



Philosophia Honors Society volunteers

Photos by Kalsi Johnson

Philosophia Honors Society Volunteers Visit WCC Children's Center

By Keira Ferretti

On October 26, the Philosophia Honors Society of WCC held an Autumn Harvest Celebration at the Virginia Marx Children's Center. With the help of the Center's Assistant Director Kalsi Johnson, ten members of the Society (board members Jessica Sabau, Michael Tetro, Carolina Mendoza, Alicia Greco and honors students Patrick Sullivan, Joshua Simmons, Santiago Urrutia, Martian Nychka, and David Wilsea) volunteered in an effort to bring



Kalsi Johnson

a fun fall experience to the children.

For nearly 40 years, the Virginia Marx Children's Center has given the young children of WCC faculty and students a safe place for fun and education on campus. The Center also serves as a lab school for WCC for college students to complete internships and observe children's behavior in order to complete their degrees.

The Philosophia Honors Society's liaison to the center, Kiarah Filippa-Kopoulos, said that the society's first event of the semester would be filled with fun for the children (and volunteers). A pumpkin patch with mini pumpkins was to be provided by a local farm enabling the kids to pick and decorate their own pumpkins. In addition, many artistic activities were planned, like leaf shading

and sensory tables. Volunteers hoped these activities would serve as a way for the children to get excited about their education and the fall season.

Both the Philosophia Honors Society and the Virginia Marx Children's Center are enthusiastic about continuing their relationship. Honor Society president Jessica Sabau

said "Prior to the pandemic, the previous Virginia Marx Children's Center liaison, Bianca Braun, initiated an event for the children to paint mini pumpkins for the fall season. We are excited to continue our collaboration by expanding on Bianca's work by introducing new activities that promote fine motor skills as well as creativity. It is an honor to



be able to further our relationship and hope the children enjoy what we have planned!"

The Society plans other campus-wide events including the upcoming How to Make an Effective Oral Presentation.

For more information on the Philosophia Honors Society, see Instagram @philosophiahonorsociety or email the Society president Jessica Sabau: at jsa-ba62610@my.sunywcc.edu.



EDITORIAL

A Message From the Editor

As the fifth anniversary of the #MeToo movement passes, I look at the world around me and can't help but wonder: Has anything changed?

The Me Too movement itself was founded in 2006, but the corresponding hashtag didn't start making waves until the fall of 2017. After going viral, #MeToo was used more than 12 million times within the first 24 hours and over 19 million times throughout the ensuing year.

Tarana Burke, the founder of the movement, had been moved to action in response to an encounter she had with a young girl named Heaven whom she worked with as a camp counselor. The young girl confided to Burke that she was being sexually abused. Due to past trauma of her own, Burke recommended Heaven seek help from a different counselor. All the while Burke wished that she

could voice the only two words that kept coming into her head: "Me too."

Meant as a way to bring resources and support to those who had experienced sexual harassment or assault, the Me Too movement made its way across the internet and started a revolution, with celebrities such as Alyssa Milano, Reese Witherspoon, and America Ferrera speaking out to support the cause.

The movement gained even more momentum after stars such as Salma Hayek, Lupita Nyong'o, Ashley Judd, Gwyneth Paltrow, Rose McGowan, Angelina Jolie, and many others came forward with allegations of sexual abuse and harassment against popular film producer Harvey Weinstein. After the Weinstein allegations other women and some men felt empowered enough to speak up about their own experiences, bringing to light sexual

misconduct throughout all facets of society. An overwhelming amount of these complaints originated in the workplace, with some #MeToo sayers feeling like their jobs would be on the line if they filed complaints against the perpetrators.

The movement has raised awareness of sexual abuse and harassment, and has even resulted in those who were found guilty of misconduct being removed from their positions of power. Unfortunately, however, as a member of the #MeToo movement, I have to say that we still have a long way to go.

In my own experience of sexual harassment in the workplace, I and several others filed reports on the misconduct of one individual. Rather than being removed or relocated, said individual was put into a position of even greater power.



Marygrace Orfanella, Editor-in-Chief, *The Viking News*

When companies respond in this way, they are not only undermining the safety of their workers but also showing a blatant disregard for anyone who is a survivor of abuse, assault, or harassment. The movement needs to take things a step further and begin exposing companies like this for the power-centric corporations they are who would

rather bury the complaints of the wounded than deal with the issue of assailants in their employ.

Focusing on individuals such as Harvey Weinstein is a big step towards resolution, but when corruption is shown to go deeper into society than just an individual, can we honestly say that we have made any progress?

