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Russian Socialism or Collaborative Effort?

Joshua Mahan | Staff Writer

Controversy is brewing in the heart of Minnesota's collegiate institutions. In a formal letter released by the Inter Faculty Organization (the union that represents approximately three-thousand employees in seven of the state's higher education departments), the group accused the governing board Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) of moving towards, "a soviet-style management structure."

MnSCU, the directing force behind thirty-one colleges and universities in the state, was criticized by the Inter Faculty Organization because of a preliminary draft report that the group released on July 16, 2013. The report, entitled Charting the Future, calls for sweeping changes to a current system which services over 430,000 students in Minnesota—changes which could very well affect students and staff at

Century College.

Within the report, MnSCU delineates a plan to change the organizational structure and practices of its schools, into a system that is more coordinated and less autonomous. The overarching suggestions that the report makes are two-fold: 1) improve collaboration between colleges and universities and 2) utilize strengths, resources and human capital to their highest potential.

The goal of these changes, according to MnSCU's website, is to "ensure access to an extraordinary education for all Minnesotans; to meet Minnesota's workforce and community needs; and to deliver the most cost-effective, highest value education."

What these changes will mean in real terms to students and staff has been the cause of much debate

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Sweeping changes are purposed in MnSCU's draft report

Photo By Tim Post

Connect, Achieve, and Succeed at Century

Renee Cortez | Staff Writer

Last spring a group of faculty and staff were brought together to brainstorm and submit an application to the Great Lakes Foundation for a grant. Supported by data, the purpose of the grant is to help Century's "at risk" population succeed to their fullest potential. This will be accomplished by providing them with a group of people and resources that will aid and stick with them for one year. The program is called the College Success Program (CSP).

The grant was approved shortly after being submitted for around \$260,000.

A second grant was applied for as well in order to fund another aspect of the program. Similar to the first grant, it was also around \$260,000 and approved.

The criteria for a student to get into the program includes current enrollment in Reading 0080 or 0090 along with New Student Seminar (NSS). They must also be at least one of the following: a first generation student, a student with a dis-

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From left to right. Adriana Taborda, Jason King, LuAnn Wood, Tashana Husom, Nickyia Cogshell

Photo By Siah St Claire

Embracing the Future With Open Arms

Tina Nichols | Staff Writer



Ryan Neumann mixing color in the prosthetic program

Photo By Tina Nichols

Century College's Prosthetics and Orthotics Department is about to get some major improvements. The U.S. Department of Labor and The Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TA-ACCCT) granted Century \$4.6 million to expand and improve the Prosthetics and Orthotics Department. According to the supplication of the grant, 81 percent of the project's total cost comes from federal money for a total of \$4,677,095 in federal funds. The TA-ACCCT was designed by the Federal Government to help skilled people get more advanced jobs in growing fields. The Department of Labor estimates the Prosthetic and Orthotic occupation to grow 12 percent from 2010 to 2020.

Century is one out of six colleges in the nation to have an accredited Prosthetic and Orthotics Program. It is also the only college in the nation that provides students a degree in both fields in the practitioner and technician level. The job placement is very high for this growing field and the grant money is going to help with hiring a career navigator to assist students with their profession. A recruiter will help people such as Veterans and Machinists who were laid off from a job. They may already have the knowledge that is somewhat like using the contraptions to create devices for prosthetics and orthotics. The surrounding counties of White Bear Lake got on board with the

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Prosthetic and Orthotics Department in the Community Workforce Centers and Letters of Support for job placement.

Kathy Bell is the dean of nursing and allied health at Century. She helped to navigate the large reward. Bell said, “There were a number of people writing and making telephone calls.” The grant was introduced to the staff in March and the staff had requirements to prove that Century College deserved the money. That deadline had to be fulfilled by July. The grant will be dispersed over a four-year period starting this year.

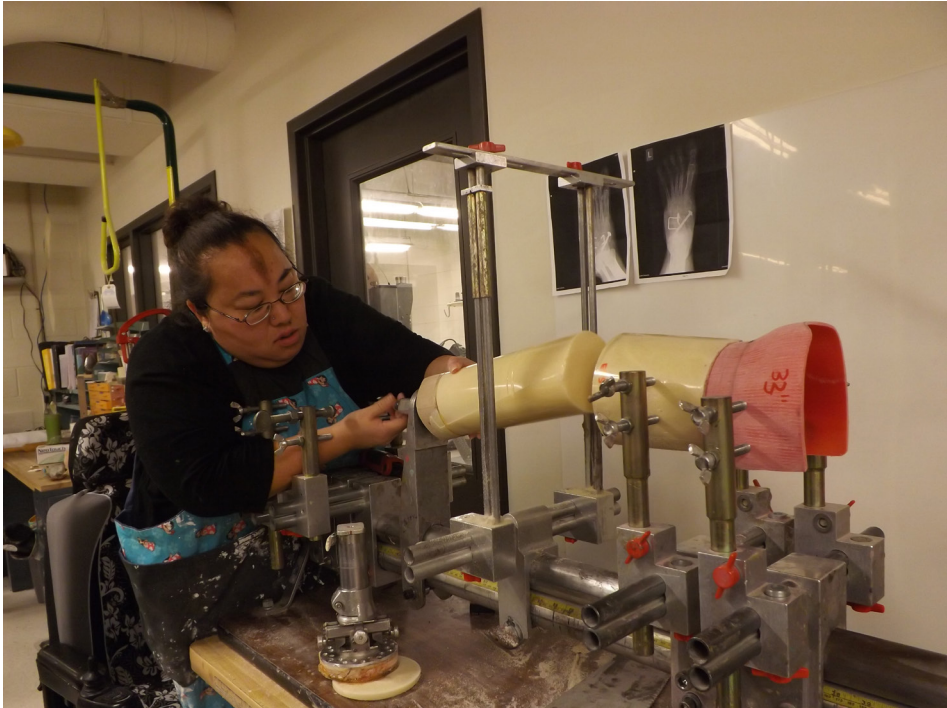
The money will help Century explore new ways to get people involved with prosthetics and orthotics. A web enhanced online version of the curriculum is one way for students who live outside of the twin cities or out of state to achieve a degree. This learning style would have some type of week-long lab to attend here at Century.

