SCHOOLCRAFT CONNECTION

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A girl like me

Alumnus creates non-profit aimed at helping young moms and community

KATHRYN WENSKE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

There is an old proverb that says, "it takes a village to raise a child," and that saying couldn't be truer today. From juggling work or school to parental responsibilities, raising a child can come with its own set of challenges. Schoolcraft Alumnus Tyra Moore knows first hand how important it is for a village to raise a child. From her own experience in teen pregnancy, Moore experienced how important it is to have that support system. This eventually led her to create an empowering grassroots organization, "A Girl Like Me, Inc" in 2019 to help all girls, teens, teen moms and young moms make healthy life choices through life skills classes, coaching, goal setting, and character development.

"What motivated

me to start my business was seeing all the help from my family, friends and community. Without their help I wouldn't have had things I needed for my baby," said Moore. "Just seeing that support I knew I wanted to one day pay it forward and help girls, teens and young moms like me. I also always have the

belief that everyone was put on this earth to help each other."

In the beginning, Moore's business was funded from personal investments, donations and selling t-shirts. That start allowed her to grow into a full-blown charitable 501(c)(3) organization that offers free resources, mentoring programs, baby necessities and self care kits to girls 11-25 years old.

Featured on numerous media outlets, including most recently on the Drew Barrymore's show "Drew Gooders" in Nov. 2023, Moore has shared her story and her business in hopes to empower and motivate

young girls who may be in unfortunate situations with insufficient support.

"Everyone needs help, no matter what age you are. I grew up being bullied from people in preschool and up: I just wanted people to like and understand me. [After how much support I received at 14,] I was just so excited and overwhelmed because I really thought I was going to be judged," said Moore in her interview. "I can use my story to help girls and [empower them] to focus and stay in school, don't worry about the boys and I just wanted to help anyway I can."

Her own teen pregnancy did not stop her from continuing to pursue her education, as she finished high school and graduated from Schoolcraft in 2023 with an Associates of Liberal Arts.

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A community connected

See Campus Life Page 10



Buried neck deep in punk

See Arts and Entertainment Page 10



Bouncing back

See Sports Page 15

NEWS



KATHRYN WENSKE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Ah, tax season. This may be a newer topic for some, or may be a well known hassle for others: however, it doesn't have to be so unfamiliar.

Starting Jan 29, most U.S. citizens and permanent residents are required by the IRS to file their federal and state taxes no later than April 15. Commonly referred to as a tax return, this document displays your earned income and contribution in taxes from the previous year: most oftenly resulting in a refund of some dollar amount due to overtaxation.

Typically, employees will receive a W-2 document from their employer which reports wages paid and taxes taken out from that receiving employee. This document is necessary when filing taxes and results in

an annual 1040, aka your tax return.

Another form of documentation that may be required for filing taxes is 1098-T's. This specifically applies to higher education students as it presents how much the student paid in tuition, as well as scholarships or grants received.

This form comes especially in handy as students may be eligible to receive tax credits up to \$2000-\$2500 through The American Opportunity Credit or The Lifetime Learning Credit which refunds the students' spending of supplies, equipment, tuition fees, etc.

Now, to the actual task of filing taxes (online).

An arguably well known entry-level avenue is TurboTax, offering the ability for students to file simple returns like W-2's and options to speak with experts for free.

However, if an individual has more complicated forms, like an 1099-NEC (non-employee compensation that is typically associated with sole-proprietorships, freelancers, etc.) to be filed, that does require additional fees. The website also has options for paid assisted or full service tax-filing if preferred.

H&R Block is another online company that has a \$0 fee for filing your own taxes but with simple only. They have relatively lower fees overall compared to TurboTax.

Otherwise, there are additional fees to have professionals and tax pros help with options to have assisted or full service filing. H&R Block also has onsite locations if some prefer to physically drop off forms or have in-person aid.

FreeTaxUSA is, as the name implies, free for all federal

tax returns; no matter the complexity. However, it is less entry-level friendly as it requires the customer to manually enter large amounts of information versus its software spiffy TurboTax and H&R Block counterparts. The website also has a \$15 fee for state returns and additional options for online tax service with specialists in assisted filing.

Another resource to mention is Cash App. Yep. They do tax returns, as well. They provide users with one federal and state tax return completely for free with the promise of maximum tax refunds. The company does not have many file importing options, resulting in more manual input of information

See '**An easier way**' Page 3>

'An easier way' cont'd from page 2>

and the recommendation to utilize this resource with more simple returns. Navigating the website may be a little confusing at first and requires a much more independent tax-filer as it has a lack of professional support.

The Schoolcraft Business Club and The Accounting Faculty will be hosting the Tax Prep using IRS Free File Workshop on Feb. 28 from 1-3 p.m in Health Sciences Building, HS610. This offers assisted filing with Professor Michelle Randall through IRS Free Filing with the intention of being cost effective for students.

With numerous outlets of information it can become daunting and overwhelming very quickly. Hopefully with the assisted help sourced from the options above and some newfound information boosts your confidence to file your taxes.

Go get that money!

For more information on The American Opportunity Credit and The Lifetime Learning Credits, as well as additional student-specific aid visit https://www.irs. gov/publications/p970#en_ US_2017_publink100077522.



'A girl like me' cont'd from page 1>

"I chose Schoolcraft College because the school really worked with my busy schedule and the ability to stay virtual was great for me," said Moore.

Mirroring the college's mission in community partnerships, Moore too prioritizes collaborative relationships around her business; including The International Girls Academy to further broadcast each other's voices in Detroit via their book "Daughters of The Community."

"Many girls we helped are now paying it forward by joining us for volunteer work. They identify with the cause and are more empathetic and effective in helping women in need," states Moore on her website.

