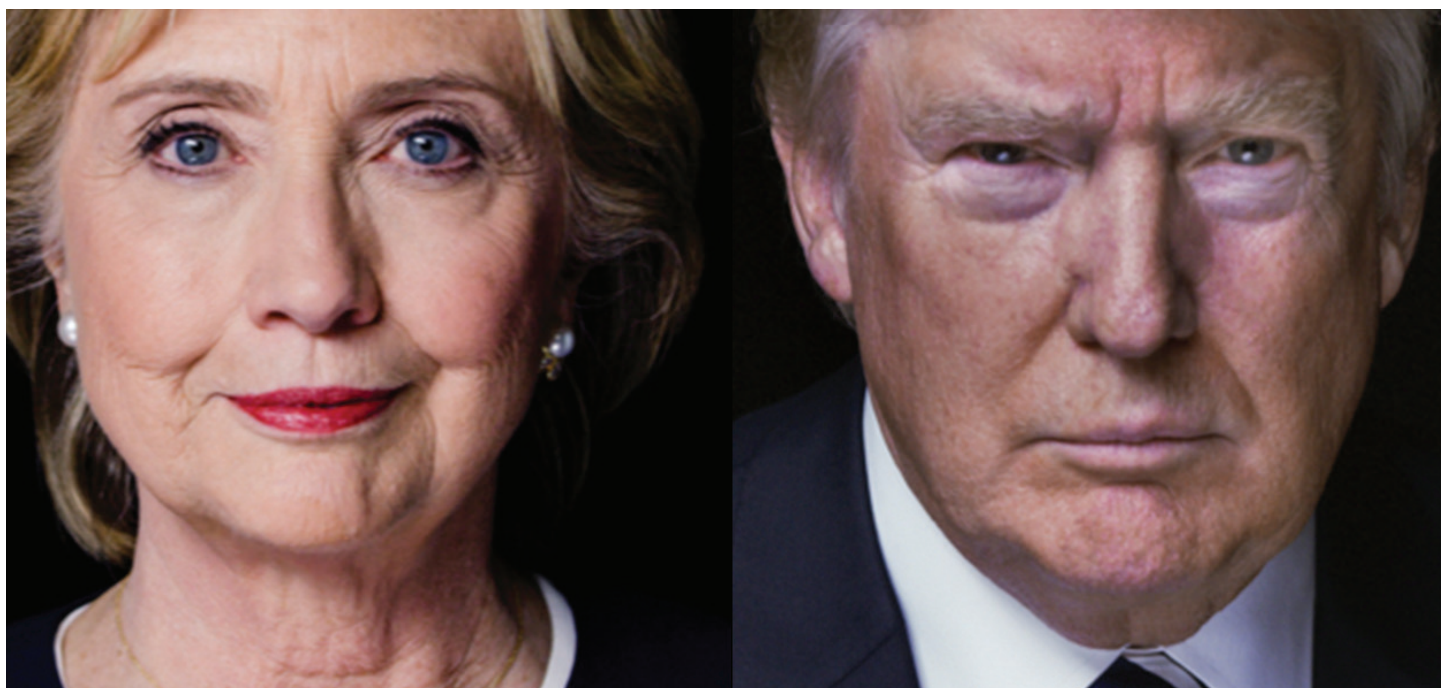


THE CENTURY TIMES

2016 Fall Issue 1



ELECTION 2016



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FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR IN CHIEF:
VLADIMIR CRUZ-RAMIREZ

Hello Century College Staff and Students,

The Century Times has continued to grow over the past 2 years. I first began tutoring for Composition one, and that is when I first met An Garagiola, our previous editor-in-Chief. An and TCT has since expanded the newspaper from being a 12-page newspaper, to an award-winning 30-page magazine that is published twice a semester.

Last semester, An Garagiola graduated from Century College with an Associates in Arts degree, and a Gender Studies Certificate, meaning that TCT would need a new Editor in Chief. The torch has been handed down, and this semester I became TCT's new Editor in Chief.

The Century Times has returning students, and is has also gained many new students. Ker Moua a returning staff member, and also our Lead Copy Editor, has helped me countless times during short time here and is an incredibly hard worker and makes sure our stories look pristine as possible.

Greg Walters and Wendy Wittner our new design layout editors, have much experience in layout design. They will make our magazine looks just as aesthetically pleasing as the last issues.

Our new Lead Creative Writing Editor, Elizabeth Johnson, not only creates creative writing pieces, but also copy edits student submissions.

Like An and the previous TCT team, we still strive to cover events all over campus, with the magazine predominately focused on social justice. We have a phenomenal, hardworking, and dedicated staff and students this time around. There's no doubt in my mind that TCT this year will make production the best it can be.

A special thank you to Dana LeMay and Richard Kuss, our advisors. They have continued to steer us in the right direction when encountering difficult dilemmas. We are genuinely grateful for your constant support here at The Century Times. Let's keep the tradition going.

-Vladimir Cruz-Ramirez

Faces of Century

Thuy (Kristy) Dong | Writer, Photographer
Vladimir Cruz-Ramirez | Editor-in-Chief, Photographer

With the presidential elections coming up, we asked Century students three questions about the presidential candidates.

“Describe the first debate between Trump and Clinton from 3 to 5 words?”

“Can you sum up the candidacy this year?”

“What are your hopes for the future president to carry out?”



Nicole Villaruz standing in front of the Bookstore

Nicole Villaruz

“Unfair. Childish. Whining.”

“I hope that people will vote and that social media will not affect the way how people vote.”

“Whoever gonna be president, just make good decisions.”

Keely Zimmerman

“Unprofessional. Unequal. Frustrating.”

“Democratic side, I’m fine with it. Good direction. But the Republican side has too much money involved.”

“I really hope Trump doesn’t win. I hope people will open their eyes more about government and politics.”



Keely Zimmerman standing by the coffee shop



Sheena Dsouza standing near the Multi-Cultural Center

Sheena Dsouza

“Interesting. Personal (Trump). Fine/not outstanding.”

“I feel that Hillary definitely has potential to be president. First of all, she is the first one to run for president as a woman. Second of all, Trump will have negative impact to the country, nothing positive comes out of his mouth.”

“He or she can just be able to handle any kind of problem. If they don’t, the country may face consequences in future.”

Josiah Sommer

"I haven't actually watched any of the debate."

"I think the candidacy does not have a good choice."

"My hopes for the presidency is to decrease national debt and increase employment rates."



Josiah Sommer in the West Campus hallway

Eleanor Parker

"Interruption. Bickering. Not smart (Trump)."

"I think Hillary is ok. I hope Trump doesn't win."

"I hope that if Hillary Clinton becomes the president fall through with promises for the progressive platform. I think Trump cannot get anything done if he becomes a president."



Eleanor Parker in the Commons Room

Ruby Birckelbaw

"Interesting. Different. Conflicting."

"I think that Hillary has better hold on how to run the country. She's more prepared."

"I want the country to not fall apart and for them to change what's been going on. Maybe try to change amount of dead in country."



Ruby Birckelbaw standing by one of the entrances

Ramon Varela

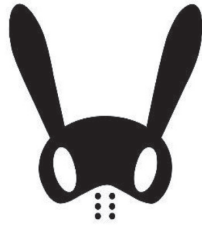
"At a loss for words."

"I don't know much about it but I hope at the end of this there can actually be a difference."

"That if they're really going to make a difference for what's best for the world, then they should stick to what they stand by."



Ramon Varela strikes a pose in front of the Ducks Leadership sign



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November 9th
West Campus Nest

CELEBRATE OUR VETERANS

Join us as we celebrate the current and former military students that are a part of our community here at Century.

Stop by **the Nest** on **Wednesday November 9th** and join us and say “*thank you*” to those that that have and continue to serve our country.

If you're a military student, we'll have donuts for breakfast and Chipotle for lunch, so stop by the Veterans Resource Center in room W1217!

Questions? Send us an email at VetServices@century.edu.

My Journey from Century to the University of Minnesota

Adam Jenson | Contributing Writer

Ker Moua | Photographer

Century College is an exceptional institution to begin almost any academic career. There are numerous advantages as well as a few minor disadvantages to starting a degree at a community college and transferring to a university to finish the degree.

I would like to explain my journey from what led me to choose Century College to begin my undergraduate program, some of the highlights of my experiences, my reasons for choosing to transfer to the University of Minnesota (U of M), and explain how I felt as a community college transfer student. Then I will describe how my experience at the U of M has been thus far and examine if I would have taken the same path if I had known what I know now about the U of M and Century.

