single pore or bump on their skin. These people are the images of success, desire, and beauty. This is what we've had to face for decades.

In the last few years, however, we've seen some small breakthroughs, and it is so incredibly exciting to see the new direction of fashion.

### Celebrate what makes you uniquely you.

It started with Madeline Staurt; she is 20 years old and the first-ever professional model with Down Syndrome. She is changing the game and bringing inclusiveness and compassion into a world that seems so structured and cold. Her story went viral for the first time in 2015, and she has been non-stop ever since.

Following her ground-breaking debut, we have seen more people follow in her footsteps, breathing fresh air into the fashion world. Last year, CoverGirl announced their first male model, James Charles, bringing validity to the LGBTQ community and showing it's okay for men to break the traditional masculine mold.

While the fashion and modeling industry is beginning to slowly move toward diversity, Vogue's March cover is still disappointing. Claiming to promote inclusiveness, the magazine used seven very famous models, including Kendall Jenner, Gigi Hadid, and Ashley Graham. There are major problems with this "image of diversity"; first of all, the women all had strikingly similar features. From eyebrow to mouth, they conform to conventional ideas of beauty. Based on the choice of models, uniqueness is hardly being celebrated. Plus-size model, Graham, is strategically positioned to mask her size; the spectrum of skin color is very narrow, and the "Muslim" model doesn't practice and looks more like a "California Girl".

The fashion industry reflects that we still have a long way to go to achieve true diversity in society. Until then, remember: self-care is warfare. Celebrate your skin, its freckles and scars, its shade; celebrate your weight, your bones and your rolls; celebrate tattoos and piercings. Celebrate what makes you uniquely you.

## Nevertheless, She Persisted

Trevor Lilly

On January 31, State Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) was silenced on the GOP Senate floor while reading a letter written by Coretta Scott King in 1986 regarding fellow senator and then-nominee for the position of US Attorney General, Jeff Sessions. Warren was silenced under pretense of Rule 19 of the Standing Rules of the Senate, which states, "No Senator in debate shall, directly or indirectly, by any form of words, impute to another Senator or to other Senators any conduct or motive unworthy or unbecoming a Senator."

Warren was first warned when quoting this passage from King's letter: "It has been a long up-hill struggle to keep alive the vital legislation that protects the most fundamental right to vote. A person who has exhibited so much hostility to the enforcement of those laws, and thus, to the exercise of those rights by black people should not be elevated to the federal bench."

## Unacceptable Poaching

Alyssa Katz

Last month brought news of a rare White Rhinoceros killed for its horn *inside* a Paris zoo. Apparently, one or more poachers breached the exhibit, shot the rhino in the head, sawed off its horn, and escaped. Two other rhinos were thankfully unharmed. This incident caused French Environmental Minister Ségolène Royal to make a motion to ban the ivory trade.

The day of the rhino murder, a critically endangered Giant Tusker Elephant was slaughtered in a Kenyan national park. Only twenty-five members of this species remain. It's believed a poisoned spear pierced the elephant, causing its death.

Why does this happen? Money. Ivory, generally elephant tusks, sells for over \$1,500 per pound, and it's estimated black-market rhino horn fetches over \$31,000 per pound, more valuable than gold. Rare species, of course, are more prized.

Especially in Asian countries, rhino horn is used to treat maladies including cancer (though it has no medical benefit). Because of this, rhino poaching has greatly increased within a few years. In addition, ivory is often fashioned into religious figures, jewelry, and trinkets. Ivory trade is part of a larger wildlife trade in animals are smuggled and transported worldwide for profit. This is illegal, however, only if a species is threatened by endangerment.

### With heavy artillery and surveillance gear available, it's easy for poachers to remain undetected and kill efficiently.

With heavy artillery and surveillance gear available, it's easy for poachers to remain undetected and kill efficiently. Because laws against poaching aren't widely enforced, when caught, criminals basically go free to resume their destructive behaviors. Not only that, culprits are often merely workers for larger networks, so the real perpetrators continue to pillage and plunder.

