Happy Holidays!

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YOU'RE A VIP AT LAKELAND COLLEGE IN THE FOX CITIES

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Tuesday, December 2
Wednesday, December 10

OSHKOSH
Wednesday, November 5

Lakeland College, Fox Cities Center
2320 Industrial Drive, Neenah 888-942-4444 Lakeland.edu/72Transfer
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**Advisor**
Shannon Gerke Corrigan
gerkecor@fvtc.edu

**Fox Times Staff Members**
- Rich Weber – Editor In Chief
- Patty Jacob – Editor of Fun
- William Miller – Layout & Design Editor

**Contributors**
- Brad Lambie
- Kris Wilson
- Craig Honer
- Dianne Tyler

FACEBOOK.COM/FVTCFOXTIMES | 1
The winter season is upon us once again. Buffalo received over six feet of snow; in Wisconsin, we experienced below-zero temperatures and wind chills in November. Sigh. I strongly dislike snow and the cold, yet I despise insects as big as my head that can carry a small child away even more.

With the snow season here we need to remember how to park in the parking lot. The first snow of the year showed that more than a few of us need remedial parking training. If that offends you then you are most likely the problem. There has been more than enough coddling of the discourteous and disrespectful among us.

Anyhow, I digress.

Congratulations to the December Graduates! The end of one chapter, and the beginning of another. Go forth and conquer the world in the name of Fox Valley Technical College. If you are pursuing an advanced degree, make sure you mention to your new college that FVTC’s student publication is better than their. If you are joining the workforce, don't forget all of us little people once the fat stacks of cash begin rolling in.

Welcome to the new students! Many opportunities exist for you to learn and grow, and not just in the classroom. With over 50 student clubs and organizations, there are a variety of ways for you to increase and exercise your leadership abilities. It is a proven fact that clubs enhance the college experience, and students who participate in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities are far more likely to succeed in their education journeys than those who choose not to participate.

I've heard a lot of people say they don't have time to participate. My response to that is...

I do work study in the Student Life Center, I am Vice-President of the Student Government Association, a newly inducted member of Phi Theta Kappa, Foxes Lead (A leadership development initiative), and Editor in Chief of this publication. I am sure I am forgetting some of the things that I do, on top of a full class load. Oh yes, I also ring the bell for the Salvation Army about 10 or so hours during the holiday weeks, plus make time for family and friends. When I hear people say that they don’t have time to participate, I simply point to my schedule and say if I can make the time...

This issue is filled with things for students who are leaving, returning, and new to FVTC. As always, feedback and articles/questions are welcome.

Again, congrats to all of the graduates, and welcome one and all to the new and returning students. Let us have a fantastic term and great tidings.

Happy Holidays,
Rich

From The Editor

I know all of you have experienced this. You walk into the restroom here at FVTC, guys or gals, and find the toilet intentionally plugged up. I have my theories as to why someone would do this, but the language may be a bit too salty for this student publication.

Would it be possible for all of us to ensure that upon finishing our restroom business, we leave the restroom better than we found it? Flushing is a good start. Hitting the garbage can with the paper towel basketball throws would be another great step. Not stuffing the toilets with so much paper towel and toilet paper that another student or staff member cannot use it would be an excellent step.

Respect, according to our friends at Merriam-Webster, is “...a feeling or understanding that someone or something is important, serious, etc., and should be treated in an appropriate way...”

An amazing concept, isn’t it? Essentially boiling down to “do unto others as you would like done unto you.” If you wouldn’t enjoy having to walk into three separate restrooms to find one stall that is usable, why would you think someone else would?

In my opinion, it is simple respect for each other and really, ourselves. The facilities personnel are not there to pick up after you. They bust their tails to ensure this school is clean, neat, and orderly for all of us to enjoy. They deserve your respect, as does every other person that walks into this school.

Respect should not be this difficult. Picking up after yourself, whether in the restroom or the commons, should be a common sense/common courtesy action. No one should have to remind you of this. No one here is feral and we are all fully capable of cleaning up after ourselves.
Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I saw in the last issue that you are looking for articles. What kind of articles will you accept? I thought about sending in an article about politics but didn’t know if you would put that into the paper.

—Politically Motivated

Hey Politically Motivated,
The Fox Times accepts all subjects and topics for articles. The only thing I will not publish is an attack piece, or an article that simply slanders people. I would love to see a good and open dialogue started within these pages.

Dear Editor,

I eat in the commons daily and enjoy the cleanliness and atmosphere of our commons. However, for the past 2 months there have been missing condiments at the microwave station. Where is the mayo and mustard and why did the packets of salt and pepper vanish? I’m not trying to sound like a whiner, but if it’s necessary for me to pack my own condiments then the courteous thing to do is put up a sign.

Sincerely,

—Condiment Confused

Hi Confused,
I also enjoy the friendly confines of our commons, and agree that the condiments have been m.i.a. of late. I wonder why that is. I shall ask around and see what I can find out.

Dear Editor,

I have a hypothetical question. If a student were struggling to make ends meet and couldn’t put food on the table, is there somewhere that he or she could turn in the school?

—Asking for a friend

Hi Asking,
That is a great question. Yes, there is. FVTC offers a food pantry for students that may need assistance. It is private and confidential. All a student must do is stop into the Student Life Center and ask for Shannon, Penny, John, Lori, Kim, or Luke. They will take it from there.

Dear Editor,

I have very definite plans for this publication in the future months. I am looking for more participation from you, the student body. Here is a list of articles that I am looking for. Topics range from politics to religion and everything in between.

What did you enjoy most about 2014? What will you miss, glad to see pass on by?
What are you looking forward to most in 2015? What do you hope to see next year?

February Issue — Everyone has New Year’s Resolutions, what are yours?
These are just a few examples of things you can submit. I am always looking for more articles on areas of interest within and outside the college. Do you have an exciting hobby you wish to share with people?
Email me at fvtcfotimes@gmail.com

Articles Wanted

Facebook.com/FVTcFoxTimes
By Dianne Tyler
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society would like to give you (our recent Inductees) the recognition that you deserve. On November 6, 2014 your achievements have proven to be commemorative and will continue to provide you with great opportunities towards your future success. Your dedication, hard work, commitment, and outstanding performance is inspiring and recognized by all. We congratulate you, welcome you, and are greatly honored to have you as new members in our Phi Theta Kappa chapter, Beta Epsilon Omicron.

Congratulations!!