Many factors led me to choose Century College to start my undergraduate program. After graduating high school, I was not certain what I wanted to pursue academically. My strong interest in physics and math made me, initially, want to seek a physics degree. With indecision about which degree to pursue, I decided that a community college was an excellent place to start.

At a community college, I could affordably start taking my general education courses while getting a better idea of what degree I wanted. Century College is conveniently close to my house, as well as being known as one of the most renowned community colleges in Minnesota. These factors made Century a clear choice for me to begin my undergraduate program.

Starting my academic career at Century College helped me discover what I wanted to pursue in my education. In my first semester at Century, I took an introduction to engineering course. I discovered a physics-related degree, mechanical engineering. Since I found this area of study during my first semester, I was able to focus on my general education courses and lower division engineering courses that were needed.

My experience at Century College had numerous highlights. I enjoyed the community and environment that Century has to offer. I have many unforgettable experiences and met plenty of amazing students and faculty. Something that I like about Century was the professors.

My engineering professors taught material in a clear and practical way. The professors truly realize what every student actually needs to understand to be a successful engineer. Professors genuinely cared about my success as a student and beyond. Specific topics they know that will be crucial in future classes are covered more thoroughly.

Emphasizing the most important topics helps immensely as a student progresses in their education. The student-professor relationship that I experienced first-hand while attending Century was undoubtedly the most significant highlight of my experience at Century College.

Another exceptional aspect of Century is the small class sizes, which I learned to appreciate. The U of M in comparison can have class sizes of well over 200 students! A smaller class size means more one-on-one interactions with the professor, which is crucial as classes get more technical and advanced. The ability to contact a professor more freely in a smaller class enriches a student's learning experience.

As I completed my courses, I was deciding where I would transfer to finish my degree in mechanical engineering. Just as Century was an option due to location and prestige among community colleges, the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities had the same appeal to me.

The U of M is one of the top universities in Minnesota for engineering. The university's program and connection to an abundance of engineering companies around the country impressed me. It also is a research institution which made it more desirable to attend. Doing technical research with a professor is what I consider to be an exceptional academic opportunity.

Finally, I knew people attending or have attended the U of M, many of which were entering engineering as well. Their input and positive feedback about the university confirmed my desire to attend this school. Considering my degree and location, the U of M was a perfect match for me.

Transferring from Century to the U of M was the most nerve-racking event in my academic career. I was accustomed to Century, so the thought of attending another institution left me with many unanswered questions. After going through the processes needed to transfer, I was very intimidated and nervous about how the U of M would differ from Century.

Upon transferring, the most noticeable difference was the class sizes. However, I instantly noticed that the U of M's average class size was considerably larger than what I was accustomed to. My first class at the U of M had over 100 students, which came with disadvantages. Professor office hours were always full.

This results in students attending office hours less often, forcing them to figure out confusing topics by themselves or continue to struggle. Also, I realized how much longer homework and tests took to grade due to larger class sizes. I saw this as a disadvantage since all feedback was delayed. This took some getting used to and required more independence from students. I felt overwhelmed at first, but soon became accustomed by spending more time in study groups and doing homework with classmates.

Another difference was the expectations from students. Century by no means had low standards for their students, but the combined effects of transferring to a four-year university as well as beginning in all upper-division engineering courses made the transition more noticeable. Talking

to other transfer students in identical situations as me, it took us all by surprise.

It can be a difficult transition to transfer schools, but manageable if you have the right mindset and enough motivation. Maintaining motivation through this difficult transition was challenging at times, but crucial in succeeding at the U of M.

The approach I took was forming stronger study groups. This helped me learn topics I did not fully understand during lecture by group members discussing what each individually understood. This also helped me realize that we were all having the same struggles, which helped me stay motivated and move forward.

As a transfer student, I had advantages. I had a more diverse educational background and knowledge of the core material for these engineering courses. This kind of transfer student has experienced different technical learning environments which makes it an advantage because it makes them more apt to change. College is all about constantly changing environments, and I had an easier time than many students that attended the U of M since freshmen year with these types of changes.

Furthermore, the diverse group of people many transfer students have encountered leads to an advantage in itself. Having more cultural exposure often times allows transfer students to be more patient with people of different cultural backgrounds.

Century offered me a strong educational foundation to build on. I found that many upper-division engineering courses at the U of M depended on a firm knowledge of the core concepts taught in previous classes. I have a better understanding of many of these core concepts than most of my classmates who started at the U of M freshmen year.

The disadvantages are minor compared to the advantages I gained. One disadvantage was that I had to develop new study groups and friend groups during junior year with people who have known each other since freshmen year. I thought I would have a difficult time, but it was easier than I thought.

Also, I did not know my way around campus or know any professors was a minor inconvenience, but it quickly became manageable. In my opinion, the most considerable disadvantage transfer students to the U of M face is that their GPA resets upon transferring.

Some students might think of this as an advantage because it allows the transfer student to start fresh again with a clean slate, but I think it has a significant disadvantage. Since a student's GPA resets upon transferring, they have no built-up GPA buffer from "easier" lower-division courses.

For example, if a student has a 60 credit cumulative 3.7 GPA and gets a C in a 3-credit class, their GPA will only drop to a 3.62. However, if a transfer student to the U of M encounters the same situation, the results will be more detrimental since they no longer have that 60-credit GPA buffer.

For engineering students transferring to the U of M, this can be very intimidating since they begin in all upper-division engineering courses with no GPA buffer. Transferring from a community college to a four-year university provided me with advantages as well as disadvantages.

Advantages and disadvantages aside, my experience at the U of M has been exceptional so far. Like Century, the U of M has phenomenal professors. The U of M has many connections with engineering companies, which I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to take advantage of. I have completed a six-month internship with a company in the Minneapolis area and just started doing a co-op with a different company in the area. This real world experience has enriched my academic experience with practical knowledge and work experience.

I believe I accomplished these by simply putting myself out there and being as involved in the university community. I try to attend as many events, job fairs, seminars, etc. as I can. I have been keeping my grades up and have learned a ton during my time so far at the U of M.

After graduation, I plan to temporarily work full-time to gain more experience in the industry. After that, I plan to pursue my master's degree in mechanical engineering and possibly my doctorate. While in graduate school, I would like to do research at the university to expand my experience into technical research.

If I had known what I know now about the U of M and Century, I would still have taken the same path. I have had excellent experiences at both schools and have saved a considerable amount of money by starting at Century College first. Although I still would have started at Century knowing what I know now, I would have done it slightly differently.

The only regret I have starting at Century is that I did not look ahead enough at the U of M's general educational requirements before transferring. Fortunately, I was able to finish most of my general education courses at Century. I did not know until I was attending the U of M that I missed a couple of courses. I did not preview their requirements. This was just inconvenient since I had to worry about fitting those last classes into my schedule to graduate on time. That said, I easily managed to fit them in my schedule so I can still graduate in spring 2017 as originally expected.

Century College has been a crucial part of my education. Starting any academic career at a community college is an exceptional way to save money and discover further what you want to pursue academically. Transferring to a four-year university was a nerve-racking experience that came with many advantages, as well as some minor disadvantages. If I could do it all again, I would undoubtedly choose to take the same path.



Century College, taking students to better places.

Candidate Jason Isaacson:

Sarah Kuyack | Staff Writer

From

PROFESSOR

TO

POLITICIAN

“That’s something missing from politics today, people being genuine.”

Balancing a teaching career, a family, and running for Senate might be too much for some people. But not Jason Isaacson.

Isaacson, age 45, has spent nearly a decade teaching communication classes at Century such as Interpersonal Communications and Intercultural Communications. Isaacson also teaches at North Hennepin Community College, and has taught at John Hopkins and George Washington University.

The run for Senate is not Isaacson’s first foray into politics. He has done work on political campaigns for other people in the past. Isaacson is a member of the Democratic-Farmer-Labor party and represents District 42B, which includes places such as Shoreview, Vadnais Heights, Gem Lake, and Little Canada. The current Senate seat holder of District 42, Beverly Scalze, plans on retiring and recommends Isaacson to replace her.

Isaacson says he plans to focus on education and have schools teach things that better align with careers of the students. He also wants to lower tuition costs by having the state take on more of the burden of paying for college. That way less of that burden is on the students. This would help students not only financially, but

also help them focus more on what they are studying instead of on the mounting debt waiting to be paid off.

He values being honest and forthright with people, to be genuine. “That’s something missing from politics today, people being genuine,” Isaacson mentions.

