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It's Not Your Father's WCC!

Post-Pandemic Interview with the President

By Keira Ferretti

Dr. Belinda S. Miles has been president of Westchester Community College for eight years and oversees all administration, operational and strategic work that goes on at WCC. At the end of this semester, Dr. Miles reached out to The Viking News with an update about her role, classes, and the state of the school in a post-pandemic era.

Since the start of the pandemic, many schools across the nation have held an increasing number of online classes, and WCC is no exception. This has raised the question whether online education, at any institution, is of the same quality as in-person classes. Dr. Miles has been and continues to be confident in the abilities of WCC's faculty to provide quality education, no matter the method in which it is received.

One thing that WCC is focusing on is accessibility, according to Dr. Miles. Online classes are one way of making it easier for students to get an education, as well as opening extension centers in places like Peekskill, Ossining, Mount Vernon, White Plains, and the expansion of the site in Yonkers, whose ribbon-cutting had recently taken place.

"That was a wonderful occasion and we're really excited by the growth we've had in Yonkers and the fact we've

"We have to have more flexible scheduling and better tools for enrolling students to make the process simpler for them."



Dr. Belinda Miles

Photo: SUNY WCC
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SGA Forms Ad Hoc Financial Aid Research Committee

By Luis Granados

(Editor's note: The writer is a member of SGA and one of two students currently representing the student body in the Faculty Senate.)

Obtaining financial aid has historically been a stressful process for students, particularly those who completely depend on this aid to complete their education. In order to help these students the Student Government Association (SGA) recently decided to take action on this significant issue. As a first step, an ad-hoc committee has been formed to investigate how the SGA can help. The committee is known as the Financial Aid Research Committee.

The committee's mission is twofold: 1) to create more opportunities for

students; and 2) to improve accessibility to the financial aid process.

With regard to increased opportunities, the committee is currently working towards implementing the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP), a New York State-funded program already in place in other SUNY schools that aims to increase the number of under-represented students in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) and licensed professional careers. CSTEP provides academic and group support to such students and offers the resources needed to help them reach their goals. Moreover, the guidance that the program provides to students helps them find



Photo by Luis Granados

internships and research opportunities. These are benefits that few community colleges can offer. Among these benefits is access to preparation for students planning to attend graduate or other professional schools. Overall, the SGA leadership has judged that CSTEP would be a highly beneficial program with a

mission that closely resembles that of Westchester Community College.

With regard to improved accessibility, the committee has observed problems being experienced by the student body. In fact, these problems are not confined to financial aid; they extend to the school's online resources. SGA has discovered that

many WCC students are frustrated when they try to find answers to important questions online. Many find themselves more lost than before they attempted to use the WCC online resources. For example, the pandemic has changed some things around campus, but the college's website still has not been fully updated on these

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It's Not Your Father's WCC

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been able to respond by making more opportunities for WCC education available in that area," said Dr. Miles at the ribbon-cutting of the newly expanded Yonkers campus.

Since before the pandemic, the number of students enrolling at WCC has been declining. In the 2017-2018 academic year, enrollment was at 12,571. The following year, it was at 11,535. According to Dr. Miles, enrollment goes up and down in higher education and community colleges are no exception.

"One of the trends I've seen over several decades as a community college administrator and faculty member is that periods of time when there are robust opportunities in the economy often draw students away from their studies or has them take fewer credits," said Dr. Miles. "We recognize that we have to make some adjustments because of these shifts. We have to have more flexible scheduling and better tools for enrolling students to make the process simpler for them."

To increase access, the college has invested in 'College Scheduler,' a plat-

form that allows students to easily identify their courses and build convenient schedules. Time and work has also gone into factoring in the growth of online classes, while making sure that students who want to study on campus can do so, as well as offering online classes during the evening hours or weekends to address adult markets.

"A lot of adjustments are being made to ensure that we can meet students where they are as best we can and be as many things to as many people as we can as they're trying to pursue an education," said Dr. Miles. "We want them to be full-time students, but that's not the reality of their complex lives. With lots of student-parents and student-veterans, flexibility is needed."

