

Live Wire

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Manchester Community College

Free

New MCC President Talks Music, Student Space and Budget Blues

By Jason Cunningham
Live Wire Staff Writer

Dr. Gena Glickman, 56, took over as Manchester Community College's new president in July. She was last at Elgin Community College, a school northwest of Chicago. She holds a doctorate in education, policy and planning from the University of Maryland, in College Park, Md., a master's in counseling and education from John Hopkins University School of Education, and a bachelor's of fine arts from the Maryland Institute College of Art. The first female president of MCC has settled into a house in Manchester with her husband, Joachim Bullacher, their cat and a St. Bernard dog.

Pres. Glickman talked with the Live Wire earlier this month and answered some serious, and not so serious, questions to give students a look into the mind of their college's new leader.

Q: Do you foresee any major changes at MCC in the 2008-2009 school year?

A: Well, one thing that's going to be different is that we're going to be starting an enhanced strategic planning session. This is an ambitious community of hard workers, so we're going to build on our strengths by getting input from faculty and students alike. This is a great place; we're going to do all we can to make good decisions. The question then becomes, 'So how can you make a great place better?' We want to look at a lot of things to help accommodate students better. We want to make good budget decisions for them. We want to engage students into student life. We want to use the best of our resources, and part of that is making students aware of what is offered

to them here. Helping students receive the fullest experience at MCC possible is our goal. My job is to take a step back and take a balcony view of it all, then to lead people in the right direction of how to improve what already is excellent. We're going to see a lot of students and faculty bring their talents to the table and lead MCC into the right direction.

Q: Are there any plans for a new or improved student lounge?

A: We've been talking about student space. We want to provide more accessible places for students to hang out. We want a solid renovation of the Lowe building, making it a true student life center. We want there to be a place where students can take in

all of the services MCC has to offer. This year we're going to start with new furniture for student areas and more study spaces in our buildings. A committee will be formed this year to work out all of our planning to revamp the Lowe Building. The committee has yet to be formed, but we'd like to put out there that we want student involvement with the planning. When it comes down to it, it's their space, not ours.

Q: There's a lot of talk about budget cuts this year. What will be done to reduce the negative effects of any budget cuts? Will the cuts directly hurt students?

A: We have already planned this



Dr. Gena Glickman. Photo by Dan Long.

Please see **President** on page 3

LIAM OHLMANN SIGNS WITH MILWAUKEE BREWERS

Right-hander Becomes First MCC Player Drafted in 21 Years



Liam Ohlmann unleashes a pitch for MCC during the NJCAA World Series in Tyler, Texas, on May 17. Ohlmann was drafted by the Milwaukee Brewers in the 20th round of the Major League Amateur Draft on June 6 and spent the summer pitching in the Arizona League in Phoenix.

Photo courtesy of MCC Athletics.

By Paul Ofria
MCC Sports Information Director

MCC All-American pitcher Liam Ohlmann was in Keene, New Hampshire, June 6 preparing for his next start. He had just returned from practice with his summer league team, the Keene Swampbats of the New England Collegiate Baseball League when a small entry on his computer changed his weekend plans. And then some.

The Milwaukee Brewers had just chosen the MCC right-hander in the 20th round of Major League Baseball's first year player draft. So, instead of pitching the season opener for the Swampbats that Saturday night against the Holyoke Blue Sox in New Hampshire, Ohlmann would be boarding a plane for the Brewers training facility at Maryvale Park in Phoenix, Arizona that

Sunday.

After receiving a phone call from Brewers scout Rene Mons, Ohlmann left New Hampshire, and within two and a half hours of seeing his name pop up on the screen, he signed a contract and became an employee of the Milwaukee Brewers.

"I'm a Brewer," a relaxed Ohlmann said to a well-wisher over the phone less than an hour after signing.

The deal was cut at the Ohlmann's home in Wallingford with his parents, Chris and Karen Ohlmann, and MCC Head Coach Chris Strahowski sitting at the table with him. Ohlmann then went out to dinner with his parents at Archie Moore's in Walling-

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Athletic teams forming for 2008-09 school year on page 6.

Summer movies reviewed on page 10.

Greetings MCC Students,

My name is Kristine Vincent and I am your new Director of Student Activities.

I'm looking forward to providing a vast array of opportunities for students, including recreational, social and cultural programs plus information on how to get involved in the governance of the college - after all, this is your college!

September is the perfect opportunity to start thinking about what your interests are and how you can be in-



Photo by Jason Cunningham

Above: Kristine Vincent, MCC's new Director of Student Activities.

involved in Student Life. I encourage all of you to become active in your college community by joining a club, participating in the Student Senate, becoming a member of the Student Activities Committee, writing for the Live Wire newspaper or through the vast array of other opportunities available to you. Stop by Student Activities in the Lower Level of the Lowe Building, L154, and start your Student Life experience today!

I am very excited to begin working with you this fall!

See you on Campus!

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If you "Get Caught" reading the Live Wire by one of our roving photographers you could win a Starbucks gift card and a Live Wire t-shirt. Above, business major Matt Kaminsky catches up on campus news with your student newspaper. Follow his example and "Get Caught!"