Isaacson says that he’s fine with whatever outcome the election turns out to be, explaining that, “I’ll still have something if this doesn’t work out. I can still teach and that’s what I really love doing”. If he wins, he will be happy, but if he loses, Isaacson says that’s fine too. Isaacson will still be able to pursue his real passion, which is teaching.



CENTURY ORIGINAL

STRANGE TRAIL

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27TH, 2016

5:30PM-9:00PM

TRAIL NEST/ OPEN TO THE PUBLIC / CHILDREN UNDER 12 MUST
BE ACCOMPANIED WITH SUPERVISOR 18+ ADULT / AGE 12 AND UNDER ARE FREE
AGE 12+ ARE \$2 / CENTURY STUDENT WITH ID'S ARE \$1

A B C D E F G H



CENTURY COLLEGE IS A MEMBER OF THE MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES SYSTEM. WE ARE AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER AND EDUCATOR. THIS DOCUMENT CAN BE AVAILABLE IN ALTERNATIVE FORMATS TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES BY CALLING 651.779.5554 OR 1.800.228.1970 X.3354.

Volunteers are needed for this event. For more information contact Tavion Tran, at pt8755kr@mycentury.edu

Red Flag Campaign Captures Attention for Dating Violence and Abuse Intervention

Elizabeth Johnson | Staff Writer

All Photo Credits: Elizabeth Johnson

In response to the much publicized epidemic of sexual assault on college campuses, Century launched the Red Flag Campaign to introduce a bystander intervention strategy for students

to address and prevent sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.



Flag cluster: Red flags displayed on campus to capture attention of students.

Red flags were placed around entrances on both the east and west

campuses after the semester began to create buzz about the project. The flags are tagged with words related to the violence the campaign addresses. There are some such as “shaming” and “homophobic” with the campaign’s website, www.theredflagcampaign.org, printed on the flag as well.

Poster placement accompanies the flags shortly thereafter to draw attention to and further explain these important issues. For example, one poster reads, “I don’t let my boyfriend talk to other females at parties”. In the bottom right-hand corner is a healthy response to counter the faulty thinking: “What’s wrong with talking? It doesn’t mean they’re hooking up”. Contact information for places to report and receive support is also listed on the posters.

Jennifer Rassett, Director of Student Life, and Leadership Development as well as Century’s Title IX Coordinator, spearheaded the project and is a resource one can contact for help. As

SIGNS OF DATING VIOLENCE

- ☐ Sexual coercion
- ☐ Isolation
- ☐ Jealousy
- ☐ Emotional abuse
- ☐ Stalking
- ☐ Sexual assault
- ☐ Victim-blaming

the Title IX Coordinator, her role at Century is working with all kinds of issues that affect gender equity, including sexual offenses, as they relate to the student body and the campus experience.

“The good thing is people are starting to talk and communicate about it. There is a big push about bystander intervention where people are seeing signs and stepping in to help”. Rassett said.

So, why now? Her answer: “The first three weeks of the school year are considered the ‘red zone’ on college campuses because that’s when the most sexual assaults happen”.

Rassett points out that research shows one in four women will be assaulted by the time they’ve left college. She adds, “We are a part of that college career and we need to own that and do what we can to change the culture”.

She sums up the reason for the Red Flag

Campaign. “Research says that when you start talking about it, and if you’ve heard something about it, that if you see it happening you’re more likely to say something about it. It may not be happening right now to somebody, but in the future as they [students] see something, they’ll think of the red flags and make that connection”.

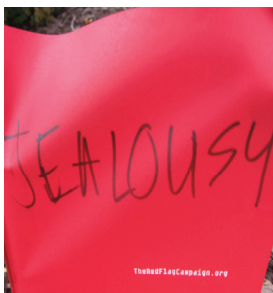
The message is clear. Century College is committed to doing its part to eliminate reports of sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, and effectively managing the reports the college receives.

It is important to note that in order for a victim to report and get help through Century College, it is not a requirement that the incident happened on campus or at the hands of another student.

If one would like to get involved with related efforts at Century, contact Jennifer Rassett (651-747-4015 or jennifer.rassett@century.edu) and/or check out the Social Change Club, an organized group that works with social and culture change on campus.



Theater entrance: Red flags lead students to theater entrance.



Jealousy flag: Jealousy is one sign of dating violence to be aware of.

WHERE TO REPORT AND FIND VICTIM SUPPORT IN A JUDGEMENT-FREE ZONE

**** Call 911 in the event of an emergency ****

Century Counseling Center	Room W2410	651-779-3285
Century Resource and Support Center	Room W2450	651-747-4098
Jennifer Rassett, Title IX Coordinator	Room W1211	651-747-4015
Ramsey County Sexual Violence Services	651-266-1000 (24-hour hotline)	
Crisis Hotline	612-379-6363 (24-hour hotline)	



Put-downs, name-calling, and other degrading comments are **EMOTIONAL ABUSE**.
When you see a **RED FLAG** in your friend's relationship, say something.

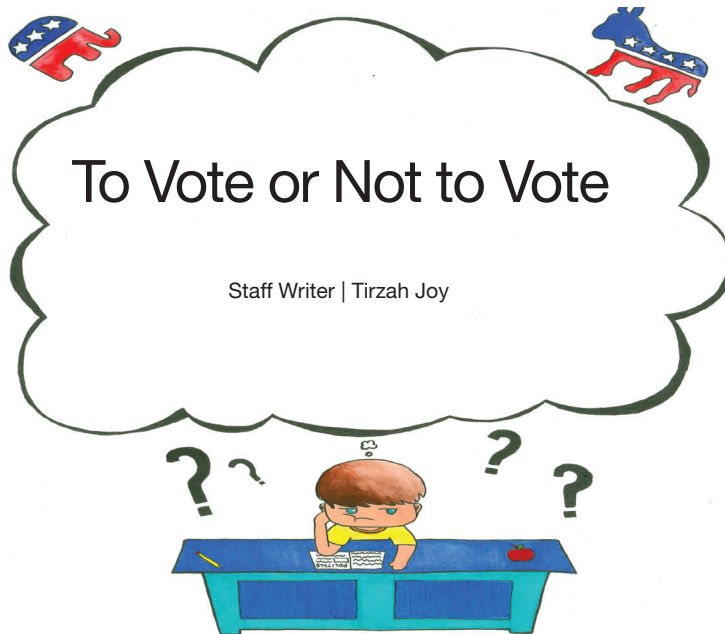
TheRedFlagCampaign.org

For more information on the Red Flag Campaign, contact Jenn Rassett
651-747-4015, W1211

If you know someone in need of help,
contact the Advising & Counseling Center
@ 651-779-3285,
W2410

Courtesy of TheRedFlagCampaign.org

© Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence Action Alliance.



"I probably won't vote this fall. I'm not into politics. I probably should be, and I also need to learn how to vote too. I'd have to go to the internet to learn how to vote. I feel unknowledgeable in things that should have been taught in high school. I wish high school taught stuff like that," Sarah Xiong, a current student here at Century states.

Have a similar viewpoint to the above statement? Rest assured that's okay. Fellow Century students contributed their voice to this topic in order to help those who may be confused or feeling ill-prepared to vote this year.

To Cast a Vote or Not?

Many are pondering whether or not to cast their vote this year. A long time voter and Century student named Margaret remarks, "This is the first time in my life I haven't voted." Quite alarmingly, there are others like her who simply don't know who to vote for. With this in mind, this year's candidacy requires some thoughtful consideration for those who are willing to vote.

Shayla Benjamin, a student who transferred out of Century last year, feels like voting is a right and an honor that she's able to hold and take part in due to the sacrifices of military members. Although also undecided herself, she relays, "Being that I recently moved, I plan to stay undecided until I can better research who I'll vote for. This includes the mayor, city council positions, sheriff, judicial placements, MN representatives (if they fall in this year), MN senators, and the presidency."

Advice for Others?

Falling in line with Benjamin's thoughts above, Margaret advises others to "be an informed voter and to study what/where the candidates on issues." This goes for education plans, taxes, military funding, healthcare... the whole ball of wax.

Benjamin states quite nicely to "find out which candidate represents you in as many issues and respects." Often many people find themselves caught up in the media's blaring reports that they are turned off by the idea of voting for anyone. Other times, there might be a new candidate that resonates with them and it scares them. This leads some to a crisis due to agreeing with both Democrats and Republicans.