Westchester Community College is SUNY's first Hispanic Serving Institution, which means that over 25% of the student body is of Hispanic descent. WCC reached this status in 2014, and now over 40% of students are of Hispanic descent. The president is very proud to uphold this government designation and to be able to support the Hispanic

"A lot of adjustments are being made to ensure that we...be as many things to as many people as we can as they're trying to pursue an education."

community. Programs at WCC like LatinXcellence are one of these ways. Although at first unfamiliar, Dr. Miles was willing to learn. After some research, she reached back out to *The Viking News* and said:

"The LatinXcellence program at SUNY Westchester is one of several initiatives underway to connect more meaningfully with our increasingly diverse student body. The program is based on a 'cultural wealth' model that

honors strengths of students from diverse backgrounds and helps us provide them with more relevant and targeted support. Assistant Director of Student Involvement, Juan-Carlos Pineiro has indicated that plans are underway to expand the successful LatinXcellence model to other groups possibly as soon as spring 2023."

Dr. Miles is focused on reducing the financial barriers to WCC, as well as supporting staff teams who help guide students through their curriculum using Guided Pathways, as well as making New Student Orientation mandatory where it was optional before.

"We also have a first-year seminar now that has grown over the past three or four years since it was conceived," Dr. Miles said. "Students are also accumulating more credits within their programs of study, so they are getting to their degrees quicker. So, we've doubled the graduation rate since I've been here and that's really exciting."

An idea Dr. Miles lives by is from academic and business consultant Clayton Christensen that community colleges act "as a disruptive innovation in academia that



fosters an equitable and inclusive democracy." Dr. Miles feels that community colleges are disrupting the elitism and exclusivity prevalent in higher education by providing affordable and accessible education for all.

"SUNY Westchester Community College is a wonderful place to come and learn and explore items of interest to a range of individuals" Dr. Miles said at the conclusion of the interview "We are a nurturing and welcoming environment. We certainly seek to be that to students who come here and for our employees to ensure that we can have robust teaching and learning take place so people can stay on track with their goals. We want people to be able to step into the careers or the advanced education that they set out for. Our focus is to be the best institution that we can be to meet those individuals' needs and the needs of the regional businesses and employers who are counting on us."

SGA Forms Ad Hoc Financial Aid Research Committee

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changes. The Financial Aid Research Committee, I can report, has decided to tackle this issue by reviewing the college's current financial aid website. The members will divide the task and will be looking for anything that does not correlate with current financial aid proce-

dures, including the organization of the website and any non-functioning links. The committee expects that a successful pursuit of these goals will impact both current and future students in a highly favorable way. The CSTEP program would provide students with opportu-

nities not previously available. The program would not only help students who plan to pursue a career in the STEM field, but would also incentivize others who might have an interest in STEM-related fields but never have had the opportunity to learn more about

them. Additionally, the revision of the financial aid website would help numerous students find what they are looking for much faster. The organization of the website and the removal of nonfunctioning links would positively impact the community.

This has been an interim report to the WCC community about the mission of the SGA Financial Aid Research Committee. We conclude by saying: Stay tuned!

Rescuing God From Religion

By Daniel Charles

Religion has been a seemingly permanent fixture within human society since the genesis of civilization. Every culture around the world has developed a reverence for the gods of their choosing. Ideologies were built around the appeasement of these gods who were perceived to dictate the fate of humanity. In a modern context, the institution of religion is still a force to be reckoned with, but more people are straying away from the confines of religious doctrine in pursuit of personal spirituality.

It is increasingly acceptable for a person to believe in deities without conforming to all of the traditions and behavioral rules cited within those deities' holy books or the man-made structures that have grown up around them. Nuance has found its way into religious practice, and has developed its own cult following.

