

# The Viking News

Fall 2022 Issue 1 September 28, 2022

Valhalla, NY

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## WE'RE BACK!

### Festive Events Mark Full Return to Campus



Photo by Shpat Gjonbalaj

by Marygrace Orfanella

Two recent events, both held on the sun-drenched lawn of the Student Center Building, demonstrate that WCC, often described as a “ghost campus” during the COVID crisis, has energetically come back to life.

Every semester, the Department of Student Involvement (DSI) hosts a Student Involvement Fair to showcase extracurricular campus clubs. The

Fall '22 event was held on Wednesday Sept 14 during the 11am—1pm common hour. Over forty clubs and organizations set up tables to greet both new and returning students and welcome them to join their groups.

Among these clubs were the Tier 1 student organizations, which include the Westchester Event Board (also known as

WEB), The Viking News, POWER 88.1 (the WCC radio station) and the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. According to DSI leaders, these organizations, whether a club or Tier 1, give students the opportunity to learn leadership skills, make friends and future connections, and most importantly allow them to have fun.

The Fair also gives



Photo by Jackson Byrnes



Photo by Shpat Gjonbalaj

potential new clubs the opportunity to make a list of those who may be interested in helping a club get started. Two of the potential clubs at this semester's Fair include the Crochet Club and the MMA Club.

Supporters of extracurricular activities who urge students to take advantage

of what WCC has to offer point out that the clubs lend themselves to maintaining an open and diverse campus community. Clubs such as GLOW which is WCC's resident LGBTQIA+ club, the Gaming Guild, the Mandarin Club, the Christian

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# NEWS

## Looking for an On-Campus Job? The WCC Cafeteria Needs You

by Chumile Moyo

The Dining Services Department is facing a serious shortage of employees. Both Crema Cafe and Viking Cafe are busy places even under normal circumstances, but students are now facing longer lines than usual because there are fewer workers to serve them.

“We have about 11 steady employees and to run the operation effectively we need about 18,” says the Director of Dining Services Donald Hennessy. Six people can make a remarkable difference, he says. “There is a limit to the amount of food that can be produced and put out simply because of the constraints on time

and the hours of service. The day is really condensed into the hours of 9:30 to 1:30 or 2:00.”

Working at a food service department is generally very demanding, but the current situation is considered extreme. As a result, the employees at Viking Café report experiencing massive workloads. Mornings are when the demand is greatest, so that is usually the busiest time for both the production staff and the cashiers.

Everyone has learned to practice multitasking. Cashiers might have to work on production at some point, while chefs and other production team



Dining Services employee at work members sometimes have to help with cleaning up and other tasks. Even the boss has had to pitch in. Hennessy says he has had more face time with guests than ever before.

Crema coffee shop also needs more employ-

ees. Students have been applying, but it seems their class schedules are not permitting them to take jobs since the busiest work hours are between 9am and 1pm—busy class times as well. The department clearly needs em-

ployees with flexible schedules.

The Dining Services department has plans to expand the hours Siegel Café is open to later in the evenings and possibly Sundays. However that won't be possible until there is enough staff. “More staff are needed in all three locations,” says Hennessy, “and even for doing events like catering services on campus, which pull everybody away from the main cafeteria.”

Hennessy urges student, including international students, to apply for these open positions. For more information, contact Donald Hennessy at donald.hennessy@sunywcc.edu.

## New Yonkers Campus Opens

by Sorelle Marsh

The new Yonkers campus, located in the Cross County Shopping Center, is now operational. Occupying the top floor of a new Target store (formerly Sears) within the Center, the campus is three times larger than the previous Yonkers extension site facility. The campus, which is open six days a week, Monday-Saturday, has a spacious welcome lobby with a one-stop support desk for students and visitors.

“I think that Yonkers is an excellent choice as it is close to major highways and public transportation.” Said Dr. David Fritz, Senior Adjunct Professor of the English Department who currently teaches at the Yonkers campus. There are 140 class options available to students, many of them the same as on the main campus, offering students from the Bronx and southern Westchester an alternate location closer to their homes. According to Joseph Cooke, director of the Yonkers campus, the new facility is cutting-edge. It has two workforce training labs, 10 standard classrooms and two instructional computer labs, a multi-use science lab, and various other features.