The grant will assist in adding more certificates and creating new curriculums. Pedothoric is a new program may be added. It is a field that narrows in on the feet. The students would have the opportunity to create shoes, boots, and lifts that are needed for artificial limbs. The grant will allow Century to provide the equipment, instructor, and other details that

present the subject of Pedothorics.

The health fields are always expanding the technology and 3D images are becoming more sustainable. The orthotic and prosthetic lab will get renovation with some of the equipment such as portable sanders. Also, 3D platforms will be added to the lab in the future. With the new equipment, instructors will be able to create a better environment that allows the students to use up to date knowledge in a way that can be applied anywhere they go to get a job. Stan O’Connor is an instructor that has been at Century for twenty seven years. O’Connor states, “Many types of materials are used in different parts of the United States, so what the students learn here can be applied to where ever they decide to go.” Century students get the education will be useful in any environment for creating prosthetic limbs, casting a mold, designing braces, and inserts for patients.

The Orthotics and Prosthetics Programs both have practitioner diplomas and Associates in Applied Science degrees in Technology. To find out more information on these fascinating studies link to <http://www.century.edu/futurestudents/programs/default.aspx> and there you can navigate to what degree is most fitting.



Mailee Klein in the prosthetics program getting measurements for a prosthetic leg



Braces and shoe lifts

Photos By Tina Nichols

The Poet Within Our Walls

Dena Urbano | Staff Writer

A little known secret about Century College is the talented faculty within its walls. There are professors who have created marvelous cooking inventions, professors who have been recognized for their contributions to science, and professors who have written and published their own books. One such professor is Cullen Bailey Burns. She is currently a part of Century’s English Department and has recently published Slip, a collection of poems.

Burns is a Minnesota resident, and according to her press release, she divides her time between Minneapolis and Sturgeon Lake. Her previous book, Paper Boat was published in 2003. She is an award winning poet whose honors include a Minnesota State Arts Board Artist Fellowship, and the Neil Postman Award for Metaphor from Rattle. She was also a finalist for a Minnesota Book Award in Poetry.

After working on the manuscript for approximately ten years, Burns’ newest endeavor into the world of poetry with Slip creates colorful, yet quietly reflective imagery for the reader. She stated, “I had a version of it probably from about 2006 on...but then it changed shape a lot in many ways over time. When I went on sabbatical, I totally tore it all apart and I worked my way through every single poem. I redid the organization and pulled it together and it was a better manuscript at that point.” The manuscript was accepted by her

publisher and released this past September.

When asked what inspired her to write the poetry for Slip, Burns shared that part of it was the work of Japanese textile artist Itchiku Kabota. His kimonos, which depict beautiful landscape images, inspired the many moods, colors, and descriptions she uses in her poems.

In the poem “Combustion” she gives the reader a glimpse into a person’s inner dialogue; thoughts a person may not otherwise share with someone else. Things such as, “When the house burns:/ do you get the dog out? Or did you say documents?/ Will you remember? Is there a plan?”

She asks questions that provoke self-awareness in a way that reaches out and touches a reader’s heart. An example of this is in her title poem “Slip” when she writes, “Who would have guessed forgotten/ weighs more than remembered?”

Burns also creates memorable similes and metaphors throughout her book such as, “...glass falling like sharp laughter,” in her poem “Derision.”

A common visual theme throughout Slip is winter. When asked why she chose to include so many elements of the snowy season Burns replied, “I think that I’m often looking for emotional corollaries; a mood. Winter speaks to me, a little bit, of quiet, longing, and sadness, and those sorts of feelings that are harder to know what to do with sometimes.”

The ultimate meaning behind Slip is a poignant



Cullen Bailey Burns

Image Courtesy of wmich.edu

and valuable one. Burns concludes eloquently, “The concept of Buddhism is that you shouldn’t grasp; that it leads to suffering. Slip is the opposite of that – the struggle to let go. We can’t control things, and we can’t make things stay, but it’s also very hard not to grasp at them.”

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and controversy.

Darrel Downs, Professor of Political Science at Winona State University and President of the Winona State University Faculty Association has argued that the proposal is not really about coordination but rather bureaucratic centralization. In the online publication MINN POST, Downs wrote an opinion piece stating, “Contrary to the MnSCU plan, there is no basis for centralizing the state’s academic programs. Innovative research and teaching do not thrive under the yoke of statewide directive and top-down control. If that were true, any number of dictatorial regimes would be ruling the world today.”

Downs continues to say within the article that MnSCU’s report is a “corporate, anti-union, and unaffordable hammer for higher education,” because it calls for renegotiation collective, bargaining agreements, and the possible consolidation of some facilities and programs.

In stark contrast to Down’s statements, MnSCU representatives have remained adamant that its proposal is not about centralization, but rather about cooperation and efficiency. In a recent article with the Star Tribune, Michael Dougherty, a vice chancellor at MnSCU states, “The draft recommendations neither suggest nor should lead to more centralization or a

large system office.”