Benjamin reassures those who are stuck in the middle, "You may find that you agree with someone that isn't a republican or a democrat. or even be in line with a democrat and also a republican. It's okay to vote on both sides of the aisle. On each side there are people you are more likely to have opinions and perspectives of more than one kind. Your voice should reflect you as much as possible. No matter what a party calls itself or how many needless arguments they get into, they will always be comprised of people."

"Vote for Lesser of the Two Evils"

Often in the middle, some express the ideology of "Vote for the lesser of two evils."

They look at Clinton and Trump as though there is no other option out there. And now, they have to vote for the lesser of the "evils." Yet in this case, some believe there is no lesser of two evils and those in candidacy have valid reason to be there. Margaret explains, that "although some can view it as lesser of two evils, it's more so how individuals feel about the candidacy -hopefully this will get people to opt to vote for a third party."

With the last phrase of Margaret's words, take comfort in being undecided so far. Repeat the advice from above. Research the candidates and their stance on issues that affect areas of interest. Let the facts speak for themselves and vote accordingly. Or not. The choice is yours.



Jocelyn Westphall at the Coffee Shop Photo by Thuy (Kristy) Dong

Student Senate Encourages Everyone to Vote This Election

Vladimir Cruz | Editor in Chief

All Photo Credits: Josey Hoffman

Voting among students can appear to be a hassle, especially if this is the first year students are eligible to vote.

“Only 22 percent of students at Century College voted in the last election.”
-Katherine Price
Director of Productions

Katherine Price, 21, who is majoring in Education and also serves as the Director of Productions in Student Senate, reports that only 22 percent of students at Century College voted in the last election. This year Student Senate has been working around the clock to encourage students to come out and vote this coming November.

Senate members have personally been going classroom to classroom to inform students on how they can participate in this year's election. These classroom visits don't take much time, about 5 minutes or less. Tavion Tran, 21, President of Student Senate, and a Health Science major, has been visiting classes on campus to explain how easy the process is for new voters.



Tavion Tran by the GPS Life Center

Tran explains that “at the start of each class [he asks] for a show of hands to see who is 18 and over. Once [he sees] everyone who is eligible to vote [he passes] out a card to them pledging that they will vote in the upcoming election”. Students only have to fill out name and preferred contact method on the small card they receive,



Student Senate at Registration Booth

and then return it to Tran.

The Voter Drive at this year's election will be held on both the east and west campuses. During the entire month of October, Student Senate will have computers set up not only for those who have already pledged to vote, but also for those who feel it is more convenient to vote at school. Students can register and vote on the same day.

Everyone in Student Senate will be hosting the computer voting, including Tran and Price. They will also be there to assist any students who may have questions. For extra incentive and encouragement, Student Senate will be giving out treats for all those who participate at the voter drive.

It is important for not only Century students to

vote, but all other colleges as well. Tran emphasizes that “it is important that students get out and vote every election year, not only to elect the next president, but to also choose good senators because they work more closely with colleges and can help improve tuition costs”. Students attending any college can agree that tuition costs can be improved one way or another.



Voter Registration Booth at The Nest.



Student Senate Encourages Everyone to Vote This Election

Hillary Clinton:

Strong Person, Regardless of Where you stand

Victoria Babashov | Staff Writer



Democratic Presidential Candidate Hillary Photo Credit | Gage Skidmore

Hillary Clinton has many ideas on how she wants to make this country better. Like many of the citizens she understands that this election is very different from others. She is running for president with Tim Kaine as the vice-president. Clinton has years of experience in the White House as a Senator and the First Lady. Kaine is one of few individuals who has been a governor, mayor, and U.S. Senator.

Both have been active in helping the public in different ways, but always with the same mind-set of living for those around them. The summarization of these issues has been taken from the official website of Hillary Clinton.

Economics

The biggest topic at hand is economics because it contributes to all other topics in this election. Clinton has more than enough ideas on the US economy. She wants to expand public transportation, connect everyone to the internet, repair the roads, improve the airspace industry, increase production in our manufacturing industry, and keep China accountable on their impact on the world's economy.

Along with preventing companies from jumping ship to other countries, she is a strong believer in the middle class and will work on closing that gap. She will also pass the Paycheck Fairness Act where women have proper tools to fight discrimination in the work place.

Education

The plan on education is to lighten the burden of debt on students with current loans and future students who will accumulate debt. She wants all Americans to have the opportunity to study without stressing about paying for school by making states step up and make education a priority as it was in the past.

Clinton wants students to feel safe on college campuses by addressing sexual assault violence on college campuses. The clear message is that the voices of the victims are to be heard and defended.

Immigration

Immigration will have a reform that keeps families together while still helping them become legal citizens. She wants to defend those that are mistreated due to the fact that they are not under the law. She wants to give them a hand in becoming part of this country, which they already consider as their home.

Gun Violence

Gun violence is an issue where many have lost lives and loved ones. Clinton plans to eliminate the loopholes in gun purchasing by expanding the background checks. This would allow the "Charleston Loophole", which is a unique way to get around current laws, to be cancelled out completely with the added security. She wants to keep people accountable for their actions when it comes to guns.

More information on where these candidates stand on other issues and in-depth study can be found on <https://www.hillaryclinton.com/>.

Veterans

Veterans are to receive more opportunities and resources to get back into civilian life by several approaches. First, she will build a modern Department of Veterans Affairs that can handle today's demands in the healthcare aspect. Keep and improve on the benefits of being in the military so the soldiers have a future to look forward to. Finally, she would like to strengthen the all-volunteer force.

Donald Trump: What Does He Stand for?

David Kjeldahl | Staff Writer



Republican Presidential Candidate Donald Trump Photo Credit | Gage Skidmore

This campaign season has been very unique and controversial, and near the center of it all is Donald Trump. A successful business man and reality television star, Trump was born in Queens, New York. He is married to Melania Trump and father to Donald Trump Jr., Ivanka, Eric, Tiffany and Barron. He is running on the Republican ticket with Mike Pence, the governor of Indiana.

Although his relatively small amount of experience in government may turn some voters away, the appeal of a candidate not tied up on the politics of Washington is appealing to many. Regardless of what you think of Trump, he is a real contender. Some of the hottest topics this election include economics, immigration, second amendment rights and veterans affairs.

Economics

While this year's political scene is certainly a unique one, economics is always a pressing issue in any presidential race, and Trump is no exception. Mr. Trump's official "America First" economics stresses several ways to help America win the global competition. Tax reform, in the shape of lowering taxes, streamlining deductions and tax brackets is a key feature of the campaign.

Tax reductions in this fashion would be aimed at reducing costs of American products in order to increase production, hiring and wages to stimulate the American economy. The Trump campaign also states its intention to review and remove government regulations that impose on American businesses, such as the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan, the EPA's Waters of the United States rule, the Climate Change Action plan and the Department of

Interior's moratorium on coal mining permits. Trade reform is also a priority, such as renegotiating NAFTA and withdrawing from TPP.

Immigration

Often a volatile subject in this election, immigration reform is a topic where Mr. Trump has some unique opinions. To begin with, the elephant in the room must be addressed: the wall. According to his official campaign website, "The cost of building a permanent border wall pales mightily in comparison to what American taxpayers spend every single year on dealing with the fallout of illegal immigration on their communities, schools and unemployment offices."

In order to put American workers first, reforms such as ending birthright citizenship, enhanced penalties for overstaying a visa and mandatory return of all criminal aliens will be put in place. To enforce these laws, there are plans to expand the Immigration and Customs Enforcement by as much as 300 percent.

Gun Violence and Second Amendment Rights

The Trump campaign declares that "the Second Amendment guarantees a fundamental right that belongs to all law-abiding Americans." Mr. Trump declares his intentions to protect the rights of law-abiding gun owners, while addressing the flaws of a faulty system. The national background check system does not work as intended and needs to be fixed, not expanded. Additionally, Trump intends to establish the national right to carry by making the concealed carry permit valid in all 50 states.

Veterans Affairs

Mr. Trump intends to reform the Veterans Administration in order to make healthcare more accessible, competitive and comprehensive to meet the needs of our 21st century service members. Veterans would be able to obtain care at any facility that accepts Medicare using their veteran ID cards. The Trump Plan will increase funding for the treatment of veterans' invisible wounds such as PTSD, expanded services for the growing number of women veterans, job training and placement services and modernizing the VA.

Interested in learning more about a particular issue? Visit the official Trump campaign website at www.donaldjtrump.com.

WHO'S ON THAT BALLOT?