Director Cooke also helped to start the Yonkers Student Activity Council, or Y.A.C, which offers many extra-



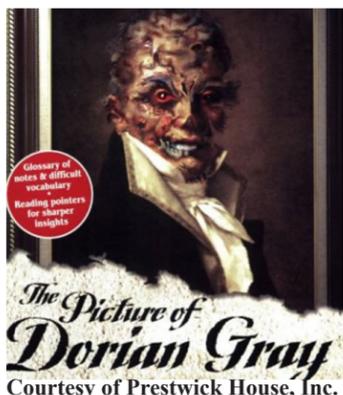
The new Yonkers Campus site

Photo by Steven Garcia

curricular activities for students and is a great leadership learning tool that provides experience with teamwork and communications. Y.A.C celebrates different cultures with events, and helps students stay connected with the college. Amoon Khrisat is the current student leader of the council and can be contacted for more information.

Overall, the Yonkers Campus has many convenient advantages like lots of restaurant choices, a movie theater, many retail shops, including the largest Target in the tri-state area, which can be a huge benefit to busy students commuting from many different areas.

## “Great Books” Returns in New Student-Friendly Format



Courtesy of Prestwick House, Inc.

The Great Books Discussion Forum is returning this year in a new time and place. According to Prof. Brian Centrone, Great Books Co-director along with Prof. Casey Ellis, “We have made some significant changes to the program so that it is more student focused.” Instead of evening discussions, sessions

will take place during the Wednesday common hour. The location will be the Library Atrium.

Centrone and Ellis, both members of the English Department, have chosen a theme for this semester's three discussions: Queerness in British literature. As the program's announcement states, “Despite

centuries of repression, the history of LGBTQ+ authors and books is a long and rich one.”

The first forum is scheduled for Oct 12 at 11am. Ellis will lead a discussion of the iconic novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde. Two discussions will complete the Fall program:

- Wed Nov 9 11am *Orlando* (1928) by Virginia Woolf, led by Prof. Jessica Tagliaferro
- Wed Dec 7 11am *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit* by Jeanette Winterson, led by Centrone.

## How Much Do You Know About WCC's Student Support Services?

by Daniel Charles



Tamica Nelson (left) and Sophia Piñeiro (right)  
Photo by Daniel Charles

The vast majority of WCC's student body desire an affordable college experience, but not many students seem to be aware of the many programs offered on campus to make that dream a reality. Is it due to the unfortunate stigma about asking for financial help in our society? The good news is that WCC has alleviated much of that concern by providing students with a group of courteous, professional, and discreet staff members who are ready to offer assistance in a wide variety of circumstances. That team is called Student Support Services and their office can be found on the lower level of the Student Center in room 013.

Sophia Piñeiro, Assistant Director of Student Support Services, describes her department as "the basic needs hub of the college." The staff is here to tackle any obstacle outside of the classroom that impedes the academic success of a student. For example, they have access to an Emergency Metro Pass Fund which allows prepaid Metro cards to be given out to qualifying students. The passes can be used for a day, week, or month depending on the need. According to Piñeiro, the requirements to enroll in this program are that the person must be a registered student (either part-time or full-time) and must either "have their college tuition balance completely

paid by the Bursar's office or have a payment plan set up." The program evolved during COVID to cover commuter bus fares for students through Pay Pal since physical Metro cards could not be handed out. This Pay Pal program's creation has led to the genesis of another program which covers gas money for students. This program is limited and temporary, but is still operational as of this writing.

Any student who makes the decision to utilize Student Support Services will first meet with Tamica Nelson, the Adjunct Counselor of the department. Nelson describes her role in the department as follows: "I assess the needs of a student in order to make a decision on whether they get different types of funding." This financial assistance is used to alleviate any acute economic stressors that a student is facing, and if those circumstances persist, an action plan is created to figure out how the student can reach a place of financial security and independence for the future.