Breast Cancer Awareness: Not Just Pink Ribbons

by Marygrace Orfanella

Breast Cancer Awareness Month gives us all a reminder to do self exams, get mammograms, and receive genetic testing to determine if we are at risk for breast cancer. A common misconception is that only women can get breast cancer. This is not true. Up to 1% of breast cancer diagnoses occur in men.

As they mature boys are not made aware of the fact that they too develop breast tissue, leading to fewer self checks and late diagnoses. Cancer in general is the second leading cause of death among women, while breast cancer is the most common and deadliest cancer among black women.

While there are multiple foundations that raise money for cancer research—Susan G. Komen being one

of the best known—there is still frighteningly little known about the causes and prevention of breast cancer among men. Why black women are more at risk than seemingly any other nationality is also a mystery.

Whatever your race, gender, or religion, make sure to check yourself regularly for any lumps, bumps, or differences to your breast tissue (including your underarm region).

Though young people are not diagnosed as often as middle aged and older folks, youth is not an automatic protector against breast cancer. Self-testing and medical check-ups are important at any age. And if you have a family history of breast cancer, talk to your doctor.

Today!



Submitted by Marygrace Orfanella

OPINION

November 18 Opening for *It's Hell Out There:* A Comedic Take on The Pandemic

by Daniel Charles



It's Hell Out There cast (foreground) and stage crew (background) preparing for rehearsal.

Photo by Daniel Charles

The fall production of the Viking Theatricals theater production group is a play called *It's Hell Out There* and is set to make its debut the weekend of November 18-20 in the Hankin Academic Arts Building theater. Described by theater professor Steven Riedel as "a post-apocalyptic, post-pandemic comedy," the stage narrative centers on unexpected hijinks that take place in a Covid-19 hellscape.

The cast and crew are currently meeting four times a week for rehearsals, which typically last about

two hours. The Viking News recently attended a rehearsal and asked stage manager Consuelo Madrigal about the play's storyline. "There's a lot of twists," she says. "When you catch covid, you turn into a demon." Madrigal went on to conceptualize the overall theme of the production as an allegory connecting to the feelings of ordinary people during the initial stages of the lockdown. It specifically focuses on the anxiety and frustrations of not knowing when things will go back to normal. "You wouldn't expect it to be this

funny," she says.

Madrigal went on to talk about her role in the production and the opportu-

nities offered by participation in Viking Theatricals. The responsibilities of a stage manager are extensive and necessary to produce a stimulating play. These duties include queuing sound and lighting during the production, establishing consistent lines of communication with the cast and crew, and sometimes editing parts of the script to improve the story. Despite not having any experience as a stage manager, Madrigal is "going in with a positive mindset," due largely in part to the director's active role in making sure the process goes as smoothly as possible.

Madrigal says that "a lot of people don't like to come to these kinds of theatre productions because they're

college-run." But Madrigal and her crew-mates clearly believe skeptics should not underestimate the tenacity and diligence of amateurs engaging in a field they're passionate about.

It's Hell Out There!

**Written and directed
by Joseph Riedel**

**Performances will be in
HAAB 232 on November
18, 19, & 20.
Fri/Sat @ 7PM,
Sunday @ 2PM
No reservations needed
Free and open
to the public**



Outside the entrance to the Hankin Academic Arts Building Theater

Photo by Daniel Charles

Don't Worry Darling Disappoints on so Many Levels

By Rilind Rugova

Don't Worry Darling, the new film directed by Olivia Wilde, is a psychological thriller starring Florence Pugh and Harry Styles. Released on September 23rd, 2022, the movie was notorious for an allegedly rocky production that caused the movie to trend on Twitter in the weeks before it was ever screened in theatres.

The drama surrounding the film started in September of 2020, when Harry Styles replaced Shia LeBeouf for the leading male role. As described by director Wilde, LeBeouf's behavior was combative. Wilde, in issuing a statement in the magazine *Vari-*

ety regarding her decision to replace Shia LeBeouf with Harry Styles, said "I believe that creating a safe, trusting environment is the best way to get people to do their best work. Ultimately, my responsibility is to the production and to the cast to protect them. That was my job." Pugh allegedly had issues with both LeBeouf and Wilde during filming— with a screaming match between director and actress happening on set.

Given all of this drama behind the scenes, audiences were very interested to see exactly what the excitement was about. What I saw upon exiting the mov-

ie theatre would shock just about anyone who's been following the story. Murmurs of "I can't believe I waited two years for that" and "The offscreen drama was more exciting than the movie" echoed through the hallways of the dusty theatre where I saw it.

