



## Evening of Fine Wines Thrives in New Locale



Photos by Rich Carpenter, Staff Photographer

Scot Haney, a weather forecaster from WFSB Channel 3, served as guest auctioneer for the 18th Annual Evening of Fine Wines.

By Sara M. Berry, Katie Kahle, SallyAnn Garvey Lumumba, Luis Martinez, and Matthew Pietruszkiewicz  
Live Wire Staff Writers

The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Evening of Fine Wines held Friday, April 9, combined the best of old and new. The event is the largest fundraiser at Manchester Community College, and as such it was packed with college faculty and staff, local celebrities, wine aficionados, and members of the community alike.

The focus of the annual event was the same: to raise money for student scholarships. It started in 1992 and this year more than 550 tickets were sold, according to college fundraising officials. Featured were more than 100 different wines and 22 tasting tables for guests to sample wines from area producers. There were also a number of other items donated by MCC faculty, friends of the college and area businesses available to buy in both a live and silent auction, including jewelry, vacations, tickets to local attractions, and works of art.

But the new aspect was the location of the bulk of the event. It was held for the first time in the gymnasium of the new Great Path Academy high school, instead of the Lowe building lobby. But the gym was transformed for the occasion in soft draping fabrics and tulle ribbons hanging from the ceiling, lending an air of frivolity and decadence to the event.

A highlight, as in past years, was

sampling the wares of area wineries.

“So far everything has been very good,” said wine taster, Frank Neri. “Try the ‘Westchester Red,’ its superb!”

But there wasn’t just wine at this event; there was also ale, brandy and jenever.

“I’m a fan of the pale!” said wine taster, Don Davis, while drinking his second cup of pale ale. “I’m having a great time and I’m really glad I’m being able to expand my pallet.”

Jenever was the hidden gem of the night, a refined liqueur imported from Belgium fused with fruit juices to create a unique class of spirits.

“There is always a flavor for everybody!” said Petra Urban while drinking an “Almond Joy,” a mixed drink that’s two parts chocolate jenever, 1 part vanilla jenever, .5 part Malibu and .5 part Amaretto.

The vendors’ decked out their tables with curvy bottles of wine in all varieties. Among them was Gary Crump, representing Priam Vineyards from Westchester. Westchester is a small subsection of Colchester, so small in fact that it is practically indistinguishable from the rest of town. Priam Vineyards has been attending the Evening of Fine Wines since 1996, Crump said.

The table was offering one of the vineyard’s award-winning wines, “Westchester Red,” which, Crump said, was labeled only four hours prior to the event. Some of their other wines, like “Salmon River Red” and “Jeremy River White” are named for landmarks in the Colchester area.

The Westford Hills Distillery from

Please see **Wines**, pg 3

## Student Senate Non-Elections Result in Some New Faces and Some Open Seats

By Sara M. Berry  
Live Wire Editor

Usually at this point in the year, elections are being held for Student Senate officers for the following year. However, this year there were no Student Senate elections.

There were four positions that were uncontested and three positions that no one ran for. When a student runs unopposed for a Student Senate position, they simply need 25 student signatures on their petition for office. The four officers for the 2010-2011 school year all met this requirement.

Incoming President Julie Larkin has served as President, Vice President of Finance and Vice President of Records for Phi Theta Kappa.

Vice President-to-be Chelsea Seamon is the current Student Senate Secretary and served as the ASB Secretary of her high school Student Senate.

Benjamin White is the new Social Vice President. White was involved in union organizing at the Hos-



Julie Larkin is the new Student Senate President. She held a leadership position in MCC’s Phi Theta Kappa Chapter.

Picture Courtesy of Student Activities

pital of Saint Raphael and Yale Hospital. He also operated a 21-unit apartment complex and was a top salesman at Kohl’s.

Alexander Hepst, currently the president of MCC’s Ballroom Dance Club, will be the new Student Senate Treasurer.

There are currently three open positions for next year’s Student Senate, said current Social Vice President Kellie Gilbert. They are Secretary, Senator 1 and Senator 2.

The office of Secretary pays a \$550 stipend and the Senator positions each have a \$350 stipend. The responsibilities of Secretary are taking notes at all Student Senate meetings and filing paperwork.

Senators 1 and 2 are in charge of publicity and advertising, and serve on the Student Activities Committee.

Any student interested in filling one of the open positions is invited to fill out an application and gather 25 student signatures, said T.J. Barber, the new director of student activities. For more information, contact him at 860-512-3282 or via email at tbarber@mcc.commnet.edu.

### Culinary Arts Team Brings Home the Bronze

By Donald Carabillo  
Special to the Live Wire

A five-person team of student chefs from MCC ranked fourth highest in its competition bracket during the American Culinary Federation's Northeast Regional Conference competition in Lancaster, Penn., March 13 and 14.

Led by coach and adjunct faculty member Chef Marc Hussey the team members were Captain Marc Cutler of West Hartford, Patrick Sweeney of Vernon, Paul Stern of Ashford, Joseph Mott of Manchester, and Austen Lindberg of South Windsor, said Jayne Pearson Hospitality Department Chair for MCC.

Each team was judged by a panel of distinguished chefs, including head judge David Turcotte, team advisor of the U.S. Army Culinary Team and executive chef for the Joint Chiefs Of Staff at the Pentagon, said Pearson. Each team was judged on four different skills: menu planning, hot food preparation, knife skills, and cold platter presentation. A team from the State University of New York at Delhi won the overall student competition, said Pearson.

The MCC team had to interpret a classic French recipe for the competition that was originally prepared by the legendary Chef Auguste Escoffier. The competition awarded one gold, one silver and three bronze awards, said Pearson. Classes are scheduled towards competition timing and students have to compete with each other in order to place on the team before even going to the competition, she said.

Pearson said MCC hopes to send a team next year, with some help.

"The team is always seeking sponsors and when it cost \$6,000 just to go to Lancaster," she said, "we can use all the help we can get."

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cells and prevents them from multiplying. Lycopene, found in tomatoes, is a strong antioxidant, which can help to combat degenerative diseases such as heart disease. Broccoli's phytochemicals neutralize carcinogens, accelerate their elimination from the body, and inhibit tumors caused by chemical carcinogens. Beans protect against diabetes by regulating blood sugar and insulin production and promote digestive health.

To learn more, teach others and advocate for healthier alternatives for humans,

animals and the environment, join MCC's HEALTH Club. Contact Kellie Gilbert at kgilbert.mcc@aol.com for more information.

#### Announcement: 2009-2010 MCC Writing Contest

The annual MCC Writing Contest entry deadline is Friday, May 21. Submit student entries to the following categories: non-fiction (includes personal, expository, literary criticism, and research essays), fiction, poetry, emerging writer (includes essays written for non-credit English or ESL courses), and the John R. Gustavson Prize for Humorous Writing (includes humorous writing in any genre). Winners will receive prizes at a ceremony held during the Fall 2010 semester. Contact Jeanine DeRusha for submission guidelines in Lowe 251 or via email to jderusha@mcc.commnet.edu.

#### MCC to Host Forum for Governor Wannabees

Members of the community are invited to come hear the positions of candidates for the office of governor on a variety of important issues Monday, May 10, at 6:30 p.m. "Prospering Communities, Thriving Families Gubernatorial Candidate Forum" will be held in the SBM Charitable Foundation Auditorium. Democrats, Republicans and Independents will be participating. Forum sponsors include the Connecticut Association for Human Services, Connecticut Voices for Children and the Legal Assistance Resource Center of Connecticut. The event is free and open to the public. For

more information contact Ellen Small, esmall@larcc.org.

#### Scholarship Applications Being Accepted

Manchester Community College is fortunate to be able to offer a new academic scholarship. The John Tirinzonie Academic Scholarship Award has been established to honor a deserving student who has excelled in the study of political science and/or economics. The scholarship provides an award of \$500 towards tuition at any college or university. Applications must be received by Monday, May 17, by 5 p.m. Deliver them to Professor Angelo Messore, Lowe 219e, or email him at amessore@mcc.commnet.edu for more details.

#### MCC Spring Arts Festival

On May 14, 2010, the Visual Fine Arts and Music Departments will be presenting the 2010 Spring Arts Festival. This annual event is the culmination of the semester's work by visual art and music students at MCC. The work of the visual art students will be showcased in the Hans Weiss New Space Gallery as well as within the galleria and adjacent hallways on the first and second floors of the AST building. The vocal and instrumental ensembles will be showcased within the SBM Charitable Foundation Auditorium. Featured groups include the MCC Madrigal Ensemble, Concert Choir, Chamber and Jazz Ensembles. The Concert Choir will pay a special tribute to "Aida" the Opera and the Musical. Choristers will present spoken word and song in this tribute. The gallery opens at 6pm. The music performances start with the Madrigal Ensemble at 6:30pm. The event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be provided by the Culinary Arts Departments.

## The Live Wire



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Continued from **Wines**, pg 1

Ashford had on display different brandies that are distilled from local fruit.