Photo by Jason Cunningham

Continued from **President** on page 1...

year for budget cuts. It's about a three percent cut systemwide that the governor put forth. We're fine this year in terms of money, students will not be affected. This cut, as far as we know, is temporary. The only change here will be that there will be less part time positions for teachers that haven't been filled. If the cuts continue, we're going to be very strategic in terms of what to use less of to conserve our resources as best as possible. We have so much potential saving opportunity. We could put course packs on CD-ROM, for instance, or save paper by making all print-

ers double-sided printers. Hopefully, we're the early bird, preparing for the worst. We don't want the cuts to be permanent. Hopefully, by conserving the governor won't find it necessary to continue the cuts.

Q: Okay, now it's time for some fun questions. If you could have any superpower, what would it be and why?

A: If I could have any superpower I'd like to be able to read minds. I feel like people don't always speak their minds. We could solve a lot of problems by

openly expressing our opinions.

Q: What did you do for fun as an undergraduate college student?

A: When I was a college student I worked three jobs and had about 15 hours of homework a week. I valued just hanging out with friends. There was a bar and grill called Mount Royal Tavern. My friends and I played pool there, discussed art. Another thing I always liked doing was going to museums to copy paintings I liked

in my sketchbook.

Q: What kind of music do you like?

A.: I'm a blues fan, I love vocal jazz. As a young art major, I gravitated towards rock, but now it's all jazz for me.

If you would like to ask Pres. Glickman a question, submit it to the Live Wire by email, livewire@mcc.commnet.edu or bring it to the Live Wire office in the Lowe building, L-253. She will answer your questions in the next issue!



MCC Holds 44th Annual Commencement

Manchester Community College awarded more than 700 degrees to 664 graduates during the College's 44th annual commencement ceremony held May 29. Graduates from 83 towns across Connecticut and four other states, were awarded associate in science degrees, associate in art degrees and certificates. The youngest graduate was 18 years old and the oldest was 79. At left a graduate blows bubbles to lighten the ceremony. *Photo by Ann Montgomery.*

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Spring Fling Splash!



The Student Senate sponsored a Spring Fling event on the quad just before the end of the spring 2008 semester. The day long event included food, dancing, and games, such as a dunking booth. Prof. Bob Kagan, above, bravely sat in the booth. He got dunked several times but still managed to smile.

Photo by Jason Cunningham

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Please note: the Open Mic will now be a separate event sponsored by MCC's Poets' Club.

September 18

Featured Poet: Award-winning Latina poet and Hartford Courant opinion columnist, **Bessy Reyna**
Featured Musician: **James Mercik**

October 16

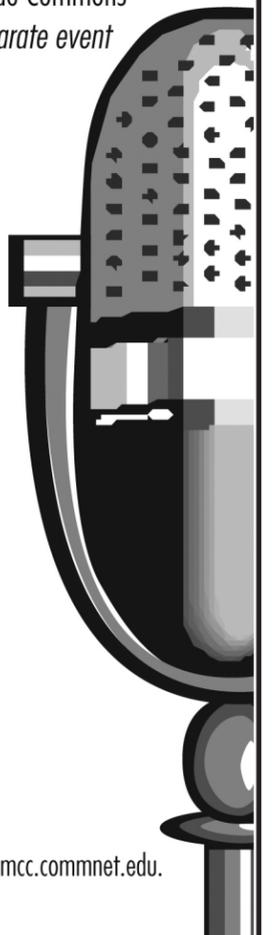
Publication Celebration of *Wild Dreams* –
"The Best of 25 years of *Italian Americana*"
With **Carol Bonomo Albright** and **Dennis Barone**
Featured Musician: **Special Guests**

November 20

A Celebration of Curbstone Press and the Life of Alexander Taylor
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and for all further information, please visit the Series web site:
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Turning Over a New Leaf with Team Green

By EveAnn Mazur
Special to the Live Wire

Yes, it's that time again... the start of a new academic year and the beginning of all that comes along with it – commuting to and from campus for classes, buying new textbooks, diligent note-taking, writing papers and completing assignments. Team Green, Manchester Community College's own sustainability group, would like to remind you what can be done to make this transition back to school easier, less expensive and, above all, environmentally friendly.

For those who are yet unfamiliar with the goals and projects of Team Green and the concepts of sustainability, a primer. Sustainability has many definitions but the basic principles remain constant: balancing a growing economy, protection for the environment, and social responsibility, together leading to an improved quality of life for ourselves and future generations. These notions may seem vast or vague but Team Green would like to show you a few ways that you can contribute to an eco-friendly campus. In fact, many of these practices are so simple that you may already be living a "green" lifestyle without even realizing it!

For instance, there are obvious financial benefits to buying used textbooks rather than new ones. Such a rationale is all part of responsible decision-making and money management; yet, think about the environmental implications. Feel good about the purchase of used textbooks not only for your wallet's sake, but also because you're practicing recycling/reusing in its most basic form.

Are you the kind of student who has hung on to last semester's notes from your U.S. history or sociology course? This semester, try using the empty lined pages at the back of those notebooks. Why buy new when you have perfectly good school supplies already in your possession?