Ker Moua | Lead Copy Editor

Tired of hearing about Trump and Hillary? Why not look to see what an independent candidate has to offer? There are seven other names on the ballot in the November election. Gary Johnson and Jill Stein stand out compared to the others.

According to the website, realclearpolitics.com, the CBS News/New York Times poll on September 15 has Clinton at 42 percent and Trump at 42 percent. Johnson comes in at third with 8 percent, and Stein at 4 percent. Johnson and Stein are alternatives that voters may choose from if they are tired of the established two-party system.

Both Johnson and Stein have experience running for President. Johnson ran for the candidacy on the Republican primary for the 2012 Presidential election. Stein was the Green Party candidate in that race. See if their values and ideas resonate with your vote this November.

Johnson is a businessman and lives in New Mexico. He is widowed and has a daughter and a son. He is running on the Libertarian Party ticket with his running mate, William Weld. Weld was a former prosecutor and lives in Massachusetts. Both have had executive experiences as governors of their respective states.

Economics

"Stop special interest loopholes. Reward responsibility. And simplify our tax code" (Johnson, n.d.).

Johnson wants to balance the budget with no wasteful spending. He wants to simplify the tax code and remove tax loopholes. He supports policies that have fairness and incentives, as well as those that create job growth.

Education

"Keep resources close to home. Innovate. And educate our future generations" (Johnson, n.d.).

Johnson believes the state and local governments should have more control over the education policy. He also believes the federal Department of Education should be eliminated.

Immigration

"Practical reform. No walls. Incentivize assimilation" (Johnson, n.d.).

Johnson wants to create work visas, have background checks, incentivize non-citizens to pay taxes, provide proof of employment and assimilate them into society. He wants law enforcement to focus on people that want to harm the country and not on those that want to be a part of it.

Gun Violence

"All these atrocities have been happening

in gun-free zones. If there were law-abiding citizens that were carrying weapons - I'm not saying they would lessen the impact of these horrible atrocities, but maybe, maybe they could" (Johnson, 2016).

Johnson opposes gun restrictions. In an interview with Susan Page of USA Today on June 16, 2016 Johnson believes that having guns can help in gun-free zones because the gunman would not want to shoot if there are others with guns. He does want to keep guns away from the mentally ill. He also sees owning guns helping against government tyranny.

Veterans

"The men and women of our military give us their best - and deserve no less in return" (Johnson, n.d.).

Johnson pledges to provide healthcare, support and transitional assistance. He wants to give health choices to the veterans and not the VA facilities. He also pledges that "those serving in the military today will only be asked to go in harm's way for clear, defined justified reasons."

For more on Johnson's position on more issues, go to the Gary Johnson campaign website, johnsonweld.com.

Gary Johnson



Libertarian Party Presidential Candidate Gary Johnson and running mate, William Weld

"GaryBillFull (3)" image by Gary Johnson, used under CC BY 2.0

Jill Stein

Ajamu Baraka

Stein is a physician living in Lexington, Massachusetts. She is married to her husband Richard Rohrer and has two sons. She is running on the Green Party ticket with her running mate, Ajamu Baraka, a human rights defender. Stein has experience being elected to the Lexington town meetings and also ran against Mitt Romney for the Governor of Massachusetts. Baraka served as a southern regional Director of Amnesty International USA and was also a Founding Executive Director of the US Human Rights Network.



Green Party Presidential Candidate Jill Stein and running mate Ajamu Baraka Images courtesy of jill2016.com

Economics

"My power to the People Plan creates deep system change, moving from the greed and exploitation of corporate capitalism to a human-centered economy that puts people, planet and peace over profit" (Stein, n.d.).

Stein has a lot of ideas. She has a Green New Deal plan where she plans to create 20 million green jobs. She wants to create living wage jobs with the federal minimum wage at \$15 an hour. She wants to replace NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement. She wants to advance worker rights to form unions. Stein also wants the rich to pay for their share of taxes and has plans to break up too-big-to-fail banks.

Education

"Education as a right"
(Stein, n.d.).

She plans to abolish student debt and make tuition free from prekindergarten to university.

Immigration

"Supports immigrant's rights. Create a welcoming path to citizenship for immigrants" (Stein, n.d.).

Stein is against deportation on non-criminal immigrants. She wants to

pass the DREAM Act. She also wants to create a path to citizenship for law abiding undocumented immigrants.

Gun Violence

"Gun violence is a reflection of a much deeper illness in our society, an epidemic expressed in many forms" (Stein, n.d.).

Stein wants gun control. She wants background checks as well as an assault weapons ban. She wants to strengthen the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act of 1993. Stein also wants the renewal and strengthening of the Assault Weapons Ban of 1994. She says these will help keep weapons out of the hands of those who are dangerous or unstable.

Veterans

"As President I pledge to work to ensure that veterans receive the assistance and deep respect they are entitled to"
(Stein, 2016).

Stein says veterans should receive proper medical treatment and care. They should have better assistance when returning to civilian life with their education, employment, and housing needs.

For more on Stein's positions on more topics, go to the Jill Stein campaign website, jill2016.com.

Quiz Results Say: Vote on Nov. 8

Kaitlynn Uremovich | Staff Writer

From Hillary Clinton's email scandal and her mysterious illness to Donald Trump's controversial immigration views and contentious statements, this year's presidential campaign skews on the side of chaos and drama. Most people, especially young adults and college students, have been blinded by these negative events that continue to be highlighted by the media.

Students at Century, as well as college students and young adults across the nation, are being bombarded by social media postings that have lost sight of what's important in any political campaign: the real issues and what these presidential candidates stand for and how they plan to uphold their plans for our country.

Century students have a wide variety of interests, talents and perspectives that play a huge role in their academic pursuits, extracurricular and curricular activities, but where does their participation in politics fit into all of this? Most students struggle to find a reason to be involved in the realm of politics and voting, which may be greatly influenced by a lack of understanding on the topic.

However, this lack of understanding and the absent desire to learn more may partly be due to a misguided belief that politics simply doesn't affect them; a mindset that tells young adults they don't have a voice in the matter or they can't make a difference by being involved in politics and voting.

In today's world and during this time of the 2016 election, social media is more prominent than ever. This has significantly impacted how students at Century and people around the globe view this year's election, which has distorted how much they actually know about the candidates.

This theory was put to the test to see how much Century students actually know about the 2016 presidential candidates and to see if any of the above statements ring true for why many college students and young adults struggle to get involved in politics and voting. To gather this information, a quiz was created filled with ten multiple choice questions varying on the issues and views of three presidential candidates: Hillary Clinton, Donald Trump and Gary Johnson.

confessed from the get-go:

"Ugh, I know I'm not going to do well."

"I don't follow politics, so I'm not sure if I'll get any of these right."

"I'm probably going to fail. I don't care about these candidates enough to know anything about them."

Another few common statements said among the students taking the quiz were:

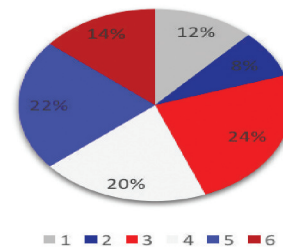
"I hate them both [Clinton and Trump]; they're both terrible."

"I'm not voting because there are no good candidates and I don't want either of them to win."

"Who's Gary Johnson? This is the first I've heard of him."

The majority of students struggled to answer the questions on the quiz; 24 percent of students scored a 5/10 and 22 percent scored 3/10, while only 12

80% of students answered 5 or fewer questions correctly



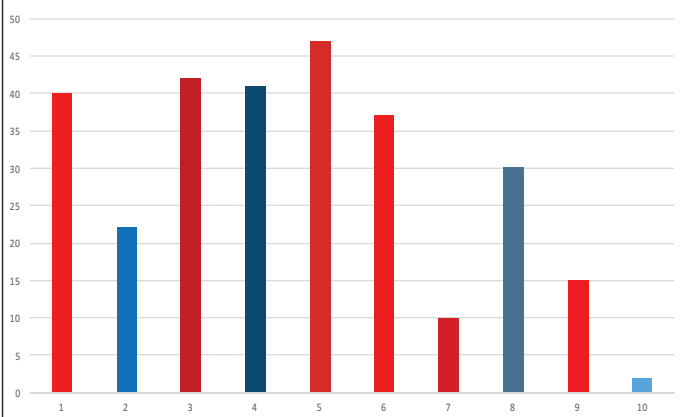
percent scored 7/10 and 8 percent scored 6/10, which were the two highest achieved scores. Some students were shocked at their low scores, while others were not surprised at all.