“We make spirits, not wine,” said owner Margaret Chatey. “I think that’s what sets us apart from the other attendees.”

One of their most visually striking drinks is Poire Prisonniere – “pear prisoner,” a special type of pear brandy. A real, full-sized Bartlett pear is grown right on the tree on the inside of a bottle, a process, Chatey said, that takes an entire growing season. After the pear is fully ripe, it is picked from the tree and the bottle is filled with pear brandy, capped and labeled. The result is a clear, undulating glass bottle with a golden pear relaxing at the bottom.

While wine tastings are about spreading love and appreciation for the fermented drink, one table made it about education as well.

Amenti Del Vino is a group of wine educators who run wine tastings, competitions, and dinners. Google their name and you’ll be met with thousands of results, most of them linking to websites of vineyards who have won awards from Amenti Del Vino.

This year the MCC table was run by Rayona Hobbs, who was serving Pennsylvania wines that had won medals. The most popular wine was called “Cold Goose,” a sparkling red wine. The whimsical label featured a shivering, scarf-clad goose with icicles hanging from its beak. She described it as “fun, the way wine should be.”

To go with all those wines, the Social Science and Hospitality Department cooked up a storm by creating a vast variety of dishes for attendees.

The students in the Culinary Arts Department trained for over a year to make everything on this night a perfect success. In doing so, many people that came were very happy with the students’ accomplishments.

“We certainly enjoy the culinary aspect of this event,” said Valerie Bidwell, a long time patron.

The students started training for this event at the start of the fall semester with just 10 students and five teachers in charge. Many student apprentices also joined the team so they could sharpen their skills and get some real time experience, said hospitality professor Jayne Pearson.

Pearson said that while the new location was a challenge, the students rose to it.

“I feel they did really well,” she said. “They were really locked in tonight.”

Several different types of dishes were prepared for the evening, from chicken stir fry to lemongrass teriyaki, and appetizers that included scallops wrapped with bacon, swordfish and pineapple.

A French dessert made of cream puffs called Croquembouche also drew a lot of admirers. Student Mandy Carrier explained how it took the cake decorating students over an hour just to make the decorative flowers and put the towering dish together.

As of the date of publication, the amount of money raised from the event was unavailable. But the amount of good will was evident.

“Fabulous event, fabulous wine and fabulous people,” said Joe Vednarz, while enjoying his dry red wine.



Top: Three bottles of wine wait to be auctioned at the Evening of Fine Wines.

Middle Left: A tower of cream puffs stands majestically amid the crowd.

Middle Right: A model showcases a bottle of wine for the auction.

Left: A brass box Indian game worth \$50 is auctioned off during the Evening of Fine Wines.

Photos by Rich Carpenter, Staff Photographer.

# Meet A Professor:

## Matthew Brodeur Sciences

By Rachel C. Horowitz  
Special to the Live Wire



Photo by Rich Carpenter, Staff Photographer

### What is your full name?

Matthew Linnon Brodeur (do you really need my middle name?)

### When is your birthday?

January 27, 1974.

### Where are you from?

I am originally from Hartford.

### Favorite color?

Green...no blue...It used to be green but then it changed to blue. I get compliments when I wear blue...brings out my eyes or something like that.

### Any siblings? Where do they and your parents live?

Brother (older) – he lives in Brookfield, Mass., and my parents are still in Hartford.

### What college did you attend?

Undergrad and first master's degree was from the University of Connecticut.

I got my second master's (6<sup>th</sup> year degree) from Southern Connecticut State University.

### What made you want to teach?

Many things. My mom was a teacher and my dad was a forester...so she was a teacher and he was a science guy. I kind of combined the two. It's all about what you know. During my first job as a lifeguard, I taught swimming lessons in Hartford and really enjoyed it.

### Why did you decide to teach at MCC?

For the challenge of it. It's different than teaching at a high school (I'm also a chemistry teacher at East Hartford High School). I find both jobs have helped me...being a high school teacher has helped me learn to explain things better at the college level and the

college level has helped me see what my high school student's need to do in order to be successful in life.

### What are you most proud about in your life?

I'm proud that I have been able to affect many lives in a positive way through education without sacrificing the things I believe in. I also was named East Hartford Public School's District teacher of the year for the 2009-2010 school year...it's nice to be recognized by your peers at any level.

### What do you do in your spare time?

I like a variety of things but I'm not really addicted to anything. I try to stay in shape (workout/swimming). I live to travel and see other places. I like snowmobiling in the winter. I actually enjoy learning and thinking all the time...not much for small talk.

### Weirdest habit?

I have a hard time shutting up...in class...in the movies...wherever.

### Biggest indulgence?

Pizza...I'm an addict and I just can't stop!

### What's one thing you would like people to know about you?

Just because I'm a science teacher doesn't mean I know everything!! (Hey, you're a science teacher....). I also like that people know that I come from Hartford since the school system is always in the news, and not usually in a positive way. I feel lucky to have had an education in an urban school and like the way it has affected my outlook on life and on other people.

### If you were granted 3 wishes, what would they be?

Assuming there is an ixnay on the wishing for more wishes (see

Aladdin). Hmmm...money is always good because then I could see the world. 2) That the Whalers would come back to Hartford (see favorite colors). 3) To have the answer to the questions science has not been able to come up with yet. Where did life start...what was before the big bang...or just the question "Why?"

### If you could meet anyone in the world



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\*December 2009 survey by Payscale.com

# Meet A Professor: Stephania H. Davis Journalism

By Enrique "Ricky Tan" Marcano  
Special to the Live Wire

You know there's nothing more fortunate than to know what you want to become or what you want as a career for the rest of your life at such a young age. It makes your journey that much more exciting, sort of like a pursuit towards happiness. In her case, Stephania H. Davis, an assistant professor of journalism, knew she wanted to be a teacher since the age of 12 and, in her good words, "If you're engaged in a career that you love, it's not really considered work."

As I sat down in her office to begin the interview, I found myself listening to the soft serenades of singer Toni Braxton. Turns out, Davis likes to listen to smooth jazz on her office computer.

**So, why did you want to become a teacher?**

In a way, I kind of always wanted to be a teacher. I had dinner with my family yesterday [Easter Sunday] and my cousins were talking about how when we were kids I would always want to play school all the time



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and how they found that annoying, lol. It's just always something I wanted to do. I like teaching college because I think that college is the last place where a young person could get a good foundation before they go out into the world.

**What would be like your common advice to a student right before they graduate?**

I would say be open, be open to as much as possible. You may be one of those lucky people who know what they want to do in life from the time you were two years old, but you may not be one of those people as well. But I think it's just important to stay open to all the opportunities that might come your way.

**Now you attended a historically black college, Howard University, how was your experience there?**

It was great! I know a lot of people who have regretted their choice of college afterwards- I never have, never. I got into [other schools] I had choices, but I wanted to go to Howard since the time I was about 12 years old and I saw a photo spread about Howard in Ebony Magazine. Everybody looked so cool, with their big afros, and protesting. They were dancing, it just looked like such a great place to be. I also got a very rigorous liberal arts education. I feel like I got an education comparable to any school in this country.

**Are you a journalist yourself? I know you teach a lot of classes that consist of journalism as far as ethics in journalism, writing and reporting news stories.**

I was! I was working journalist for 14 years. I worked at the *Chicago Tribune*; I worked at the *Hartford Courant* for several years, I was in Atlanta at the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* for a couple years. It was a lot of fun, but it was emotionally

draining and I kind of got burned out by it so that's when I decided to go back to graduate school and get my master's degree so I could teach.

**What is your favorite movie and why?**

I'd have to say "West Side Story," and I just saw it, it was just on yesterday! I love dance, I love to watch choreographed dancing and Broadway plays. It's a really good combination of dancing, music, dramatic action and a really good story.

**Are you technology savvy?**

I'd say I'm in between technologically stupid and technologically savvy, lol. I'm right in the middle. I'm not afraid of new things, but there are things that are coming out now that I don't understand, twitter and wiki's. But if I need to use a program I'll learn it, and I can learn it.

**If you had a chance to speak to First Lady Michelle Obama what would you tell her?**

I couldn't tell her anything! She's a wonderful woman! I'd tell her that I'm in awe of her, and that she and her family are a fabulous example of families all over the world, black, white or otherwise. They show that we are just like everybody else. I think I'd have a lot of questions for her, like what's it like to live in the White House? Or what's it like to have the Secret Service people around all the time? I'm curious by nature, so I think I'd bother her with questions.

**What do you plan to do when you're done teaching?**

I think I'd like to travel and write, but as of now I don't have time for either. But it'll be a long time before I'm done teaching- I really love it, I feel like it's my thing. I found my niche and that's a real blessing to have at the middle of your life, so it's great!