To contribute to "A Girl Like

Me," volunteer applications are open and welcome to aid in mentoring, community talks and outreach, as well as organizing donated items like baby and feminine products. They are also accepting financial and item donations.

For more information, go to https://www.agirllikemeinc.org/.



FEELING BORED?

Check out our Diversions on page 22 to brighten your day and cure your boredom!



CAMPUS LIFE

Not equal, but inclusive

Professor Griff reevaluates two year college writing studies

JESS MICHAEL
MANAGING EDITOR

Available on Kindle, and paperback

Professor Brett Griffiths, typically referred to as "Griff" by her students, started teaching at Schoolcraft January 2022. She has been teaching, researching

has been teaching, researching and supporting college-level

writing since 1999. Ever since she's been teaching, she has dedicated time to attending panels addressing inclusivity and diversity at conferences. Griffiths and her co editorial author Darin Jensen noticed that two-year colleges were underrepresented in these panels; bringing life to their book "Two-Year College Writing Studies."

However, in the beginning stages of constructing the novel, Griffiths and Jensen first asked themselves a familiar question many students themselves ask: "are we really smart enough to write a book?"

After sending out proposals on Listserv, they realized they had to rethink the current diversity of their book. The last thing both authors wanted was another novel written by upper middle class white people writing about diversity.

After their reality check,

more proposals were sent out, reaching out to professors of different communities. Though it wasn't as diverse as they originally wanted, they were able to move forward. When that draft was completed, the pandemic hit. Consequently, they realized they had to include what they witnessed during the pandemic. This included the struggle of being full time students, losing their jobs and activists for many of the social movements that happened during 2020. "All these things were happening at the edges of our zoom room," said Griffiths. After including what they witnessed during the pandemic, they were ready to release their book.

The study of writing has changed since the 19th century, with most of the change happening in four year universities. There is a gap in the studies of students who are in two year colleges. Coming to light are the complexities that come with students who attend two year colleges and the challenges community college professors may encounter. The age range can be from high school students, single parents and those who have retired With this said, that means with such a wide range; there are

differences in how each generation communicates and writes.

Professors can struggle to understand the differences each student has in cultural backgrounds, leading to diverse writing styles. "Two-Year College Writing Studies' is and should be an entire area of study, because it is not fully recognized by

that are preparing people to teach in two year colleges," said Griffiths.

During the interview,
Griffiths mentioned the case
regarding three Black students
who were placed into remedial
classes due to them speaking
AAVE (African American
Vernacular English). The year
1979, the case Martin Luther
King Junior Elementary School
Children et al. v. Ann Arbor
School District, brought to



the universities Professor Brett Griffiths holding her book "Two-Year College Writing Studies" in her office. Photo by Josh Hardy.

attention that not every home is the same in regards to cultural communication.

"Writing is really deeply interwined with identity and learning, which makes learning to write different from other fields," said Griffiths. The cultures of others should be

See 'Two year college writing studies' page 5>

'Two year college writing studies' cont'd from page 4>

acknowledged and respected.

In the previously mentioned case, the judge ordered the school district to find a way to integrate the communication of Black English speakers when teaching how to read and write. This case study brings the question, should teachers be cognisant and honor how other students communicate and integrate this into their teaching?

Having the ability to intertwine their culture into their writing could allow an opening of a true learning experience for students.

Some teachers may not be acknowledging that students can come from different backgrounds. When writing their syllabus, it may not be considered that not all students have access to the internet, a laptop or enough money to purchase books.

When at a celebration of publication of "Two-Year College Writing Studies" Griffiths was overheard addressing this issue. "I have students who talk about having twenty thousand dollars sitting in their bank account, while another cannot even afford bus fare to get to school."

With this all said, the book aims to help teachers of writing at two-year colleges and those who research their teaching are more aware of addressing all of the gaps in academic writing that needs to be addressed in two year colleges.

It's perfectly clear that Griffiths is passionate about writing. It was asked if she always knew that she was going to be a writer. With exclamation, she enthusiastically said since second grade she knew she wanted to be an author; though she never expected to be an academic writer. She struggled with writing her dissertation for her PHD program. She stated that she hated it and could not wait to get back to teaching. Though, she grew to love academic writing because it gave her different perspectives from students and colleagues.

Since the book was released in Oct. 2023, she has contributed to a multi-voiced symposium article reflecting on the last 50 years of research on teaching writing in two-year colleges. She recommended next steps for teachers and scholars, which is published in the journal Teaching English in the Two-Year College. She is currently working on a memoir and revising a book of poems which is hoped to be released soon.





Parents of Schoolcraft

Does it take a support system to return to school?

JESS MICHAEL
MANAGING EDITOR

There is no doubt that Schoolcraft supports its students with a plethora of resources. Food banks for those with food insecurity, clubs to create community among students and BeWell for mental health support. However, what about the students who are parents at Schoolcraft?

Recently, mySchoolcraft support texted, "Student parents have higher GPAs than nearly any other group on campus..." Student parents already have their hands full. How are they able to fit into this group demographic while tackling the responsibilities of raising human beings? This can be even harder to imagine considering the workload of a full time student that usually works at least a part time job.

Imagine being a parent and coming back to school; taking the extra steps to ensure you have enough support for yourself, and your child(ren). Though Schoolcraft offers the flexibility of in-person, online and hybrid classes one must wonder if the resources offered by Schoolcraft are enough? Is Schoolcraft supporting their student parents to the fullest extent possible? During all

three interviews with

student parents, it is agreed upon that they had a strong

support system from home and Schoolcraft.

Elizabeth Luz, the arts and entertainment editor for the Schoolcraft Connection and majoring in Liberal Arts, in truth said; "it's super, super important to have a support system outside of Schoolcraft, otherwise I would not be going to college right now."