Additionally, cut your paper consumption and copy costs by printing in 2-sided mode on both personal and campus printers. Be proactive and take the first few days of the semester to ask your instructors if they'll accept assignments and papers printed in such a fashion. Our Information Technology Department on campus is working, as we speak, to arrange the default printer/copier settings to this 2-sided standard.

Think about conserving in other ways, like through reducing gas and energy consumption. If you're on campus on Wednesday afternoons, you'll see the seasonal tents belonging to the MCC Farmers Market, next to the Bandshell. This sale of fresh, Connecticut fruits and vegetables aims to support local growers, cuts down on vehicle emissions and all other environmental costs resulting from the long-distance shipping of produce. Do you or your family members need to head to the grocery store? Alter your buying practices! Don't make an extra trip in the car. Buy local, save on gas and save the environment all at the same time. This year, the Farmers Market will run from 2-5 p.m. every Wednesday, through Oct. 29.

You can also battle rising gas prices and fight for the environment by participating in a rideshare program (i.e.: carpooling with other MCC teachers/staff/students who live in your town or neighborhood). One of the current goals of Team Green is to organize an online message board on the MCC website where interested individuals can locate and contact other drivers and/or riders.

Do you make a regular stop at Dunkin' Donuts, Starbucks, or a convenience store for your morning coffee or a bottle of water? Bring a travel mug, thermos, or reusable water bottle rather than paying for disposable versions. These very items are constantly filling our trash receptacles on campus. It's one thing to recycle those plastic bottles after you've finished with them, but it's another accomplishment entirely if you can avoid using them altogether!

It is typically easier to make changes in our lives when we're

turning over a new leaf. (Pardon the "green" pun)! Whether you've just moved into a new apartment, you've begun your first semester of classes here at MCC, or are a returning student with a fresh outlook for the new school term, you are certainly entering a transitional phase in your life. Consider reshaping not only your study habits or living arrangements but your daily behavior as it effects our environment and community.

Team Green invites and welcomes new members. Our first meetings of the fall semester will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 9, at 11 a.m. and again on Monday, Sept. 15 at noon. Both meetings will be held in room 226A of the Learning Resource Center. We value all student ideas and input. Tell us what measures would help you to get into the habit of recycling on campus. Join us and tell us how you think MCC can expand its "green" potential while reducing its carbon footprint!

For more information about Team Green, contact EveAnn Mazur at emazur@mcc.commnet.edu or Andrew Paterna at apaterna@mcc.commnet.edu.

MCC Farmers Market offers bountiful harvest, pictured below.



Photos by Endia DeCordova-Murphy

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MCC Athletic Teams Look to Build on Success

By Paul Ofria
MCC Sports Information Director

The Manchester Community College Athletic Department's four intercollegiate teams all enjoyed success in 2007-08 and look to pick up in the fall where they left off in the spring.

The athletic programs produced three All-Americans - Santiago Meira (men's soccer), Shanika Hines (basketball) and Liam Ohlmann (baseball) - and had a combined record of 70-31-4 in 2007-08. Hines, who was second in the nation in assists, averaging 7.9 per game, is returning for her sophomore year, while Meira earned a full scholarship to the University of Maine at Machias. Ohlmann was drafted and signed by the Milwaukee Brewers in June and spent the summer playing rookie ball in the Midwest.

"We do not focus on winning," MCC Athletic Director Cynthia Washburne said. "Our goal is to enhance the lives of our student-athletes outside the traditional classroom through the vehicle of athletic participation. When we focus on what is important - understanding the value of a college education and discipline and commitment to the team - then winning takes care of



Brittany Finger, of Enfield, will play for the Lady Cougars this upcoming season. Photo by Paul Ofria.

itself."

The Cougar baseball team, led by ninth-year Head Coach Chris Strahowski, went 29-13-2, won the National Junior College Ath-

letic Association (NJCAA) Region XXI, Division III Tournament, and then represented the school in the NJCAA Division III World Series in Tyler, Texas.

Last winter, the women's basketball team got off to an eye-catching 18-0 start and finished the season 22-3. Head Coach Robert Turner's team lost to Holyoke Community College in the Region XXI tournament final 63-60, narrowly missing a chance to play for a National Championship.

In the fall of 2007, both the men's and women's soccer teams qualified for their Region XXI tournaments

with 10-8-1 and 9-7-1 records, respectively. Both soccer teams kick off MCC's 2008-09 athletic season with road games on Aug. 30 at Bristol Community College in Falls River, Mass.

The women's soccer team, led for the fourth year by Head Coach Alex Calpa, plays its home opener on Sept. 3 in a 4 p.m. game against HCC. Jim Insinga's men's team hosts its first game a week later, on Sept. 10, when Springfield Technical Community College visits MCC.

"We are looking to improve on a winning season and go further into the playoffs," Calpa said. "With the talent of the players we have now, we are hoping to go to the (District) Final Four and a trip to Texas." Calpa came to MCC as a student-athlete in 1999 and began his coaching career as a player-coach for Insignia in 2000.