Stephen Han, an instructor of Accounting and



Prof. Stephen Han WCC

Finance at WCC, is the advisor of the Bible Study Club which meets on Thursdays from 6-7 PM in Room 307 in the Classroom Building (Hybrid in-person/zoom sessions). Han was willing to have an open conversation about his interpretations of the Christian belief system. When asked about his feelings towards people of other faiths, he presented an analogy. Han stated, "There's a big thirst to know a standard or a presence be-

yond the human realm. It's insatiable... I believe we have God at the top of the mountain, and I may choose to walk on the Southeast side of the mountain, but I'm still trying to get to the top. Some people might climb from the Northeast side of the mountain, which might not necessarily be my path, but we're all still trying to get to the top of the mountain." Han's answer is in direct contrast to that of religious fundamentalists, who don't accept, much less tolerate, those of more flexible religious persuasions.

Han discourages the old way of relaying Biblical teaching that so many people have experienced. "It's almost like people are scared into doing good. It's like an old Christian adage that 'you have to believe in Jesus or else you're going to hell'. That's not the way the message is supposed to be portrayed. The message is that if you have God in your heart, the good automati-

cally comes out." When asked about his experience being a Christian, Han replied, "It's a never-ending process. No matter how much you think you know, you're always learning every day... As I'm more aware of my deficiencies, I become more aware of God's strengths every day."

Han displays a sense of humility and humanity when conversing about his relationship with god.

He represents a set of believers who do not wish to force anyone into their religion, but instead use their faith as motivation to be kind to people. Faith is not necessarily defined by rigid adherence to codes promoted by specific scriptures contained in the Bible, Quran, Torah, Bhagavad Gita, Dhammapada, or others. Faith can be entirely based around the desire to love and respect the people who inhabit the earth with us.



Photo by Chumile Moyo

Latinx instead of Latino/Latina?

WCC says "Si, Si!"

By Daniel Charles

One way to welcome marginalized people into a formerly hostile, mainstream society is to change aspects of previously exclusive language to convey a sense of belonging within these groups. The term Latinx attempts to make sure non-binary individuals within the Latin American community are included in references to that community.

It is important to recognize that context determines the meaning of a word, and that words in similar contexts may have important distinctions between them. For example, Hispanic and Latino/a are often used interchangeably in colloquial settings, but they do have an underlying difference from a historical standpoint. According to Juan-Carlos Piñero, the Assistant Director of Student Involvement

for Leadership and Multicultural Programs, "The term Hispanic is more embracing of Spanish heritage whereas Latino/a includes both the African and Indigenous heritage." The terminology of Latino/a was used to showcase solidarity between the Spanish, African, and Indigenous communities. Latinx attempts to build that same connection, but with other gender identities that are excluded from the male-female binary presented in the terms Latino and Latina. It acts as another stepping stone towards the goal embodied in those new watchwords diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).

Regarding the use of Latinx on campus, Piñero says that "... Latinx is another term to intentionally identify oneself and others, and is not intended nor

meant to erase other identifiers such as Hispanic, Latino, Latina, etc." Latinx presents another avenue of identification for those who feel the word represents them; it is not a leftist ploy to force progressivism onto traditionally conservative people. It is another option to communicate one's racial and gender identities simultaneously, and its use should be free from moral judgments. Those who use the term are not overly sensitive, SJW crybullies. Those who use a more traditional identifier are not insensitive, far-right bigots. It simply boils down to personal preference.

A second year health science student at WCC (who chose to remain anonymous) had this to say about the topic: "I feel that the term 'Latinx' is an in-

clusive term for some precariously situated people in the Latino community. Because the terms used to describe things usually fall under either feminine or masculine terms, it can be good to have a gender inclusive term to make all people feel included." Another sophomore at WCC, Yaira Rodriguez (Liberal Arts in Math and Science) commented, "I support the term 'Latinx' because it is more inclusive to those in our community that are gender non-conforming. I think it's important to make them feel more included in the Latin community. As Latinos, we are one of many, so it is important we stay open minded about inclusion."

Regarding whether WCC would stop using Latinx on official newsletters and posters if most students

denounced the term, Piñero said, "If students stood in solidarity, followed grievance processes in place and made valid points, changes could be made if deemed necessary by involved parties." The collective perspective of WCC's student body plays an active role in shaping student life. Opponents of the term have a right to petition against the use of it if they do find it offensive or oppressive. But given the arguments in favor of Latinx, the creation of credible counterpoints seems highly unlikely.