Again, Winona State University President Scott Olson, one of the principle architects behind Charting the Future, has insisted on numerous occasions that the draft report is not about destroying school identity, but rather creating an effective balance between effectiveness and authenticity. In an interview with Minnesota Public Radio, Olson recently stated, “It’s not about central control, it’s about more coordinated control.” He then goes on in the interview to explain how students sometimes have difficulties transferring credits or moving between universities, but a more coordinated system could help students best meet their needs.

According to the Star Tribune, MnSCU’s final report on the matter will be delivered to its board of trustees in November. Between now and that time, administrators will be seeking feedback in drafting the final version which will not only Century students, but all MnSCU institutions.

Where do you stand on this issue? If you are interested in knowing more about this matter or simply want to contribute to the discussion, MnSCU’s report Charting the Future can be found online at www.mnscu.com with accommodating contact information.

Behind the Screen: In-depth Look at YouTube’s Mippey5

Lanie Carter | Staff Writer

Juggling classes and outside life can be difficult at times. Stressing about a test or money problems happens, and one just needs 5-10 minutes to step away from reality. YouTube’s Mippey5 is a good place to start.

Luke Thompson, produces original songs and parodies of popular music with the help of his family and friends like Dan Duehn on a channel called Mippey5.

Thompson started making videos as a sophomore in college where he studied to be an elementary school teacher. While playing with a T-pain app on his phone, he got the “itch” to make music. He didn’t think he would be taken seriously as an artist so he decided to make parodies. He said, “If I’m making fun of myself, I still get to make music.” What started as a fun thing to do on his downtime with friends has become so much more. Thompson’s parodies became a hit on campus; he wanted to see if a wider audience on YouTube would feel the same way.

Mippey5’s most popular video “Minnesota Gurls,” has over 2 million views and was featured on local T.V. and radio stations. When asked about why they thought it became so popular so fast both Thompson and Duehn said it was because of timing. Thompson added, “It was out within a week of the Katy Perry video. We were the first state to do a parody. People in Minnesota shared it. It’s really how the channel got started. I had a couple hundred subscribers for about a year or two just doing the stuff at college. The summer before my senior year we did the ‘Minnesota Gurls.’ That was kind of a game changer. Allowed me to still be doing it now. It’s surprising how quickly that one took off.” The “Minnesota Gurls” video features Minnesota references to Paul Bunyan, The Twins and Spam; explaining what Minnesota girls are “like” with their flannel tops and wind-chaffed skin.

A lot of work goes into making a Mippey5 video. The average process to make a video is about 25 hours and it involves writing lyrics, recording, editing vocals, shooting the video, editing the video, adding links and annotations and then social media. Duehn says that his role changes depending on the video. “I assist with everything from idea generation, writing lyrics and scripts, recording vocals, acting in the videos and also filming the videos. Luke does all the music and

video editing.”

With so much negativity online is in part why Thompson has made a choice to keep the music clean. “I always keep them PG because I was going to school to be a teacher. I don’t want these videos to prevent me from getting a job.” He also added, “Because my little sister, I know she’ll be watching. I know a lot of viewers are teenagers. They had a lot of bad influences.”

The first YouTuber to capture Thompson’s interest was Ryan Higa, “How cool it would be to have a following on YouTube. He’s been around the longest and consistently gotten better at what he does. I’m impressed by that.” Chad “Wild” Clay, another Minnesota YouTuber admires. These two musical comedians joined forces on “Minnesota Style”, a parody on Korean rapper PSY’s “Gangnam Style.” The video mimics the original in dance but with an added Mippey5 flavor. Thompson said about Chad “Wild” Clay, “I admire his audio recording talents. He knows way more about audio recording than I’ll probably ever know. It’s always fun to record songs with him.” Besides Ryan Higa, Thompson would like to work with Conner Franta, a Minnesota YouTuber, who he went to the same college with. “I kind of watched him blow-up.”

A few months ago, Thompson made a video entering a contest by Ford called Fiesta Movement. Thompson was one of a hundred chosen to receive a car, insurance and gas for 8 months. Each month, a Fiesta agent makes a video with mission ideas from Ford. So far, he has played Polo-Cross, gone scuba diving, explored a ship wreck, and made a music video that incorporates fashion.

This past summer Thompson and his friends decided to take a road-trip to California. While planning the trip, The Young Hollywood Awards contacted him asking if they could use his song “Selfie” to introduce the show and if he wanted to come. Since they were going to be in the area, they decided to go. With his \$20 outfit, Thompson and his friends walked the Red Carpet without anyone knowing who they were.

Thompson admires his family a lot. They have always been a part of his videos. “I look to them for my morals and the way I live life.” He also added, “I have a pretty strong, close family.” Some videos the whole family gets involved.

“My dad is ridiculous he had open-heart surgery and like a week getting back from the hospital, he did a “Harlem Shake” video, half-naked in the snow.” What makes Thompson laugh is his sisters. His youngest sister Anne a.k.a Twizzler, “has her own unique flavor as well. She doesn’t think I’m funny at all so just bashes me.”

People would be surprised to know that this seemingly outgoing guy they see in the videos is actually quite shy. He says, “I failed preschool for not talking ever. I said two words all year.” That shyness stayed with him all the way into college “If it wasn’t for sports I wouldn’t have too many friends.” The person the audience sees in videos is a persona or character he wants to portray. “Most of the time I’m just alone in my bedroom on the internet, with a few friends. I’m ok with that.”