The movie takes place in a company town located deep in the desert, presumably around the 1960s. The main character, Alice Chambers, played by Florence Pugh, finds herself in the same old routine: cooking and cleaning for her husband, Jack Chambers, played by Harry Styles. Jack, along with the rest

of the men in town, works for the mysterious company that runs the town. The nature of the townsmen's work remains shrouded in unknowns, which is of no concern to the workers' wives—except for Alice. Throughout the course of the film, Alice is determined to find out the truth behind her husband's job and the Southwestern town in which she resides— even if she is labeled a lunatic for her investigations.

The film was criticized for its pacing, writing, and Wilde's direction—receiving a rating of 38% on Rotten Tomatoes, and a score of 48 out of 100 on

Metacritic. Florence Pugh was not included in the bloodbath. Pugh is a standout in this film— her acting prowess is a sight to behold. If ever given the chance to watch one of her future projects, definitely do so! In the meantime, her performances in *Midsommar* and *Little Women* are must-watches. Harry Styles has been criticized for his performance in this film, and for good reason. His acting was at times uninspired and dull, and at worst, laughable. With more experience, he can probably become a better actor. Too late, unfortunately, to help *Don't Worry Darling*.

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Coloring Corner by Sorelle Marsh



Word Search Happy Halloween!

by Sorelle Marsh

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- Steven King Full Moon Jack-O'-lantern Trick or Treat
- Spooky Season Ghost Edward Scissorhands Haunted House
- Werewolf Black Cat Vampire Arachnid

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Viking News Staff to Attend College Journalism Conference

by Sara Szel-Molnar



Every year the College Media Association (CMA) Conference for college newspaper editors and staffers takes place in Washington D.C. For three days hundreds of college journalists come together to participate in lectures and panels and to listen to celebrity keynote speakers. As I write this, several members of the editorial board of The Viking News are anticipating a trip to D.C. the last weekend

of October to attend this year's conference.

Excitement is high because this year's keynote speakers are the journalistic legends Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, who broke the Watergate story that led to President Richard Nixon's resignation in 1974. They later co-wrote the classic *All the President's Men*. One of this year's attendees, Viking News photographer

Steven Garcia says, "CMA offers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to hear lectures from the famous Washington Post reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein."

As with any road trip, planning is essential. The paper's Editor in Chief (EIC), Marygrace Orfanello, who was also planning to attend the conference, gave me a behind the scenes look at the work that was required this year to prepare for CMA.

An important decision was picking the right candidates. "The biggest challenge that we face when planning a trip like this is deciding who gets to attend," she said. "This year interested students were required to write a short essay on why they wanted to go and what they hoped to learn at the conference."

Funding is also important, according to the EIC.

"Organizing funds was the second hardest part of planning the conference," she said. "WCC provides the experience all expenses paid, which means that The Viking News needs to budget meals, travel and lodging expenses for each student attending. We have to be cautious about how much money we spend on the conference because of the other events we have planned for the year."

CMA offers invaluable experiences for young journalists. Staff writer Daniel Charles explains why this is a great opportunity for him. "I believe there are some pieces of knowledge in every profession that you just can't internalize from reading a book; you have to go out into the field and collect that information through conscious experience. The CMA Convention presents an opportunity to meet like-minded, ambitious in-

dividuals who can advise and encourage me to pursue a certain type of journalism, which is a matter that I'm still undecided on. I'm an aspiring journalist, and I'd love nothing more than to spend time with my seniors in the field, asking them questions about their professional experiences and learning from the trials and tribulations that they've been through".

The CMA convention not only offers the chance to meet and learn from top journalists, but it also allows students from across the nation to network with each other and with professors, editors and lecturers who are presenters.

Your reporter is one of the eager young journalists who will be attending this convention. Look for a report on the actual meeting from all the WCC attendees in the next issue of The Viking News!

Everything You Always Wanted to Know About the Library (Well, Maybe Not Quite Everything)

by Shpat Gjonbalaj

I think it's safe to say that in every school, the library is a safe haven for many students. I spent a productive (and instructive) day at ours recently. The instructive part was thanks to Professor Don Simmons, Jr., who runs the Student Engagement Committee for the library. He helped answer a few questions I had: Things of the know-how variety, you could say. (Do facts about the library qualify as street cred?)

Found out about a few things I didn't know. Guessing most of you don't know about them either. Clearly not all of you, based on the students who I saw using the library the day I visited.

This one's especially for those who can't or won't pay for textbooks. In an attempt to help students, the library holds a course reserve collection, meaning

it holds textbooks that professors use in their courses. These books don't circulate (that is, they cannot leave the building). However, students can come to the front desk to borrow the textbook of their choice for two hours. I've been coming here for about a year now, and I never knew this was even a thing!