Yolanda Alarcon
Nicholas Amundson
Tery Arnett
Crystal Bradley
Alisha Brant
Tabitha Buhrow
Jeremy Bunnell
Christopher Cabello
Steven Cukierski
Jodi DeKeyser
Cynthia Emerich
Blake Erickson
Anna Ertl
Branden Flynn
Matthew Franck
Aaron Haase
Amy Hanson

Ruth Hickmann
Erin Huettl
Miranda Hurtado
Rodney Johnson
Kiyanna Johnston
Leslie Karr
April Kelly
Tammy Kentopp
Teri Koepke
Amber Koski
Kimberly Krenke
Shanna Krueger
Amber Lang
Shannon Lemke
Randall Linskens
Renee MacLaine
Ben Mikkelson

Shane Miller
Donna Moede
Scott Noah
Kayla Noel
Michael Oaks
Karen Page
Denise Pollei
Karla Price
James Reese
Emily Ross
Stephane Rouamba
Bianca Schreiber
Ryan Schroeder
Maxwell Sheppard
Debora Slagle
Jason St Mary
Alan Staedt

Evangeline Stone
John Sturm
Ashley Tease
Kenneth Thompson
Jeremy Valentine
Hanh Vo
Richard Weber
Michael Werner
Randall Wolff
Joan Wright
Johnathan Xiong
Crystal Zehms
Kelsey Zernicke
Mia Thao

Induction Ceremony November 6, 2014
THE JAPANESE CLUB — BACK IN FULL SWING
by Brad Lambie

The Japanese Club has come back this year with more members than ever. We meet every Wednesday in A161 at 5:00 p.m. The purpose of the group is to learn the cultures and traditions; you do not have to know the language. The group is open to anyone who wants to participate. It is more or less a social group, and you get to meet people that live in or study the culture.

The requirements for our club:

For our fundraiser, we will be selling duct tape roses for Valentine’s Day. There are different prints like animal print, camouflage, sports team, you name it. That is usually our biggest fundraiser during the whole school year.

We learn how to do origami, learn how to speak common words and phrases, and for those that like anime we talk about what kind of anime is out there and where all the conventions are. For our community service, we decided to help with dinner at Carolina Manor, the nursing home just a block from the college. They were really happy with the help they got.

We recently took a field trip to Madison and explored many different cultures in restaurants and entertainment. In May, we take a trip to Rockford Illinois to Anderson Gardens to see the Japanese flowers blossom.

Every meeting we have at least some sort of snacks like cookies and punch. If we feel like ordering from culinary, we get pizza! Because we have a meeting every week, we decide on whether to do just a social/game night, or we put aside time for business if there’s a lot going on. We also like to have movie nights.

The club is very excited to find opportunities in working more with the school in events and fundraising. There are currently over 30 active members in the club. We want to share more with you in any ways that we can. It’s open to everyone, so feel free to stop in and meet lots of new people.

Frolfing Foxes — A Big Thank You!
by Craig Honer

The Frolfing Foxes would like to thank everyone who participated in Operation Christmas Child and a big thank you to the Power Sports Club for donating 13 boxes. A total of 29 boxes from staff, students, and clubs were donated to kids across the globe from FVTC. The club would also like to thank Student Life for their support and space in regards to keeping the empty and donated boxes, thank you Penny Brickner and Zaida Landry for all the work they did in regards to putting up the flyers. Thank you to the Fox Times for exposing this wonderful charity to the students and staff. Your help was greatly appreciated in making this a big success considering how much to we had and with how much time we had. Have a wonderful holiday season!
December SAC Events

**Breakfast with Santa**  
Saturday December 6th  
9:00 in commons

**Packer Party**  
Monday December 8th  
5:00 to 7:00 in commons  
Free w/student ID

**Stress Relief Day**  
Wednesday December 10th  
11:30 in Spectators  
Free w/student ID

**Cotton Candy Day**  
Tuesday December 9th  
11:30 in commons  
Free w/student ID

**Fresh Fruit Giveaway**  
Tuesday December 16th  
11:30 in commons  
Free w/student ID

**SAC Meetings** (Anyone is welcome to attend or join us during the Student Activity Club Meetings)

**Tuesday December 2nd**  
11:30 to 12:30  
Rm G120A (Student Success Center)

**Tuesday December 9th**  
11:30 to 12:30  
Rm G120A (Student Success Center)

**Tuesday December 16th**  
11:30 to 12:30  
Rm G120A (Student Success Center)

**Thursday December 4th**  
11:30 to 12:30  
Rm G120A (Student Success Center)

**Thursday December 11th**  
11:30 to 12:30  
Rm G120A (Student Success Center)

**Thursday December 18th**  
11:30 to 12:30  
Rm G120A (Student Success Center)

January SAC Events

**Free Popcorn Day!**  
Monday January 19th  
11:00 Student Life area

**Club Recruitment Day**  
Thursday January 22nd  
11:00 Student Life area

**Sound Express**  
Live acapella music  
Tuesday January 27th  
11:30 in commons

**Free Granola Bar Day!**  
Wednesday January 21st  
11:30 Student Life area

**Family Movie Night**  
Friday January 23rd  
6:00 in commons

**Happiness & Diversity**  
W/ Matt Glowacki  
Wednesday January 28th, RM E130  
10:00 – 11:00 6 seconds to happiness  
11:30 – 12:30 Diversity According to South Park & Family Guy

**SAC Meetings** (Anyone is welcome to attend or join us during the Student Activity Club Meetings)

**Tuesday January 20th**  
11:30 to 12:30  
Rm G120A (Student Success Center)

**Thursday January 29th**  
11:30 to 12:30  
Rm G120A (Student Success Center)
On October 10th and 11th the student organizations that fall directly beneath the Student Life umbrella went on a leadership retreat. Student Government Association, Oshkosh Student Board, Student Activities Committee, and the Fox Times spent two full days breaking bread and developing fellowship.

Michael Miller led the retreat in activities that broadened the mind and expanded the levels of our engagement. Excitement abounded as new philosophies and ideas were created, hashed out, and ultimately kept or discarded.

Shannon Gerke Corrigan, John Rank, Luke Leitner, and Kim Manteuffel comprised the Student Life leadership team, along with Michael, kept us all in line and productive.

There was time for reindeer games, relaxing walks by the pristine lake, and a raucous crowd surrounding the campfire. (All work and no play makes for very tired and dull boys and girls.)

This year was a bit different than previous incarnations, as the assembly was broken into four separate groups (teams) and given the task of developing an event to promote engagement within the school. In April, look for my team’s (Team Awesome!) event, you will know it when you see it.

You may be wondering about the title of the article. Despite their best intentions and efforts, some ideas generated were a tad bit disturbing and not discarded soon enough. (Though the recipe sounded delicious!)

Thank you to the Student Life team, Michael Miller, and all of the attendees for making the retreat a fun-filled success.

How To Bake Your Cat
By Rich Weber

On October 10th and 11th the student organizations that fall directly beneath the Student Life umbrella went on a leadership retreat. Student Government Association, Oshkosh Student Board, Student Activities Committee, and the Fox Times spent two full days breaking bread and developing fellowship.