Juan-Carlos Piñero WCC

EDITORIAL

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Weekly meetings are open to all students and staff on Mon 4 p.m. in STC Room 111.

As the holidays come upon us and the semester comes to a close, many students are feeling stressed. As a student who has struggled with mental health most of my life I've decided to share some tips and tricks I've learned along the way.



Cramming for finals is never fun and can send your brain into overdrive. Make sure you take a break to eat, hydrate, and just relax. Reward yourself between topics with an episode of your favorite show, a podcast, or my personal favorite an impromptu dance party.

Just moving around for a few minutes can help reduce your stress, wake you up and keep you alert enough to memorize facts!

If you are having trouble balancing the costs of classes and holiday shopping, remind yourself that it's okay to let kind words and a helpful action be a gift rather than something from the store. Chances are that the person you can't afford a present for is having the same issue!

Sometimes being around so many people for the holidays can be a stress-

or, so set boundaries. If you don't want to go to a party then don't go. Your mental health is more important than making an appearance around people you either don't know, don't like, or who don't respect you.

Most important of all is to keep in mind that help is available. The suicide rates increase around the holidays every year. Whether due to financial stress, family stress, or other outside factors, it is important to be aware that not everyone shares the same holiday spirit that you do and pressuring someone can do more harm than good.

Maybe you know someone who lost a friend or family member during the holiday season. Rather than

expecting them to don their antlers and party, take the time to ask them if they'd like to share a story about their loved one, or see if they would rather enjoy a quiet night in.

If you or someone you know is struggling this holiday season, know that there is help. Reach out to the resources around you such as the WCC Dept of mental health and counseling services, or a suicide hotline. If you or someone you know is in immediate danger call 911.

Enjoy the holidays and enjoy setting healthy boundaries!

Marygrace Orfanella
Editor-in-Chief

Word Search Puzzle Honoring Veterans

By Sorelle Marsh

Find and circle each of the words from the list below. Words may appear forwards or backwards, horizontally, vertically or diagonally in the grid.

- Ordnance**
- Lieutenant**
- Artillery**
- Soldier**
- Colonel**
- Army**
- Navy**
- Air National Guard**
- Sergeant**
- Cavalry**
- Infantry**
- America**
- Marine**
- Rifle**

X	O	I	C	H	O	P	E	Y	F	M	U	N	E	S	E	L	I
J	S	J	Z	D	Z	Y	D	M	Q	W	I	M	N	U	F	T	J
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D	P	K	F	E	R	S	R	T	N	R	L	Y	F	E	Y	E	I
C	T	U	V	F	O	L	E	E	G	Z	N	O	E	L	T	O	U
U	I	R	M	O	M	N	C	E	K	D	U	M	N	M	E	R	F
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G	A	C	E	E	K	Q	A	Y	I	D	Q	E	B	P	X	C	A
A	C	I	R	E	M	A	U	U	R	E	I	D	L	O	S	E	F
C	E	I	C	G	Y	R	E	L	L	I	T	R	A	N	H	L	N
D	R	A	U	G	L	A	N	O	I	T	A	N	R	I	A	Y	I

Glitz and Glam Light Up Annual Drag Show

By Daniel Charles

There was no shortage of sequins, mascara, split skirts, cheek, and chic on the stage of the Hankin Academic Arts Building Theatre the afternoon of Nov 3 as a parade of outrageously costumed performers graced WCC's Tenth Annual Drag Show, sponsored by GLOW.

Headlining the show was Aja LaBeija, billed simply as Aja, a celebrated drag queen and rapper known for her appearances on RuPaul's Drag Race



Evangeline

programs, but a goodly number of other spectacularly bedecked personalities shared the stage before a small but highly appreciative audience.

The show was scheduled to start at 4 PM but was delayed for thirty minutes by what Dana Hirsch, one of the advisers of GLOW, identified as technical problems with the sound. "Drag shows never start on time," Hirsch told the forgiving audience. A scheduled intermission was cut from the show to accommodate the theater's busy schedule of performances.