Parents of Schoolcraft can feel a certain camaraderie for each other. Many students are fresh out of high school or are in the younger demographic, usually with no children. Parents tend to live more life before returning to school; giving them a different outlook on life.

Going to school with children can prove a difficult feat when children are younger. This reality can force parents to forgo the ability to choose school over working to support a growing family.

When Yan Li, PTK (Phi Theta Kappa) officer of communications and majoring in nursing, went to his first nursing class, his teacher asked which students were parents. "I looked around and there were a lot of parents, I have to be honest I got very emotional. I just feel touched because I feel like I saw other parents doing the same thing I do," said Li.

Parents are wanting to give the next generation someone to look up to. One of the biggest motivations to coming back to school is children, striving to give them a better life.

The consensus is that Schoolcraft all around supports their students who are parents. Heika Scheitler, a student majoring in mathematics, stated she has had to bring her child to class before and her professor was supportive. "On the occasions that I've had to bring one of my kids with me, it's never been an issue as the instructors are understanding."

She is unable to attend clubs because many of them are during the day, like the **Mathematics and Physics** Club. It's usually understood by parents that schedules cannot be changed just to accommodate them. This is a fact of life that being a parent you have to miss out on some fun things like clubs or outings. This shouldn't include parents who could make an impactful difference in the community because they are unable to attend school.

The question to ask is how can Schoolcraft help support students that do not have a strong support system?

Though not interviewed, it is almost certain there are single parents, pushing through school with miniscule help.

see 'Parents of Schoolcraft' page 7>

'Parents of Schoolcraft' cont'd from page 6>

How many potential students pass the opportunity to further their education, even with the resources offered? The inability to find or even afford adequate child care hinders the capability to attend school. During Sheitler's interview, she brought up the topic of child care. She stated, "It would be nice if there was a daycare, I could understand that for parents coming back to school, especially single parents [how that may be useful.]" Evaluating this situation, someone has to wonder how many aspiring architects are in their living rooms building block towers with their toddler. How many hidden mathematicians are sitting at their kitchen tables helping their ninth grader with algebra.

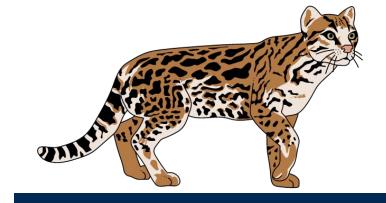
Could Schoolcraft consider that inclusivity. an

option to offer as needed child care?

At local gyms they give time limits for their child care centers, two hours for a patron to work out in their gym. Could it be considered; the possibility of even raising tuition by so much to fund child care? This would allow parents in need of adequate child care to attend classes. How many more people could attend Schoolcraft knowing their child is right down the street?

Now, let's circle back to the message from mySchoolcraft, really evaluating the text. If student parents are in fact one of the highest GPA holders, why wouldn't we do as much as we can to support them? Yan Li said it perfectly, "We're here for a reason, either for ourselves or either for our families and we have a goal, we have a mission and that is very special."

Inclusivity is vital to making sure those who need extra help receive that help. Student parents should be included in



CELEBRATE YOUR SUCCESS

59TH ANNUAL

SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT

> **SATURDAY** MAY 4, 2024 1 P.M.

TRINITYELITE SPORTS CENTER ON SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE MAIN CAMPUS

> 18600 HAGGERTY RD **LIVONIA, MI 48152**

Scan the QR Code below to continue your journey across the graduation stage



The Grad Fair will be held at the College bookstore on the following dates:

4/17/24 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. 4/18/24 from 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Students who would like to be able to participate and have their names printed in the booklets have a deadline to apply for graduation by April 12, 2024.

https://www.schoolcraft.edu/records/commencement

A community connected

Asian Student Association brings harmony and inclusivity to campus

CAITLIN CHERRY
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

If you are looking for a club to join that brings harmony and inclusivity to campus check out the Asian Student Association (ASA). ASA is one of Schoolcraft College's many unique clubs offered on campus, providing a space for Asian students, international students and students of all backgrounds to celebrate and learn about Asian culture. The club is run by adviser Anna Maheshwari, club president Ashley Xu, and club members Nicholas Kim-Moyer, Advean Mennon and Nivetha Manikandan. Together, everyone works to create ASA's unique events, meetings and beautiful tight-knit community.

"Sharing the common thread of

our heritage or interest in Asian culture ties our group together, builds trust and promotes connections between members," said Xu. She explains that for many students in the club, ASA provides a chance for older members to take on roles of mentorship and encouragement. Many of these mentors are commonly international students seeking to offer encouragement to others with similar experiences or struggles.

"It's a fun club, we get to celebrate our identities, meet similar people and celebrate our values and heritage," expressed club member Nick Kim-Moyer during an interview. Members enjoy the aspect of ASA in which they can compare experiences and connect with others in a welcoming environment.

In its essence, the club is built upon four different goals: to celebrate a diversity of cultures, promote social justice, cultivate community and encourage inclusivity. Through these goals, the club works towards building cultural awareness and intercultural communication on a larger scale. ASA organizes enjoyable cultural events, educational opportunities and noteworthy conversations to better understand each other and overall enjoy the company of people.

Club members truly have a special connection to the people they meet and the fact they can bond over a shared appreciation of culture.

ASA member Nayan Wayawadigi, said "The ASA values inviting cultural values from all over the Asian countries the most." In addition, another member named Brandon Quinney added, "My favorite thing about the ASA is how I've gained a rich understanding of cultures that aren't my own. Having that worldly perspective is important."

In the future, consider becoming a part of the Asian Student Association and join them at one of their upcoming events.