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Thank you to the Student Life team, Michael Miller, and all of the attendees for making the retreat a fun-filled success.

Student Government Association Creates Clothes Closet at Fox Valley Technical
By Rich Weber, SGA Vice-President

Fox Valley Technical College currently has a Food Pantry for students in need. It is down the hall by the Wellness Center, or check in with the staff in Student Life.

Several years ago, at the time of the Food Pantry’s creation, Shannon Gerke Corrigan attempted to form a Clothes Closet with interview attire for students in need. Due to space constraints, the Clothes Closet could not be formed at that time.

After prompting by Barb of the Monster Shop, the SGA looked into setting up the Closet. Now, in partnership with the Student Life team, the Student Government Association is creating a Clothes Closet. Until a permanent room is found, the Closet will be found in the Student Life Center, room E137.

The ideal location for the Closet would be in conjunction with the relocated Food Pantry in a large enough space to accommodate both.

Finding a temporary space was the easy part, and that is done. The hard part is coming next, and will rely upon all of you, the student body. We are accepting donations for the Clothes Closet. Items that we will need include:

- Men’s and Women’s Suits
- Men’s Dress Shirts
- Men’s and Women’s Dress Pants
- Ladies Businesswear
- Shoes/ Men’s and Women’s

Donations can be delivered to Student Life, 8am-6pm Monday-Thursday, and 8am-4pm on Fridays.

The SGA is proud to be able to provide this service to the student body and thanks everyone involved for all of the help they have provided.

If you have any questions, feel free to ask us or any of the staff within Student Life.

Happy Holidays,

Rich
Dear Foxy,
I recently started dating a new person, let’s call him E. We are on several committees together, and he is the most dreamy, manliest man I have ever laid my eyes upon. He sets my heart all a flutter and I can barely contain myself when I am in his presence. I guess my question is simple. How do I not screw this up?
— Ebony & Ivory

Hi E & I,
An interesting dilemma you have here. It is good that you brought such an important topic to Foxy, as Foxy is the love guru. Foxy’s love advice is simply this, communicate. Talk, emote, sign, whatever it takes, ensure communication is always there.

Listen attentively, not listening has gotten Foxy in trouble a time or two. Equality is a must, successful relationships are a 50/50 partnership. 90/10 does not a good relationship make.

It may sound like common sense, but the Foxilicious one says to communicate and do so effectively. Thank you for asking! I look forward to more questions next month.

Happy Holidays from Foxy

---

**FVTC Health Services**

Room A164 – Appleton Campus

**Hours:** Monday – Friday 8:00 – 4:40 PM (closed 12:30 – 1:15)
Nurse’s hours:
Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning

**Web page:** [http://www.fvtc.edu/healthservices](http://www.fvtc.edu/healthservices)

**FVTC Health Services provides:**

- Assistance to students who need medical care from a doctor or other community agency
- First aid care.
- Treatment for minor illness and injury
- Flu shot (fee is charged).
- Immunizations for measles, mumps, rubella (MMR), tetanus, hepatitis A and B are available to students.
- Tuberculin skin test (Mantoux) for student who need it for school.
- Over the counter medication for cold, allergy, headache or other pain, upset stomach, diarrhea, cough, and menstrual cramps.
- A place to rest if you become ill.
- A private room for mom to pump breast milk or nurse.

A nurse is on the Appleton campus for patient care several hours a week. Appointments are encouraged. We do not have prescription medication but the nurse can refer you for doctors’ care if needed.
December Fun Facts

1. All the gifts in the Twelve Days of Christmas would equal 364 gifts.

2. Most of Santa’s reindeer have male-sounding names, such as Blitzen, Comet, and Cupid. However, male reindeers shed their antlers around Christmas, so the reindeer pulling Santa’s sleigh are likely not male, but female.

3. According to the Guinness world records, the tallest Christmas tree ever cut was a 221-foot Douglas fir that was displayed in 1950 at the Northgate Shopping Center in Seattle, Washington.

4. Each year there are approximately 20,000 “rent-a-Santa” across the United States. “Rent-a-Santa’s” usually undergo seasonal training on how to maintain a jolly attitude under pressure from the public. They also receive practical advice, such as not accepting money from parents while children are looking and avoiding garlic, onions, or beans for lunch.

5. In Poland, spiders or spider webs are common in Christmas trees; Polish people consider spiders to be symbols of goodness and prosperity at Christmas.

6. Alabama was the first state in the United States to officially recognize Christmas in 1836.

7. Oklahoma was the last U.S. state to declare Christmas a legal holiday, in 1907.

8. The Christmas stocking got its start when three unmarried girls did their laundry and hung their stockings on the chimney to dry. They couldn’t marry, they had no dowry. But St. Nicholas, who knew of their plight, put a sack of gold in each stocking and in the morning the girls awoke to discover they had dowries. They could marry.

9. There are 3 towns in the US, which are named Santa Claus. One in Georgia, one in Arizona and one in Indiana.

Word Scramble

December Word Scramble

1. ryrme ssmbiacrt

2. lneo

3. naats ulacs

4. dlhroup

5. nsesetpr

6. dcyana eacn

7. kwfaeonssl

8. htcrssaim reet

9. cingtsko

*Answers to Word Scramble are on the bottom of page 36.
FOXES BASKETBALL
SCHEDULE JANUARY

FOXES Basketball vs UW Fond du lac
Monday January 5th
Women @ 5:30 pm / Men @ 7:30 pm

FOXES Basketball @ UW Washington County
Wednesday January 7th

FOXES Basketball vs Marshfield
Monday January 12th
Women @ 5:30 pm / Men @ 7:30 pm

FOXES Basketball vs UW Manitowoc
Monday January 19th
Women @ 5:30 pm / Men @ 7:30 pm

FOXES Basketball vs Madison College
Monday January 26th
Women @ 5:30 pm / Men @ 7:30 pm

FOXES Basketball @ UW Marinette
Wednesday January 28th

* All home games are played at UW Fox Valley 1478 Midway Road in Menasha
Currently the Women’s team is sitting at 7 wins and 2 losses, with 6 straight wins including being unbeaten at home.

Nov 5 at Madison College L, 86–54
Nov 7 UW Washington County W, 66–31
Nov 8 at Rochester Community and Technical College L, 62–45
Nov 10 Western Technical College W, 69–59
Nov 12 UW Marinette W, 68–52
Nov 15 at Western Technical College W, 73–69, OT
Nov 19 at UW Manitowoc W, 78–37
Nov 21 UW Fox Valley W, 70–55

**Leading scorers for the Lady Foxes**

Taylor Penning – 21.2 ppg
Kiaya Adams – 14.0 ppg
Kira Ellestad – 14.0 ppg

**Leading Assists**

Kiaya Adams – 5.2 apg
Kayla Gotz – 3.2 apg

**Leading Rebounders**

Taylor Penning – 12.4 rpg
Kayla Gotz – 11.6 rpg

**Personal Fouls**

Taylor Penning – 3.4 fpg
Jessica Peterson – 3.0 fpg
Kira Ellestad – 2.8 fpg
Kayla Gotz – 2.8 fpg

The Men’s team currently sits at 1–5 in addition to 1 team forfeiting. They have shown a lot of heart, yet heart cannot overcome a cold shooting hand.