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# Just In Case: Campus Considers Arming MCC Police

By SallyAnn Garvey Lumumba and Mallory Stergakis  
Live Wire Staff Writers

Arming campus police – it's an issue that has been discussed in the past, but is now more relevant than ever with campus violence rapidly spreading throughout the country. Opinions vary widely among the students, faculty and staff.

MCC police currently carry a baton and pepper spray. Campus police now respond to a serious threat by calling the Manchester Police Department. It has approximately a five-minute response time to campus.

Sgt. Michael Davis has been an MCC police officer for five years and said he has never needed to use his weapons, but sees no negatives in furthering campus security.

"I don't know why people would be against it," said Davis, adding that MCC police feel that they are not performing to the best of their abilities while unarmed. "We just want to protect people – that's the bottom line. There's no personal gain, we're not trying to be superheroes."

Donna Nicholson, who teaches criminal justice, said arming the police makes sense.

"Not giving a policeman a gun is like not giving a chef a rolling pin," said Nicholson, who also said arming campus police at MCC is "just a logical step." Other colleges in the state allow campus police to be armed, she said, even Naugatuck Valley Community College, which has a smaller student body than MCC.

If the action were approved, the five MCC police officers that are eligible to be armed would be required to complete a psychological evaluation as well as a 40 hour training course with the Manchester Police Department.

The last Student Senate meeting was dominated by a discussion about arming campus police, with the Student Senators present voting in favor of arming officers by a slim margin. Students opposed to armament addressed the safety concerns connected with guns and taser guns, including the fact that tasers can cause heart attacks in people prone to coronary issues. Others argued that one incident involving a shooting or use of a taser on a student could harm MCC's

reputation in the state as a safe place.

The next issue is to the extent to which police should be armed. Should campus police be allowed to carry a taser and a firearm, in addition to their baton?

Nicholson said that the best way to go about the situation is to take baby steps – start out with taser guns and eventually transition to other things.

Joseph Fairchild, who also teaches criminal justice at MCC, said he begins to question security as the college grows and diversifies. Fairchild said he is in favor of the campus rationally and logically making the decision as a community, in the best interests of the students, faculty and staff.

"Letting the police carry guns is a lot less obtrusive than security checkpoints and metal detectors," Fairchild said. "In times like these, it is important to be proactive versus reactive."

In addition to meetings and presentations held across campus on the issue, a Survey Monkey was sent out through the college's internal email system in April on the issue, said David Nielsen, the college's director of planning, research and assessment. "The survey was available for two weeks at [SurveyMonkey.com](http://SurveyMonkey.com). We received 206 responses, most coming from faculty and staff," he said in a report on the survey results. "About 60 percent of the responses were in favor of 'asking the Board of Trustees for permission to arm MCC's Police Officers with firearms.'"

There is also a student version of the survey that can be taken at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ArmingSurvey>.

MCC President Gena Glickman said following more survey results, several steps will be taken.

"Once we have the results, I'll share them with the campus community and then, based on the survey and information from the presentations we've had with various groups on-campus, I'll make a recommendation to the Chancellor who will then bring the issue to the other community college presidents and ultimately to the Board of Trustees," Glickman said, adding that a final decision will probably be made by the start of or during the Fall 2010 semester.

# Luncheon Attendees Chew Over Getting To and From MCC

By Lauren Joyal  
Special to the Live Wire

A kick-off luncheon was held at Manchester Community College March 30 to begin the research of how local officials can better serve the transportation needs of residents of the Greater Manchester Area.

MCC was awarded a \$77,000 research grant for the study by the Federal Transit Administration in 2009. The col-

lege was one of 57 applicants who applied for the grant.

During a luncheon, held in the Cheney Dining Room, attendees were able to voice their opinions and concerns as to the best way the money can be used to benefit the college.

Rebecca Townsend, who teaches communications at MCC and is one of the grant administrators, welcomed attendees and explained that everyone

had important feedback and were encouraged to speak up.

"Talk can move us to where we need to go," she said.

Some of the concerns that were brought up included the lack of parking spaces on campus, the lack of public transportation offered to students and the safety issues for those who walk or bike to classes.

MCC'S President Gena Glickman said she

was interested in hearing other ideas from the audience.

Matthew Galligan, South Windsor's Town Manager, brought up the idea that having more bus terminals and stations as well as satellite parking with shuttles would help with the parking problems. He also said that turning the HOV, or high occupancy vehicle, lanes into train rails would cut down on traffic and make it a faster commute for the communities.

# Gamers Gather for LAN Party

By Nick Lavigne  
Special to the Live Wire

The Manchester Community College Computer Repair and Share club held a LAN party on April 15. There was record turnout for the party, with more than 19 people in attendance.

This is the second time this school year the club has organized a LAN party. A LAN party is a temporary gathering of people with computers, between which they establish a local area network, or LAN, for the purpose of playing multiplayer computer games.

"Last semester [Fall 2009] it was quiet, not many people," said unofficial treasurer Jason Doppes. "This time we advertised for it as much as possible."

The posters the club put up only had one requirement: "bring your own hardware." People took notice and did just that. There were many computers; most were self built, from giant behemoth machines to laptops and small form factor, easy carry PC's. But it wasn't all computer gaming, some attendees brought Playstation 3's, as well.

The party got started

with the arrival of pizza and drinks, which were provided by the club. The club president, Chris Dubiel, then announced that the games were on.

"The game of choice is Battlefield: Bad Company 2," Dubiel said.

Everyone in the room then put their screen names up on the dry erase board. This was so people could add one another into the game. The players had names like Mika Kitty, Var\_Dume, Cynthetic, and I am Wayne. The room was loud, filled with players yelling out locations, praise, and obscenities, all under the ever present laughter that filled the void between words.

The Computer Repair and Share Club does more than play games. Club members repair donated computers and give them away to students who sign up for a lottery. Since March 2009, more than 150 computers have been given away, according to club adviser Professor Russell Sabadosa.

So far, more than 800 students have applied to get a computer. To apply, visit [www.mcc.commnet.edu/freecomputer](http://www.mcc.commnet.edu/freecomputer).

The Computer Repair and Share Club meets in room C139 on Wednesdays at 3 p.m. Dubiel said the club is always looking for new members.

# Future Forensic Scientists Get Their Start at MCC

By Sara M. Berry  
Live Wire Editor

Everyone knows about Connecticut's top forensic scientist, Dr. Henry Lee, famous for his testimony at the O.J. Simpson murder trial. But very few people know about Manchester Community College's own crime lab in AST D-208.

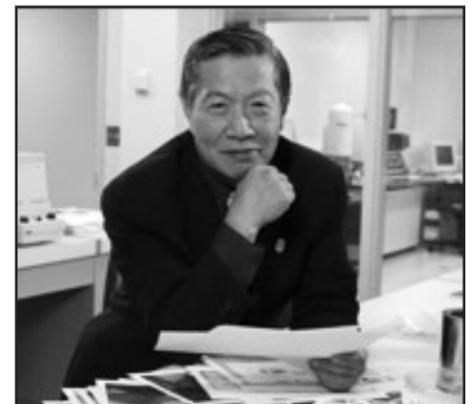
The lab is run by Bob O'Brien, who has been called "the next Dr. Lee," said Donna Nicholson, who teaches criminal justice.

Forensic Science at MCC began in 1997, taught by Lee and O'Brien. It quickly became a popular class. Lee and O'Brien began teaching at MCC because it already had a well-known Criminal Justice Program. Their goal was to foster a competitive forensic science program at the community college level, said O'Brien. Lee stopped teaching at MCC a couple of years after the class began.

Students in forensic science classes learn about things like blood stain patterns, shooting reconstruction, and hair and fiber analysis. They read real cases from all over the world and right here in Connecticut.

One of the things that O'Brien said he strives to do in his forensic science classes is to teach future police officers and lawyers that what they see on TV is not necessarily reality. Being a forensic scientist is not the same as being a police officer. Police officers are at the crime scene collecting evidence, where forensic scientists stay in a lab collecting evidence. In the state of Connecticut, forensic science labs are civilian, which is important because it keeps the bias of working for a prosecutor or defense from changing the facts.

O'Brien cautions students that forensic science is a hard field to get into,



Dr. Henry Lee, *Photo courtesy of [www.drhenrylee.com](http://www.drhenrylee.com)*

and advises that students get a degree in a science like biology or chemistry so that they can get a job in one of those fields while waiting for forensic science positions to open up. Even when hired for a forensic science position, individuals go through long periods of training in many aspects of evidence analysis before they ever actually look at real evidence, he said.

Forensic science is a science that uses other sciences to find the truth, and uses the scientific method to test hypotheses. A forensic scientist can take nothing for granted, O'Brien said. What may appear to be blood is not blood; it is a "reddish-brown stain" until it is taken into a lab and test results confirm that it is indeed blood.

MCC currently has one of the best-known Criminal Justice programs in the state, and it keeps expanding. Program administrators are currently looking to get a classroom devoted to forensic science classes much the way chemistry or biology labs are dedicated to those subjects. Eventually, the program may offer certificates in specific areas of forensic science such as firearms and handwriting analysis, O'Brien said.