Their Bubble Tea Social Hour will take place on Thursday, March 21, 2024 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Lower Level, Vistatech Center. Attendees can sample some Bubble Tea, snacks, join in on crafts, origami and games. They are also participating in the Multicultural Fair on Thursday, March 28 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the DiPonio Room of the Vistatech Center.

Any students looking to get involved should stop by the club meetings every Tuesday in the Lower Waterman Vistatech Center from 12:30-1:30 p.m.

新年快

ASA members and attendees at the Chinese New Year celebration in the Lower Waterman, Vistatech. Photo courtesy of teh Asain Student Association.

Scan the QR code below for a list of upcoming events and to join the group chat



CAMPUS & CLUB EVENTS

(All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted)

Fitness Center Rec Nights

Feb. 22 9-11 p.m.

Fitness Center, Gym and Trinity EliteSport Center

Featuring extended hours of the Fitness Center and other amenities such as basketball, turf space and volleyball. Enjoy snacks and drinks to refuel after your workout. Schoolcraft students and Fitness members are free. Guests are \$5.

Bubble Soccer

Feb. 22

9-11 p.m.

Trinity Elite Sports Center Turn Are you ready to battle? Bubble Soccer is coming on February 22. Full contact soccer in a bubble. 8:30 p.m. sign up begins.

Pink Zone Basketball Games vs Jackson College Jets

Feb. 24

1 p.m. Women's Game and 3 p.m. Men's Game Gvm

Come out and support the fight against all cancers affecting women. All ticket proceeds to go to the Kay Yow Foundation.

Super Smash Bros. Tournament

Feb. 24 4 to 10 p.m.

Lower Level, Vistatech Center

Join the Otaku Anime Club for the first gaming tournament of the semester. Prizes for winners. No cash prizes will be awarded.

Wednesday Classical Concerts: Julia Siciliano, piano

Feb. 28

Noon

Kehrl auditorium, VT 550

Displaying her talents with a piano performance in a classical concert, come listen to Julia Siciliano perform. Immerse yourself in the music and have fun!

Tax Prep using IRS Free File Workshop

Feb. 28

1 to 3 p.m. Health Sciences Building, HS610

Sponsored by the Business Club and Accounting Faculty this workshop is for individuals with income of \$79,000 or less, IRS Free File lets you prepare and file your federal income tax online using online guided tax preparation software. It's safe, easy and no cost to you. You will be preparing your own tax return. This is an opportunity for you to take charge of your finances. Don't be intimidated about your tax return, help is available. Michelle Randall, CPA and Professor of Accounting, along with accounting students will be on hand to help you. Information to and documents to bring to the workshop:

- W-2, 1099s and any other tax documents
- Know your filing status, social security number and whether you are claimed as a dependent on someone else's return
- Prior year tax returns

Wednesday Classical Concerts: Faculty Recital

March 13 Noon

Kehrl auditorium, VT 550

Experience a classical concert put on by our very own Schoolcraft faculty! See your favorite instructors embrace their musical talents and share them with the world!

Mocktail PartyMarch 14

11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lower Level, Vistatech Center

Sponsored by Student Relations, Save our Youth Coalition and the Student Activities featuring The Moving Forward Mini Expo join us for free mocktails (non-alcoholic cocktails), root beer pong, walk the line with beer goggles, blood alcohol content test, free samples from local sponsors and visit with community health service organizations.

Sara's Corner

Sometimes being more expressive than writing articles, Sara Mallory shares some of her valentines-themed poetry.

Imagine

Imagine

A paper cage
Some safety soap
And a napkin
4 blanks walls
That iron cage
What shall I do to stay sane?
Colored contraptions
Form the masses
Praying faster

Till I lose my mind

Imagine
Rounded corners
Where I'm crackin'
Some safety rope
And that stupid napkin
4 colored walls
A mighty cage
What have I done to stay sane
Blank contraptions
Betray the masses
Praying
Praying all the insanity away

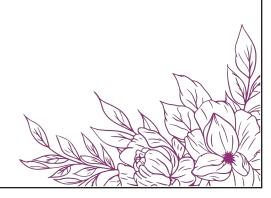
Peace

Finding peace is Being relaxed With yesterday

And tomorrow

Sanity

Sanity is as relevant as sanitizer is to 0.01% of germs



RTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Buried Neck Deep in punk

UK Band arrives to shred for US

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Bringing fresh pop punk sounds all the way from the United Kingdom, the band Neck Deep is a must add to your music playlist.

Fans of bands like Blink-182, Sum 41, Simple Plan and rock bands alike will enjoy the nostalgic sound of their catchy vocals and heavy guitar riffs. Their recently released self-titled album is their fifth; produced by Hopeless Records and dropped on January 19. This album features a thoughtfully built playlist, including popular and inspiring songs

listeners down a musical boulevard of topics like loneliness, heartbreak and anger with the fury of a mosh pit. "It Won't Be Like This Forever" creatively encapsulates these feelings in an upbeat, catchy, hardcore tone that keeps listeners banging their heads. "Heartbreak Of The Century" exotically explicates the relationship between heartbreak and anger through its clever lyrics, strong guitar

riffs and thunderous drums. "Take Me With You" follows a quick tempo and artistically takes listeners to another planet with its whimsical lyrics.

RATING:

Neck Deep is composed of members Ben Barlow on Vocals, his brother Seb Barlow on bass, Matt West and Sam Bowden on guitar and Matt Powels on drums. Each member of the band brings an excellent and unique talent. Combining perfectly with one

distinct pop punk sound. Their vocals are beautifully crafted and guitar melodies are catchy. The exciting bass and drums fuel the beat to make your heart race.