Another thing: Did you know the library is open to the public? Non-students can come and borrow books here. All you need is a membership from any library based in Westchester County. So we have some competition from our local collegians.

I originally came with the intention of figuring out what happened to the Virtual Reality (VR) system that people voted for last semester. If you don't know what I'm talking about, last semester there was a voting booth in the Student Center about what the school



Photo credit: Westchester Community College

should do to improve itself. Should the school get a new set of Mac computers for the tech building? Should they get a VR system for the library? Should the cafeteria get better food? Anybody who was headed for the cafeteria could see the white board with all the tallying clear as day. Most of the marks were for the VR system. The headsets won by a landslide.

Obviously, everyone voted for the headsets because firstly, it's cool; secondly, the opportunity

to play games at school was very inviting. This is not what their purpose is though, unfortunately. The accessibility of Virtual Reality opens a multitude of doors for educational purposes. It's not just WCC that is looking to implement VR, but colleges around the country as well. VR could help students in all kinds of subjects. One day a student can be in Egypt, excavating a dinosaur; the next they could be figuring out where the femur bone is.

Professor Simmons told

me all about this and more. He said the library is presently attempting to form a student focus group to help the library enhance their student services. For example, there are areas of the library that don't get as much traffic as they should. For example, right as you enter the library, behind the guard station to your left, there is a lounging area that is considered very outdated. It's still living in the 1980's, you might say, since that's how long it's been sitting there. The Library is trying to get people to start a dialogue about how the Library could better use its spaces. In case it's not clear, I vote for a VR system.

If you're interested in any of this, make sure to visit the library and ask around. There might even be a white board waiting for you to sign up for the focus group.

FEATURES

Halloween 2022: Chills and Laughs Mark This Year's Decorations

by Chumile Moyo

Halloween is no longer as American as apple pie. It is celebrated in many countries. When anyone says Halloween, the things that come to people's minds are costumes and decorations. It is during this time of the year that we start thinking about how we will dress up and how we will decorate our homes, schools, and offices for the Oct 31st holiday.

Good costumes and decorations are not just random; they need to be scary yet captivating. The most common decoration and sign of Halloween is

the pumpkin. Pumpkins are usually placed at people's doorsteps; sometimes they are just randomly placed on the yard.

Although they may be common, not everyone is fond of the pumpkin decorations. For some, pumpkins aren't scary enough; they may want to take the creepiness to another level. Skeletons tend to serve as some of the scariest things; not only are they strange to look at, but they remind us of death. However, they can also be funny. Lots of people try to show skeletons in humorous situations.



All photos by Chumile Moyo



Finally, what is Halloween without ghosts? Ghost decorations are a must on Halloween. You can fill your front yard with waving white sheets or create a little graveyard to make it even more obvious. Subtlety of either horror or humor is not wanted in Halloween decorations.

After decorating where you live, dress up in a costume on the 31st. Have a fantastic Halloween celebration!



Media Games Madness: An ITECH Interview

by Lucas Werner



Photo by Lucas Werner

When I started WCC in Fall 2020, I thought that straight-up art was going to be my golden ticket to the top. But instead of a fun-filled start to the next steps in my life, it turned into a dead end. I felt like I was trapped inside a canvas of misery. There I might have stayed until one lucky day I went to an info session on a new program being introduced at the college called ITECH. ITECH combines custom software with graphic arts, one of whose applications was computer animation for video games.

I thought my artistic talents could truly thrive in the world of gaming. This article is addressed to those students who might feel the same: It's a Viking News interview with a leader of the ITECH program, Prof. Deborah Krikun, Curriculum Chair of Interactive Technologies AAS in the School of Business and Professional Careers.

VN: How long has ITECH been around?

Krikun: The program was launched in Spring 2021."

VN: What inspired you to create this program?

Krikun: I was hired in fall 1997 for the Art and Design Department to be the digital media educator. As the internet, web, animation and game design field began to explode, the curriculum needed an associate degree program to support students who were interested in digital media skills. I was a fine art painter with a theatrical production minor during my undergraduate years at college. A computer science course introduced me to the concept that the computer is creative tool. That is how and why I came to study 3D animation and was fortunate enough to be employed by animation studios in Los Angeles.

VN: Which classes should students interested in animation take?

Krikun: ITECH offers students electives outside the ITECH foundation courses for 2D or 3D animation: They include drawing 1 and 2, experimental drawing, 2D animation, game design, digital storytelling, film visual effects and/or 3D visualization.

VN: Which classes should students specifically interested in game design take?