Nov 7 UW Washington County W, 72–69
Nov 8 at Rochester Community and Technical College L, 101–52
Nov 10 Western Technical College L, 74–65
Nov 12 UW Marinette L, 86–60
Nov 15 at Western Tech L, 79–46
Nov 19 at UW Manitowoc, Manitowoc forfeits
Nov 21 at UW Fox Valley, UW Fox Valley refuses to play our Men’s team. Must be scared.

**Leading scorers for the Foxes**

Juvonta Leach – 14.5 ppg
Nick Wolf – 14.2 ppg
Qadry Smith – 10.2 ppg

**Leading Assists**

Nick Wolf – 2.6 apg
Qadry Smith – 2.2 apg

**Leading Rebounders**

Nick Wolf – 10.4 rpg

**Personal Fouls**

Deonte Primo – 4.0 fpg
Devonte Johnson – 3.5 fpg
Zach Woelfel – 3.0 fpg

Home games are at the UW Fox Valley Fieldhouse in Menasha, on Midway Road. Women play at 5:30pm, Men play at 7:30pm, or whenever the Lady Foxes permit them to play.
I was scared my first week or two back after a twenty year break from school. I was lucky, recently retired Director of Student Life Vicky (Barke) Weiland, Manager of Student Life Shannon Gerke Corrigan, and recently retired Counselor Sandi Moore were there and available for me to express my fears about school, and help me be comfortable and involved at FVTC. Without their assistance I might not still be a student. Luckily, I asked for help and they were more than happy to.

There are many services and benefits provided by Fox Valley Technical College through the use of student fees, and paid for by the college. I have heard a number of students mentioning they don't know where to go or who to speak with about a variety of issues. Fear not, my friends, I am providing a beginning list of some great people to speak with and some of the services they provide.

I have said this repeatedly, and I will say it again. The college wants you to succeed, and have provided students with these go-to people to help in any way they can. Unfortunately, they cannot read minds, and you, the student, need to raise your hand and ask for help. If I, a super manly tough guy... 😄 can ask for help, you can too. There are more people to meet and know, but to me, these are the people every student should start with.

Here is the list.

**Wolfgang Wollschlaeger – Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Abuse Counselor**

He is available in the Counseling and Advising Center, down the hall from Entrance 10.

Private and confidential meetings with Wolfgang are helpful to many people. Test anxiety, stress management, addiction, and smoking cessation along with other issues Wolfgang can assist with. All free of charge to current FVTC students.

Room E121 Phone (920) 735-5696

**Diane Drew – Certified Consumer Credit Counselor**

Empowering students with their personal finances to achieve their educational goals. Were you aware that finances are the leading cause of students not completing their education? Diane is available to assist you in finding a way to make things better, free of charge.

She is here to educate people on their financial options so they can make good, sound decisions. Knowledge is power, and that is where empowerment comes from. Diane is here at the college through FISC.

Diane is available in the Counseling and Advising Center, down the hall from Entrance 10. Room E121, Phone (920) 735-5696

**Rayon Brown – Manager, Multicultural Student Services**

Multicultural Student Services is committed to planning, developing and implementing services, and interventions that foster the learning and personal development of the various students served.

Rayon and his team promote a strong campus sense of community and assist students in building essential skills for independent critical thinking and self-determination through, in, and out of classroom experiences. Through collaborative efforts with college and community partners, they provide educational efforts to promote multicultural sensitivity, awareness, competency, and understanding.

Students from all backgrounds are welcome, stop by and let them know the Fox Times sent you!

Room E120, Phone (920) 735-4706
**John Rank** – Athletic Director/Student Activities Committee (SAC) Advisor

John is available in the Student Life Center, and is in charge of all FVTC athletics. Men’s and Women’s Basketball. Always looking for the next basketball all-star, give John a call and he will help you out. Anyone interested in SAC should also contact John. SAC meets Tuesdays at 11:30am in the Student Life Center.

Room E137, Phone (920) 735-2500

**Jayme Bowman** – Manager of Security Services

You know, those guys and gals patrolling the parking lots and hallways wearing the red shirts. Better known as Security Interns, your safety is their number one priority. Manager of Security Services, Jayme Bowman and her staff have many ways to assist you. If you have questions, concerns, or simply don’t feel safe, do contact them.

Room E162, near Entrance 6. Non-Emergency Phone (920) 735-5691

**Shannon Gerke Corrigan** – Manager of Student Life/Advisor for the Fox Times, Student Government Association (SGA), and Volunteer Council

Shannon, Penny, Lori, John, Kim, and Luke along with the front desk staff highlight the involvement parts of college life. If you wish to participate in Student Government, start here. Same with any clubs and organizations. Student Life is a place to relax and wind down.

Student Life engages students through opportunities for development, which supplement the academic mission of Fox Valley Technical College, to create a complete college experience and maintain a diverse student community.

Organizing many kinds of trips, from Brewers, Packers, PAC Center, Badgers Bus Trips, to selling discounted tickets to students, Student Life is the central hub for students on campus. Pool tables, ping pong, foosball, Wii Tournaments, and oh, so much more. Stop in and say hi, make sure to let the staff know the Fox Times sent you.

Room E137, Phone (920) 735-2545

**Luke Leitner** – Oshkosh

At the Oshkosh Riverside Campus Luke serves as the Student Life Assistant for Riverside, AMTC, and Spanbauer. He is the advisor to the Oshkosh Student Board (OSB). He co-advises the FVTC delegation to the Wisconsin Student Government (WSG) sessions throughout the year, as well as co-advising the FVTC delegation to the regional NACA conference. Luke coordinates the Wisconsin Technical College System Ambassador Program for the college. He also acts as a liaison for Student Employment Services (referring students to services available to them).

Room 135C, Phone (920) 236-6171

**Tony Duff** – Manager of Student Conduct

Tony is the new Manager of Student Conduct, and is the person a student will meet with if they happen to run afoul of the FVTC Code of Conduct. Tony has been with the college for five years, and you will see him walking the halls periodically during the day. His office is now located in Counseling & Advising. Tell him howdy and let him know the Fox Times sent you!