Student Support Services also offers a food pantry, snack bar, and hygiene station which can be used inconspicuously. The department provides application assistance with SNAP benefits (food stamps) for registered students who meet income requirements, as well as WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) benefits to support student parents. Gerstner Emergency Aid is a grant provided by the department that offers up to \$2,000 to students who meet the acute emergency requirement, possess a 2.0 GPA or higher, and are taking at least 6 credits. The funds are sent to the third-party requesting them, such as a student's landlord.

To begin taking advantage of SSS, call their office at 914-606-7854.

## Rock on, Pink Puff: *Kirby and the Forgotten Land*

by Lucas Werner

Following the success of Kirby Star Allies in 2018, Kirby and the Forgotten Land, Nintendo's new platform video game for Switch, gives us Kirby's first adventure in 3D, and it is certainly a sight to behold. The action, playstyles, and variety of enemies will definitely provide a good time to Kirby's many fans.

Kirby's moves in Forgotten Land took me back to my first delightful playthrough of a Kirby game: Planet Robobot (2016). As Kirby jumped, inhaled, and hovered his way around in a 3-dimensional format—not just moving left to right in a side-scroller format—it brought that great feeling back to me. Being able to run around in a circle and just unleash a world of hurt on any enemy I came across in this 3D platform, I felt like I was on top of the world.

Here's a summary of the story: One day, a strange vortex opens up in the sky above Planet Popstar, sucking up Kirby, Bandana Waddle Dee and the regular Waddle Dees into a post-apocalyptic world where nature has overgrown civilization. After saving a little mouse-like creature named Elfilin from a mysterious Beast Pack, Kirby learns that the normal Waddle Dees have been captured by the Beast Pack. Now it's up to the "Super

Tough Pink Puff" to save the day yet again.

Aside from the story, there are some new technical additions to the standard Kirby formula in this installation, making it a cut above the rest among modern games:

- Evolving copy abilities using special blueprints found throughout the game (similar to how Pokémon evolves), along with using new copy abilities of the older Drill and Ranger capabilities to beat down the bad guys
- Unique challenges in each level that allow you to obtain Waddle Dees to use for various purposes
- The fun option to develop "Waddle Dee Town" using the Waddle Dees you rescue

There are features from other Nintendo games such as the aforementioned copy ability evolution (Pokémon), 3D playing style (Super Mario 3D World) and the ability to develop Waddle Dee Town (Animal Crossing). These game franchises definitely have made their mark on the digital world.

If there were some improvements I could hope for, I wish that some of the level challenges were a little bit easier to do, and that it would be possible to combine copy abilities, because the possibilities would be endless, such as "Bomb Tornado" or "Volcano Drill." But those reservations aside, I definitely recommend Kirby and the Forgotten Land and I give it a 9/10 rating.



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# PUZZLE

## Word Search Hispanic Heritage Month

by Marygrace Orfanella



### Word Search!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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

Y	A	J	H	H	T	T	P	U	F	M	D	H	D	A	M	J	S	F	E	L	D	M	R
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Source: worksheetworks.com

#### Cesar Chavez

Mexican-American-co-founder of the National Farm Workers Association who received the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his work in 1994.

#### Roberto Clemente

First Caribbean and Latin-American baseball player to be inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame. He was known not only for his baseball career but also for his philanthropy.

#### Gloria Estefan

Cuban-American singer who has won seven Grammy awards, the Presidential Medal of Freedom and been named one of the best female Latin artists in music history.

#### Frida Kahlo

Mexican painter known for her iconic unibrow, self portraits, and distinctive depictions of femininity.

#### Lin-Manuel Miranda

Actor, rapper, and playwright of Puerto Rican descent who created the mega-hits Hamilton and Encanto.

#### Rita Moreno

Celebrated Puerto Rican actress, singer and dancer. She has received many awards such as an Emmy, a Grammy, an Oscar, a Tony, as well as the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the National Medal of Arts

#### Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez

Democratic representative and the youngest woman to have served in the U.S. Congress.

#### Ellen Ochoa

Astronaut, engineer and the first Hispanic woman to go into space.