Photo by Rich Carpenter, Staff Photographer

# I learned more than just academics at MCC

By Sara M. Berry  
Live Wire Editor

When I came to Manchester Community College six years ago, I wasn't really sure what to expect. I expected to take the prerequisites I needed to transfer into the program I expected to go into, and leave in a year or so. Now, I am graduating from MCC. In the time I've spent here, I got much more than I expected.

I didn't expect to have some of my most important and meaning-

ful experiences here. I've met a lot of very different people, and it didn't take long for me to feel comfortable here. Many of the people I've met at MCC have become my close friends, and even those that I no longer see have made a difference in my life and are still in my thoughts. The Live Wire staff has become my adopted family, and its office my second home.

What I've learned here at MCC isn't all academic. I've learned about math and science and history and psychol-

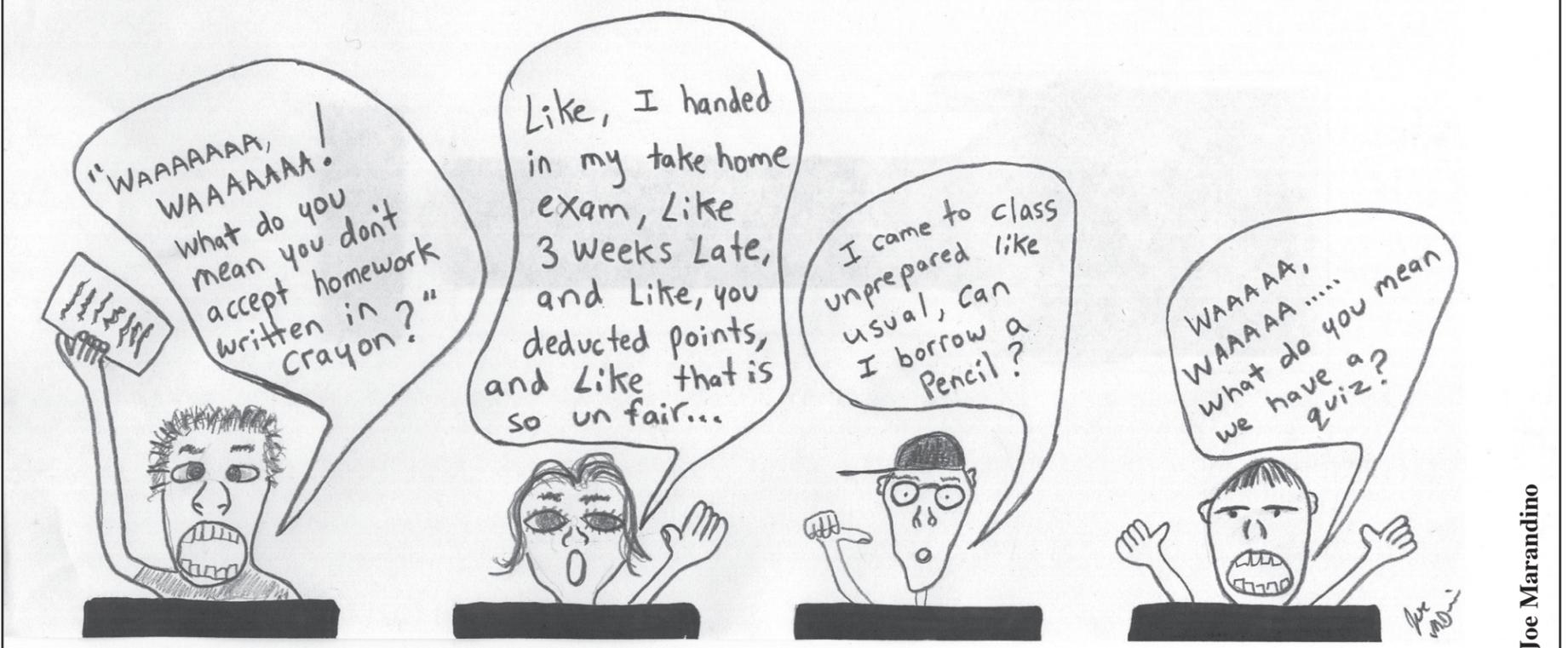
ogy, but I've also learned a lot about myself. I've expanded my interests and tried new things. I've learned what my strengths and weaknesses are. I've learned to see the world around me in a different light. I've learned that it doesn't matter so much if I succeed, but that I try my best and learn from it. I've taken what I learned in classes and made it fit into my own life.

I knew I wanted a career that I would enjoy, but for a while I didn't really know what that would be. When I

realized that the career I thought I wanted to go into wasn't really for me, I had to find something that was. The more time I spent here, and the more different things I learned about, the closer I came to figuring it out. Now I have a new plan and a new direction.

Thank you to the important people here at MCC who supported me and helped me find my place. I will miss you all, but treasure the experiences we've shared and the memories you've been a part of.

Unfortunately, MCC Professors are forced to implement the fine art of "Baby-sitting" into their curriculum.



## Swimming Against the Current as an International Student

By Eliana Alvarez  
Live Wire Staff Writer

Being a college student in the United States in today's world is difficult. Between homework, work, clubs, and paying student loans there's no time to breathe. Being a college student and being able to deal with everything successfully is even harder.

Being an international student on top of all of this is like swimming against the current. On top of your already required college student needs, you have to deal

with things such as student visas, sponsors, and additional monetary headaches.

As an international student, I've learned a couple of things I would like to share with you about college in the United States.

First and foremost, time is of the essence. Whether it's applying for schools, scholarships or visas, do it ahead of time! Procrastinating is very easy to do, but blowing your chances is even easier. One little mistake can be the difference between getting that scholarship money you desperately need or having to make your already piling up

stack of loans even higher.

The second thing I've learned as an international student is to learn how to hustle. I don't mean that in the sense of making money in an easy, and perhaps, illegal way. What I mean is you have to learn how to work your angles. Meeting people is perhaps the easiest way to hustle because connections get you places. Meeting the deans and joining programs are a few ways of making those connections that you will certainly need. Of course, it goes without saying that having good grades and a strong academic background is not just a goal but a given.

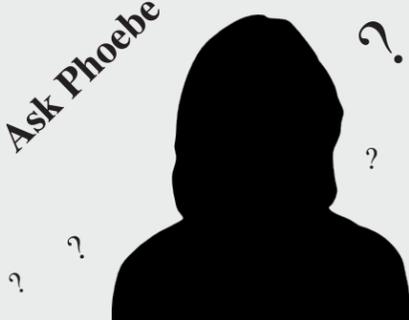
This brings me to my next point; you need to stand out. As an international student you're competing with other students with the same academic achievements as you, but they come with less paper work. You need to make sure schools want you because of what you can bring to the table. You need motivation- it's the same thing you've always heard; but it's true. If you want to go to school you need to fight like you want it.

My last, but perhaps most important, tip for you is that you have to keep your head above wa-

ter. Applying to schools or for jobs as international student is sometimes a guaranteed rejection and that is perfectly okay. The worst thing you can do is wallow in pity about the situation because that gets you nowhere. When you feel stressed out and like nothing is going your way, take a minute to realize there's always something more or different that you can do. Giving up is for cowards.

Even if you aren't an international student, sometimes life is like swimming against the current. But unless you give up, there's always a way; all you have to do is find your direction ☺

Ask Phoebe



Dear Phoebe,

**How can I go about having the greatest summer ever this year?**

It is almost time for summer vacation, the best time of the year for any student. But in order to have the greatest summer ever, realize that you can't plan everything that you want to happen. Sure, you can plan a trip somewhere and maybe get tickets to a sporting event or concert, but some of the best fun is unplanned. It's all about getting a call from a friend on a hot summer day asking if you want to go on a road trip to another state. Anything spontaneous is surely exciting because you never know what's going to happen.

Another wise idea is to balance your time, between work and fun. Perhaps you can take a small amount of the money that you're getting from work and save it for something big this summer that you want to plan. If you go into something with expectations, it usually doesn't go quite as planned. But if you go into this summer with an open mind and a positive outlook, and make sure you're ready for anything that comes at you, you may just have a summer great enough that you'll have stories that you will be able to share for ages.

Dear Phoebe,

**One of my classes is really hard right now, but I'm too afraid to ask for help. What can I do?**

Don't be afraid, this is something that every student deals with! Fortunately though, there are ways to go about this. MCC offers weekly tutoring in the Academic Support Center, free to any student. Many students talk about going there and getting the help that they need with their assignments, as well as getting study tips and help reviewing material. It is a great service at MCC that every student should be taking advantage of.

Also, do you realize how many times a semester a professor will mention that they have office hours where students can come in to get extra help? You should be taking advantage of that. It gives you one on one time with the professor that you aren't able to get during class. With that one on one time, you can not only get the help you need, but you may just see a different side of your professor. Make the right choice because it feels much better to get good grades rather than to fail the class because you never went for help.