As students looked over their quizzes some with their friends, a lot of "I didn't know [candidate name] wants to do that/believes that" could be heard.

Fortunately, even though the scores were considerably low, there was a bit of a positive outcome. Almost every student who took the quiz wanted to see their scores afterwards and seemed to thoroughly look over the answers they got wrong. Many of them admitted they learned something by taking the quiz. Some said they were interested in learning more. A few who said they weren't planning on voting had a bit of a change of heart and said they might consider voting after they do more research on the candidates.

So, it doesn't matter if you think you don't like any of the candidates this time around, or if you've already chosen the candidate you side with, it's still important to do your research and become knowledgeable on the people who are competing to become the President of your country. Most importantly, be sure to get out and vote on Nov. 8 because together we can make the difference we want to see in the world.

Number of students answering incorrectly: Most struggled with question 5



Fifty random students found in a wide variety of areas on both the east and west campuses agreed to complete this quiz.

Most students were more than willing to take the quiz, but almost all of them

How well do Century students know the 2016 presidential candidates?

These are the quiz questions 50 Century Students completed

- 1. This presidential candidate believes the US should invest in mental health treatment in order to end mass shootings, but opposes an expansion on back ground checks. ____
A. Hillary Clinton
B. Donald Trump
C. Gary Johnson
- 2. This presidential candidate wants to make public college debt-free. ____
A. Hillary Clinton
B. Donald Trump
C. Gary Johnson
- 3. "ISIS has grown as a result of U.S. intervention in [the] Mideast." Which presidential candidate said this? ____
A. Hillary Clinton
B. Donald Trump
C. Gary Johnson
- 4. This presidential candidate wants to make it so people who earn less than \$25,000 don't have to pay income tax. ____
A. Hillary Clinton
B. Donald Trump
C. Gary Johnson
- 5. This presidential candidate wants to push for a full 6 weeks of paid maternity leave. ____
A. Hillary Clinton
B. Donald Trump
C. Gary Johnson
- 6. This presidential candidate wants to make a series of tax cuts for the middle-class people. ____
A. Hillary Clinton
B. Donald Trump
C. Gary Johnson
- 7. This presidential candidate wants to expand Obamacare. ____
A. Hillary Clinton
B. Donald Trump
C. Gary Johnson
- 8. "More and more governments at all levels are finally seeing the failure of the War on Drugs." Which presidential candidate said this? ____
A. Hillary Clinton
B. Donald Trump
C. Gary Johnson
- 9. "Family planning is an important part of women's health, and reproductive health includes access to abortion." Which presidential candidate said this? ____
A. Hillary Clinton
B. Donald Trump
C. Gary Johnson
- 10. This presidential candidate has zero tolerance for undocumented immigrants who have committed a crime and plans to deport them. ____
A. Hillary Clinton
B. Donald Trump
C. Gary Johnson

Answers:

B	10
A	9
C	8
A	7
A	6
B	5
B	4
C	3
A	2
B	1

PUMP'N DUCKS LIFT FITNESS GOALS AT CENTURY

David Kjeldahl | Staff Writer



*President Joseph Held performing a front squat.
Photo by Josie Hoffman*

Does working out and being rewarded for it sound like fun? If the answer is yes, then Century College is the place for you.

The Pump'N Ducks is a new club for students interested in physical fitness here at Century College. Club President Joseph Held created the Pump'N Ducks because he saw that "there are students out there that want to be part of something. Students who have a passion for physical fitness and well-being, who understand that being part of a supportive group not only benefits themselves, but benefits other students..." The club currently hosts three weekly events.

Mondays consist of weight training in the Fitness Center (West 1610) from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00p.m. The club's vice president, Hoang Nguyen, has a new workout routine every week. This is a great time to come in and get involved as club members are always present and happy to work with students. The ducks are there to help you reach your fitness goals and have fun while doing it.

College can be stressful with the day-to-day grind of classes, homework, and tests. Feeling drained or run-down? Why not do something about it? On Tuesdays, the club hosts a Zumba session in the West Campus gymnasium from 5:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. Come and shake out all of that post-study stress at this aerobic dance class!

If students have fun workout ideas to pitch to the club, Friday is "Choice Day." From 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. there are different activities each week. From kickboxing to Tough Mudder race training, this is where majority rules and new ideas are introduced.

In addition to gaining benefits from physical exercise and finding a group of new friends, the Pump'N Ducks have partnered with Century College Fitness Center staff to create the Health for Success Challenge.

Attending open sessions in the fitness center, a Pump'N Duck event, or open gym time will reward participants with points. These points can be redeemed for Century College fitness gear such as water bottles, T-shirts or duffel bags. More information about the Health for Success Challenge can be found in the fitness center.

President Held has some advice for anyone who has never visited the Fitness Center before. "Do not hesitate to check it out...It's my go-to whenever I feel bad or whenever I feel stress from the day-to-day. There are no good reasons not to be in the gym."



Wednesday night Zumba!

Photo by Josie Hoffman

HEALTH FOR SUCCESS CHALLENGE

1 POINT ACCRUED FOR A 30 MIN ATTENDENCE AT:

- FITNESS CENTER
- OPEN GYM
- PUMPING DUCK EVENT

CAN ONLY BE COUNTED ONCE A DAY***

45 DAYS LEFT IN SEMESTER

PRIZES!!!!

15 POINTS – FITNESS ZONE BACK PACK

20 POINTS – WATER BOTTLE

25 POINTS – FITNESS ZONE T SHIRT

30 POINTS - PUMPING DUCK SHIRT & OFFICIAL MEMBER AS WELL
\$10-20 CAMPUS CASH

40 POINTS - CENTURY COLLEGE DUFFLE BAG
AND PICTURE POSTED IN GYM FOR THE ENTIRE NEXT SEMESTER.

5 BONUS POINTS FOR JOINING PUMPING DUCKS FITNESS CLUB

DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER OF PUMPING DUCKS TO ATTEND PUMPING DUCK EVENTS.

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AMY FLADEBOE WINS

Writing Grant

Elizabeth Johnson | Staff Writer

Century's Own

Amy Fladeboe was recently announced as a winner of the 2016-17 Minnesota Emerging Writers' Grant, which was awarded by the Loft Literary Center in Minneapolis. Fladeboe is an English Department instructor and teaches composition and creative writing classes, including poetry and fiction.

At Century she teaches students how to craft effective sentences, build successful essays, and inspires confidence and imagination in creative writing classes. She walks the talk and does the same in her time off campus working as a multigenre writer.

The Loft Literary Center, located in Minneapolis, is one of the nation's leading literary arts centers. Its mission is to advance the artistic development of writers, foster a thriving literary community, and inspire a passion for literature.

The Emerging Writers Grant is one of many opportunities they offer annually and is made possible by the generous support of the Jerome Foundation and Loft members. This particular grant provides financial support and professional assistance to help writers in implementing and carrying out plans to move forward in their writing careers.

Fladeboe was chosen from a highly competitive pool of 228 qualified entries to become one of 17 finalists. From there, she was announced as one of five writers to receive an \$8,000 award to further her writing career. Judging was done by a prestigious panel of four teaching artists from Voices of Our Nation (VONA) that are from the University of Miami at Coral Gables.

The outside judging made an impact on Fladeboe. "It is an outside agency that judges. They are brilliant writers from another state and they don't know anyone working here. That makes it all about the writing. They're saying that the thing you're doing is good. Keep doing it", And she has big plans for the one-year grant cycle.

Fladeboe will use this grant year to revise her first novel. With a vast amount of gratitude, she acknowledges that, "so many writers are trying



Professor Fladeboe writes down a quote onto the board.

Image by Tirzah Joy

to find ways to get their writing done without breaking the bank". These grant funds open doors of opportunity for her that otherwise may have been closed. Between semesters this winter, she plans to attend a week-long writer's retreat or residency where she can sit down with her book and outline a strong revision plan.

In addition to scheduled writing time throughout spring semester, Fladeboe plans to pay herself with grant funds to work on revision during the summer. On her motivation, she says, "It's an awesome sort of acknowledgement that I am not wasting my time on this book, that somebody saw value in it and wants me to continue working on it".

Fladeboe is now on the fifth revision of her novel with the working title *Boys Not Yet Men*. The concept came to her while she was volunteering in the Peace Corps in Albania where she taught creative writing at a university in 2008-2010.