The pop punk music scene is loving Neck Deep, giving them over twelve million streaming views across platforms. It's easy to see why they are making their way to the top of the charts with their emotionally rich lyrics and melodious, heart-pounding sound. Keep some room open on your playlist, check







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Tax Prep Using IRS Free File Workshop

Sponsored by the Business Club and Accounting Faculty

For individuals with income of \$79,000 or less, IRS Free File lets you prepare and file your federal income tax online using online guided tax preparation software. It's safe, easy and no cost to you.

You will be preparing your own tax return. This is an opportunity for you to take charge of your finances. Don't be intimidated about your tax return, help is available.

Michelle Randall, CPA and Professor of Accounting, along with accounting students will be on hand to help you.

February 28

From 1 to 3 p.m. **Health Sciences Building** HS 610

Information and documents to bring to this workshop: • W-2, 1099s and any other tax documents

- · Know your filing status, social security
- number and whether you are claimed as a dependent on someone else's return
- Prior year tax returns











Warm house made baked goods fill the display case at Coffee & Cream in Livonia. The shop has a wide assortment of baked goods to select from daily.



The perfect place to enjoy a book with a warm treat and delicious seasonal drinks at Coffee + Cream.

In the chaos that is life there are few moments of piece and tranquility. Within ten minutes of Schoolcraft's campus there are two beautifully quiet places to chill and study.





Coffee + Cream is located at 38340 Joy Rd, Livonia and is a 15 minute drive from Campus.



Coffee & Cream in Plymouth is an excellent, cozy place to meet with friends to retreat from the cold Michigan weather or snuggle up with a book and warm drink.

Coffee & Cream: 38340 Joy Rd, Livonia, MI, 48150 Open daily 6 am - 8 pm (734) 744 - 4478 coffeecreamlivonia.com Being only ten minutes from campus, Sweet Brew & Spice Cafe is a great place to study.



Sweet Brew & Spice Cafe is a small cafe in downtown Northville perfect for quiet focused study time for yourself and a friend.

> Sweet Brew & Spice Cafe: 133 W Main St #230, Northville, MI 48167 Monday - Saturday 9 am - 5 pm (248) 348 - 9737



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Sweet Brew & Spice Cafe is a great place to enjoy a book with a delectable fresh strawberry croissant and chai latte.

Sweet Brew & Spice Cafe owner, Sandro Lytwyn, crafts delicious coffee drinks for his customers



Photos by Josh Hardy, layout by Pili Estevez

SPORTS

Springing forward

Incoming recruits, returning players bolster Ocelots roster for 2023 season

ISABELLE RICHMOND INTERN

Spring is fast approaching and with that comes the baseball season. The Ocelots are back on the diamond looking to build off of their 26-25 overall record of last season and third place 13-12 record in the MCCAA Eastern Conference.

Head coach Rob Fay, entering his 9th season as head coach, is optimistic on how his Ocelots will do this season with a roster that is mixed with experienced veterans and first year players to the program.

"With the incoming guys that we brought in, I think we'll be really strong," said Fay. Fay is confident that with some of the best talent returning from last year and the new recruits on this season's roster, everyone will be ready to play some competitive baseball. Observing his team so far, he feels like they are doing well with constant improvement day to day.

The team's roster features roughly 40 players as deep depth will be key for the Ocelots as they will tackle a grueling 57 game schedule. A few of the beginning opponents will include Chattanooga State Community College, Alexandria Technical/Community College, and Bryant and Stratton (OH).

Returning and transfer players include

sophomore

infielders

Sawyer Pace, Andrew Thorning, John Sowards, Jacob Greshman and Mason Maylsz. Freshmen infielderes include Brady Sauer, Kayvon Justice, Tashawn Eatmon and Colin Sclater.

Behind the plate are catchers Barrett Barker and Bryan Tuttle who will also be working the infield duties. Barker had a .989 fielding percentage behind the plate. Threw out 13 attempted runners which was good for 2nd best in the conference. Freshmen catchers on the roster are Dominic Westfall and Abel Gutierrez (who will also be sharing infield duties). Outfielders are sophomores Tyler Allos, Noah Felder, Eric Vargas and Zach Perpich. Freshmen outfielders include Ben Cannon, Joaquin Maldonado, Issander Vega, Miguel Hinojosa and Owen Elsey.

> Taking to the mound for the Ocelots are sophomores Austin Smolenski.

> > Plascencia.
> > Freshmen
> > pitchers
> > include
> > Riley Jones,
> > Jacob
> > Ramsey,
> > Dalton Vance
> > (who will also
> > share infield
> > duties), Alex
> > Vartanian,
> > Connor

Phillp Miller

and Carlos

Bucher, Calbin Gonzalez, Diego Bermudez, Jefferson Delacruz, Riley Niggemeyer, Juan Delgado, Michael Moore and Alex Stepaniak.

In order for the team to advance up the standings this season, consistency in pitching will be key for the Ocelots as pitching can easily win or lose games for teams. When asked about his squads pitching staff, Fay said; "If we can pitch at the high level we're capable of, I think the rest of the game will take place for us."

He went on to describe how baseball primarily comes down to pitching. If this team's pitchers can perform it will make for a great season.

The team's morale and culture are big contributions to having a successful season. When the coaching staff and players are united, it's like a family. When coaches communicate with their team to help them better execute skills you're more likely to see success, Fay knows it too.

"When you're a head coach at a community college you also become an academic advisor, a father figure, the guys know that we're here to help them," said Fay. In addition he knows that his job is to help them grow into young men on and off the baseball field.

For more information about this seasons rosters, schedules and stats go to www. schoolcraftocelots.com. Page 15 | February 19, 2024 schoolcraftconnection.com

Bouncing Back

Preparation starts for the softball team after a subpar 2023 season

ISABELLE RICHMOND INTERN

As winter winds down, it's time to turn the clock towards spring and with that comes softball season. The Ocelots are ready for a fresh start and optimism runs deep through the program after finishing last season with a record of 11-27 overall and 9-21 in the MCCAA Eastern Conference.