Room E121, Phone (920) 225-5913

**Marissa Hunnel** – Wellness Coordinator

Marissa is our new Wellness Coordinator and has big plans for the Wellness (Fitness) Center. From group exercise classes, yoga, cardio-kickboxing, 10 minute targeted workouts, Marissa is there to “pump you up”! Stop in and say hi, she is in the Center approximately 10:00am-3:00pm Monday through Friday.

Room E170, Phone (920) 996-2884

Each one of these people is here to help you succeed in your education travels. The responsibility to ask for help is up to you. They won’t know you need assistance or have questions if you don’t ask. I know from experience that asking is sometimes hard, if I can do it... and now you know who to ask.
GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Students who need assistance in making schedule changes can see a Peer Advisor or a program counselor in room E121.

2. Adult Basic Education (ABE) Lab – Rm. G202; phone: 993-5210

3. Adult Basic Education (ABE) Registration Office – Rm. G200; phone: 993-5210

4. ATM is located by Connections Coffee Café (next to the Commons)

5. Business Technology Center (BTC) – Rm. A105 near Entrance #1 (Rms. A105A-J). Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 p.m., Monday – Thursday; 7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., Friday.

6. Bookstore (FVTC): Rm. E110 near Entrance #10. Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Monday – Thursday; 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Friday. phone 735-4732.

7. Center for New Students: Rm. E114; phone 735-4708. Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Monday – Thursday; 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Friday.

8. Computers for Student Use: Library Rm. G113 and in Rm. G200

9. Computer Repair Help Desk for students: Rm D114, phone (920) 831-4353, Schedule changes weekly, reference http://it.fvtc.edu/helpdesk.htm

10. Connections Café: Rm. E136 (next to the Commons) Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., Monday – Thursday; 7:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Friday. Connections Café satellite locations in A160 and SSC.

11. Counseling & Advising Services: Rm. E121; phone 735-5896. Hours: 8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m., Monday - Thursday and 8:00 a.m. – 4:00p.m. on Friday.

12. Disability (Educational Support Services) in Rm. E122; phone 735-2569. Hours: 8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m., Monday-Thursday; 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Friday.

13. Elevators: Three in the building, located near Entrance #11 (West side), Entrance # 1 (East side) and in the HS building near entrance #17.

14. ELI (English Language Institute) Rm. G130; phone 735-2443.

15. Enrollment Services Rm. E111; phone 735-5645. Hours: 8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m., Monday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m., Friday.

16. Financial Aid (Student Financial Services): Rm. E118; phone 735-5650. Hours: 8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m., Monday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m., Friday.

17. Global Education & Services in Rm. G130; phone 735-4810.

18. Health Services in Rm. A164; phone 735-5745. Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Monday - Friday.

19. IVC/FVTC Net classes (Interactive Video Conferencing): Contact Katie Schmidt at 735-5640.

20. Library Rm. G113; phone 735-5653, hours:
   
   Monday-Thursday 7:15 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.
   Friday 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
   Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
21. **Lockers:** Student Life Center, Rm. E137; Phone 735-2545. Student IDs are required in order to rent a locker.

22. **Lost and Found** is in the Security Office, Rm. E160, phone 735-5691.
   Hours: 7:00 a.m. – 10:30 p.m., Monday – Friday, 6:00 a.m. – 6 p.m. Saturday

23. **Multicultural Student Services:** Rm. E120; phone 735-4625. Hours: 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Monday-Thursday; 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Friday.

24. **Nursing Name Badges for Certified Nursing Assistant students** – Student Life Center, Rm. E137; phone 735-2545

25. **Payment** of course fees:
   - Cash payments can be made at Community First Credit Union in Rm. E112;
   - Checks, cashier checks, money orders payments are accepted in Enrollment Services in Rm. E111;
   - VISA, MasterCard, American Express, Discovery and E-check payments are accepted through online student account MyFVTC.

26. **Quest Program (Alternative High School)** Rm. G206; Quest Office: Rm. G232; phone 735-5723.

27. **Registration/Cashier** is located in Student Enrollment Services Rm. E111 near Entrance #10.
   Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Monday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Friday.

28. **Security Services** in Rm. E160; phone 735-5691 or (920) 428-1240. Emergencies, call 735-4777.
   Hours: 7:00 a.m. – 10:30 p.m., Monday – Friday, 6:00 a.m. – 6 p.m. Saturday

29. **Smoking** is NOT allowed on any FVTC campuses (includes Electronic cigarettes)

30. **Student Finance (Student Financial Services):** Rm. E118; phone 735-4871. Hours: 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Monday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Friday.

31. **Student Handbook/Planner** are available at Student Life Center, Rm. E137, phone 735-2545.

32. **Student IDs** are available at Student Life Center, Rm. E137. Phone 735-2545. (cost: $5.00)
   Hours are 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Monday-Thursday; 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Friday.

33. **Switchboard – Welcome Center** – Entrance 10, phone 735-5600. Hours: 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Monday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Friday.

34. **Testing Center (General Studies)** Rm. G212; phone 735-5758 or 735-5757. Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Friday. 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Saturday
    NOTE: Hours vary during college breaks

35. **TLC-Teaching & Learning Center**: Math, Reading, and Writing Center in Rm. G200, phone 993-5210

36. **Veterans Services:** Rm. E119; phone 735-5651. Hours: 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Monday-Thursday; 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Friday.
I was fortunate that Shannon made a few moments in her insane schedule to sit down and have a chat. If you haven’t met Shannon yet, or the other amazing people on the Student Life team, you are really missing out. Student Life is a great place to gather, chat, watch a little television, or participate in the over 50 student clubs and organizations. Because greatness begins at the top, let's get to our entertaining chat.

Fox Times — For those who do not know you, who are you and what is your role here at Fox Valley Technical College?

Shannon — My name is Shannon Gerke Corrigan and I am the Manager of the Student Life Center. My role here is to oversee all of Student Life, the Wellness Center, Connections Café, Student Activities Committee, Oshkosh Student Board, Student Government Association, Fox Times, and all student clubs and organizations. The goal is finding a way to engage students and have them connect with FVTC to increase the likelihood of their success.

What exactly is Student Life?

We provide opportunities to learn when you are not in class. Speakers on a variety of subjects, team building and develop leadership skills. Giving students the ability and chance to grow outside of the academic realm. Clubs and organizations give someone an outlet to test their boundaries and spread their wings.

We aren’t just the “cool” place where you can shoot pool and play video games. Though you can do that too, we are the place where college life and academics meet, the more involved a student is, the greater chance for success.

What made you choose the Student Life “life”?

To be honest, I stumbled upon it. I chose Student Affairs deliberately. I began as a Hall Director and came to FVTC once I completed my Masters. Once I was here I discovered my career passion and simply fell in love with the Student Life “life.” I feel incredibly blessed to be sitting here today. Luckily, the stars aligned and this career chose me.

What do you like best about your position, and what do you like least?