*Fishing for advice? To ask Phoebe a question, submit an e-mail to [askphoebemcc@aol.com](mailto:askphoebemcc@aol.com).*

# Beware of Crooked Vultures

By Alex Obert  
Live Wire Staff

Take the intense drumming that you heard on the second and third Nirvana albums, add in the complex bass lines that were showcased whenever you heard Led Zeppelin, and include the chilling vocals that echoed throughout every Queens of the Stone Age song. The result is the talented and unique band known as Them Crooked Vultures, a hard rock band featuring three iconic musicians from several generations.

TCV is fronted by vocalist/lead guitarist Josh Homme, whose previous work includes being the guitarist for Kyuss, the drummer for Eagles of Death Metal, and the vocalist for Queens of the Stone Age. The band's drummer is Dave Grohl, who is well-known for being the drummer of Nirvana, as well as the vocalist for the Foo Fighters. The bassist is John Paul Jones, the former bassist for the legendary Led Zeppelin.

The band had an inter-

esting way of forming. Grohl and Homme had previously worked together when Grohl played drums for Queens of the Stone Age's 2002 album, *Songs for the Deaf*. Grohl approached Jones and asked him if he'd be interested in forming a band with him and Homme. Jones was immediately interested.

Grohl invited both Homme and Jones to his 40th birthday party in January 2009 and arranged for them to sit next to each other. He has said he did this so he could observe their chemistry to see if they would get along.

Once formed, TCV headed to the studio the following month to write and record their debut album. Unlike most bands, TCV began touring as soon as they finished recording. A tour entitled "Deserve the Future" took place with no album to sell. The result? The band sold out each and every show that they had. With word of mouth, Internet buzz, and the star power of the three band members, it's no surprise that vulture fe-

ver took over the entire world.

Their self-titled album was released on Nov. 17, 2009, to rave reviews. All 13 songs prove that Them Crooked Vultures is hard rock at its best, with an innovative twist.

The songs are a mix of Queens of the Stone Age and Led Zeppelin. All three members contribute to writing songs with deep meaning that truly make you appreciate both what you hear and what it makes you think about.

Homme has stated that his main influence for music has come from movies and books, rather than listening to other bands. After a show in Boston, 50-year-olds were walking out of the venue saying they hadn't seen anything like that in a long time.

The band performed on the television shows "Jimmy Kimmel Live" and "Saturday Night Live" this year, showing the world that rock music is still alive and well. With a tour still going on, the whole world can experience the greatness that is Them Crooked Vultures.

## Burton's Grill a Definite Treat

*Burton's Grill*  
*100 Evergreen Way*  
*South Windsor*

By Jon Peskin  
Special to the Live Wire

When you arrive at Burton's to dine, what you first notice is the elegance. Is this a casual restaurant or a fine dining establishment? Did I underdress for the experience? After viewing the attire of the restaurant patrons, I concluded that this is a fine location.

My companions and I sat down to a bowl of the tastiest hot rolls with homemade Vermont butter that I have ever eaten (fluffy with a dusting of flour). While we waited, the general manager told me that there are currently five Burton's loca-

tions in the U.S., with a sixth being built in the Boston area - another reason to visit Beantown. The restaurant specializes in salmon and mahi-mahi.

The tuna pike appetizer arrived and it was prepared like you would receive in the finest restaurant in New York City. It was beauty on a plate, with proper proportions. The crackers are a wonderful complement and created a synergy with the tuna (I must get the recipe).

I ordered the cheeseburger with fries - out of this world. I was full after my entrée. But we promptly ordered the key lime pie for dessert. There was no question that Burton's could be a 4-star res-

taurant if it wants to be. The key lime pie was too pretty to eat, and they should have a picture of it on their Website. The pie was prepared like the legendary key lime pies of Florida, complete with a graham cracker and granola crust, with a dual level of pie. I watched as my wife took the first piece. It was superior.

Judging by the line of guests waiting to dine, I came to the conclusion that all the possibilities are excellent at Burton's. It is not a cheap place, but if you can save a few extra dollars and are looking for the "seen and be seen experience," with homemade breads and desserts made on premises, and big city flavor, Burton's is the place for you.

# Spring



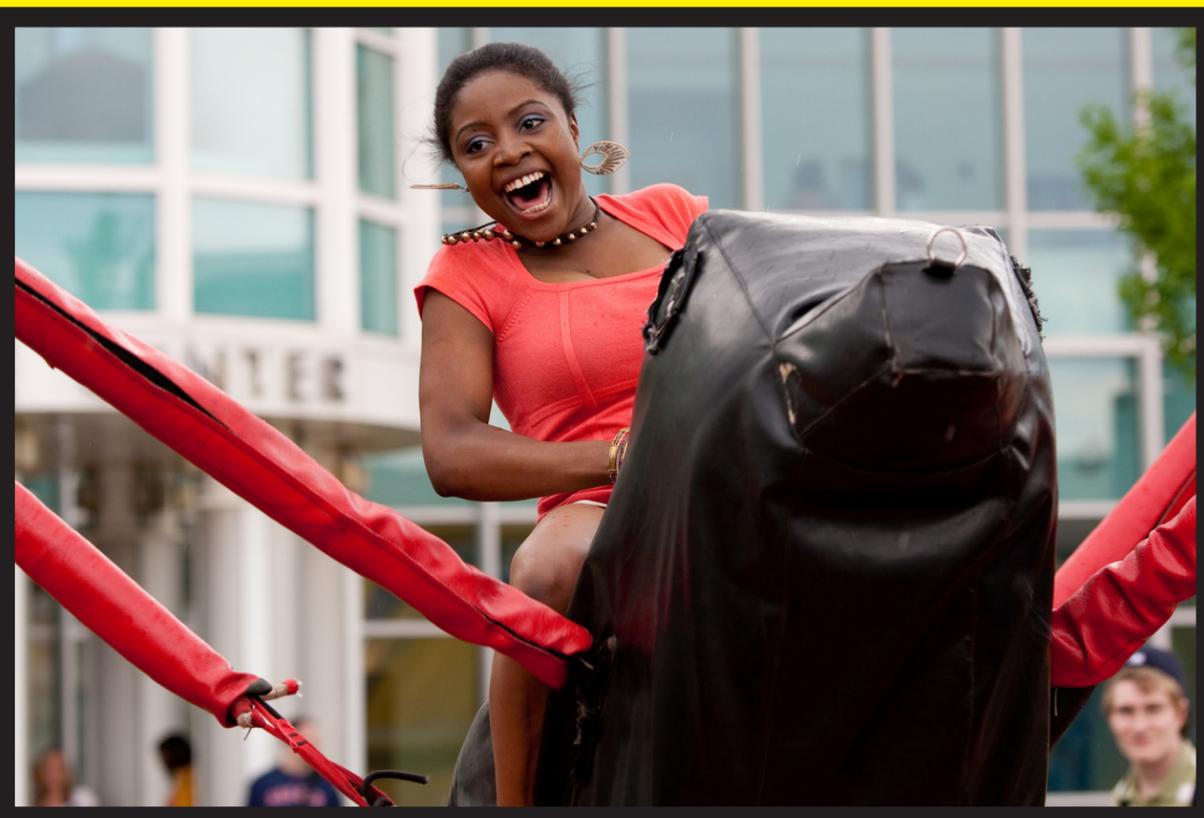
*Beena Azeem and Paul Brodeur enjoy the inflated slide.*

By SallyAnn Gar  
Live Wire Assista

Spring fling is the best part of spring semester at Manchester Community College. At no other time will you find the quad filled with inflated obstacle courses, free burgers and hot dogs, cotton candy, popcorn, fried dough, snow cones, and a rock-climbing wall as it was Tuesday, May 4.

The annual event put on by the Student Senate also offered a free photo booth for kooky photos, legendary dee jaying by the members of ICE Internet Radio, large quantities of nachos and, for the first time, a “mechanical bull.” Fling provided a welcome respite from pre-finals stress in the form of music, food and inflated fun.

The pale blue sky and light breeze made it a perfect day for relaxing in the quad and partaking in some of the fun. The inflated-bull riding was a surprise fa-



*Sandra Noi tries to tame the “mechanical bull.” No one lasted more than a few seconds.*



*Juan Jimenez rappels down*

# Flinging!

vey-Lumumba  
ant Editor

avorite at this years' fling. The bull was tethered to a pulley system controlled by students while the brave rider was bumped and bucked enough to throw them in a matter of seconds.

Another favorite was the two-story-high rock-climbing wall where amateur climbers clamored to the top for a birds' eye view of the festivities. ICE radio lived up to its name with ice cream eating contests and color commentary, especially on the highs and lows of bull riding.

Students faculty and staff could all be found waiting in line for burgers and the culinary departments' phenomenal funnel cakes while Honest Tea provided samples.

MCC student Hannah Lynch said it best after she completed the obstacle course. "This is my favorite day of school ever!"