A familiar face will be taking the reins of the program.
Assistant Coach of two seasons, Breanna Rice, is taking over as the head coach of the Ocelots for the 2024 season. Rice is taking over the program from Rey Linares with the goal is to continue to enhance the program academically and athletically. Softball and coaching is her passion and Rice translated her love for the game to her team.

"Coaching is just something I love. I love seeing the improvement once they get it." Rice is excited about her new role and looks forward to the season.

The team is hard at work perfecting their craft with practices and scrimmages.

"We're implementing new exercises at practice, the girls together look like a much better group,"said Rice.

Rice is aware of the improvements that need to be made and she's ready to help

her team get there.

"We need to clean up our mindset. The tools are all there, but confidence has been a huge piece that's missing," said Rice. Rice went on to explain how her and her coaching staff know what they are capable of. Getting the team to believe in themselves, is the real battle. She also knows that each individual player will control their outcome, and they have all the tools to execute.

The Ocelots have six sophomores returning. They include pitcher Shannon Mosesso, pitcher Alexa Swiatkowski, pitcher/outfielder Amber Burzlaff, catcher/infielder Sarah Collins, outfielder Macy Collett and infield/outfield Ella Hayes.

Mosesso appeared in 21 games last season and made 15 starts. She pitched 98.0 innings and had a 5.07 ERA. Collins appeared in 30 games and hit .351 with a .385 on-base percentage. Collett appeared in 37 games and stole 24 bases. Haves appeared in 16 games with 22 at-bats and hit .364 with a .728 OPS. Swiatkowski appeared in 13 games making 6 starts (2nd on team in IP with 43.0) and had a 4.88 ERA. Burzlaff appeared in 21 games with 58 at-bats, hit .236 with a .311 OBP.

New to the team are Hailey McCleary, Savina Olada, Paige Guinn, Mariah Rodriguez, Sydney Scoggins, Anna VanSumeren, Vanessa White, Raina Bonus, Olivia Mikowski, Camryn Keough and Madison Gray.

When a team knows they can be confident in their coaches or look for help in improving their

skills, it makes for better performances. It's no secret to anyone, but especially the coaches. "The girls got to know each other quicker and we're gelling better together. If anything we're going to come out stronger," said Rice.

At this point, no one on the team is a stranger. The Ocelots can communicate, execute and win games together confidently.

The Ocelots begin the season Sunday, March 1 when they travel to Myrtle Beach to play Olney Central College and Kaskaskia College. The team will play a total of 11 games in a span of a week between March 1-8 before returning home to prepare for their home opener on March 19 against Macomb Community College starting at 3 p.m. at Ward Church Softball Field.

For more information about this seasons rosters, schedules and stats go to www. schoolcraftocelots.com



Breanna Rice (right), is taking over as the head coach of the Ocelots for the 2024 season. Photos by Summer Sultana



Catcher/infielder Sarah Collins returns for her sophomore season. Collins appeared in 30 games and hit .351 with a .385 on-base percentage last season for the Ocelots.



Sophomore pitcherAlexa Swiatkowski will be a key returner for the Ocelots.

OPINIONS

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IN OUR OPINION

Perks of community college



Photo by Fernanda Figueiredo

We are all here for a reason. Community colleges provide those in historically underserved populations opportunities of higher education they would have otherwise not been able to access from their 4-year

counterparts. Working parents can have much more flexibility while attaining goals to get their families in better positions. The

list of circumstances continues on. However, not only do community colleges have diversity in their population, but also diversity in benefits and perks that can give all who attend a collegiate experience.

Transferability

Transferability of community colleges offers a key stepping

stone for many students.
Whether it is prerequisite
classes that will be transferred
to a 4-year university, or
learning new necessary skills
that will transfer students from
job to career. The majority

of community colleges, public and independent universities/colleges accept the Michigan Transfer Agreement; including a set of general education requirements that can be transferred

from one institution to the next. Due to this attribution of transferability, community colleges provide a welcoming space for the evolving student.

See 'Perks of community college' page 17>

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'Perks of community college' cont'd from page 16>

Flexibility

Attending community college brings flexibility which allows students to customize their schedule to fit their lifestyle and needs, dramatically increasing their chances of success. Many community colleges offer a range of class styles such as online, remote and in person that allow students to choose a style that works best for their life and learning needs. These classes also allow students to customize their schedule with a combination of various time formats, such as twelve-week courses and fifteen-week courses. This makes it easier for students to analyze their classes and workload and allows them to build schedules unique to their own success.

Proximity and comfort

Community colleges have the word "community" in them for a reason!

Being locally focused, community colleges give people access to affordable education close to home. People can feel comfortable in the area they are already in and avoid the hassle of paying for expensive university educations far away from family and friends. Community college campuses also provide a great environment for young adults to adjust to college life. If they choose to continue their education, community colleges can be a wonderful stepping

stone between high school and university and act as a way to ease that transition.

Financial assistance

Going to college can be an overwhelming process in itself, the last thing a student should worry about is how they are going to pay for tuition and books. Community colleges offer an array of scholarships to students such as Michigan Reconnect. Clubs and organizations offer scholarship opportunities such as Phi Theta Kappa which offers their students exclusive scholarships including transfer scholarships.

Smaller class

Universities campuses and classrooms can be extremely

large and intimidating. At community colleges, the campuses are much smaller. You are likely to run into friends and classmates more often making campus feel more comfortable and

connected. Making community college a great place to meet and network with classmates, clubs and organizations. Class sizes are much smaller than at universities as well. Where university classrooms can harbor up to 400 students, most community colleges average about 30 students. This makes learning

much more personal and less intimidating.