Because Africa is home to the majority of animals poachers seek—zebras, cheetahs, elephants—the continent sees the most widespread poaching activity. It's so bad lions are actually extinct in certain provinces. Compounded by widespread habitat loss, poaching means animals are unable to reproduce, causing populations to dwindle further.

Organizations like the World Wildlife Federation and the African Wildlife Foundation have set up monitoring networks to prevent poaching activity and protect targeted animals. There have also been calls for stricter laws and severe punishments for poaching. Animals shouldn't continue to suffer so criminals can profit off their misery. To learn more, include ways you can help stop the slaughter, visit <https://www.worldwildlife.org/>.

Looking at the ruling, it might make some sense that someone reciting King's letter would indeed be warned about Rule 19 (although the constitutionality of that rule is largely in question, as it restricts any debate about the integrity and/or ability of current standing officers). However, if that were really true, why then was State Senator Bernie Sanders (D-VT) allowed to read the letter in full without objection?

That was, in fact, the case a few days later, when Sanders made a statement on the same Senate floor defending Warren, then reciting the letter in full. And while Sen. Warren was silenced for reciting the passage she did, it was far from the worst statement regarding Sessions in King's letter.

Others include: "Mr. Sessions has used the awesome power of his office to chill the free exercise of the vote by black citizens in the district he now seeks to serve as a federal judge."

"Mr. Sessions' conduct as U.S. Attorney, from his politically-motivated voting fraud prosecutions to his indifference toward criminal violations of civil rights laws, indicates that he lacks the temperament, fairness, and judgment to be a federal judge."

"The irony of Mr. Sessions' nomination is

## Earth Matters

### Love Your Mother



Alyssa Katz

April 22nd is Earth Day, a celebration promoting care for the environment. A select number of us may remember Earth Day

being activities in elementary school when we were able to take trees home to be planted. I don't know about you, but all of my trees from elementary school are still standing.

Earth Day was created in 1970 by Wisconsin US Senator Gaylord Nelson, who found inspiration in peaceful protests against the Vietnam War, and also a California oil spill. Nelson recognized the need to educate the public about pollution and climate change. With associates Pete McCloskey and co-chair Denis Hayes, their staff of 85, and 20 million Americans behind them, they took to the streets on April 22, 1970, spreading awareness and promoting environmental stewardship. Organized groups promoting awareness of oil spills, endangered species, pollution, and other environmental concerns already existed, but when the rallies occurred, these groups found they had something in common: love for Mother Earth.

The event was so successful it led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency by the end of that year. Not only that, approval of the Clean Water, Air, and Endangered Species Acts followed. That day in 1970 sparked a global phenomenon that spread to 100+ countries. In 1995, President Clinton awarded Sen. Nelson the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor a civilian can receive, for founding Earth Day.

Today, with nearly 200 countries and hundreds of millions of people worldwide to spread awareness, Earth Day is bigger and better than ever. So many organizations and programs have been set up in order to promote a healthier planet, such as climate rallies and tree planting initiatives. Despite the haters, Earth Day continues to prevail and flourish.

This year on the same day, there will be a Science March on Washington DC to support continued funding of scientific programs. This was spurred by recent political changes regarding science, with the goal to spotlight the importance of scientific knowledge to all communities. In addition, with Earth Day's 50th anniversary in 2020, a big celebration is in order. Not only that, but given partisan threats to the EPA and attacks on climate change science, there's currently an even greater need to encourage all to protect the Earth from further harm.

that, if confirmed, he will be given life tenure for doing with a federal prosecution what the local sheriffs accomplished twenty years ago with clubs and cattle prods."

"Therefore, it is my strongly-held view that the appointment of Jefferson Sessions to the federal bench would irreparably damage the work of my husband [Martin Luther King, Jr.], Al Turner, and countless others who risked their lives and freedom over the past twenty years to ensure equal participation in our democratic system."