I love everything about my job, even the hard things that drive me crazy. My job is so cool! I get to see people learning and changing, helping them to achieve their goals and solve problems. Talking about my job, talking to other people about their jobs, going to the meetings... gosh, it is difficult to limit it to even the top ten things I like best.

What I like least? The complete and utter lack of time to tackle everything I want and need to do and still be able to go home and see my children each day. There are so many really cool projects to discover, start, and complete. If there were 40 hours in a day, I might be able to clear some items off of my “to do” list. Might.

As an Adjunct Instructor, what classes do you teach and how often?

I teach any and all classes in the Psychology area. I taught this summer, though I won’t be teaching at all this current academic year. My hope is to possibly teach during the summers, when I have more time. How often do I teach? I have taught classes each year for the past seven years, when they ask me to do so. Teaching for me is fun and enjoyable; I do it as often as my schedule allows.

Imagine you are stranded on a deserted island. Amazingly, your five favorite books are there. What are they and why those?

The Book of Life — Deborah Harkness
Outlander — Diana Gabaldon

Both of these books fall into my “go to” genre. I consider them intelligent fantasy. They are heavily romance based fiction with true historical references and strong female characters — these are not women who need “saving” or who “get themselves into all sorts of trouble.” The literary side of
me appreciates the writing and research that goes into these novels, but the girly side of me also appreciates the ... ahh ... “escapism” that the relationships in the novels provide.

*Bloodchild* — Octavia Butler

I read this collection of short stories in college and I still go back to it at least once a year. She is an African-American Science Fiction writer — a combination that has always intrigued me as most people associate science fiction with white males. I like that nerds (an adjective that I highly identify with) come in all forms. While I do not consider myself to be a writer, she described the goal for one of her stories in an epilogue and I have spent many hours trying to come up with my own version of her aim. Anyone who can make me think about something she wrote for 15 years deserves to be brought to an island.

*The Art of War* — Sun Tsu

One of my Strengths is “Strategic.” I read this book for the first time over the summer and highly enjoyed it. I would love to spend some time re-reading it and taking more copious notes. I’m such a geek.

*The Dictionary of American Regional English*

One of my favorite pastimes when I am not reading is listening to “A Way with Words” (a radio show on NPR). They reference this particular dictionary all of the time. I’ve always said that I was a linguist in a past life. In this one, I’m just an official word nerd.

*What about that amazing book I told you about? Retail Memories: When Customers Attack?*

I already read that one... 😊

*In your opinion, what is your biggest achievement during your time here at FVTC?*

The Foxes LEAD program, I think is the best achievement I have had. Foxes LEAD is a leadership initiative I developed to pair up students with Staff and Faculty mentors. It took a long time and a lot of hard work to get it going and I am very happy with the direction Kim Manteuffel is going with it.

Welcome Days is another thing I am proud of.

*Where do you see Student Life in ten years?*

My ultimate goal for the department is for us to be an integral part of the overall curriculum within the college. To be a partner with faculty and be seen as a true supplement to the education for students to view us as a way to fulfill social needs and an avenue to enhance and apply the skills they learn in class.

*If you could choose to have one super power, what would it be and why?*

Oh... to stop time. Like Hermione's Time Turner. Accomplish all of the things I needed to, sleep, and be able to spend quality family time. I wonder if the Fab Lab could make something like that.

*If you had to choose between Bill (Fox Times Layout Editor) and I as your favorite, which one of us would it be?*

*Laughing* Bill, of course! No, I am not going to choose, I refuse. Though, you do grind my nerves every now and again...

*If you could change one thing about the college, what would it be and why?*

That is an easy one. Put Diet Dr. Pepper in all of the soda machines. I love Diet Dr. Pepper; it should be its own food group.

*The creation of the Food Pantry/Clothes Closet was your initiative, why did you feel the need to form one? Do you have an idea where the relocated Pantry will be?*

Vicky Weiland and I saw the need on campus for a food pantry as a lot of students struggle at times with putting food on the table. We saw an opportunity to help with this, and we, in conjunction with the SGA at the time, filled that need.

As of right now, I do not know where the pantry will be located once the Wellness Center is expanded. That will be a conversation between SGA, Facilities, and myself in the coming weeks and months.

I was unable to create the Clothes Closet at the time due to space/room constraints and had to choose between the two. I chose the Food Pantry.

You and the current SGA have championed the creation of the Clothes Closet and that is well on its way to being a reality. Barb from the Monster Shop deserves credit for bringing it back to the SGAs' attention.

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Fox Times is looking for photographers willing to take random pictures, attend sports events, and attend school events. Email foxtimes@fvtc.edu if interested!
BIZsquad Class at FVTC: Takes Learning to a New Level
by Kris Wilson

BIZsquad is a multi-disciplinary class offered for the first time in fall semester 2014. The senior level students come from a variety of majors at FVTC and are all working together on two community based projects. The students are putting previous classroom education to use by working together on a real world project.

This semester’s senior-level students come from a variety of programs including:

• IT – Computer Support Specialist
• Business Management
• Web Development and Design
• Professional Communications
• Marketing
• Administrative Professional
• Accounting

The students have been working with two non-profit organizations: Seeds of Hope and ARC of the Fox Cities. The students had the opportunity to pick from a variety of deserving projects but selected these two based on the strengths of the team.

Because the students come from a variety of programs, there is an equally diverse variety of skills. BIZsquad is unique among the classes offered at FVTC because of this diversity. While students from different programs may take gen-ed courses together, there are currently no other upper level courses available.

Projects for Seeds of Hope and ARC of the Fox Cities include advertising, marketing pieces, print advertisements and sponsor packets, as well as volunteer participation in the organization’s events. Students meet for class once a week but also work on projects outside of class.

Not only are the students in BIZsquad from a variety of programs, but the instructors are as well. The five instructors come from Business Technology, Information Technology, Management Development, and Marketing.
For over 25 years, the greater FVTC community has been supporting student families through the college’s Adopt-A-Family program. Student families in need are provided a little bit of holiday cheer through your donations - receiving food, gifts and everyday items.

**How can you help this year?**
Check out the list below, to learn about the many fun ways to participate in Adopt-A-Family 2014, either individually or with your team or class!

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**Donate FOOD & other HOUSEHOLD ITEMS**

Boxes are located throughout the college.

**Canned Goods**
- Applesauce
- Fruit
- Jelly/Jam
- Pasta/Mac-N-Cheese
- Peanut Butter
- Soups
- Stews
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Tuna
- Vegetables

**Paper Products**
- Facial Tissue
- Napkins
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper

*Bring a canned good item to the Adopt-A-Family Breakfast.*

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**Donate MONEY**

Make checks payable to FVTC Foundation and inter-office to the Foundation Office.