#### Maria Elena Salinas

News anchor, author, and journalist dubbed the "Voice of Hispanic America" by the media. For her contributions she has received awards such as the Peabody Award, the Gracie Award and the Walter Cronkite Award.

#### Sonia Sotomayor

Renowned attorney who is the first Latina and woman of color to serve on the Supreme Court.

**The Viking News**  
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Fall 2022 Issue 1 September 28

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## A Message From the Editor

Welcome to the 2022 Fall semester at WCC and thank you for picking up the first issue of the Viking News!

As the new editor-in-chief I hope to provide you with accurate and engaging content while also providing our writing staff with a fun yet fast paced environment.

If you were to ask me what my favorite part of running the paper is, I would be hard pressed to provide you with a single answer, so I'll give you several:

- Meeting new writers and encouraging them to explore their various passions.
- Learning about the WCC campus and community and sharing that information with the readers.

- Editing our puzzle page, which I hope to expand with the help of the new staff members.

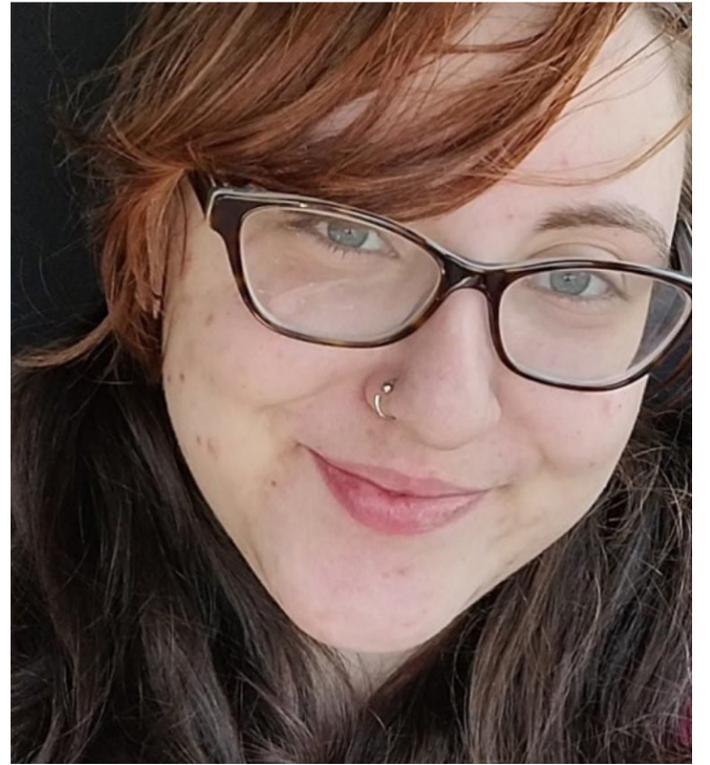
But most importantly my favorite part is hearing what you as a reader think about it! Without readers we wouldn't have a paper. We appreciate you and hope to learn your favorite reasons for reading the paper. I would love for all of you to be a part of The Viking News by sending feedback to us. What did you like? What didn't you like? Are there issues that you think we should be addressing? Do you have any burning questions that you think would be well placed in an advice column?

The Viking News isn't just a newspaper; it is a community. During my time

as editor-in-chief I hope to expand that community and would love to welcome all of you—students, faculty, staff, administration—to join us.

Please feel free to reach out to me or any other member of the staff for more information on open positions, article ideas, creative writing or art submissions, or anything else that you feel would benefit the paper and WCC as a whole. And please consider joining the staff as a reporter, photographer, writer, or editor. For questions or comments please contact me via EditorInChiefVN@sunywcc.edu.

Good luck in the rest of the semester and thank you for being a reader of The Viking News!