*Kevin Ritchie attempts a slam dunk into a mini hoop.*



*on the mobile rock wall.*



*ICE Radio DJ's provided the soundtrack for Spring Fling.*

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## WHAT WILL YOU DO?

No tourist photos allowed! It's one of the rules from Jill's travelblogging experience in Ireland, where a fellow student snapped this shot of her. During 12 days touring Dublin and the surrounding area, Jill and her classmates captured their experiences in words and photos before converting them into travelblogs. Interested? Check out their blogs at [travelbloggingireland.blogspot.com](http://travelbloggingireland.blogspot.com). They captured their ah-ha moments. What will *you* do?

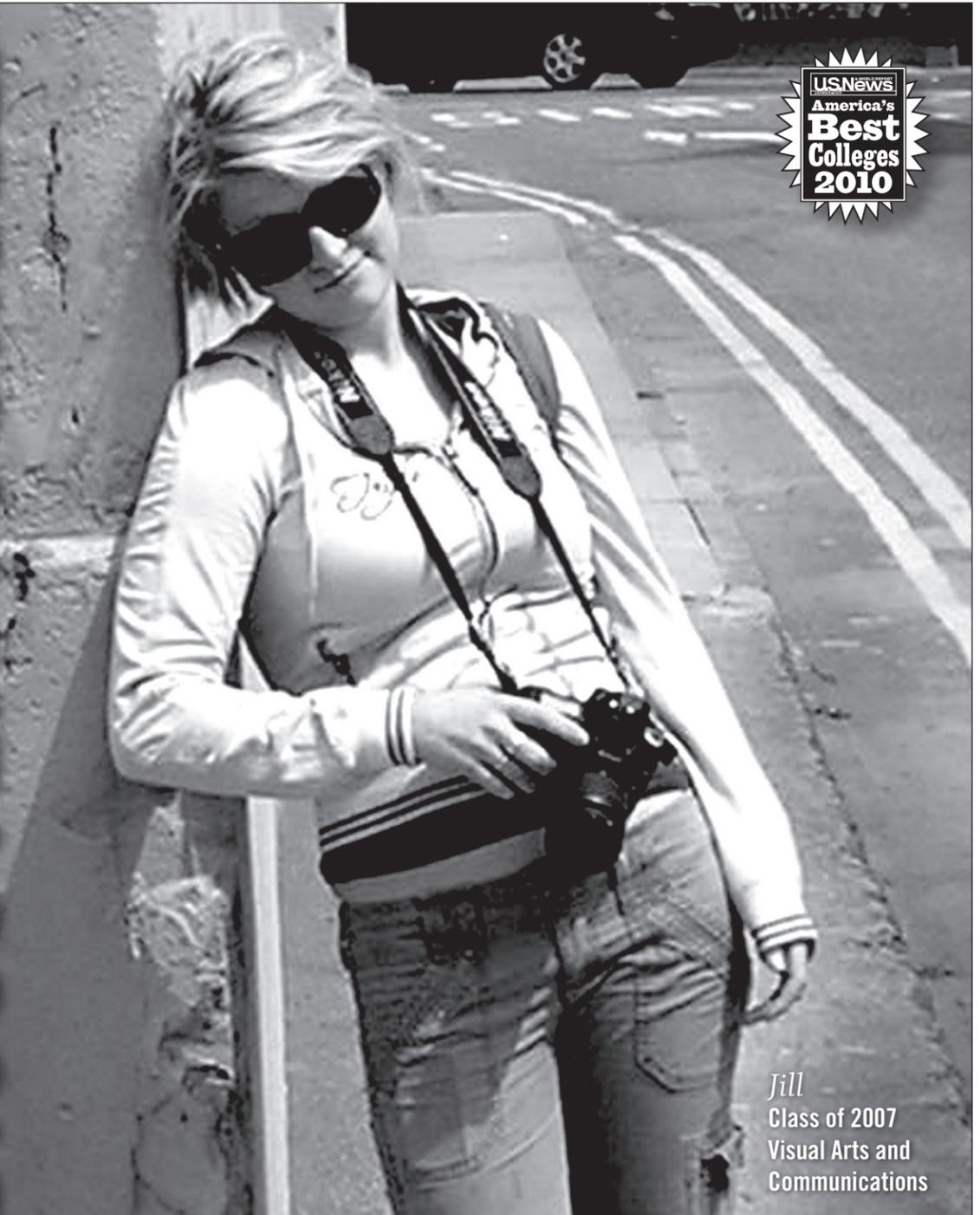
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# DISCOVER YOURSELF



Jill  
Class of 2007  
Visual Arts and  
Communications

# Community Music & Events Calender

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	Led Zepplica@ Mohegan Sun	Puddle of Mudd@ The Webster, Hartford	Jefferson Starship @ Ridgefield Play- house, Ridgefield
16	17	18	19	Simon & Garfunkel @ Mohegan Sun	New Kids on the Block @ Foxwoods	New Kids on the Block @ Foxwoods
Neil Young@ Oakdale Theater	24	25	26	<b>MCC Graduation!</b>	Dave Matthews Band@ Comcast Theatre, Hartford	Dave Matthews Band@ Comcast Theatre, Hartford
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	<b>June</b> Anberlin w/ Story of the Year @ Toad's Place	1	The New Deal @ Toad's Place	Patti LaBelle @ Palace Theater, Waterbury	Fear Factory w/ Prong@ The Web- ster, Hartford	The Original Wailers @ Toad's Place
		2	3	4	5	6

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## CULTURAL DIVERSITY DAY FESTIVAL



SAPHIRE Dance Co. members show MCC students how to dance SAPHIRE style.

Photo by Rich Carpenter

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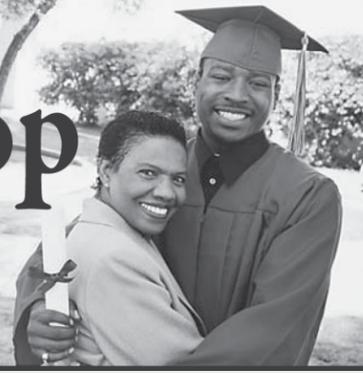


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Poetry  
Corner

Untitled

I watch him unsteady  
Two wheels for the first time  
Swerving like the many nights  
My father shouldn't have been driving  
I think back to the night I rode my bike  
All over town  
Wanting to be the first to find his missing truck  
To no avail  
But today, I'm strong  
And so is my son  
Two wheels for the first time  
The fear of falling  
The fear of failing  
Unknown to him  
And when he looks back at me  
One hundred feet from where he started  
My heart breaks that some day  
I will have to let him go.

Hillary Beestin

Friends

Friends  
Scary  
How you think you know them  
But you really don't  
They're not who you think  
They really are.  
Funny  
When you realize who  
The real ones are  
The ones that are there  
The ones that really care-  
Never the ones you expect.  
Into our lives  
They come and go  
The real ones stay  
Somehow  
Some way  
We find the ones  
That really matter.

Sara M. Berry

## Cartoon

By Eric M. Valad



If you would like to submit a poem or a cartoon for future issues, email us at [livewire@mcc.commnet.edu](mailto:livewire@mcc.commnet.edu), or visit us in Lowe 253!



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# DRAMA CLUB'S MURDER MYSTERY DINNER A MEAL TO DIE FOR

By Christian Fecteau and  
SallyAnn Garvey Lumumba  
Live Wire Staff Writers

Cheney Dining Room was the scene of a crime Tuesday, April 27, when the Manchester Community College Drama Club presented its first Murder Mystery Dinner.

Together with the Culinary Arts Department, the club transformed the room into "Cafe Vent Casse," a fine-dining venue steeped in mystery.

For one night, guests were taken back to 1940's Hollywood; patrons were seated at tables named after studios such as "Universal" and "MGM" and dined on French cuisine while interacting with a colorful cast of characters.

"Mystery" was certainly the central theme of the night. While audience members speculated about the Cafe Vent Casse's many characters, they were also left to wonder about the meal, as there were no menus at the tables.

"...THE CHARACTERS RAISED THEIR GLASSES AND PROPOSED A TOAST, WHICH WAS QUICKLY FOLLOWED BY A MURDER."

After an introductory monologue from the master of ceremonies, detective Chuck E. Chan – better known to some as MCC assistant professor Albert Kim – the first course was served: a small bowl of carrot soup. The soup had a mild flavor, a creamy texture, and was seasoned appropriately; as an appetizer, it was successful and was followed by an equally good salad.