Krikun: In game design, the ITECH foundation courses cover the essential classes for a concept artist, level game designer or game producer. They are able to take electives such as ITECH 200 game design course, 3D visualization, computer science courses, digital storytelling, and film visual effects.

VN: Are there other careers besides gaming that ITECH is good for?

Krikun: The ITECH cur-

riculum serves all digital artists and designers for web design and development for both UX user experience and UI user interface design. It also supports digital marketing entrepreneurs, helping them to learn the skills to create digital media along with digital designs for package design, illustration, page layout and of course websites.

VN: Are there any clubs/events that are ITECH-related?

Krikun: Yes, ITECH's student club, New Media Group, has been playing video games every Wednesday 11am-1pm in the TEC Bldg Room 127 this year. In the future we have 10 Virtual Reality (VR) headsets and are ready to open up the VR for game playing for guests who drop in to play. We also will be doing some game design studio tours in New York City.

VN: What kind of intern-

ships are available in this program?

Krikun: The good news is that all digital creative skills will open the door for internships from business to non-profit organizations. What I have noticed is that most businesses are willing to pay \$15 an hour for an interns. I assist students in fine tuning their e-portfolios and resumes to help them find their internship.

This program has been a good fit for me. If any of you want to know more about it, contact Prof. Krikun at deborah.krikun@sunywcc.edu.



Professor Deborah Krikun

Credit: sunywccitech.org

Season Highlight for Men's Soccer: Victory Over Bronx Community

By Dani Colon

The Men's Soccer team ended the season with a disappointing loss to Nassau in the playoffs. But fans will remember many exciting moments in a roller coaster season. Perhaps leading the list is the team's Oct 4 victory over Bronx Community College, in which Westchester dominated from beginning to end.

In the beginning of the first period Westchester was quick to score a goal during the first few minutes. At nine minutes into the first period Bronx Community attempted to score but was thwarted by WCC goalie Nicholas Nunez. During those nine minutes a score was attempted by Westchester but was saved by Bronx community. By the 18th minute Westchester had a score of 3 as Bronx Community stayed at 0. At the 27th minute Westchester scored again and continued the lead 4-0. Going into 60



WCC Men's soccer player Exon Umanzor

{hoto credit: Dani Colon

minutes during the second period a corner kick by Freddy DePaz was followed by a shot that went wide left. Sixty-five minutes into the second period Alejandro Martinez scored a goal with

an assist by Romaine Swaby leaving the score 5-0 with Westchester in a commanding lead. It wasn't until 81 minutes into the second period that the Broncos scored a goal making the score

5-1. As the game was soon ending, shots were taken by Alejandro Martinez, Exon Umanzor and Alex Valdovinos. There was no score made; the game ended with Westchester winning 5-1.

Looking back on a season that ended with an 8-9 record, this was a victory that both the team and its fans could savor.

Comeback Spirit Takes Women's Volleyball To Winning Season



The sophomores of the Women's Volleyball team (Left to Right): Chidimma Chima, Angelarosa Garofalo, Mikaelyn Hannon, Ireana

Olivo, Isabella Mascucci.
By Dani Colon

On September 27 Westchester Women's Volleyball played against Dutchess Community College and took a loss, but came back with a decisive win against Rockland two weeks later. This is the kind of persistence that brought the

Lady Vikings to an 11-7 record for the season.

In the first set of the first game, it was 25-21 in favor of Dutchess as Westchester tried to keep up but Dutchess kept up their attacks. In the second set Dutchess again defeated Westchester with

the score of 25-16. The Lady Vikings fought tough to beat Dutchess and they succeeded by winning the third set with the score of 25-22. During the fourth and final set the Lady Vikings fought valiantly but Dutchess came up with sev-

eral kills. The final score of the set was 25-12, with the overall score being 3-1. However on October 11, the picture was reversed with a rousing win over Rockland Community College. This was the all pink game in honor of breast cancer

awareness. The Lady Vikings came on strong in the first set with 11 kills. Just as noteworthy, there was only one serve error made by the team. Westchester won the first set 25-20. In the second set Westchester struggled to keep up with Rockland, but in true Lady Viking fashion, in the last few minutes of the set Westchester made a comeback, winning 26-24. During the last set Gabriella Cresti Caetano took the lead with five aces making the final score in the third set 25-17. With the Lady Vikings wearing pink to support the fight against breast cancer, and having a big crowd cheering them on, they took the last game for a final victory of 3-0.

Guts and persistence was evident in the playing of these young women, making Women's Volleyball one of the WCC teams with a positive win-loss record for Fall 2022.

Photo credit: Dani Colon