Marygrace Orfanella  
Editor-in-Chief  
The Viking News

## FEATURES

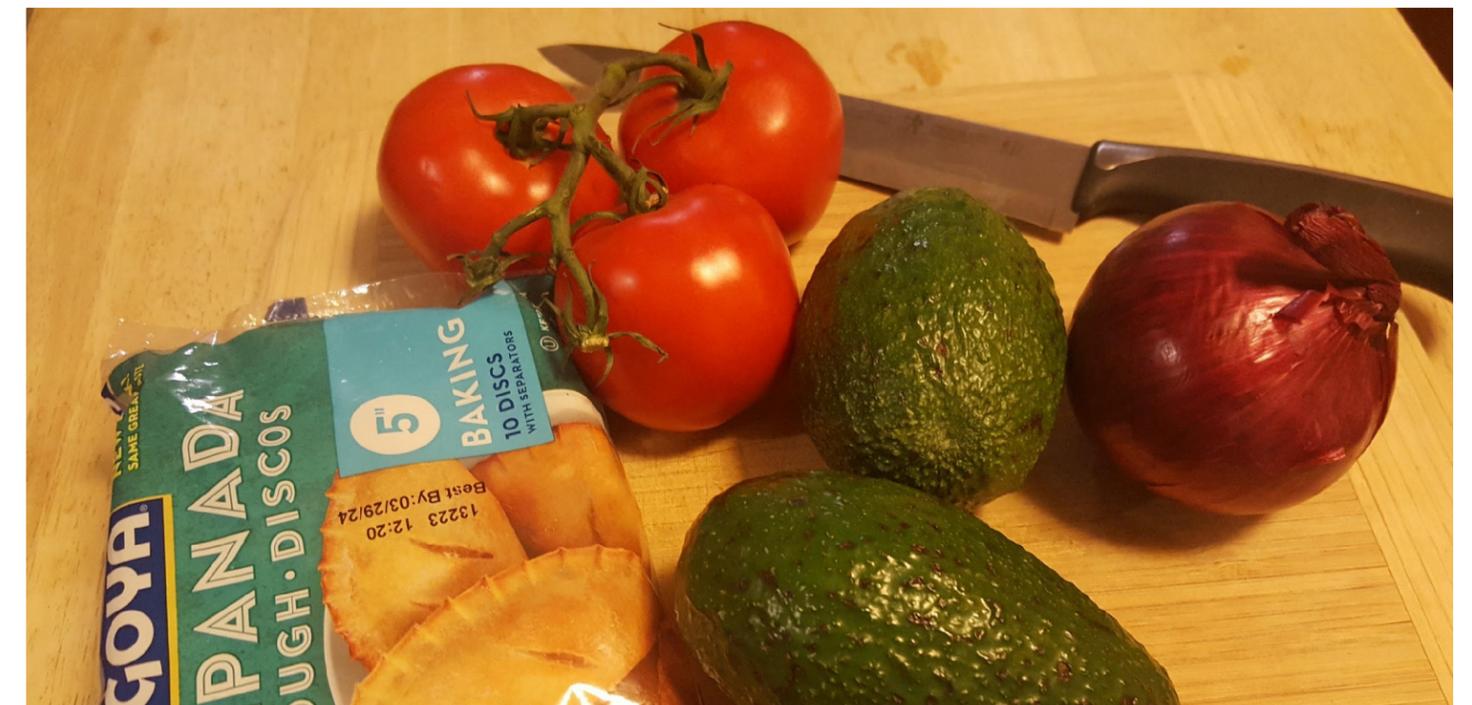
### Quick and Easy Latin American Snacks

By Chumile Moyo

Hispanic Heritage Month is a good time to try snacks from our South and Central American neighbors. Here are a few suggestions.

**Guacamole** is extremely easy to make, and it can be eaten by almost everyone. To make it, you need avocados, lime juice, onion, cilantro and salt. Start by mashing the avocados to one's desired texture and add the rest of the ingredients. Season it to taste: for example, you may add garlic or some Jalapeno peppers to make it spicier. Others may also want to add a tomato. Guacamole has many uses; you can make a sandwich, use it as a dip for crunchy vegetables or corn chips and more. It is a healthy snack and is very adaptable to various tastes.

**Empanadas** are another very tasty snack. They do however need pastry, but if you don't have time to make it, you can purchase it. Gluten free pastry is available



Viking News Staff Photo

for those who need it. Either way, just roll out the pastry and cut it into circles. The fillings for empanadas vary according to taste and dietary requirements. Cooked ground beef, shredded chicken, and vegetables can all be used as fillings. Seasoning will depend on one's palate, but always include some oregano and parsley.