Over an hour and a half into the evening there was no

murder to speak of at the Murder Mystery Dinner. However, the tension of anticipation was quelled by the arrival of the main course: a pork dish served with

potatoes and vegetables. The pork was aptly cooked, though the potato component was a bit complex for some diners. Additionally, some of the vegetarian guests had to pass on this course. However, the dish did hold true to its roots in French

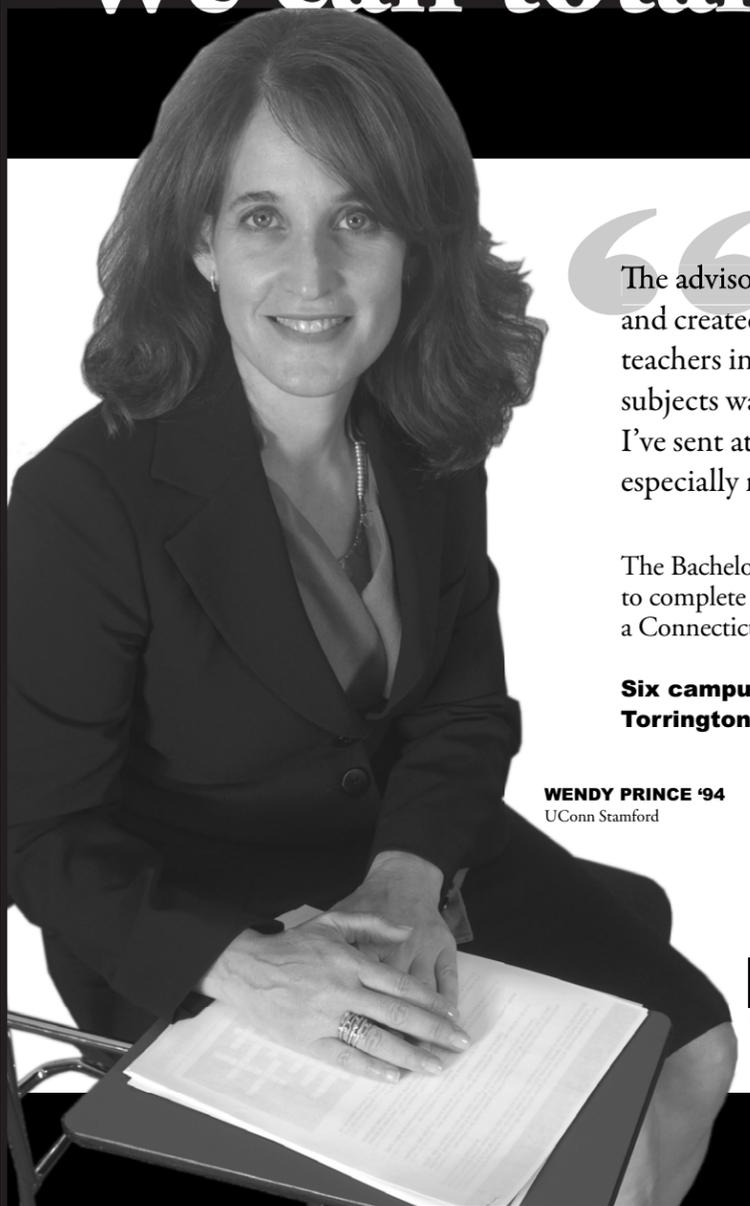
Please see Murder, pg 17



Colleen Kim played Patti O'Swing, the new starlet in town.

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WENDY PRINCE '94  
UConn Stamford

The advisor said, "We can totally make this work." They took almost all my credits and created a flexible schedule. I spent two years learning from engaging, top-notch teachers in classes full of interesting people. The encouragement to explore a variety of subjects was perfect preparation for law school. Now I'm a principal in my own firm. I've sent at least a dozen other women to the UConn BGS program — especially moms in the process of envisioning their own futures.

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Continued from Murder, pg 16

cuisine and appeared to be well executed.

After the entrée, the characters raised their glasses and proposed a toast, which was quickly followed by a murder. The all-star cast of characters included a malicious mobster, secretive starlets, a ruthless reporter and a suspicious chef, as well as the philosophic Detective Chan.

The lead role of Scarlet O'Fever was played by the exceptional thespian, Professor Kaarina Finegan. O'Fever was a movie star who aimed to make a comeback in the film "Gone with the Breeze." Her performance echoed "Norma Desmond" right up to her tragic demise.

Guests were left to ponder who was behind the sordid act over dessert: crème brûlée. It was the perfect way to end the meal; its sweetness was an appropriate contrast to the savory preceding dishes. The delicate dessert was visually appealing and wrapped up the occasion on a high note.

After a two-minute interrogation of each character, each of the audience tables presented its solution to the murder of O'Fever. Notable theories included: that O'Fever was killed by a blow

Photos by Rich Carpenter,  
Staff Photographer



Professor Albert Kim played detective Chuck E. Chan, who dazzled audiences with quick witticisms.



"Nick the Knife" played by Eric D'Amico, introducing himself to the audience at the dinner.



MCC President Gena Glickman enjoyed the night's festivities, both food and murder.



Kaarina Finegan played Scarlet O'Fever, the murder victim in the MCC Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre.

dart hidden inside a photographer's camera; that she was the victim of a conspiracy for her fortune; or perhaps wiped out by a pair of villainous lovers. The cast served as judges for the audience solutions, and graded each on both accuracy and creativity.

Sadly, no one correctly guessed the true killer: the sinister Chef François Truffle. But the patrons could almost forgive him for the crime, for the food was classy and the dinner was a success.

Between the characters portrayed by the MCC Drama Club and the food presented by Culinary Arts, the Murder Mystery Dinner will be remembered fondly by all the diners who attended. After such an immersive evening of fine dining and murder, the true crime is that Cafe Vent Casse only opened its doors for a single night. Encore!

# Strahowski, Cougars Winding Up Challenging Season

By Paul Ofria  
MCC Sports Information

The college baseball season in New England starts and ends early. Manchester Community College head coach Chris Strahowski crammed an aggressive 56-game schedule into 61 calendar days and is starting to see dividends on the field.

MCC was the first college team to play in Connecticut when it hosted Eastern Connecticut State University's Sub-Varsity on March 2 and are scheduled to wind up the regular season on May 2 in Rindge, New Hampshire, against Franklin Pierce College's JVs.

In between, the Cougars lost a few games to weather, but go into the final weekend of the regular season with a 24-17 (through April 29) overall record. MCC completed its Region 21 division schedule with a 12-2 mark, putting them in good position to land the number one seed in the conference tournament to be played at Holyoke Community College May 7-9. The winner will move on to the NJCAA Division III World Series in Tyler, Tex., May 22-28.

"I didn't think it was going to take 36 games, but it finally seems like we are kind of turning the corner," Strahowski said after his team swept a double header from Bunker Hill Community College on April 18.

The two-time defending Region 21 champions play an aggressive out of conference schedule against Division I and II teams from New York, New Jersey and Rhode Island, which will give them an advantage in the four-team, double elimination tournament.

MCC won the tournament for the first time in 15 years on Mother's Day 2008 in Manchester and successfully defended the title on the same holiday a year later in Brockton, Mass.

Lefty Dan Nelson of Glastonbury was the winning pitcher on both occasions, but the Cougars will need a new Mother's Day hero this year. Nelson has moved on to the Little East as a starting pitcher for Keene State College in New Hampshire and could pass the torch down to a number of worthy pitchers on Strahowski's 2010 roster.

The staff is led by Newington's Kevin Madera who is 6-0 with a 1.43 ERA entering the final weekend of the regular season, with 52 strikeouts and just 14 walks over a staff high 44 innings. Adam Scanlon of South



MCC Captain Tyler Wenz is the heart of the Cougar pitching staff despite a 1-4 record. The sophomore from Ogdensburg, N.J., has a 3.89 ERA with 38 strikeouts in 39.1 innings.

Photo Courtesy of MCC Athletics

Windsor has put up impressive numbers (5-2, 3.86 ERA, 29Ks) in his first year of college baseball, but the unsung leader of the staff may be sophomore captain Tyler Wenz who, despite a 1-4 record, has 38 strikeouts in 39.1 innings with a healthy 3.89 ERA.

The offense is powered by a righty-lefty combo at the top of the order with catcher A. J. Lowers (Newington) and center-fielder Joey Allison (East Hartford).

Lowers, who was named NJCAA Division III Player of the Week for April 28, was a third team All-American selection in 2009 and could be in line for an upgrade based on the numbers he has

put up as a sophomore. Lowers leads the Cougars in batting average (.479), hits (58), RBI (46), doubles (14), runs scored (35) and slugging percentage (.565). He has 11 steals in 12 attempts and has thrown out 13 of 19 would-be base stealers. Most impressively, he has not been charged with an error on defense in 263 chances while also seeing time at first base, second base and left field.

Allison, who transferred to MCC after playing at Keene in 2007, has put together an impressive resume as well. A lefty hitter with power to all parts of the field, Allison is batting

.396 (53 for 134) with a homer and 32 RBI. The speedster leads the team in triples with seven and has 21 steals in 21 attempts.

Shortstop Juan Bisons (sophomore/New Britain) has also had a big year at the plate (.396, 26 RBI, 10 for 10 on the bases) while freshman second baseman A. J. Silberman (Meriden) is hitting .313 with 31 runs scored from the leadoff slot.