With a growing fan base, Mippey5 is bound to have fan encounters. Thompson was excited to share about a trip to the dollar store. “Two girls in line started giggling and after a while I’m like ‘ok, they recognize me but their shy’ so they’re off in their little corner giggling and they had their phones on. They never said anything to me so I just bought my ChapStick and left. About an hour later I get a tag on Instagram saying ‘Hope you enjoy your ChapStick’ with a picture of me in-line at the dollar store.” He added that if a fan stops and says “Hi”, he’ll take a picture with them. He doesn’t get stopped every day.

Thompson says there are always upcoming projects for Mippey5. “I wish I had more parody ideas but a lot of my ideas right now are original songs and skits. I’ve made fun of myself, called myself a nerd, I don’t get girls, what else can I make fun of myself for? That’s why I like the original song I can completely come up with my own ideas but there will still be parodies.” Right now he’s working on another Fiesta Movement video.

So what’s the future look like for Mippey5? He’s not going anywhere. “I don’t plan on stopping making videos. It’s tough to balance consistently producing videos, making ends meet financially with real world jobs. I’m at a point in my life where I need to figure out how I’m going to make money long term. I wish I could make it off YouTube. It’s so unpredictable.”

Night of the Iguana: A Night to Remember

Lanie Carter | Staff Writer

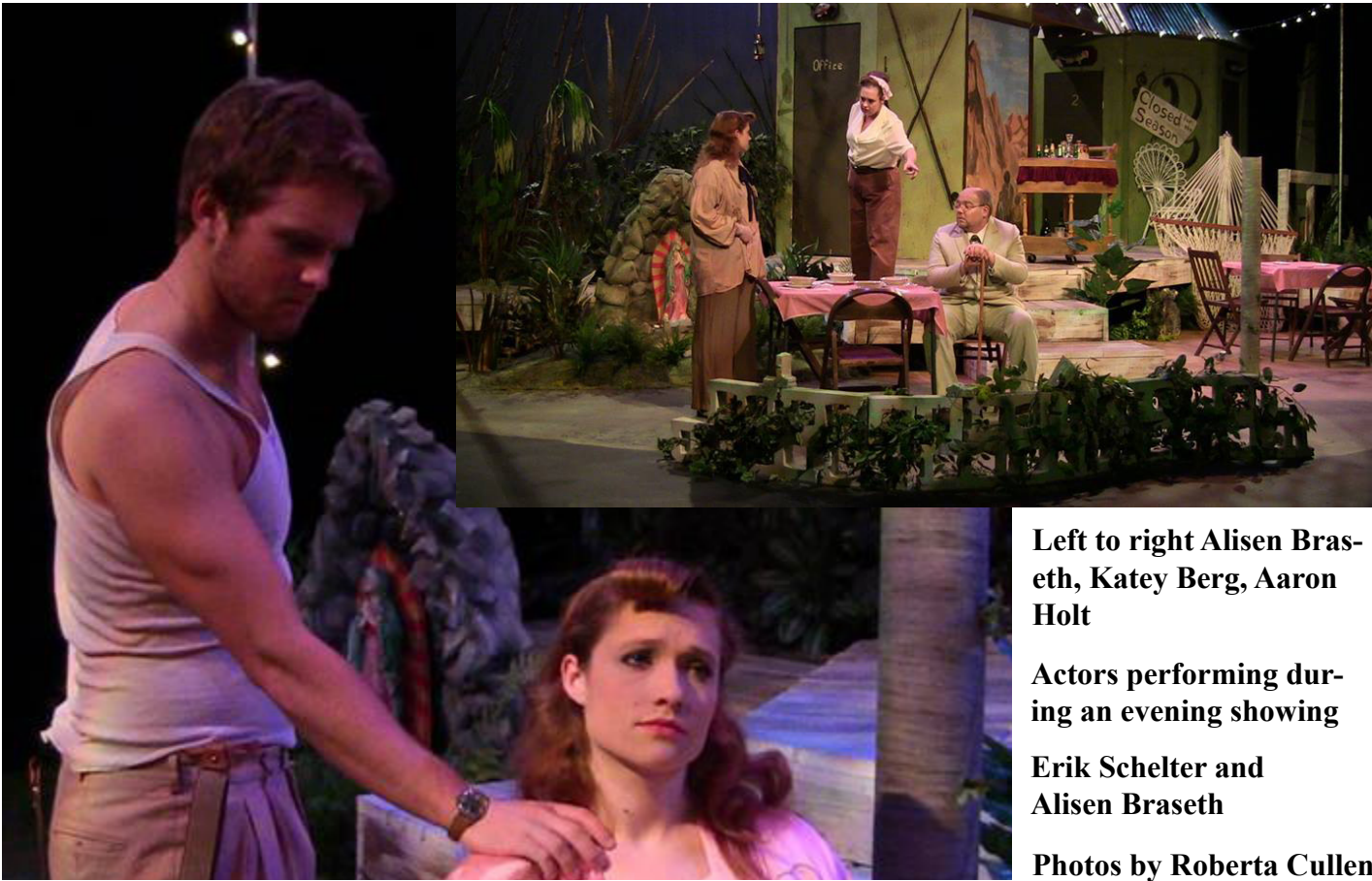
Final Grade: B+

The Century College Theater Department performed a fun and lively rendition of *The Night of the Iguana* by Tennessee Williams, directed by Sean Dooley with a mixture of comedy, drama, and action. The play is set in The Costa Verde Hotel in Puerto Barrio, Mexico. The 1940's in the late summer. The hotel is run by a flirtatious yet desperately lonely Widow Maxine Faulk, played by Katey Berg. The play begins with a frequent visitor of the hotel, Lawrence Shannon, a former priest, played by Erik Shelter, returning with a tour of a wild bunch of unseen female tourists.