Calpa has a core of returning players, including Glastonbury's Lauren Alvarez who led the Cougars with 13 goals and 19 assists last fall, Brittany Finger (Enfield/14G, 6A) Julia Connor (Ellington) and

Please see **Teams** on page 7



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Continued from **Teams** on page 6 ...

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Calpa has a core of returning players, including Glastonbury's Lauren Alvarez who led the Cougars with 13 goals and 19 assists last fall, Britany Finger (Enfield/14G, 6A) Julia Connor (Ellington) and goalkeeper Nicole Moorehouse (Tolland), who will probably move up to a forward position this season.

Insinga said he is looking forward to the return of Jemmy Cange (Norwich Free Academy) who missed the 2007 season after scoring 17 goals for the Cougars as a freshman in 2006.

"We'll have a potent offense," Insinga said. "We have skilled defenders and four freshman goalkeepers coming in, so it should be interesting to see how it all comes together."

The men's and women's Soccer National Championship Tournaments will be held in Richland, Texas, in November.

In early October, the basketball team will begin its quest for a berth in their National Tournament, which will be held in Rochester, Minn., in March. Turner said he looks forward to a second season with Hines, who was an All-State player and State Champion on John Reiser's undefeated Manchester High team in 2005. Amanda Morales, who was Hines' teammate at MHS, returns along with Amy Griswold (Ellington), Katurah Andrews (East Hartford), Christine Lewis (Manchester/Prince Tech) and Brittany Dehm (Somers), along with a strong recruiting class that includes point guard Marqucher Holder from Prince Tech.

"All four of our athletic programs are well established," Washburne said. "We have strong coaching staffs and look forward to another successful year."

The baseball team plays an informal schedule in fall, which Strahowski uses to evaluate players for the following spring. Anyone with interest in trying out for or helping out with any of the school's four intercollegiate team should contact the Athletic department office at 512-3353 or email pofria@mcc.commnet.edu.

Continued from **MLB** on front page ford.

"I'm euphoric," Ohlmann said in a phone interview while waiting for his dinner order. "I'm so happy and relieved. I'm so thankful to my parents for their support. It's still sinking in."

The 2005 Choate grad was 7-2 with a 2.62 ERA for the Cougars in 2008. He also struck out 72 batters in 55 innings and was named NJCAA Division III First-Team All-American. The MCC Dean's List student will pass on a full scholarship to Fordham University, but plans to continue his studies using an education fund set up by the Brewers.

Ohlmann helped lead MCC (29-13-2) to its first NJCAA Division III World Series since 1994 in May and became the highest Cougar draft pick. First baseman Todd Mercier of Broadbrook was selected by the Cincinnati Reds in the 48th round in 1987 while outfielder Steve Roath of Glastonbury was taken by the St Louis Cardinals in the 30th round in 1981.

Ohlmann pitched in front of scouts during most of his nine starts this season and showcased his 93 mph fastball in a workout with the Cincinnati Reds last week in New Jersey, but his maturity level and character cannot be measured by a radar gun.

Ambitious beyond his 21 years, Ohlmann built a batting helmet rack for MCC, installed a solar light in

the dugout storage area at McCormick Field, installed pegs in the home dugout and welded together a ball hopper that holds nearly 20 dozen baseballs. How many professional pitchers can wield a welding torch? Then as encore, he and Assistant Coach Shawn Barry painted both dugouts prior to the NJCAA Region XXI Division III Tournament hosted by MCC on Mother's Day weekend.

Ohlmann's coach expressed pride and awe for his MLB player.

"It's like having MacGyver on your team," Strahowski said of Ohlmann, referring to the 1980's TV Secret agent who seemed to have unlimited scientific resources.

Strahowski, who himself pitched five years of professional baseball, has been a major influence on Ohlmann and encouraged him to take better care of himself physically, Strahowski said. After turning a 2-6 season in 2007 despite 54 strikeouts in 46 innings and a 3.71 ERA, Ohlmann worked with a personal trainer and lost 35 pounds before the start for the 2008 season.

"He deserves this," Strahowski said. "He has been working his butt off for years."

In his first three appearances as a pro, Ohlmann allowed just one run over five innings on two hits with four strikeouts and one walk for the Arizona Brewers in the Arizona Rookie League.

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Pres. Daube's Last

A Final Farewell



*Dr. Jonathon M. Daube, re
as president of the college a
his wake he left a legacy th
college buildings, a rising h
ing of several innovative j
and the memory of his unfla
ing Manchester Community
work, learn and thrive.*

Daube enjoys his last Commencement ceremony as President of MCC on May 29, 2008.



During the May 31, 2008, tribute, Florence Sheils, director of the Center for Student Development, did a good-natured impression of Pres. Daube, complete with bushy eyebrows, balding head and an English accent.



Pres. Daube enjoys spending time with his family, including daughter Katherine, and twin grandsons Noah and A

Last Days at MCC

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ell ...

tired in May from his post
after 20 years of service. In
at includes state of the art
high school building, the hir-
faculty and staff members
agging commitment to mak-
College a premier place to



On May 31, 2008, Daube and friends and family join together after Daube's tribute event. They are standing in front of the Art, Science, and Technology building which was part of a multi-million dollar expansion of the campus completed between 2000 and 2003.



ing time with his family, includ-
center, and wife Linda, right, and
Ari, in stroller.