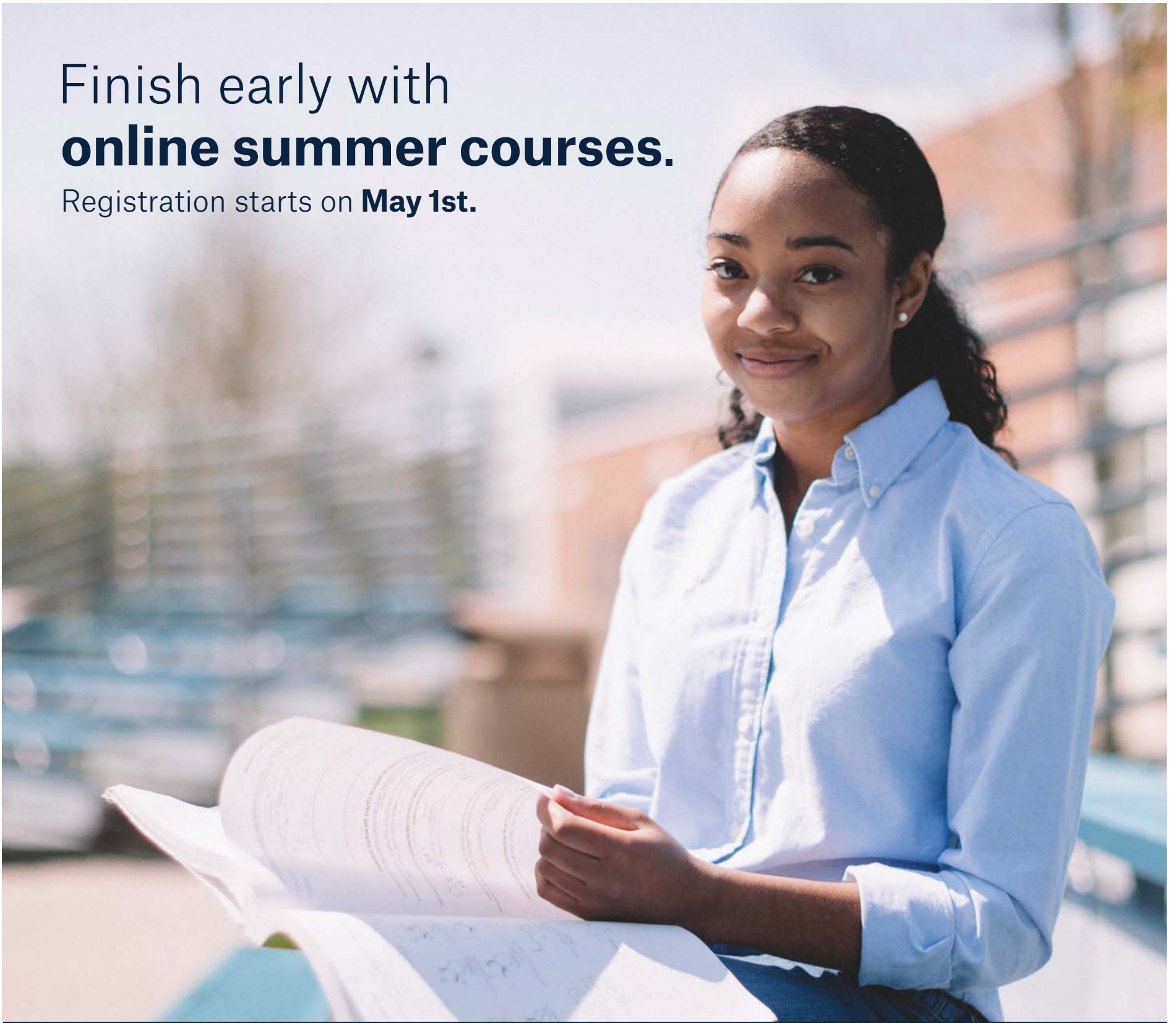
State Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY), who pushed for her silencing, later gave a statement saying, "She was warned. She was given an explanation. Nevertheless, she persisted."

Since then, the phrase, "Nevertheless, she persisted" has become a battle cry for the women's movement. It's trended on twitter and other social media outlets, appeared on a line of t-shirts, and even been tattooed on over 100 women in a fundraiser event in Minneapolis. If McConnell's goal was to silence Senator Warren and her message, his plan severely backfired.

I urge everyone reading this to read Coretta Scott King's letter. It is powerful, informative, and sadly topical, given Sessions' confirmation on February 8th.

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