The hotel still seems to be popular even in it's off season including a sunburnt German family, a traveling artist, played by Alisen Braseth, accompanied by her poet grandfather, played by Aaron Holt, trying to write his long awaited poem. In the first half of the play the actors seemed to be rushing lines, struggling to get the extensive commentary out. Some of the actors seemed a bit tongue-tied at times; perhaps it was nervousness. As the first act continued, the dialogue flowed more freely.

The rumble of thunder, lightning flashes, real water raining down to the stage; "It wasn't complicated, except at first it had a 30 second delay on it, so we'd have to figure out 30 seconds before it actually needed to happen, but we figured out that if we prime it first, if we have the rain go and then turn it off, then later during the show it would work as soon as you want it to," said Stage Manager, Abby Koller, 19. "That's like my favorite part of the whole show and I don't get to see it," added Assistant Stage Manager, Brit-

tany Borgan, 19. The breakthrough character was Nonno, the "97 years young" struggling poetry writer. The random ramblings as he tries to write his last poem, even in the most heated of conversation, was a stand-out performance of this production. Aaron Holt, 22, who played Nonno, said to prepare for the role, he observed older people at a restaurant attached to his job on his lunch break. "Watching all these little things just at the bar, it gave me a real life perspective on how elderly people act." In the short time they were given, the cast and crew proved how hard they worked on this production. The next production for Century College Theater Department will be the musical *Company* by Steven Sondheim in April.



Left to right Alisen Braseth, Katey Berg, Aaron Holt
Actors performing during an evening showing
Erik Schelter and Alisen Braseth
Photos by Roberta Cullen

Halloween and Its Wicked Past

Johann Hollar | Staff Writer

It's October. You know what that means? It's Halloween, and everyone will be dressing up, kids will be trick-or-treating, and there will be lots of decorations. But what is Halloween really about? In this particular article I will explain a little of the history of Halloween with some facts that you probably didn't know about it. The origins of Halloween are steeped in Celtic culture and known by those people as Samhain (Sam-Win). It was believed by the people of Gaul (France) that on October 31, the worldly lines between the living and dead combined, and the dead would come back to life. They would destroy crops and cause plagues. In Ireland, bonfires were started and personal possessions were cast into the fires. Once done, the ashes of the their possessions would be scattered across the wheat fields, thus protecting them from evil spirits. Black cats are not witches in disguise nor are they affiliated with witches; they never have been and never will be. The superstition was put in place during the period of the Middle Ages as means to cover up the ancient Egyptian myth of cats being part of the divine--that and the fact that lonely old ladies cared for them, thus leading to the whole belief in witchcraft. The Catholic Church compared Halloween to satanic worship in an attempt to subvert the pagans that lived in the United Kingdom at the time. However, despite the Church managing to change the holiday and it's practices from Sam-Win to All-Hallows-Eve or All-Saints-Day. The term Jack-O-Lantern came from the Irish myth about a guy named "Stingy Jack". The story goes that Stingy Jack tricked the Devil himself, by tricking the devil into transforming into a coin to pay for drinks, which Jack didn't pay for and put it in his pocket next to a silver cross instead. The following

year he got the Devil to climb into a tree to grab a fruit as Jack carved the cross into a tree. While tricking the Devil, Jack made him promise not to condemn his soul to hell. After Jack died, neither the Devil he had tricked could take him or God, who frowned upon such things to let him into heaven. Jack was sent off into some dark woods with but a burning coal by the Devil. Jack put his coal into a turnip that he carved out, thus beginning the Jack-O-Lantern traditions. The tradition would continue even after the first settlers came to the American Colonies, where they discovered that pumpkins would serve just as good a purpose. There are many holidays that are celebrated throughout the period of Halloween. One of them being Dia de los Muertos or "all souls day." This a holiday celebrated throughout all of Mexico and begins on the evening of October 31 and goes to November 2. It is believed that the dead return to stay with their family. The spirits of dead children come first, and the following day the spirits of their dead parents follow. Another holiday that is celebrated around Halloween is Guy Fawkes Night. This is where the people of England burn effigies of Guy Fawkes on massive bonfires--which is no different then the traditions of their Celtic ancestors. But whether you are still a child at heart, still like candy, or you're an adult that thinks it's silly to dress up but celebrate anyway, you can't ignore the long proud heritage that is Halloween.



Image Courtesy of centralcarolinajcs.org

A Fight to the Olympics

Julia Sosniecki | Staff Writer

Athens, Beijing, London, and coming in 2016: Rio. The Olympic Games bring our country together in support for our most dedicated and skilled athletes. The process is selective, and while the chance an athlete will get to represent our nation is slim, it is possible. Local boxer Flavio Becerra, a freshman at Century College, has a plan to try and fight his way to the top.

At age 14, Becerra (now 18) began to take an interest in boxing. This interest was for no reason other than “it sounded kind of cool,” so he started going to the White Bear Lake Boxing Club and has been training there since.

Over the summer Becerra had the opportunity to compete in the 2013 Ringside World Championship, which took place in Missouri. Any boxer from throughout the world may attend. “I really like that tournament a lot because you know you get to see people from different places of the world and see how they fight.” The diverse competition fought hard, but in the end Becerra became the champion of his age bracket.

This win was a great success and helped get major recognition, but if Becerra wants the chance to prove himself at the Olympic tryouts he will have to win another national tournament once he is nineteen. This would mean winning the Ringside tournament again, the National Police Athletic League Boxing Championship, the USA Boxing Tournament, or the Golden Gloves. This is because Olympic boxing consists of 19-40 year olds.