Fladeboe explains, "I found the novel while I was there. I didn't necessarily know I was finding it at the time and for a long time after I came back to the United States, I didn't really want to write the story that I found, but..." She stops for a moment to reflect, and continues, "It was a scene someone shared with me. An image that kept coming back to me over and over again. That's how it started. What it has become is something totally different".

The questions she felt the novel was asking brought her back to Albania in 2011, to seek

answers. "It is a laborious process to really get to know these people, my characters in the book", she explained. "It involves so much more to get to know someone's life. Fiction is such a challenging act".

On her return to Albania, she thought she was going to spend her time writing, but instead found herself interviewing people and traveling the landscape. "I didn't get any work done, but I got the best work done".

Discovery and curiosity about the main character in her novel also led her to Detroit, which has the largest population of Albanian immigrants in the United States. Speaking on behalf of herself and the central character in her book, Fladeboe recalled, "Detroit opened up worlds of understanding for me that I didn't understand before". The research trip helped to drive the character's story forward, in much the same way this grant award is allowing Fladeboe to propel her novel.

Fladeboe's story is a prime example of a true writer at work and demonstrates how the writing process looks and acts. A moment from conversation with a friend in 2008 whispered in her ear and would not leave her alone. It begged to be researched, investigated and fleshed out so it could finally be written.

She was the chosen one to shape it into a rich and thought-provoking novel-in-progress. The Loft grant will allow her the time and space to bring this story to fruition and out into the world for all to enjoy.

Fladeboe Gives Advice from Her Own Experiences

For Fladeboe, writing and teaching go hand in hand. She splits her time between penning her novel and educating and inspiring up-and-coming writers in the Century classroom with a full understanding of how it feels to be on both ends of the spectrum.

On writing, she believes, “If you have to write, you know it, and you’re going to find a way to write,” adding, “Minnesota is a great place to be a writer.” She followed this thought with the following eloquent writing advice:

Read

“Reading a lot helps to stimulate thinking. Other people’s work gives me ideas.”

Live and Have Experiences

“How you interpret ‘write what you know’ is really important. I would encourage any young writer, emerging writer, old writer, any writer to get out there and live and have experiences. That’s where you get the best fuel for your work. It’s where you get all the great questions. It’s where you get the answers. For my novel, the verdict is still out.”

Have a Thick Skin and Persist

“I have a thick skin. I’ve applied for every emerging writer’s grant since 2010. I’ve grown as a writer through that process. It’s not just that my skin got thicker. I’ve refined my pitch. I’ve refined my book. I’ve refined my project. I know what I want more and more every day, and I think that helps. It makes a strong application.”

Allow Your Project to Evolve

“I started this project in 2008. It began as an image, and I wrote about it. I shared it in a workshop and people wanted more. I realized it needed to be a book instead of a short story. Then I went to Albania for research.” But she didn’t stop her project there. “I wrote this book as a thesis for my graduate studies [at Minnesota State University, Mankato] and I’ve made a ton of changes since then.”

All Genres Matter

She book-ended her advice on reading with this tip, “Learn from people in other genres than what you’re working on. Just as with reading, other people’s work will give you ideas.”

Amy Fladeboe teaches fiction and poetry courses as part of the Certificate of Creative Writing program in addition to developmental writing, freshman composition and literature at Century College.



Amy searches for the student's perspective in the the classroom.

Image By: Tirzah Joy



Fladeboe reviews more pieces but in a comfier setting.

Image By: Tirzah Joy

WATCH OUT FOR THEM

Robert Anigbogu | Contributing Writer

On the first day of school, all of the students walk into class and look forward to seeing who they will be seated by. Everyone wants to sit by the smartest kid in the class, but no one wants to sit by the loud, obnoxious and talkative kid.

There are four types of irksome classmates with annoying behavior that no one wants to sit by throughout the term: the kids who always ask other students for something, the kids that always talk and do not know when to shut up, the kids that never do their work and want to copy off other students, and then there

are the kids that think they know everything.

The Beggars

Most students are familiar with the classmates who always ask for or want to borrow other students' materials because they "forgot" theirs. These classmates are referred to as "the beggars."

Normally, the beggars do not come to class prepared. They will scramble through their backpacks swearing that they brought a pencil but must have lost it. After a couple of minutes of trying to find a pencil, the beggar will look over to their neighbor with a sad face and ask, "Can I please borrow a pencil? Oh, I swear I will give it back by end of class."

The beggars are notorious for always asking for a piece of paper, gum or food. The worst part about beggars who ask to borrow one of their classmate's materials is that when the classmate who lent them materials asks to borrow something, the beggar finds an absurd excuse to say no.

The Talkers

One of the most annoying things is to sit by a classmate who does not know how or when to shut up. These classmates are referred to as "the talkers." Typically, the talkers will ramble on and on with no stop or purpose to what they are saying. It is like they are missing the part in their brain that tells them to put a sock in it.

Talkers are known for being loud, chatty and gossipers. Talkers love to hear themselves talk. It is almost as if their goal is to punish other students who decide to sit by them by talking their ears off. Talkers never care to hear what others have to say; everything is about them.

These people never seem to pay attention to what is going on. Talkers are so busy expressing their inner thoughts they tend to miss most of what the teacher is lecturing on. When the teacher asks them a question, they get the "deer caught in the headlights" expression on their faces.

One will never be left out in the latest drama because the talkers will release all they know without permission. Talkers are also known to spoil surprises, so be careful when choosing to sit by a talker.



The Slackers

One of the most despised classmates are the ones who come to class but do not pay attention or take any notes. As soon as they get home, though, they text other classmates asking for notes from class. Those same classmates are the ones who will copy off others assignments and tests. These classmates are known as the irksome “slackers.” They are lazy, unmotivated, sneaky and manipulative.

Slackers are easy to spot in any classroom. Just look for the kid whose eyes cannot stay on his or her test. Slackers would use every excuse in the book just to get their classmates to give them answers from last night’s assignment. They could say, “I couldn’t do the assignment last night. I got soap in my eye, and I was blinded for the rest of the night.”

All students can agree that their worst nightmare is getting partnered up with a slacker on a group project. They all know that the slacker will do absolutely zero work but will receive the same grade as everyone else. Is it possible that slackers are unaware of their behaviors? No! They are quite aware; they hope to get through life with little effort.

Typically, know-it-alls have a stack of books with them that they never actually read; the books are just there for looks. It is hard to understand why or how the know-it-alls do what they do without observing them in their natural habitat, the classroom.

The know-it-alls are the kids in the class who have their hands wildly flapping in the air trying to get the teacher’s attention. As soon as the teacher calls on them, the know-it-alls ask the most irrelevant questions or shout out smart remarks that make everyone in the classroom roll their eyes, including the teacher.

On a good day, the know-it-alls will answer a question correctly or ask a question that will get them a thumbs up from the teacher. This event is not a good thing for the students. This situation only builds the confidence of the know-it-alls and that means they will believe that they actually do know it all. Oh, the irony.

These are some of the students that one should look out for when it comes to choosing seats for the first day of class. If, by chance, one does end up sitting by a beggar, talker, slacker or a know-it-all, good luck.

The Know-It-Alls

Finally, the most annoying classmates to sit by are the ones who believe that they know it all, like they believe that God himself showed them all the secrets of the world. These students are referred to as “the know-it-alls.” According to dictionary.com, a know-it-all is “a person who acts as though he or she knows everything and who dismisses the opinions, comments, or suggestions of others.”



A WALL BETWEEN TWO NEIGHBORS CAN NEVER STOP MIGRATION OF SPECIES

Leonel Mejia | Contributing Writer

Monarch butterflies originates in the United States and they migrate south during the winter season to survive in the warmer weather in southern Mexico. This magnificent insect migrates, unaware of any type of border, by acting instinctively and naturally.

This insect has shown us that migration is a part of life, and it is necessary to continue living as part of natural selection. Monarch butterflies seem to be freer and more intelligent than humans, a species that is supposedly smarter than insects.

The journey of a monarch butterfly is quite impressive if compared to their size because they travel an immense number of miles to migrate. To understand this impressive journey, people should know that in order to complete this migration cycle from Mexico to the US and to return back from the US to Mexico, four generations of monarch butterflies must pass.

The monarch butterfly migration cycle is a metaphor for what some Mexican American families have lived through in the US. Many generations of Mexican Americans from the southwest have been unaware of any type of borderline just like the monarch butterflies. For them, living in California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas is natural because of these states' past, which once belonged to Mexico.