Pres. Daube, center, and his wife Linda, on his right, celebrate with other members of the Board of Trustees of Connecticut's Community Colleges, who decided to name the new Great Path Academy middle college- high school building after Daube. The building should be completed in 2009.

Summer Movies:

A Look Back at the Hits and Misses

By Jason Cunningham
Live Wire Staff Writer

Summer is a time for sun, fun, and the beautiful explosion of box office blockbusters, raining down advertisements and merchandise everywhere we look. If you're like me, you didn't let the flash of big industry pushing get to you. Most of this summer's big films weren't half bad, and as I reflect back onto those nights and rainy days spent in a theater, I can easily say most of the stories were worth a watch.

First off, let me say that there were no Disney pirates, crazed zombies, or lazy comedy sequels weakly plaguing the screen. Instead, audiences were treated to a wonderful group of heroes this summer, whether it's our environmentalist robot (*WALL-E*), our American legend (Indiana Jones), our gun wielding devil (*Hellboy*), our comic based assassin (Wesley Allan Gibson), or our dark defender of the night (Batman), it was clear that those who saved the day were the ones who managed to earn some green at the box office. So let's take a trip back and look at what was good, what was bad, and what was horribly ugly.

The most family friendly film of the summer, *WALL-E*, is a must for parents looking to show their kids an entertaining film with a great message. *WALL-E* (Ben Burtt) is a lonely robot who has spent several hundred years compacting garbage on the Earth of a future gone horribly wrong. He sifts through old trinkets and knickknacks to collect, with no one to keep him company except a cockroach. Every night he watches old Disney flicks, going to sleep alone in an old storage unit, among his collections of sporks, Rubik's Cubes, and other remnants of a civilization now gone.

Over the years, he developed a colorful personality of his own. *WALL-E* soon falls deeply in love when another robot, EVE (Elissa Knight), who is sent to earth to acquire a living sample of plant life to bring back to a ship of the last surviving humans who've been traveling through space for generations controlled by a company named Buy n Large.

WALL-E not only keeps kids giggling throughout, but also sends an important message to an impressionable audience, while keeping adults entertained and thoroughly impressed with the film's ability to keep their attention. The film displays our culture's struggle with convenience and technology. We don't want to become com-

pletely detached from the world around us, yet we all seldom take the time to enjoy our natural surroundings. We don't want to kill the earth, yet we are unable to put a halt to the things we do that harm it every day (driving cars, making garbage, using spray cans, etc.).

Jeff Garlin leads most of the film's dialogue as the ship's captain. Fred Willard plays Shelby Forthright (the only character we actually see who isn't generated by computers) the Buy n Large CEO, and he meshes with the animated world brilliantly. John Ratzenberger, who voices John, and Kathy Najimy, who plays Mary, add a good amount of depth as model characters of mankind's condition in the setting of *WALL-E*, adding a second love story to the mix. Sigourney Weaver plays the ship's computer, the story's main antagonist, and does a very convincing job of making the audience believe that she is an evil, corrupted machine. Andrew Stanton, who directed and wrote the story for *WALL-E* has made a film that will last, going down with such other Disney Classics as *Beauty and the Beast*, *Snow White*, and *Cinderella*.

If robots aren't your style maybe you'll enjoy *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*. Imagine it's 1957, Indiana Jones (Harrison Ford) is fired from his job at Yale University when he's accused of being a communist. He is approached by a young man named Mutt (Shia LaBeouf), whose mother, Marion, told him to find Dr. Jones to help him look for a mystical Crystal Skull. Together they begin an adventure to find the skull, as they are pursued by the Russians, who are also after it. The Russians are lead by Irina Spalko (Cate Blanchett), a fitting villain for the pulpy style of the series.

I think Indiana Jones is one of the most interesting characters in cinema. He's intelligent, charming, and handsome. He's constantly going on adventures in between teaching classes and swooping ladies off their feet. He can have an extended discussion about the history of an obscure civilization with you and he can kick your ass. Essentially, Indiana Jones is the embodiment of what every American man dreams to be.



Photo courtesy of Google.

The series' old time style and long, overblown action sequences add a lot of fun to the fill for fans and casual viewers alike. Unfortunately, that gets old. Even though, we see some really romantic shots of one of cinema's most legendary characters (Dr. Jones standing in front of a nuclear mushroom cloud, for instance) and have fun while watching our beloved hero go on a wild adventure, the film has little more to offer us than cheap thrills and great one-liners. It has heart, sharing that same spirit of action of the three previous films in the franchise, but it lacks a good story. The plot is full of philosophical nonsense that feels forced and out of place, and the writers treat Indiana Jones more like a superhero, and less like a human being, which is part of what made him so appealing in the past.

Karen Allen reprises her role as

Marion Ravenwood, bringing a warm, familiar tone to the movie. Steven Spielberg does a great job directing, with the exception of the overuse of computer-generated effects. George Lucas, the main writer of the story, is obviously out of creative ideas at this point, and really needs to stop making movies before he soils every good thing he's ever done.