Attend the Adopt-A-Family Breakfast on Tuesday, Dec. 2, 7:00—9:00 a.m. in the Commons, Cost: $5 in advance/$6 at door

Also, canned goods will be collected at the AAF Breakfast.

**Menu**
- Warm French Toast Slices with Syrup, Strawberry & Whipped Topping
- Traditional Scrambled Eggs with Ham, Cheese & Pepper Sauce
- Baked Sour Cream, Chive & Cheese Hash Brown Potatoes
- Three Cheese & Vegetable Frittata
- Jane’s Sausage Links
- Assorted Breakfast Pastries
- Fresh Cut Fruits of the Season
- Yogurt Cups
- Orange Juice, Coffee, Milk, Hot Tea, & Water

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**Donate TIME**

Help wrap gifts, package food & household items on Thursday, Dec. 18, 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. in E130.

*Please consider helping out!!*

*Thank You & Happy Holidays from the FVTC Adopt-A-Family Committee*
I recently had the privilege of hanging out with Krista “Kiwi” Reince for the day at Northcentral Technical College (NTC) during the Wisconsin Student Government (WSG) meeting. Imagine my surprise when she told me that she was a graduate of Fox Valley Technical College! She was kind enough to make room in her hectic schedule and answer a couple of questions for me. Here is our chat.

**Fox Times — Thank you for taking the time to do this! I appreciate it.**

Krista — You’re most welcome, Rich. I’m excited to take a stroll down memory lane!

**Did you participate in any clubs/organizations when you were a student? If so, which ones? If not, why not?**

I attended Fox Valley Technical College from 1999 to 2001 and was very actively involved. While visiting campus for my orientation, I lost my purse and was directed to lost and found located in Student Life. It was my first introduction to the student engagement part of college life. When I was awarded work-study dollars, I saw a position posting within Student Life and knew I wanted to interview for the opportunity. I did, received the job, and jumped head first into every part of campus life!

In addition to work-study, I interned with Student Life selling advertising space for the student planner and served in the following student clubs:

- Business Professionals of America, Secretary
- I also participated in BPA competitions and achieved the following awards:
  - 1st Place Office Assistant, state level
  - 1st Place Keyboarding, state level
  - 2nd Place Keyboarding, national level
  - 3rd Place Office Assistant, national level
- Phi Theta Kappa, Co-chair
- Outrageous Promotions and Programming (programming board), Co-chair
- Student Advisory Committee, Co-chair
- Student Ambassador

**If you could go back in time to the day you started at FVTC, what is the one thing you would tell yourself?**

When I was about halfway through my program at FVTC, a fortune teller came to campus. Not really believing in “gift of sight” but playing along, I asked her to tell me my “career future.” She told me what I was going to school for was not necessarily what I wanted to do for my career, but what I was doing in school was what I wanted and would be my career. Prior to her “reading,” I knew I wanted to have a career in student activities, and I was excited for her to “confirm” it was something I wanted without knowing anything about me. Little did I know the prediction would come true thirteen years later!

**Which program did you choose while at FVTC, and why that one?**

I spent my final two years of high school working as an office assistant for my grandparents’ business. I was proficient with a computer and enjoyed the level of detail and high organization skills the work required. The Administrative Assistant Associate Degree seemed a natural fit with my skills, so I applied and was accepted.

After my first year in the program, I found I enjoyed interactions with students in the Marketing Associate Degree, so I dual enrolled for my final year and half, ultimately earning both degrees. Not a single day goes by where I don’t apply at least one skill gained from either program.

**You are the Student Life Activities and Event Specialist at Northcentral Technical College. What does that include?**

First and foremost, I serve as a resource for students, offering encouragement and guidance. It’s the best part of my job!
To tell you everything else for which I’m responsible would take up more space than you likely have available, so I’ll stick with the highlights.

Coordinate campus events and activities, including booking talent, reserving hotel (if necessary), scheduling NTC facilities and set up, event promotion, event set up, event tear down, etc.

Co-advise Student Government Association (SGA) and its Executive Board.

Serve as a resource for student clubs and club advisors and review all club-proposed fundraisers, community service, field trips, and other activities.

Direct the work for student workers within Student Life.

Co-coordinate fall and spring commencement ceremonies, including the facility logistics, cap/gown order and distribution for students and employees, line up, day of set up, etc.

Plan the end of year student recognition banquet and all related logistics.

What do you like best about your work?

My favorite part of my job is helping students discover who they are and being a part of their development. I am who I am today because of Vicky Barke, who served as my supervisor and advisor while I was at FVTC. In my role at NTC, I have the opportunity to give back to so many others the way Vicky gave to me. It’s a privilege to see students come out of their shells, reach toward their goals, and ultimately achieve their dreams.

The Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis (I have one full book of the entire collection so I’m counting this as only one book) — Because of the characters, the variety of their adventures, their faith, and the underlying magic woven into every page.

Mr. Penumbra’s 24-Hour Bookstore by Robin Sloan — This is a booklover’s book and one of my recent favorites.

The Night Circus by Erin Morgenstern — There’s magic and whimsy and romance and just everything I love about a good read.

First Grave on the Right by Darynda Jones — Every favorite books collection deserves to include a snarky, sassy, paranormal adventure!

Can You Keep a Secret? by Sophie Kinsella — This book is laugh-out-loud funny and laughter is always welcome.

Easy question for you... How much cooler is FVTC than NTC? ☺

I feel fortunate enough to call not one, but two, colleges home. I love both in different ways. FVTC introduced me into the world of campus engagement and event planning and NTC has let me fill that role within my career. Both colleges have been instrumental in my development as a person and both will forever hold places in my heart.

Thank you again Krista! Have a great holiday.

My pleasure. You as well!
Cheers — To the impending end of this fall semester! My goodness, this one has been rough!

Cheers — To YOUR Lady Foxes basketball team tearing it up this season! My goodness, ladies shooting out the lights and stomping fools.

Cheers — To the hashtag #walmartfights. I can entertain myself for hours just watching the posts under that hashtag. Do yourself a favor and check those out.

Jeers — For any retail establishment that opens on Thanksgiving and holidays in general. I will forever boycott each and every one of your stores due to your incompetence and insensitivity towards your employees.

Jeers — For the Texas School Board in charge of approving textbooks. Here is a tip for you: Moses was NOT a founding father of the United States. Idiocracy is another step closer because of you yokels.

Jeers — To the arbitrator allowing Ray Rice to play again. Shame on you.

If you wish to submit a cheer or jeer, send an email to fvtcfoxtimes@gmail.com with cheers and jeers in the subject line.
It’s possible...

Community First helped us buy our first home!
Austin & Genevieve Faucher
Member/Owners

...to live Your Dream!