Once having obtained a national title, there are eight people total at the tryouts who fight to represent the United States. This will take place in 2015, the year prior to the games. They will take the competitors who finish in first and second place to work out for that year before the Games. The person who finishes second place is taken just in case the other gets hurt and is unable to compete.



Flavio working out as part of his daily routine

of injury. When asked how dangerous boxing is Becerra responded, “Actually it’s not that dangerous. Like, you’d probably get hurt more playing football... I mean sure, you might get a little black eye, or here and there a little cut.”

To anyone looking at getting involved with boxing, just find a local boxing gym and they will help guide and teach you the skills you need to know. To the children and young adults looking at getting into boxing seriously like Becerra, his advice is, “Stay focused. I think that’s the main thing...you kind of got to be consistent and go every day and try to work out every day and just get better. Don’t smoke or drink because that will bring you down.”

Working hard is essential to achieve great dreams and goals. Becerra has certainly exhibited this determined state of mind. He will continue on the drive he has to hopefully fight his way to the top. Century College will certainly be keeping an eye on his success to come.

The White Bear Lake High School graduate understands the reality of the competitiveness of making it to the Olympics, and the fact that after age 35, one is probably not going to be a good fighter. This is why he is also attending Century College. His major is undeclared as of now, but he may find a major in Electrical Engineering. “I think I’m doing school more like as a backup ‘cause obviously there’s only one champion... If that ain’t me, then at least I have school and education to make something out of my life.”

When it comes to the hectic life of a serious boxer, the schedule is packed with working out. Becerra is training at the club every day from 5-7pm and then goes running, does pushups, sit-ups, etc. “So I get done around like nineish, and then do homework, go to sleep, do it over again.”

Like any sport, the commitment to training also includes a risk



Photos by Tina Nichols

Flavio and his father, Jose Becerra

Not Ready to Throw In the Towel

Keano Vang | Staff Writer

The shutdown ended during the third week of October, and although it ended on the 17th, it is only a temporary fix. The spending of both the Democratic and Republican parties must still be resolved, as well as the deficits. We may still be facing another possible shutdown early next year, and we must be prepared to face it head on. The hope is that this issue will not overshadow us again.

A shutdown, in short, is when Congress fails to pass a spending bill and the government discontinues providing services. This is pertinent to the situation that occurred in Washington D.C., i.e., the shutdown of the government.

The shutdown can be understood as if it were someone wanting to spend money and thus creating a deficit. For example, President Obama wants to spend money to fund the Affordable Care Act, otherwise known as Obamacare, and the House of Representatives (controlled by Republicans) want to cut spending and therefore not pass the bill. This is causing tensions between both sides, mainly President Obama and House Speaker Boehner.

It was the first shutdown since 1995-96. That shutdown had pitted President Bill Clinton against the “Grand Old Party” (Republicans) who controlled Congress. The issue at that time was Medicare. Clinton wanted to push for the growth of Medicare and Congress opposed of it and wanted to limit it. Although the two shutdowns seem similar they are very different. One example of this is that the two parties in ‘95-’96 were willing to negotiate throughout all of the days of the shutdown. The problem between the two parties in the present is mainly the stubbornness of the two leaders. There is no budging and negotiation(s) of terms from either man.

After asking a class of 37 college students, 4 of them have already been

affected by the government shutdown. “Students on Pell Grants and the Direct Loan Programs will be funded but future funding could be delayed if workers are forced to stay home, meaning fewer workers will be processing loans. Also, military members may be impacted for fiscal year 2014 if they receive Tuition Assistance, maybe in the short term. Congress may have to reinstate the funding for TA if the shutdown continues for a longer period of time. Overall, student loans and Pell Grants are considered mandatory obligations by the Department of Education and will probably be distributed normally,” explained Professor Donald Epps, who teaches politics here on the Century campus. He provided invaluable information about the effects on students from the shutdown, giving more insight into the situation many students might find themselves facing.

Interviewing a group of veterans here on campus provided a closer perspective to how terrifying a shutdown can be and the worries that build up in everyone’s mind. Veterans receive their benefits from the government, which they are promised when they enlist, and each veteran is funded differently depending on the individual. These benefits aid in payments to tuition, mortgages, taxes, and etc. As one can see, they need this money to help them survive and if they don’t get it, life would be much more difficult than it already is. During the government shutdown, they were not able to contact anyone to talk about the situation and help explain what was possibly going to happen. This created a fear of not knowing, almost like a feeling of being left behind. This would have shown the entire nation that the government defaulted on their promises to all veterans, if no benefits were received, as they are dependent on it. In the Veteran Resource Center on campus, those that were there had mixed opinions about a long lasting resolution that would fix the actual issue with the shutdown, but all voiced nearly the same concerns.

The main issue is how this event has affected you so far, everyone around you, and how it will play out if it continues to go on for a longer period of time. “Given that we have a federal system, a shut down takes on less importance. State government carries out many functions in the U.S. or shares functions with the federal/national government,” says Epps.

What this statement means is that the shutdown is like a drop of water and once it joins with the bigger body, it creates a ripple panning out and affecting everything near it immediately and eventually reaching out to the rest of the whole. We live in Minnesota, so we as an entire state won’t be so much as affected as those who are in Virginia, but if the shutdown were to continue for a longer period of time more and more people would be subjected to it. That being said, few people out of the many have already felt the sting here. All we can do for now is to exhale and not hold our breath till everything is resolved.



Image Courtesy of Google

Image Courtesy of examiner.com

Opportunity Knocks at Phi Theta Kappa

Jennifer Billstrom | Staff Writer

Do you have a 3.5 grade point average? If so, you may be eligible to join Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Phi Theta Kappa is a very old honor society open to students in two-year colleges, while it’s sister honor society, Phi Beta Kappa, is open to students in four-year colleges.