Despite the late start, the performers were willing to stay till the last minute to interact with their fans, posing for pictures and answering questions about their personal and professional experiences.

The audience erupted in cheers as Aja, a popular contestant on season

9 of RuPaul's Drag Race, stepped out to MC and performed the first act of the evening. Aja went for a punk look and wore a green wig in a bob, all black suit jacket, boots, a leather skirt, and chain mail. She began the show by rapping an original song with a mid-performance dance solo and ended the show



Venus

with a lip-sync performance of a Whitney Houston number. In between her sets, drag performers Mauve, Evangeline, Venus, and Pentagonam Patty showcased their talents without any major props, decorations, or lighting. First-time Drag performer Pentagonam Patty is currently a WCC student. Venus is an alum who expressed their enthusiasm to visit the college again.

The themes and emotions for each performance varied widely, from Mauve stripping out of a nun costume into lingerie to Evangeline performing her satirical sketch highlighting the detriments of "Rainbow Capitalism" (when corporations use queerness for brand recognition and product/service advertisements).

During the Q&A, the performers were asked about their personal feelings on Drag. Venus described Drag as "a form of expression. Drag can be anything,



Aja

everything, and nothing at the same time." Aja chimed in with "Every word, every face, every emotion is a performance." Evangeline said that Drag was a form of "Queer Mythology... A Pantheon of larger-than-life entities... Drag is how stories are told in the Queer community."

Photos by Daniel Charles



READ, You Animals!!

By Shpat Gjonbalaj

What a wonderful semester for book lovers! The spirit of literature (As in "What's your favorite book?") looms in the hidden shadows of the college community, while the perils of another kind of book—textbooks—are out in the open for everyone to see, challenging the entire student body (even the smart ones).

For those of you who didn't read our story about it in the first issue (and by the way, what's THAT all about? Haven't I made it clear you guys are supposed to READ this damn paper? I'm taking names.), we have a Great Books Forum on campus that meets three times a semester. All the selections share a common theme. In the words of the presenters from the English Department (Profs. Centrone and Ellis): "All forums will be held

during the 11am common hours on select Wednesdays in the Library" Put this in the hidden shadows category, which is too bad.

This semester, the book forum chose the theme of queerness in British literature. I can report on the first two forums. The third will be held on Dec 7

"The Picture of Dorian Gray" (1890) by Oscar Wilde was the first book introduced to this semester's lectures. Held on October 12. Wilde was an Irish poet and playwright who was sent to prison for homosexual activity. The novel is his only one, and is about a painter who just so happens to be gay, and their struggles within Victorian England. I personally enjoyed this lecture.

"Orlando" by Virginia Woolf (1928) was the second book this semester. Held on November 9. Woolf is a famous English writer,

with a considerable oeuvre to her name. (Look it up.) Orlando is about a man turning into a woman halfway through the story, and that person's other bizarre experiences.

The third forum will be held on Wednesday December 7 from 11am-12:30pm. "Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit" by Jeanette Winterson (1985) will be discussed. It's a Young Adult book about a character growing up queer.

I urge you to participate in this final forum, as books are historically the world's most respected expression of thought. Also, you'll get a free book. Also also, I won't be the only one sitting amongst a group of old people (no offense to old people).

The Book Forum isn't the only thing trying to elevate us around here. One of our own faculty, Judy Marano, recently published

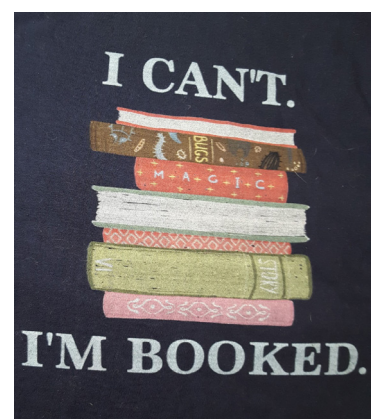
a book called "Words Matter". Describing herself as a mother, educator, and coach, Marano defends the title of her book by saying "change the words if you want to change the dynamic." She held a reading on November 17 and answered a slew of questions.