If you plan on skipping out on Indiana Jones and his crew, maybe a more devilish character and his friends will appeal to you.

When we think of hell, we mostly imagine an eternity worth of demons and torture. It's not often that we think of a demon hero who will save all of mankind. *Hellboy* is one of the few comic book based heroes who translates into a brilliant fantasy adventure character. *Hellboy II: The Golden Army*, the sequel to 2004's *Hellboy*, leaves behind the historical folklore and conspiracy theories for a whimsical and fright-

Please see **Movies** on page 16...

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For more information, please call Julie Greene, Senior Associate Director of MCC Career Services at (860) 512-3374, or visit the Office in Lowe 177, opposite the bookstore.

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Thursday, October 2	Job Search & Cover Letters
Thursday, October 9	Interviewing Skills
Thursday, October 16	Effective Resume Writing
Thursday, October 23	Job Search & Cover Letters
Thursday, October 30	Interviewing Skills
Thursday, November 6	Effective Resume Writing
Thursday, November 13	Job Search & Cover Letters
Thursday, November 20	Interviewing Skills

Tuesday afternoon workshops are held from 12:00 - 1:00 pm

Tuesday, October 14	Effective Resume Writing
Tuesday, October 21	Interviewing Skills
Tuesday, October 28	Job Search & Cover Letters
Tuesday, November 4	Effective Resume Writing
Tuesday, November 18	Interviewing Skills
Tuesday, November 25	Job Search & Cover Letters

Workshops are held in the Career Services & Co-Op Suite
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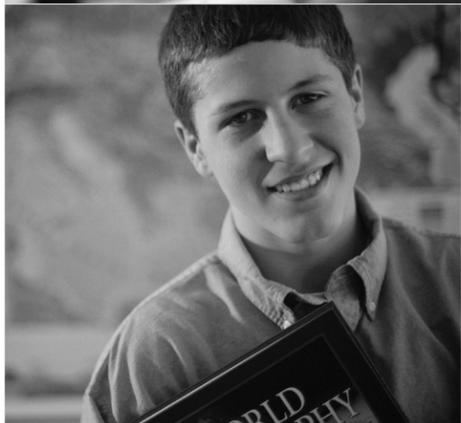
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Petitions Must Be Received By
Monday, September 22nd

Student Senate Debate
Tuesday, October 14th

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GPA Visits NOLA

By Allyson McGuire
Great Path Academy

On May 7, 2008, four students and two teachers from Great Path Academy embarked on an educational field trip to New Orleans, Louisiana, to assist in the reconstruction of the city still suffering from the harsh effects of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Natasha, Kadeen, Charles and I were eager help the victims whose homes were damaged during the hurricane and flooding. Mary Caplan, along with Michael Sirois, both teachers at GPA, chaperoned the trip. More than 25 middle colleges and more than 300 students from across the U.S. gathered in the heart of New Orleans for the Middle College National Consortium (MCNC).

In advance of the trip, students at GPA raised money to donate to the victims of Katrina. We purchased an abundance of trees and shrubs that would be used to reconstruct the exterior of many homes located within the areas that were damaged during the storm. While in New Orleans, GPA students worked on team-building activities as well as directly assisting the victims of Hurricane Katrina by cleaning their lawns and helping with landscaping.

During my stay in New Orleans, I kept a journal to record my thoughts and feelings. It was an experience of a lifetime that I will forever remember.



The memorial area with symbolic representations of the damage done to New Orleans. "Front porch" shown above. *Photos courtesy of Allyson McGuire.*

Day One: While flying over the Mississippi River, it was difficult to imagine that something so beautiful and majestic could have caused such devastation. I knew that this trip would have a significant impact on my life and I was looking forward to lending a helping hand to those who still suffer. After collecting our baggage and departing from the plane, we boarded a shuttle van that took us to the Embassy Suites Hotel. The spicy culture and rich atmosphere of New Orleans greeted us the moment we arrived at our destination. The humid air surrounded us and the friendly natives made us feel very welcome. "We're jazzed you're here" was plastered upon many billboards scattered throughout the city. The students and teachers were all very eager to begin the journey that awaited us within the heart of Louisiana. Fellow middle college students from the host school in New Orleans, greeted us at the door, directed us to our rooms and informed us of the activities that would be taking place over the next few days.

One of the first planned events was a scavenger hunt. The students from GPA paired up with two of the "Ambassadors" (students from the host school) and set off on a hunt for various items and locations within the city. We had a list of unique items to discover. These included: the favorite local potato chip, known as Zapps. We were also instructed to take pictures in front of the popular Harrah's Casino located near the hotel. My favorite part of the scavenger hunt was when we hopped a ride on a famous New

Orleans street car - which was very similar to a trolley. I enjoyed the streetcar because I was able to get a better view of the city life and it also served as a shelter from the blistering heat of the sun. When we returned to the hotel, we were escorted to the ballroom for a welcoming ceremony hosted by the students and staff of the local middle college high school. Upon entering the ballroom, we saw hundreds of students conversing around intricately decorated tables sprinkled with purple, gold & green Mardi Gras beads, among colorful masks and confetti. After a brief introduction, we were serenaded by a local jazz band, which was followed by a Vietnamese dragon dance and a traditional Mardi Gras celebration. The room was full of excitement. Later that evening we ventured out into the city with our chaperones. Mr. Sirois and I were eager to find some good old jambalaya (a classic New Orleans dish) and we were finally able to enjoy some and it was very delicious. Lights out at 11:30 p.m. seemed to arrive all too quickly, but it was important for me to get a good night's rest because the next day I was expected to wake up by 6 a.m. for breakfast and our first community service project.