A third straight Region 21 title and trip to Texas is no guarantee for Strahowski and the Cougars, but with the toughest part of the schedule in the books, one has to like their chances.

## Intramural Sports Bring Students Together

By Raymond Roy  
Special to the Live Wire

Manchester Community College athletics officials are trying to get more students active with intramural sports programs.

MCC currently offers co-ed flag football. The league currently has five teams with eight players per team. The games are free to see and take place down by the baseball fields. Four of the five teams have a game each week, with one team getting a bye week. This is the second season of flag football and organizers are hoping to expand to even more teams next season.

Some students en-

joy the playing time.

"Playing flag football is fun. It takes away all of the stress of the school week and it is fun to compete with other students who have similar interests," said Dan Dobbyn, one of the players of the co-ed flag football league.

In the fall, the college hopes to add an intramural dodgeball league, said Joanne Britton, assistant director of fitness. Currently, there is one team and more are needed. The games will be 3 on 3 and consist of one round. Each team should have four players, with three active players and one alternate.

You may be wondering why exactly you should par-

ticipate in intramural sports? The answer may surprise you.

Studies have shown that with doing intramural sports not only are you having a good time but you will be able to study better and just be better in general. This gives everyone of any shape or sizes the chance to have fun in a less intense way than the extracurricular teams the college fields, including men's baseball, men's and women's soccer and women's basketball.

The fitness department hopes to add many new intramural sports in the coming semester's, Britton said, such as volleyball and 3-on-

3 basketball as well as any other sport that students would be interested in.

"With our intramurals sports, we hope to promote co-ed activities, good sportsmanship and enhance our student's potential for social growth," she said.

If you would like to join the dodgeball league or form another team sport, see Britton in the athletic office, Lowe 154m or email her at jbritton@mcc.comnet.edu.

If you would like to see any of the co-ed flag football games, the teams will be playing on Tuesdays and Thursdays up until the round robin tournament on May 10.

# The NBA Playoffs: A Disappointing Reward for an Unexciting Season

By Dan Dobbyn  
Live Wire Sports Writer

It has never been truer for American sports that nothing matters until the playoffs than when you're discussing the NBA playoffs. I'm going to say it right now: The NBA playoffs stink, at least when compared to the playoffs of other sports. Although basketball is more exciting than baseball and has more viewers than hockey, it pales in comparison to either ones' playoffs.

In baseball, you don't even know who's going to be in the playoffs sometimes, considering teams like the Tampa Bay Rays and the Milwaukee Brewers are "considered to have a chance." Plus, NHL hockey, which has the exact same playoff system as the NBA playoffs, is already exciting this year. The Eastern and Western Conferences of the NHL have already seen both their 1 and 2 seeds as well as the East's 3 seed lose a home game.

That's not going to happen in the NBA playoffs. (I'm not going to bother making a comparison to football. That doesn't seem fair to me.)

Also, there has never been more of a difference in a sport from college to the pros than there is with basketball. In college basketball, if you make it to the March Madness tournament, you have a chance. Every player matters and can do their part to make the team better by passing the ball effectively and boxing out for a rebound. Michigan State can keep advancing despite losing their best player every game. Ali Farokhmanesh can make the game-winning 3-pointer against the number one team in the tournament, for Northern Iowa, a school that has never had a player drafted into the NBA. Butler University can be one win away from earning a National Championship; this from a school that has a smaller population than the town of Newington. It's possible.

However, once you get to the NBA, it changes completely. If you're not Kobe Bryant or LeBron James, the average American doesn't even know who you are. If you play in Boston, you're expected to go to the finals. If you play in New York, you're probably terrible. And if you play in Oklahoma City, Lakers fans may not know you have a team until they buy tickets for game 3 of your series.

For those of you who don't get it, the Oklahoma City Thunder were the Seattle SuperSonics until they moved in 2008, and, as of this writing, the Lakers were going to Oklahoma City for game 3 of the Western Conference quarter-finals. Speaking of which, here are your playoff match-ups:

## Western Conference

#1 - Los Angeles Lakers vs. #8 Oklahoma City Thunder

#2 - Dallas Mavericks vs. #2 San Antonio Spurs

#3 - Denver Nuggets vs. #6 Utah Jazz

#4 - Phoenix Suns vs. #5 Portland Trailblazers



Photo by Rich Carpenter,  
Staff Photographer

## Eastern Conference

#1 - Cleveland Cavaliers vs. #8 Chicago Bulls

#2 - Orlando Magic vs. #7 Charlotte Bobcats

#3 - Atlanta Hawks vs. #6 Milwaukee Bucks

#4 - Boston Celtics vs. #5 Miami Heat

I'm going to say this right now: the top four seeds in each conference advance. No surprises. I love the Western Conference for the good competition we'll see, but until one of these teams beats the Lakers, it's a fluke.

As for as upsets go, the only one I see possible is the Spurs over the Mavericks. The Spurs are built for and have experience in the playoffs, something the Mavericks barely have and what no other team has to the extent that the Spurs do. But will the upset happen? Probably not.

The semi-finals in the West have the Lakers playing the Suns and the Mavericks playing the Nuggets. In the East, we will have Cleveland playing the Celtics and the Hawks against the Magic. I am a huge New England sports fan. Also, I've seen the Celtics beat the Cavaliers this season. However, they'll lose the series in six games, tops. Orlando, however, will defeat the Hawks in no less than seven games. They're that evenly matched.

I believe that the top 2 seeds will advance in the West, too. The Lakers will soundly beat the Suns, who have no defense. The Mavericks will advance as well, but if the Nuggets coach George Karl comes back sooner rather than later, the Nuggets may have the leadership needed to pull the upset. I find the Mavericks very vulnerable to the upset.

However, I believe the Mavericks are the only team that could beat the Lakers in a seven-game series in the West, and they'll get their chance in the Western Conference finals. However, once again, Lakers win.

In the Eastern Conference finals, I expect the Orlando Magic to once again upset the Cavaliers and enjoy the sweet taste of an NBA finals berth mixed with James' tears.

That's right, ladies and gentlemen, we have a rematch on our hands: Magic vs. Lakers. I also believe we will have a repeat: Lakers in six games. The Magic are getting better, but the Lakers are too good. I would be seriously surprised if anyone but the Lakers wins.

Finally, let it be known that James is not leaving Cleveland anytime soon.

I'll end by paraphrasing basketball great Charles Barkley: the only people who say you can be bigger in New York are people from New York. Very true, Barkley, very true.

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# What does "happiness" mean to you?

# Word

on campus



Alex Obert  
Communications,  
Newington

"Happiness is finding myself through life's experiences."



Nate Green  
General Studies,  
New Britain

"Happiness is living the way you want to live."



Kyle Sarvey  
Communications,  
East Hartford

"Happiness is enjoying the boring things in life."



Xenia Eremine  
Building Management,  
West Hartford

"Happiness is being fine with all the things you can't have."



Nubia Reyes  
Criminal Justice,  
Hartford

"Happiness for me is going to the Dominican Republic for two months to enjoy the beach and I'm going to get married."



Nadia Lee  
Drug and Alcohol Recovery  
Counseling,  
Cromwell

"Happiness is having a good friend nearby."

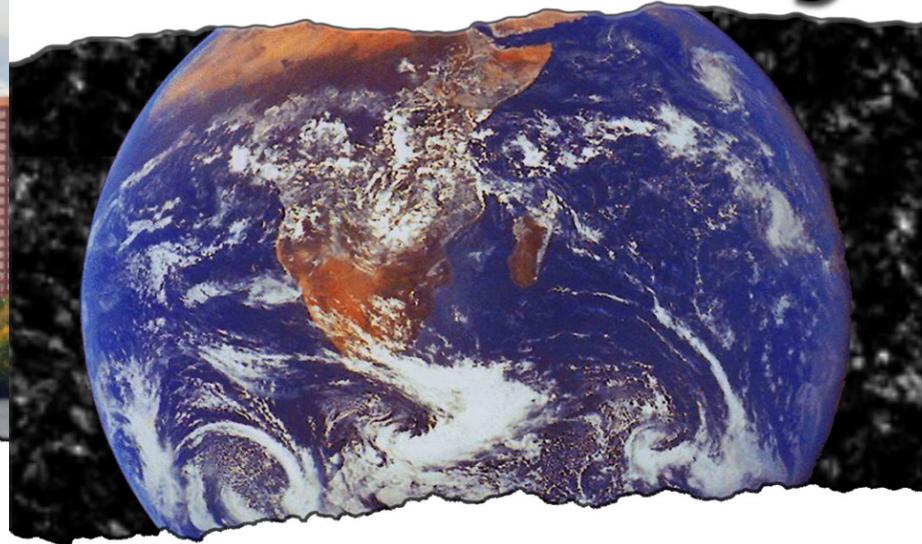
\*pictured left to right: Ana Ruiz, Lee, Naisha Ortiz

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