Affordability

Community colleges offer lower tuition fees compared to four-year universities. Making it a more affordable option for students who want to pursue higher education. Allowing less accumulated substantial debt for students looking to complete their general education requirements or introductory before transferring. Which can significantly reduce the overall cost of their bachelor's degree. This perspective

This perspective allows students to save money without sacrificing the quality of their education.

Beyond the classroom

It may come as a surprise to incoming freshmen that community colleges offer student activities too. Many students are not aware that community colleges offer clubs, activities and even events. Oftentimes we hear of big schools holding large sporting events, dances, activities and fairs. It comes to many students'

surprise when they find out that lots of community colleges offer the same opportunities.

Practical application

At community college, focusing on your desired career is crucial. They offer hands-on training. This gives students real work situations to use their new set of skills. Students also have the opportunity to acquire a degree or certificate faster than traditional universities.

#CCSmart

Traditionally looked down upon, but in reality, community colleges are often much more beneficial than a larger scale university. With less classes and less people, that allows students to further grow and personalize your college experience. It's easier to explore and take classes that you're interested in that allows you to decide what you enjoy, with less pressure than at a university. Making friends with your peers and professors can help make your experience more enjoyable. It's easier to get involved and decide what you want to get out of your community college classes. Maybe if you get involved, you'll even end up on marketing material for your campus!



by Pili Estevez

Dehumanizing women

AI-generated content is being weaponized against women, and girls

MICHELLE TORRES STAFF WRITER

On Jan. 24, sexually explicit AI-generated images of Taylor Swift garnered millions of views on Twitter. The images originated from the 4chan website before being reposted to Twitter, according to a report by 404 Media. While Swifties quickly came to the defense of Swift, the damage had already been done. The images continued to spread through platforms, such as Instagram and Facebook. Tweets featuring the photos had hundreds of thousands of likes and it took hours before the accounts were taken down.

The images reignited the already heated debates and discussions about the ethics and legality of AI usage. While the further development of technology has always been a subject of concern through works of fiction, such as The Matrix and The Terminator, the anxieties surrounding the rapid evolution of technology have once again been brought to the forefront of mainstream media.

At the moment, there are no artificial intelligence softwares attempting to enslave or eradicate the human race. AI has created a new set of issues that need to be addressed immediately.

Swift is unsurprisingly not the first victim of sexual harassment through AI. This violation of

Swift's person is a symptom of a AI-generated nude much larger issue.

The fabrication of nonconsensual pornographic deepfake content has grown to be a pressing issue since 2017. When an account on Reddit posted videos with the faces of famous actresses. In 2019, research by Sensity found that 96 percent of deepfakes on the internet were pornographic. Since then the use of deepfake technology has only increased significantly.

In the years since 2017, technology has also vastly changed, with programs like ChatGPT and Hotpot; AI has become extremely popular and accessible to the general public. While there may certainly be some merits to Artificial Intelligence, the accessibility has been abused. It has been utilized as a weapon to humiliate and harm others.

According to MSNBC, in November of last year, a group of girls in high school discovered the existence of AI-generated sexually explicit imagery about them. Which had been created and shared by their classmates at a high school in New Jersey.

In 2021, a 14-year-old girl took her own life after her face was photoshopped onto the body of a pornographic performer. In September of last year, more than twenty teenage girls in Spain received photos of themselves.

According to the United Nations. technology has vastly facilitated genderbased violence. "Artificial Intelligence (AI) raises concerns about protecting and promoting human rights. Societal biases linked to gender roles and identities are ingrained in social programmes and services through automated decision-making," they wrote in one article. "Algorithms and devices have the potential to spread and reinforce harmful gender

stereotypes. These gender

continued.

biases pose a risk of further

stigmatizing and marginalizing

women on a global scale," they

The Artificial Intelligence sector of technology is currently severely unregulated. Some states, however, have passed certain laws that provide some protection against AI and bills have been introduced in Congress to address this issue, though nothing is solid at the moment. The Taylor Swift images, however, did attract a lot of attention from government officials. With the White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre addressing the issue in a press conference.



"This is very alarming. And so, we're going to do what we can to deal with this issue," stated Jean-Pierre.

Since the spread of the Taylor Swift images, a new bill that would criminalize the spread of AI-generated nonconsensual, sexualized imagery was introduced. Moreover, it would allow victims an opportunity for a civil penalty against their aggressors. It is shameful that it took this long for action against this issue to finally gain momentum that the humiliation of countless women and girls, famous or not, wasn't enough for it to be properly addressed.

It is imperative that limits are established around the use of AI for the true protection of women, girls and people as a whole.

Ocelot Opinions

What is one class or professor that changed your perspective on something?

INTERVIEWS BY
CAITLIN CHERRY AND KATHRYN WENSKE
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR AND
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Education has the largest impact on individuals. We sit in lectures everyday, work with our professors and classmates and other interactions that last with us forever. However, was there ever one class or person, such as a professor, who really changed your perspective on something?

Caleb Kirkpatrick Major: Business Administration "I'd have to say it'd be anthropology. I'm taking that this semester and it's been a really fun class learning about



different cultures, how we interact with them as well as how we perceive them," said Kirkpatrick. He says it's been especially interesting learning about international relations in this class since it has helped him expand his mindset. Understanding perspectives different from his own and respecting them is particularly important not only to his career field but to life as a whole.

Dervin Little

Major: Computer Technology

"I would say the professor that taught me realistic and 3D art, he was really on people's heads about it and also being funny at the same time so I really love him for that," said Little. He expressed

appreciation for that style of teaching the professor had while also being lighthearted and finding positive moments to highlight in class.