Day 2: The students attending the MCNC were placed into eight different groups. The students of GPA were separated into each group for the off site activities. My assigned group name was the "Jambalaya Jammers." At 7:10 a.m., I made my way to the breakfast hall for a delicious array of food. While eating I became acquainted with the students sitting near me who were also

in my designated group for the days activities. I met a boy named Michael from Greenville, S.C., Crystal from Flint, Mich., Sydney from Denver, Colo., and Megan from Los Angeles, Calif. As we enjoyed our first meal together, we discussed life as a middle college student, the similarities and differences between each other's schools and what life is like within our cities. From listening in on the other students' opinion on being a part of the growing population of middle colleges, it was obvious to see that everyone was very pleased with the results of being able to achieve college credits while still being in high school. It is a wonderful opportunity to obtain such knowledge and get ahead by applying yourself academically and socially in order to heighten your status as a student within your community.

Shortly after breakfast, students were loaded onto school buses that shipped off to different locations. The Jambalaya Jammers set forth on a tour of New Orleans where we were able to witness the true destruction that is still visible just outside the city lines. WE saw homes torn down because of water damage and front doors posted with paint indicating the date when those inside were evacuated as well as the number of deaths or survivors. In other areas, the grass grew tall above the rusted gates, which used to border the no longer existent residencies. Despite all of the destruction, the people of New Orleans still have hope.

As we drove along the roads, I saw numerous groups of people working on the reconstruction of homes and landscaping. Seeing the

Continued from NOLA on page 14...

teamwork and companionship amongst the people really made me appreciate all that I have in my life and how fortunate I am to have not been directly affected by this occurrence. Along the way we stopped at a memorial area that contained a tombstone titled "Hurricane Katrina." Part of the memorial consisted of a series of tall columns that represented the different water levels that affected the city. The blue rods towered over my head and made me realize exactly how high the water rose and the damage that it caused. As we departed the scene, I anticipated our arrival at the next location—a home within New Orleans where my group and I would be planting 35 trees and shrubs to help rebuild the landscape. We worked all day to reconstruct the outside of the woman's home. It was nice to meet the owner face to face because it gave me a sense of personal contact with a Katrina victim.

When we returned back to the hotel that evening, the GPA students and teachers washed up and prepared for a night on the town. We met up with Charles' grandfather, Cleve, and his Aunt Carolyn, who lived in the city. We gathered at a restaurant called Ralph & Kacoo's for some authentic New Orleans cuisine. While munching on crab fingers, shrimp and crawfish etouffee, Aunt Caroline gave us some historical background on New Orleans, including the well known area called the French Quarter that was founded as a military-style grid of 70 squares in 1718 by French Canadian naval officer Jean Baptiste Bienville. The French Quarter of New Orleans has charted a course of urbanism for parts of four centuries. After dinner, we found ourselves mesmerized by large sparkling Mardi Gras outfits which hung upon the walls of the restaurant. After a quick photo, we thanked Charles' family for their wonderful southern hospitality and made our way back to the hotel— but not before buying a souvenir from Ralph & Kacoo's.

Day 3: Another early morning came about; again I woke to a hot breakfast with the Jambalaya Jammers and a fun conversation at the table. Instead of boarding a school bus, we put on our comfortable shoes and made our way to the streetcar loading area that would bring us to our next destination. As the streetcar glided over the tracks we finally approached a school where we would be participating in team building activities. We created paper cranes out of origami paper that would later be given out during a parade, fleur de leis carvings were made and used as decorations for lighthouse figures that we built to represent different words of encouragement. When we returned to the hotel we had to quickly get ready and make our way to the ballroom for a panel discussion and question and answer session that involved local New Orleans panelists and New Orleans student ambassadors. This time gave the students and opportunity to ask any questions regarding the progress of the reconstruction within the area and the reassurance of change within the community.

Following the discussion, we prepared for the parade march to the Natchez Riverboat, located on the Mississippi. We gathered our feathered masks, Mardi Gras beads, paper cranes and lighthouse figures and sauntered through the streets of New Orleans. With the roar of the jazz band, we proudly marched as we threw our beads high into the air to onlookers within the streets. The excitement grew as we finally approached the towering cruise ship. Once on board, we enjoyed a night of fine dining and dancing. I felt as if I never wanted this trip to

be over.

Kadeen, Charles, Natasha and I truly enjoyed our experience in New Orleans. Although the devastation still affects many families within the area, the lasting excitement and adventure of New Orleans still lives on and brightens the spirits of the natives. I was very grateful to have had this experience. I learned many lessons that I will hold onto for the rest of my life.