After the 1850s Mexico lost more than half of its territory when US troops captured Mexico City which ended in the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. This treaty put an end to the Mexican-American War. Eventually, this event in history has resulted in a famous quote in the southwest states that many Mexican Americans say now, "We did not cross the border; the border crossed us" and they are right, the border did cross them.

The focus of this article is about the US – Mexican relations. In regards to the topic of immigration, many Americans view immigration as only a US – Mexican problem. That connection has to change because immigration is more than a US – Mexico issue.

The present discriminatory and disrespectful language against undocumented Mexican immigrants shows a great lack of knowledge about migration trends. Far right politicians often blame other people for their own messes. These politicians do not take into account the sources that cause these people to migrate north.

The people that came into the US did not want to leave behind their families, homes, and land, but they must go north in search of opportunities. After all, documented and undocumented immigrants did what they thought was best, that is to migrate in order to survive.

Recent data shows that Mexican immigration into the U.S. has changed in the past 3 years. According to Ana Gonzalez-Barrera, a research associate that focuses on Hispanic immigration and demographics at the Pew Research Center reports that more Mexicans leave the US than those who enter the country.

From 2009 to 2014, Mexicans that left the US were 1,000,000. This is more than when they entered the US, which is 860,000 Mexicans. This results in a difference of about 140,000. With this data in hand, the discriminatory language against Mexicans made by politicians has to change. The number shows that Mexican migration has decrease in the last 3 years. The data presented by Pew Research Center is important because it demonstrates that the border is better secured than in the 1990's.



Leonel Mejia | Contributing Writer

Image by Ker Moua

The people, who are against undocumented immigrants lack the knowledge that this offense is not a crime, but rather is an administrative offense. It is like driving without a license or getting a ticket for a parking violation.

In the heat of the debate, a percentage of society eliminates facts from its history and argues that all the problems in the United States are caused by these immigrants. The lack of an open mind can cause ignorance, which causes people to act hatefully and irrationally, something they will later regret.

The United States is a country built by immigrants and will always be a country built by immigrants. As a reminder, most of these immigrants have American children. The majority of these immigrants do not take away jobs from Americans: they create their own jobs.

Undocumented immigrants do pay taxes and they do not get a refund back. They also do not apply in great number to get help with food stamps. In addition, they do not go to the hospital unless is necessary because of fear of detention and deportation.

In order to understand this trend, first, we must summarize the cause that creates migration of these immigrants who came to the United States. As Juan Gonzalez quotes in the documentary, Harvest of Empire, "They never teach us in school that the huge Latino presence here (US) is the result of the direct actions of our own governs in Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central America over many decades, actions that force millions from that region to leave their homeland and journey north."

For example, the relation between Mexico and the US has been only in favor towards the US companies and not to the American and Mexican workers. After the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) between Canada, United States, and Mexico in 1992, which open free market to the three nations, there was only one side weight to the balance US and Canada. Yes, NAFTA was a success; a success only to the companies of the two first world nations. As a result of NAFTA, many campesinos (farmers) migrate to the US.

According to Alfredo Jalife, a Mexican political analyst, from 1994 to 2014, more than 30 million Mexicans left Mexico to the US. Among them, 18 million were undocumented immigrants, but he states that NAFTA not only created 30 million of Mexican immigrants, but it also created more than 80 million of poor Mexicans (Jalife, Situacion Economica). Poverty, corruption, violence, lack of opportunities in Mexico was the fuel of Mexican immigrants to the United States.

The bilateral relations of Mexico and the United States has created a population which is named in Spanish "los ni de aquí, ni de allá" which means in English, "neither here nor there". For the US, these undocumented immigrants became the spark of the recently recovered of the US economy.

For Mexico in the other hand, these immigrants represent a valve escape for the Mexican economy because these Mexicans send more money to Mexico than the Mexican oil sales represent. So these immigrants not only help the US economy but they also help to save the Mexican economy.

The decrease of the Mexican undocumented immigrants can be a surprise for many Americans because they think that all the undocumented immigrants are Mexicans, but there are only a certain percentage of these immigrants.

Presently, the tightening border security is one fact that explains why less Mexicans are coming into the US. More people die in the desert and more people are arrested trying to cross the border illegally. According to the Department of Homeland Security, more than 176,000 Mexican had been arrested in the period of 2013 to 2014 for trying to cross the border. That is less than in 2006 to 2007 where there was more than double arrested, 370,000. (4-12) Less Mexicans are trying to come illegally into the US.

Another fact that can explain why more Mexicans are leaving the US is the passing of anti-immigrant laws, 24 anti-immigrant bills were introduced into states legislatures across the US following the example of the SB1070 bill in Arizona and the HB 56 bill in Alabama, in 2011 (ACLU).

Adding on, the Obama administration has deported more than two million undocumented immigrants, making him the president that has deported the most undocumented immigrants than any other US President. Until a solution is reached, both countries will need to face this problem humanely.

As neighbors, patriotic radical Americans have to be a more open minded. The economy of Mexico and the US depend on each other. Clearly, Mexico serves as a provider of cheap labor force during difficult times in the US. Humans are supposed to be smarter than insects. Let's show that by acting like brothers and by learning to be respectful neighbors.

Diversity will always bring something new, beautiful, and constructive just like the monarch butterfly. Monarch butterflies bring beauty to the fields in which they fly either in Mexico or in the prairies of Minnesota.

Diversity is beautiful and the most wonderful quality of the United States. Divisions and accusations will only increase hatred. We are all children of this mother Earth. Respect and love each other by always reacting to any injustice and predujuce. A wall would not solve the economy, health, and security problems of the US, but an inclusive, realistic and compassionate immigration reform will.

SPECIAL DELIVERY OF BOOKS ON CAMPUS

Pamella Portillo | Contributing Writer



Peter Gresser with a truck full of books.

Image courtesy of Pamella Portillo

Did you know that Century College has its very own Santa Claus? Every semester for Student Success Day, held in fall semester, or Career Pathways Day in spring, he brings the over 2,000 books to give away to Century students.

The book giveaway is held on those days in the Reading/Student Success Center (W3250) to promote reading. There is a wide variety of books and genres to choose from, including books for children, romantic novels, and non-fiction, classical, multicultural and trending books.

In conjunction with the giveaway, the Reading/Student Success Center also holds a free raffle where students can submit their names for a chance to win their choice from 15 items. These prizes range from autographed copies of best-sellers to boxed or themed sets. Students are bound to find something they want to win. It sounds just like Christmas, doesn't it?

You may be asking, "Just who is this Century Santa Claus?" He is Peter Gresser, a retired

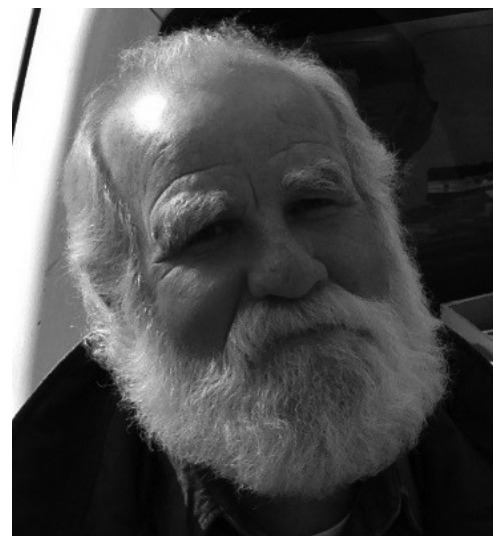
postal worker who feels called by Jesus Christ to operate Children's Chance, a 501 (C) (3) Minnesota nonprofit corporation. The main purpose of Children's Chance is to provide books to schools and libraries for children in English-speaking, underprivileged countries.

He knows he won't change the world, but he might change someone's life through his efforts, and that is enough. Children's Chance has sent over 3 million books to help children in countries such as Jamaica, Antigua, Belize, Guyana and the Bahamas.

In 2016, Peter is expecting to ship 80 computers and at least three containers that each contain roughly 30,000 books. Finding the books to send is not a problem. Unwanted books from U.S. schools and libraries receive a second life through Children's Chance. Raising funds for shipping is the real challenge. Visit the Children's Chance website at www.thechildrenschance.org to see how you can help.

Because of Peter's connection to Rosie DuBose, one of our Reading Department

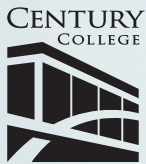
faculty and his call to provide books to children in underprivileged countries, Century College students are the fortunate beneficiaries of thousands of books every year. Be sure to check out the book giveaway when the next Student Success or Career Pathways Day comes around.



Peter Gresser

Image courtesy of Pamella Portillo

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