**Salsa** is one of the most common dips we associate with Latin America and is easily available on grocery store shelves. To make the even more authentic salsa known as Pico de gallo, it is necessary to use uncooked rather than cooked ingredients. The ingredients needed are red tomatoes, red onions, parsley or cilantro,

lime juice and salt. Dice tomatoes into small pieces[ onion and herbs should also be chopped. These should be mixed with salt and lime juice. You may add jalapenos to make it spicier. Pico de gallo goes very well with tortilla chips.

Of course you don't have to make these your-

self. They are among the most common foods available in delis and fast food restaurants.

Enjoy! Provecho!

# FEATURES

## We're Back! Continued from page 1

Club, illustrate this variety. These and many more were prominently featured on the sunny front space of the Student Center.

The festive air of the Involvement Fair was repeated a week later at the annual Blue and Gold Day celebration. See our report on that event below.



Photos by Jason Byrnes

## Blue and Gold Day 2022: A Feast For Gourmands and Gamesters

by Shpat Gjonbalaj

Blue and Gold Day, the annual celebration of Viking Pride, was held Sept 21 during the Wednesday common hour on the Student Center lawn. As your reporter walked around among the celebrants, I couldn't help but observe the similarities to the Involvement Fair held the week prior. There were, however, two significant differences: Instead of candy there was actual food, and instead of recruiting tables there were games.

On one whole side of the lawn you had a row of food vendors, where people waited to grab a tasty plate of pigs-in-a-blanket, mozzarella sticks, mac-n-cheese bites, and chicken fingers. Tucked in a corner were platters of vegetables. All in all it was quite the taste test of fried food.

On the other side of the lawn was a row of activity booths. You had SGA (Student Government) handing out melted chocolate coins; an empty (when I passed it) athletics booth littered with

buttons; a couple of tables with board games such as Connect Four, Jenga, Candy Land, Taboo, Scramble, and Sorry! Finally, there was the rock painting booth. Here you were given painting pens to decorate a rock of your choosing. Maybe you can find mine scattered somewhere on campus. It's the one with the blue hook surrounded by a red and orange background.

Blue and Gold Day also provided giant inflatable games, such as billiards, where you were the stick, and bowling, where you were the bowling ball. You literally had to be the bowling ball, by climbing into a giant translucent ball.

There was also a corn hole game in the center of the lawn. In one contest, two students, Jonathan and Matt, were having the longest corn hole game of their lives. I got to know them through this game that seemed to never end.



Cornhole game at Blue and Gold Day

In fact it had gone on so long that they eventually had to change the rules: Toss until one of them runs out of bags. It'd be easy to say that their throwing game wasn't that good, but I gave it a shot myself, and did no better. I noticed that the target cornhole looked farther away than it actually was. Maybe it was the blaring sun, maybe it was the music, maybe it was

all of the students that floated around this game watching them play.

The keystone to Blue and Gold Day, in my opinion, was none other than Power 88.1, the College's Radio station and organization led by Radames Ocasio. They played music for the entire two hour length of the event, electrifying what was already a beau-

tiful day. Shout out to Jose Ramos, Power 88's skilled DJ.

Although short, it was quite the time. I even got a shirt that said "Yeah I'm a Viking." I enjoyed myself, as did a bunch of other students who were lucky enough to be around at the time.

Photo by Shpat Gjonbalaj

# Famed Large-Scale Sculptor The Subject of New Exhibit

by Zefferino Carriero



Ronald Bladen, *Black Lightning*, 1981, Painted Steel, 20'H x 56'W x 36.75'

The latest show at the WCC Art Gallery, located on the 3rd floor of the Hankin Academic Arts Building (HAAB,) features the work of the American artist Ronald Bladen (1918-1988). The exhibit is called 'Angle / Edge / Plane' and will be open to the public through Nov 30.