When the night finally ended, we departed from our new friends and settled in our beds for one last time. Saturday soon came and I found myself reflecting on the recent events that had taken place over the past few days. Although this day had marked my final moments in New Orleans, I knew within myself that New Orleans had a piece of each of us—our time, our effort and our generosity.



Kadeen & Allyson enjoying the festivities

(L to R)Cleve, Natasha, Charles, Carolyn, Kadeen, Allyson, Michael Sirois, Mary Caplan enjoy an authentic New Orleans meal at Ralph & Kacoo's.



The city had a piece of me and I would take a piece of New Orleans with me, the experiences, the friendships and the memories.



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Continued from **Movies** on page 10...

ening adventure into the unknown, digging deeply into our innermost fears of the places we cannot see, the things we cannot reach, and those that go bump in the night.

Writer and director Guillermo del Toro once again does a great job creating a world completely separate from our own. The world of *Hellboy* holds this believable quality that most films don't manage to create. Actor Ron Perlman reprises his role as Hellboy, making the theatrical version of this character almost identical to his comic counterpart.

In this second installment of the *Hellboy* series, the forgotten mythical world rebels against humanity in order to rule the Earth. Hellboy and his team must save the world from the evil creatures. They're organized by an elf prince, who plans on unleashing an ancient army to secure his victory over the humans.

The more screen time Del Toro's freaks and monsters get during the film the less time there is for Hellboy's personality to surface. There was also only minimal screen time for his girlfriend Liz (Selma Blair) and amphibian sidekick Abe (Doug Jones). Luke Goss plays the villain Prince Nuada wonderfully, Seth MacFarlane voices new character Johann Krauss, showing he can do more than just "Family Guy." Anna Walton plays Princess Nuala, Abe's love interest, I enjoyed her performance as well.

If the Hellboy sequel, doesn't satisfy your

craving for action, maybe the film *Wanted* will.

Wesley Gibson (James McAvoy) thinks something is wrong with him when he gets these unusual panic attacks while under pressure.

Whether it's his evil boss or knowing that his best friend is sleeping with his girlfriend, all of the anxieties of his life make his heart beat as if it were about to explode. Everything changes when his father, who left Wesley as a child, is murdered. Unbeknownst to Wesley, his father was one of the world's greatest assassins.

While in a drugstore he encounters a mysterious woman named Fox (Angelina Jolie) who tells him that she knew his father and that Wesley's life is now in danger. He's asked to join the "Fraternity," an ancient collective of assassins, to avenge his father's murder.

The film is very amusing. Morgan Freeman plays Sloan, the leader of the "Fraternity." He does great, as he does in most of his performances. Timur Bekmambetov, the director of the film, manages to capture the feeling of the original graphic novel that the film is based on. Michael Brandt, Derek Haas, and Chris Morgan do the graphic novel justice as well in their adaptation of the script. All in all, this film isn't for everybody. It may be too gory for a lot of audiences, but I loved it.

And speaking of love, the movie I personally fell in love with this summer was *The Dark Knight*. *The Dark Knight* is unlike any other movie that has come before it. The latest in the Batman series, and a direct sequel to 2005's *Batman Begins*, director Christopher Nolan's picture will explode your mind. *The*

Dark Knight is a terrifying epic film.

Even though Batman (Christian Bale) has rid Gotham of crime, he is still an isolated figure and a vigilant outlaw when the movie opens. Harvey Dent (Aaron Eckhart) is the district attorney, relentlessly pursuing mob bosses and other crooks while Batman is getting them off of the streets. Rachel (Maggie Gyllenhaal), Batman's former lover, is now on Dent's arm for most of the film, making an interesting love triangle. Dent teams up with Lt. James Gordon and Batman to finally put an end to Gotham's organized crime. Batman is getting ready to retire and leave the law in charge of Gotham until the arrival of an evil mastermind who calls himself the Joker (Heath Ledger) begins plaguing the criminal underworld.

Heath Ledger's Joker owns the screen, forcing each of the film's heroes (Gordon, Batman, Dent) to break the rules they live by. Director Christopher Nolan seems to really believe that Batman could exist in the real world, making his adaptation of the character magnificent.

All of the performances are killer, Christopher Nolan, along with his brother, Jonathan Nolan and David S. Goyer, take Bob Kane's classic character to new heights with their script. I was impressed with every aspect of the film. *The Dark Knight* is the kind of movie that Hollywood needs to release more often, truly a gem.

Though some blockbusters of the summer hit big and others fell short, it's clear that some great films were put together for summer audiences to enjoy. So this fall, keep in mind some of the ones you may have missed and rent them. Whether for a night in with your significant other or as a method to relax yourself after homework and studying over the semester, do yourself a favor and get entertained by what some great film makes have to offer.

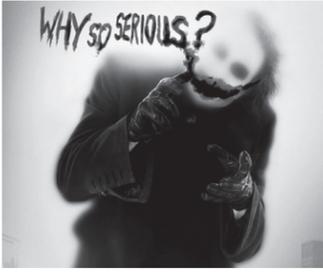


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