Just for the hell of it, I asked her a question myself. "How would you feel if someone told you words don't matter?" She didn't hear me at first, so I had to repeat myself. But the instant she heard me she said "It'd be on sight!" while clenching her fists with great passion (and good humor).

It's warming to the soul when you interact with someone like that. It gives you a breath of fresh air you didn't know you needed. I can get so lost in my own world, that I can forget to smell the roses. What good is the human experience if

you don't take care of yourself? (Oops! Did I just get sincere? I guess words do matter.)

Hopefully next semester the "Great Books Forum" will return. Hopefully this cool and looming spirit I notice roaming through the campus shadows will come into the light and grow stronger. The campus does reside within Valhalla, after all, a land laced with gold. Just look around my friends.



FEATURES

How to Write Good Storylines for Video Games

By Lucas Werner



The storyline is one of the biggest parts of any video game. Storylines have a recipe to follow, just like any freshly made dish. As with any recipe, a good storyline requires attention to each of its ingredients. What are these ingredients? Here are the main ones:

1. World-building

When building your story for any book, novel or game, geography and topography might be among the first things to consider, since you'll have a range of ideas to work with, such as cities, continents, history, territorial conflict, and others. The unique world of the game will serve as a guideline for your characters' backstories, as well as for any possible future installments of the game. World-building requires time and heavy thinking.

2. Character Creation

Characters, whatever their function (protagonist, antagonist, or otherwise), may serve as your most important asset. Depending on the amount of effort put into their creation, you might end up with a game that rocks or one that bombs. When creating these indi-



Blank screen waits to be filled by gamemaker

Photo by Lucas Werner

viduals, first consider their history: What environment did they grow up in? Were there any positive/negative life-changing events in their pasts? What is their personality? Then, ask what are their unique skills--these may be used for game mechanics. Lastly, what do they look like, based on the previously mentioned factors?

3. Writing the Grand Storyline

Creating the overarching conflict that's going to drive the game is challenging because it requires tying in to the World Design without revealing the entire storyline all at once, but revealing

bits of the conflict here and there. This is done by asking things such as what are the main characters' roles, what is the history of the nations that may or may not be in conflict, and so on. Alternating between close-ups of the characters and story events would be a good way to go about things.

4. Writing the Game Story

Next, take a bit from each step and develop the in-game story and dialogue. Make sure that the story moves forward, that it reveals something of one or more characters, and that it's easy to follow.

5. Storyboarding

This part requires drawing skill. It's useful to make sure that the cutscenes (if any) communicate clearly. Cutscenes are narrative-driving scenes that the player can't control.