Angelina Seranian Major: General Studies "I've had a lot of great professors here to

professors here to be honest with you. I would definitely say one of the most influential professors I've had is English

Professor April Harden. She was absolutely incredible. She brought a personable element to the classroom, which I always appreciate because I personally have a fear of elders and like people that are in power," said Seranian. A part of Professor Harden's curriculum is volunteer work, which included the students working with Hey Y'all Detroit that opened Seranian's eyes to more diverse volunteer opportunities other than the prior experiences she's had with ecology and early learning for children.



Major: General Studies

"My current English 102 professor just because I don't really like English, but he

makes it really fun and I think that makes it a lot easier to learn for me," said Walters. He further explained that his professor allows the students to pick their own topics and



write about what they are interested in. "He lets you kind of choose your own topics and he doesn't force you to do anything. He gives you a project with a lot of room for creativity in it," said Walters.



For a further breakdown on Ocelot Opinions, check out our YouTube Channel at The Schoolcraft Connection



www.youtube.com/@SCCONNECTION

Not all cute and fuzzy

The animal behind our school mascot

JOLIE LARSEN STAFF WRITER

The ocelot has been the mascot of Schoolcraft College since 1966, though you may not know too much about them.

These mid-sized wildcats are about 15 to 20 inches tall at the shoulder, and weigh between 18 and 34 pounds. They have a dappled coat of fur covered in black markings, with a white underbelly. Each ocelot has a unique pattern of stripes, spots and rosettes. Their eves are a rich golden-brown color, and they have rounded ears with white spots. Scientifically named leopardus pardalis, they typically live for about 15 years, though some make it to 20. Ocelots remain with their mothers until they reach full maturity at about 2 years old.

Ocelots are most active at night, sleeping during the day and waking around dusk. These wildcats climb, leap and swim throughout their territory. They prefer habitats with a dense forest and an ample supply of water and food. Ocelots are carnivores, primarily eating small mammals such as rodents and armadillos, though they also eat birds, lizards and fish. Ocelots are native to the southwestern U.S., Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean islands of Trinidad and Margarita. Despite their global population that is estimated to be around 1 million, there are fewer than 100 ocelots remaining in the U.S. This only leaves just two small populations of them located in Texas. Previously, these cats used to be found throughout Louisiana,



Arkansas and Arizona as well. The northern subspecies of ocelot is considered to be endangered due to extensive habitat destruction, hunting and traffic accidents causing Ocelot populations to continue to dwindle. The ocelot overall makes it onto the **IUCN** (International Union for Conservation of Nature) red list of threatened species, though in the category of least concern. Meaning, the global ocelot population is stable enough that they are highly unlikely to face extinction any time soon. Efforts are being made to increase ocelot numbers in the U.S., as well as to protect them on a wider scale. Most countries with ocelot populations have made it illegal to hunt them or keep them as pets. While ocelot numbers may be declining and their habitats shrinking, the wider population is nowhere close to being in dire straits just yet. Thus, making these animals survivors and fighters, fitting perfectly as our mascot at Schoolcraft.

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DIVERSIONS

Find Answers on Page 24!

Schoolcraft Word Search

Words:

Bradner
Forum
Grote
Hinkle
Jeffress
McDowell
Ocelots
Ozzy
Schoolcraft
Trinity Elite
VistaTech
Waterman

0	С	Е	L	0	Т	S	F	L	Υ	Р	Е
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Т	U	S	S	Е	R	F	F	E	J	S	G

Sudoku											
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			5	3	1	8	9				
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		5	6				2	9			
		7	3	5		6	4	8			
			1	9	2	5	3				
	5			1	4	3			2		
	3	4						1	9		



Diversions by Jolie Larsen



DON'T STAND BY. STEP UP.





Report incidents and concerns on the college's online reporting tool, SC aware.

When you see someone who needs help, remember the 3 D's of bystander intervention:

- 1. Direct: Step in and say or do something, if you can be safe in doing so.
- 2. Distract: Create a diversion and get the vulnerable person out of the situation.
- 3. Delegate: Find someone with more authority to intervene.

To learn more, complete the Bystander Intervention training that is included in the Not Anymore training program on the Student Relations webpage at https://www.schoolcraft.edu/student-relations/not-anymore-program/

Ad sponsored by the Student Relations Office, McDowell Student Center, room 175, studentrelations@schoolcraft.edu

YOU CAN SAY 'NOT ANYMORE!" TO INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE.

Keep yourself and others safe by reporting all instances of sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking.



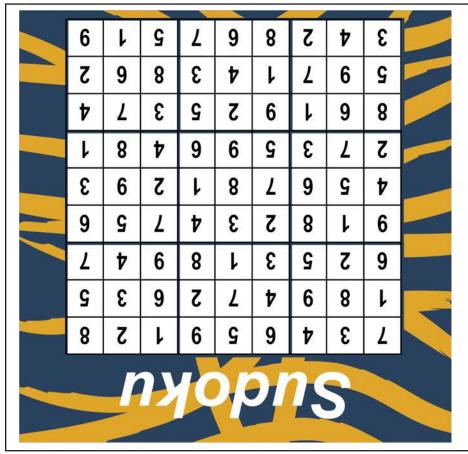


Report incidents and concerns on the college's online reporting tool, SC aware.

Three ways to report:

- Online at schoolcraft.edu/student-relations/sc-aware
- Title IX Coordinator (call 734-462-4486)
- Schoolcraft College Police Department (call 734-462-4424)









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WHAT WE ARE DOING:

Collecting the donations and creating laundry kits for students to pick up in March







Layout by Sasha Spearman

What percentage of the world is allergic to cats?

strophic. world is allgeric. How cat-a-Approximately 10% pof the