The Society was founded in 1901 by six women who were attending an all women’s college in Columbia, Missouri. It was only open to women until 1924 when the Society voted to include men as well. The Society grew from its modest beginnings of six women to its current 200,000 membership today. Thomas Beckwith, a Phi Theta Kappa advisor at Century said, “Five students charted a Phi Theta Kappa chapter on February 28, 1974 at Lakewood Community College, now known as Century College.” He added that the chapter currently has over 300 members, which is only about 1.5% of the total Century population. Beckwith speculates that students may not join because, “The organization is misconstrued to be a fraternity due to the Greek Letter instead of an Honor Society, and there may be a lack of understanding of the purpose of the organization.” Another barrier students may face is the one-time membership fee of \$70.

Beckwith said he believes the most important benefits students receive by joining are the leadership and personal development they experience. The goals of the Society are to recognize and encourage scholarships among two-year college students. The recognition comes from fellow members and from students at large who are aware that this is an honor society open

only to those with high academic achievement. Being a member encourages continued good scholarship. To remain an active member in Phi Theta Kappa, students must maintain a 3.5 GPA every semester; however, Beckwith noted, “A student can become a provisional member if they have a 3.2 GPA and 12 College Level Credits, but they do not get all the benefits of a student that is granted full membership.” The Society provides opportunity for the development of leadership and service as members meet regularly. These meetings also provide an intellectual climate for an exchange of ideas, and to stimulate interest in continuing academic achievement.

One of the very helpful aspects of belonging is their scholarship program. Phi Theta Kappa offers members opportunities to apply for scholarships that range from \$1,500 to \$7,500. Of course, another softer benefit is the way the name Phi Theta Kappa can open doors on an application to a four-year college or on a job resume. Schools and employers recognize that students who have been accepted into Phi Theta Kappa are in the top of their class academically, which gives members an advantage. Other benefits offered to its members are discounts from select partners; places such as Geico, T-Mobile, and Dell, to name a few.

If you’re a student with a 3.5 average and want to learn more about joining, contact PTK’s advisors Wade Warner at wade.warner@century.edu, or Thomas Beckwith at thomas.beckwith@century.edu.

NEWS & FEATURES

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Century College

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ability, a veteran, a student of color, Pell Grant eligible (receiving financial aid), or have a low income. The student's major is not a deciding factor. The CSP is accepting student applications to be in the program now. The program is looking to recruit 270 students, 135 students that are currently in Reading 0080 and 135 students who are currently in Reading 0090.

LuAnn Wood, Reading and Student Success Department Chair and academic coordinator of the CSP, stated, "Great Lakes has a certain amount of money that they wish to put back into education purposes." The group of faculty and staff came up with a program that would use the best practices to help students succeed. Through a two hour brainstorming session organized by Century's grant and resource coordinator Don Long, the group gathered to find a way to, "best serve this population of students" said Wood. The outcome of the session was the proposal for CSP.

At first the grant was written only for the Reading 0080/NSS students, however, after careful consideration Wood said, "We thought we would apply for a second grant [for] the same program but for the Reading 0090 students." They were indeed awarded the second grant and now have over half of a million dollars to contribute into the program. "We, by far, are one of the largest grants that were awarded this year," stated Wood.

"The mission of the program is to provide students with addition resources, connections to people, and services on campus in order to help students achieve success that first year," Tashana Husom, the new counselor for CSP affirmed. CPS helps students to get to know people, places, and things that will help them continue to be successful at Century. The program provides assets students will use on their way to graduation.

Along with Wood and Husom, the rest of the CPS contributors are Nickyia Cogshell, Jason King and Adriana Taborda. Cogshell, the Chief Diversity Officer for Century, oversees the program. King and Taborda are the program coordinators, with King working with Reading 0090 and Taborda working with Reading 0080. Husom stated, "We're all very excited about the program and strongly believe in it." These individuals, along with two professional tutors and 10-12 CSP student mentors are the driving force of

the program.

Each participant in the program will be assigned to a CSP mentor. Wood mentioned that one of the goals of the program is to build "student-to-student connections." The peer mentors are students who have been through these classes before and had been successful themselves. They will offer good role models and help students stay connected at Century.

When the program was launched around the week of September 23, King and Taborda began going into classrooms, recruiting anyone who was eligible for the program. According the Husom, "We had over 500 students who qualify[ed]. They were each given an application packet. In order to be in the CSP, students would have to fill out the application, take it in, and go through an intake session with one of our program coordinators." If all goes, a student can then become a participant in the program.

"When a student ends up in this program, they have multiple people on campus that they can go to and that they know will support them academically, career wise and personally," Wood stated. The program combines a great deal of best practices into one with the goal that they are going to examine the data to find the things that students say that really helped. This, in turn, according to Wood, will make help them, "to incorporate those things into the fabric of the college without grant funding."

Currently, students can still join the program if they meet the requirements. To start out in CSP's initial year, students can be in the program for one academic year plus the summer.

In connecting what this program will do for Century students, Husom put it well, "Century's mission is all about students and successful students in college. I believe that this program is very pertinent and crucial in setting students up for that success. This is done by giving them the skills, strategies and connecting them to different people and resources that can help them along the way, during that journey."

For further questions on the College Success Program, contact LuAnn Wood at 651-747-4044 or Nickyia Cogshell at 651-779-5786.

Scientists Discover a New Way to Study Science

C. Scot Stene | Staff Writer

Scientific studies have shown that consistent engagement with difficult subjects will eventually lead to some form of understanding. Century College knows this, and has used the knowledge in building resource centers for many disciplines, including science. The Science Resource Center opened fall 2009 in room E3813, and has been helping students of all skill levels succeed ever since.