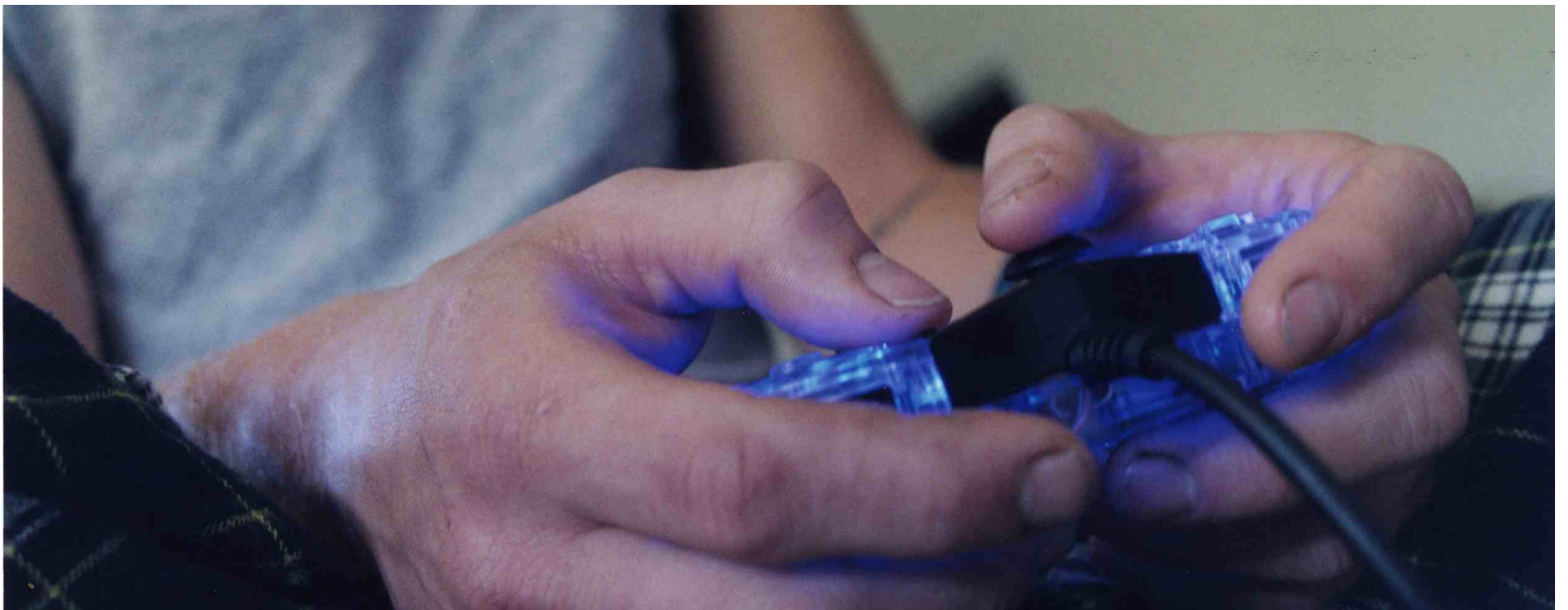
6. Implementing the Story In-Game

After getting through all that hard work, it's time to mix and match the game mechanics with the narrative in a way that's appropriate to the theme/genre you want the game to have. This is done by arranging multiple elements: the game's cutscenes, environment, enemies, allies, exclusive content, and more.

7. Iterating

This is sometimes the tedious part of storymaking: Revising your work. This is done after the previous six steps are completed, where you change minor details here and there from the beginning to the end, making sure the work is original.

And that's how you write a video game storyline. Writing your own story takes time and effort; a few extra hands wouldn't hurt. I speak from experience, as I am currently at work on a new game myself. If anyone would like to know more about the process, I can be reached through The Viking News.



VISIONARY

Images That Answer a Crucial Question: Who Am I?

By Jessica Sabau

President of Philosophia Honors Society

The Philosophia Honors Society held a Visual Art Exhibit Nov 9 in the Honors Lounge of the Library (LIB 320). Selected Honors students presented their artwork, which focused on the theme of self-expression. Photographs and paintings demonstrating personal identity were displayed around the room and discussed by the audience. Through their works, the artist presenters explained how their various techniques had progressed over time through experiments with different angles

or lighting for photography, and different mediums or styles for drawing. The exhibit demonstrated that every person has their own values and aspirations that move them to fight for what they believe in. Many times, words are not enough to express the emotion or message we want to share with the world. It is vital that we appreciate and acknowledge such artwork, which serves as a catalyst for hope in times of trouble.

Three of these works are presented here, with descriptions by the artists.



Mary Whelan

“Papa”, colored pencil on paper, October 2021

The man featured in the drawing is my Grandpa, who I liked to call Papa growing up. Papa was a veteran who had fought in the Korean War, a strong man whose mind slowly began to drift away as a result of Alzheimer's. Unfortunately, he passed away in 2018. With this piece, I wanted to capture who he was and the effects of Alzheimer's disease. In the

drawing, he appears to not be all there, gazing away from the viewer seemingly lost in his own head. The multitude of colors helps to represent his confusion about reality. The grayed-out American flag in the background, with the word “Hero”, refers to the time he spent in the army. Even with his confusion with his memories, he would still tell stories about his time

in the war as if it was yesterday. Not only was he a hero, but he was a father to three kids. The hand on his left shoulder belongs to his only son, while the woman to his left is his youngest daughter. Finally, he wears a hat that says “I'd rather be in my garage.” He was almost never seen without a hat, and could almost always be found in his garage by himself relaxing.