As explained in program materials accompanying the exhibit and in remarks from gallery director Joseph Morris at the show's opening, Bladen was renowned for his large scale sculptures and is often referred to as a 'founding father' of the minimalist artistic movement. Inspired in part by European Constructivism, Bladen combined the austere characteristics of minimalism with the three-dimensionality of architecture. In keeping with the constructivist tradition, Bladen's work is often sharp and angular, with precise geometric ratios to the

line of hand.

It has been observed that it's easy to forget that such lines were made intentionally, rather than being computer generated, given that Bladen's work existed largely in a time before their ubiquitous use in both the artistic and engineering fields, at whose intersection Bladen's work sits. Of course, the viewer must assume a human element to the sculptures, despite no visual evidence, no wavering lines indicative of a shaky hand, the language of the stylings being foreign to most viewers. Instead, the order of Bladen's work leads us to different conclusions, those of order, movement, and scale.

Also important to note is the black and white nature of Bladen's sculptures. By choosing to forego color, Bladen prompts viewers to focus on other elements of the work, such as movement. If one attempts to

humanize the work, astute observers may liken "X" to Leonardo da Vinci's "Vitruvian Man," with arms and legs outstretched, and an angularity and precision to each.

It's been said that Bladen's work can be described as imposing, even foreboding at times. In reference to 'X', a massive 22-foot-high vertical structure, Peoria Riverfront Museum Chief Curator Bill Conger has

said, "It really is uncomfortably large. It pushes into the second tier of the museum, and the bottom portion pushes outward, almost as if it really doesn't want to be in the space, or it's trying to escape"

Small-scale copies of Bladen's works are on exhibit at WCC, along with hand-drafted drawings for the sculptures. The size of Bladen's work is important to note, but so is its respec-

tive dedication to proportion so that the work can have an impact at any scale. "I am not necessarily interested in scale, but I am interested in ideas, ideas that require a certain size in order to carry the concept to its logical conclusion," Bladen said in 1968.

For further information on the exhibit, email [joseph.morris@sunywcc.edu](mailto:joseph.morris@sunywcc.edu).



Small-scale "Black Lightning" and drawing for "X"



Photo credits: Top, courtesy of WCC Art Gallery; bottom, Zefferino Carriero

## SPORTS



Men's Soccer player Jason Otiniano about to unleash

## Go Vikings! Winning Seasons For Men's Soccer, Women's Volleyball

*The Fall 2022 semester is off to a good start for both the Men's Soccer and Women's Volleyball teams, both of whom have more wins than losses at press time.*

Courtesy of GoWCCVikings.com

### Men's Soccer (5-4)

Westchester's strong play versus top teams continued Saturday Sept 24 as they traveled to Mitchell Field in Garden City to take on the perennial national contending Nassau Lions. The teams played a tight matchup but in the end the Vikings fell just short as an apparent equalizing goal with less than 6 minutes left was called off

due to an offside.

...As the half wound down, Westchester worked deep in the Lion's half when a cross came into the box. As several players missed the header, the ball ended up at the top of the 18-yard box and Exon Umanzor (Ossining, NY/Ossining HS) fired a shot past the Nassau goalkeeper and into the net. The play happened so fast, though, that a West-

chester striker who was still recovering from the missed header on the ball before was behind the last Nassau defender. As a result, the game tying goal was called off due to offside and Nassau held on to win.

### Women's Volleyball (5-4)

Saturday Sept 24 started with a historic victory over FIT (Fashion Institute of Technology).

For the first time since 2012, Westchester defeated the Tigers by a score of 3-1 (25-13, 25-19, 17-25, 25-22). Mikaelyn Hannon (Yonkers, NY/Peekskill HS) led the Viking attack with 12 kills. Gabriella Cresti Caetano (Yonkers, NY/Yonkers HS) and Ireana Olivo (Yonkers, NY/Maria Regina HS) chipped in 10 and 9 kills, respectively. The team was also efficient at counter-

ing the FIT attack as Olivo logged 19 digs to match up with Sara Ortiz's (Elmsford, NY/White Plains HS) 18.



(All photos courtesy of [gowccvikings.com](http://gowccvikings.com).)



WCC Women's Soccer team in action with Mikaelyn Hannon in foreground.