The center is a walk-in service that provides access to student, faculty, and staff tutors with the use of a student ID. Students can receive help with many Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Earth Science classes. "It's mostly the beginning level classes that we concentrate on," said Coordinator of the Science Center Keith Hagen, "but some instructors and tutors can assist with the upper level courses as well."

There are four peer tutors who have student worker hours in the center, as well as many TLC (Tutors Linked to Classes) leaders who hold their office hours there. Unlike in the Writing Center, where English faculty work credit hours tied to their classes, "many of the faculty members I have here are doing it because they just want to help out," Hagen said. "I have faculty that are currently teaching that spend an hour or two in there, and we have a couple of CLAs (Clinical Lab Assistants) that work in there too."

Interestingly, the center has a couple of retired professors who have hours in the center as well. "Century was good to me," stated Leif Erickson, a retired Meteorology and Energy Concepts professor, "so as far as I was concerned it was kind of a way of giving back to the institution."

"What's nice is you don't have to do any lesson plans, you don't have to prepare any lectures, you don't have to make up any exams that you then have to correct, and there is no lab reports you have to correct or labs to set up; you just get the fun part of dealing with the students," Erickson continued. "I love this kind of stuff, so I enjoy coming back and helping students out."

When asked how the Science Center can help students Erickson replied, "It's nice to have somebody non-threatening to go to ask questions and get alternate explanations, or a different way to think about a concept."

"It's very close to all the science classrooms," added Hagen about the center, "so it's very easy access for the [science] students, and there's usually somebody available to help out." After crossing the bridge and continuing down the hallway past the classrooms and Science offices, students only need to look up at the doors to see the center. From there, it's just a quick jog up the stairs.

The Science Resource Center is open every day from 8:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., except Tuesdays when it closes at 1:00 p.m.



Students studying science

Photo By C. Scot Stene



Eye Abduction on the Rise

Kiana Williams | Staff Writer

WHITE BEAR LAKE, MN - Picture this scene: A young, attractive couple stands close to each other as the rain falls down upon them. Instead of getting all damp and gross like normal people, the moisture seems to heighten their beauty exponentially. The man stares into his lover's eyes, almost as if in a trance. Suddenly, he snaps back into reality and says with a dazed smile on his face, "Oh, sorry. I got lost in your eyes." Then the music swells and they embrace and the audience cries tears of joy.

I'll admit it; on more than one occasion I've been a member of that audience, lapping up the cheesy nonsense without question. That is the reaction that the media wants us to have; they want us to see getting lost in someone's eyes as the height of romance, something for us all to aspire to.

The truth, however, is much more sinister. Just ask freshman Alana Mackey. "It started out like any other day," she explains,

taking in a shuddering breath, "I was shuffling aimlessly around the produce aisle, trapped in my usual debate: Does my love for watermelon outweigh my desire to not brand myself as a stereotype?" She pauses, shaking her head in annoyance. "It's actually a real problem. Like, if I buy the watermelon, then everybody will judge me. But if I don't, then I won't have any watermelon. A real catch twenty two." At the time, a world in which Mackey could enjoy her watermelon in peace seemed crazy. Little did she know that she was about to become the victim of something much more improbable.

"Suddenly, someone bumped into me," She says, her eyes growing dark as she remembers her ordeal, "I spun around, ready to face my aggressor. Instead of the fight I'd expected, however, our eyes met, and I couldn't look away. Our gazes paused on each other for four seconds. Maybe five. Possibly five thousand! Who can be sure how long it actually was? (Editor's Note: it was



Image Courtesy of deviantart.com

These people clearly need assistance to escape from their abduction



Image Courtesy of allcoolpics.com

probably only four seconds). Time stood still." Mackey had become lost in a fellow shopper's eyes, one of ten Century College students to find themselves trapped within an optical prison this year; and the numbers are only expected to rise. It's estimated that in Minnesota alone, one out of five people will suffer from eye abduction in 2014. College students are especially susceptible to this phenomenon. They spend many nights pouring over their textbooks and taking notes in dim lighting which can lead to weakened eyes, making it much easier for more strong-willed eyes to overpower them and absorb them completely, demontor style. "I never wanted to leave," continues Mackey, "I felt safe there. I wanted to take up shelter in that icy blue refuge and live out the rest of my days in his irises." Many victims of eye abduction express similar feelings of security. Once the initial longing subsides, however, a victim realizes that they have arrived without any metaphorical food or supplies to sustain them through the night. That is when the battle begins. The environment of the human eye is one of extremes. During the day, the temperature can soar to record breaking highs, and during the night, it can plummet until it feels as though you are trapped within an icy

tundra. "I'd only just arrived, and already a biting, metaphorical case of frostbite was spreading throughout my body. I wondered how long I would survive," Mackey pauses to stare dramatically out of a window. "I lit a fire in his eyes and huddled around it for warmth." Though all cases of eye abduction are different, most people can only survive within another person's eyes for four or five hours, before the cold, metaphorical wind relating to feelings of longing and hopelessness overpowers them. Mackey was lucky that rescuers were able to break the bond before it was too late. Others, however, have not been so fortunate. Many young people have been found frozen solid, their faces expressionless, and their eyes staring blankly into the distance, forever lost within someone's unforgiving gaze. It's super gross. How many more people must become victims before we take a stand? How many more must become frozen husks before we spend the money necessary to research this phenomenon? If we keep going the way we're going, the answer will be far too many. Time is of the essence, so let us rise up as a nation, and unite against eye abduction before it is too late!

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