Markian Nychka

“Ukrainian Girl”, Times Square, NY, 3/26/22

The image captures a Ukrainian protester in Times Square during a snowstorm wrapped in a Ukrainian flag. Seen on her head is a “вінок” (vinok). This was taken during a protest dedicated to all of the mothers of Ukraine who put their children first, protected their families, and showed tremendous strength. These protests, specifically in NYC (but have been occurring worldwide), have been happening weekly for the last 8

months. I've been fortunate enough to attend, document, and share them with the world. Both through the 501c (3) non profit Razom For Ukraine, and my own personal social media outlets. This image, and the countless others, and videos I've created, ai to capture the world's attention, spread awareness, positivity, and ultimately raise donations for those on the front lines.



Santiago Urrutia

“Baby Blue”, Galápagos Islands, Summer 2018

On the left is a male Blue-footed Booby in the process of feeding its juvenile female offspring. Their

iconic blue feet are used to help attract the attention of potential mates, (and many tourists), and they actually

use their feet to keep their eggs warm instead of sitting on them like other birds.

A Special Win for Men's B-Ball Team in Johnny Jones Tip-off Tournament

By Dani Colon

The Men's Basketball team's 80-73 win against Hostos Community College early in the season was especially sweet for two reasons.

One, it was a first win for new Head Coach Andre Pennicooke; two, it took place during the Johnny Jones Memorial Tip-off Tournament honoring the longtime WCC sports announcer who died last year. According to gowccvikings.com, "Johnny Jones spent more than 30 seasons as the voice of Vikings Basketball, calling hundreds of games as Westchester CC's Public Address Announcer. A Westchester CC Hall of Famer, Jones touched the lives of student-athletes, coaches, staff, and even game officials with his passion for Vikings athletics, booming voice, and radiant personality that made him the most beloved figure in the gym, regardless of who was playing."

The game began with a lot of action without much scoring. In the first quarter with 19 minutes remaining



WCC's Men's Basketball player Chase Woney

Photo by Dani Colon

Yave Cruz attempted a shot and was assisted by Edward Beqiri for an early Vikings lead of 2-0. This was followed by two turnovers by Kishaun Cole and Edward Beqiri. A steal by Beqiri but a missed three point by Yave Cruz. A layup by Hostos's Justice Carrington brought the score to 2-2. Later, Hostos was in the lead 5-3, but the Vikings made a come-

back with a layup by Jonathan Rodriguez. The lead went back and forth between the teams. However, with 16 minutes and 22 seconds left in the first half Hostos took the lead again, with the score being 7-5. The Vikings were struggling to keep up until a shot by Omar Nikonde tied the game. A three-pointer by Trevor Mooney for the

Vikings put them in the lead 10-7, but this was immediately matched by Hostos making the game tied once again. Whenever the Vikings were in the lead Hostos managed to get shots right after and tied the game multiple times.

The pattern continued in the second half. The Vikings fought hard to keep the lead, but Hostos also

fought hard and kept the game tied whenever Westchester scored, until the closing minutes of the second half, when the Vikings took a commanding lead, with Joshua Alexandre making the last layup for a final score of 80-73.

The Vikings have a win-loss record of 2-5 at press time.

WCC Athletics Kicks off Basketball Season With "Viking Madness"

By Dani Colon

WCC's own version of B-ball madness was a gala mixture of the men's and women's basketball teams in both single and team competitions.

It all happened October 26 when both men's and women's basketball teams engaged in skills competitions: 3-point long shots and a dunk contest. Later the two teams played against each other, with one team wearing the home jersey and the other wearing the away jersey. The game was split up, with the 1st and 3rd quarters being played by the women's team and the 2nd and 4th being played by the men's team. Viking Madness was filled with music and a festive atmosphere, which seemed to help both teams up their games.

With both teams being encouraged by the audience

and each other by spirited teamwork, the enthusiastic

response of Viking Madness spectators seemed to

promise a great start to the school's basketball season.



WCC women's basketball players Mylene Smith and Adriana McFadden

Photo by Dani Colon