Pat and Erica at Community First’s FVTC branch are here to help student and staff financial dreams become reality by refinancing high rate credit cards, car and home loans from other financials to better loans with Community First.

We’re on a mission to help you save! Just stop by our Appleton Campus branch at Entrance 10 today to see how we can save you on your car loan, home loan and even credit cards!

Bring all your loans to Community First: Mortgage • Car Loans • Credit Cards Boat, RV, Motorcycle; even your ATV loan!

Now it’s your turn to save!

Visit our full service branch on FVTC Appleton campus at Entrance 10
Convenient on-campus location open 48 hours every week.
Mon- Thurs 8:00 am - 6:00 pm • Fri 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Author Chat with Mark Paxson

By Rich Weber

Here is an interview from my personal archives. The month of November is a busy one with 99% of writers participating in National Novel Writing Month, and I wasn’t able to connect with any of them for a live interview this month. Following, you will find a pair of interviews; the first one with Mark Paxson, a gifted writer and all-around nice guy. The second interview is with Sreejit Poole, a man whose way with poetry and words is truly a gift from on high. Here we go.

Mark — Hopefully, Rich will allow me the opportunity to do this. A bit of an introduction to my answers to his questions. I received the questions that follow and skimmed them. I was impressed. The one other blog “interview” I participated in was a set of canned questions that every interview subject received. Questions that made clear that the “interviewer” had not actually read any of my works.

Rich presented a set of questions that actually draw from the stories and novels I’ve published. No, not all of the questions, but enough for me to feel confident that the interviewer has actually read my works and based his questions on what I’ve done, rather than just setting out with a pre-formed set of questions he asks every writer/author. So, Rich, thank you. I am honored to see what I can do with your questions. And, trust me, there are some doozies here.

Fox Times — Thank you very much Mark. First question. If you could have a literary career in the mold of a current author, living or dead, who would it be, and why?

This is really a tough question. I think of Harper Lee, who wrote To Kill a Mockingbird, and then apparently never wrote or published anything ever again. A novel that is considered by many to be the greatest American novel of the 20th century.

Then I think of somebody like Stephen King, who has made gazillions of dollars churning out novel after novel, story after story, movie after movie.

And I realize as I write this that the dream author life for me is somewhere in between those two. I’m going to settle on Wally Lamb. Generally popular and critically acclaimed novels every few years. Enough income to live comfortably and live the writing life, while writing stories that are true to him.

What have you found to be your biggest struggle as an author?

Time. It’s just a simple fact. I don’t have the time to write that I would like to have. I am the sole support for my family. I need to keep that soul-sucking day job to pay the bills and put food on the table. Fortunately, there is a light at the end of the tunnel as my oldest has left for his first year of college and my youngest is only two years away from that. There’s a glimmer there. Of a moment that is coming very close, when the soul-sucking day job will no longer be necessary. When I won’t have less than an hour in the evenings to try to write. When I’ll have vast stretches when I can be ... a writer.

I enjoyed reading One Night In Bridgeport, and recently read that you loosely based it on the Kobe Bryant trial. Was this an idea that had been kicking around awhile? Or did the trial provide the spark?

I wish I could remember it well enough to answer this question. It was ten years ago and I struggle with what happened and what I thought last week. I don’t think it was an idea that had been kicking around. What had been kicking around for a long time was that I wanted to write a novel. I think, if I had to guess and put money on it, that the Kobe trial was a sudden inspiration at a moment when my mind was opened to the possibilities.

It may sound metaphysical or spiritual or something like that, but there was this moment, after years of struggling with the idea of how to actually write a story, when ... well the clouds parted, the light was not an oncoming train ... the story was suddenly laid out before me.

I went home that night and started writing. Ten years later, I’m still at it.

Which of your published works are you most proud of? Why?

Another question that produces a number of different thoughts. At the moment, I’m proud of Weed Therapy because of the reaction it has produced in the people who have read it and reviewed it. I have always believed that many, if not most, authors write stories for the sake of writing stories. It was why I hated high school English — not every short story and poem had to have a “point.” This is a belief I have been pushing for years. We write stories to write stories.

And, then I wrote Weed Therapy. That readers are talking about it with their spouses, their loved ones, their friends, etc. Well, that just thrills me. Because there is definitely a point to the story. There is definitely a message. That people are getting that just amazes me. The other reason why I am proud of Weed Therapy is that it was, I believe, the first time where I identified that there can be a rhythm and flow to a story and I think I held on to that throughout the telling of the story.

But, here’s another response to the question. The stories that I am most proud of are the ones that have as little of me as possible. Which is very much not the case with Weed Therapy. I think of The Smoker’s Club, which is in one of my short story collections and was initially
published by The First Line. There isn’t a whole lot of me in that story. There are others like that — when I can write a compelling story that doesn’t invoke my own memories, my own experiences, and my own life. I love those stories because they are truly creative. Truly an invention.

**Shady Acres and Other Stories was another one I really liked. Mike is a very deep character that connects to the reader immediately. Did you draw inspiration for the character from anyone in particular, or was he, as they say, “simply drawn that way”?**

*Shady Acres is actually a great example of what I describe in the previous question. I hate old folks’ homes and do everything I can to stay out of them. As a result, the characters and story lines in Shady Acres are entirely a creation of my imagination. Mike wasn’t inspired by anybody that I know. He was “simply drawn that way.” As were all of the characters in the story. You want a story that I’m proud of? Shady Acres may just be the best example of what I’m proud of when I think about what I’ve written.*

**Do you have any projects you are excited/passionate about, yet are unable to finish them?**

I’m sighing here. The answer is most definitely yes. I have two-half completed novels that I am incredibly excited about. I think they are the type of stories that could take me over the edge, get me the exposure I’d like to have. But, where’s the time?

The first of these is *The Irreparable Past*. A story about a man who has lived a life of mistakes and regrets that have left him living a life alone on the shores of Sullivan Bay. The story chronicles the events of his life that led him to his lonely existence — a lonely existence that he actually craves. Going back to that rhythm and flow issue, I am trying to maintain a certain poetic approach to this story. The result is that each part, each chapter, requires much more attention than I have ever given to anything else I’ve written. It’s very much a work in progress, a labor of love, a story that I want to make sure I tell the right way.

The second is *Terror in a Small Town*. I began writing this in the final years of the George W. Bush administration, thinking that it would be a timely idea. Back then, I thought of it as being a story about a group of radical Islamic terrorists who launch a series of random attacks through the United States. Those attacks would culminate in a large scale attack and hostage situation in a small town in the foothills of California. I got to a point where the details of the story just got so heavy. I really couldn’t keep going with it, but I know this is a story that could be incredible.

Since then, with the changing times in this country, I’ve decided to switch the terrorist group to a group of home-grown, right-wing, anti-tax wackos who decide they want to try to initiate the revolution needed to overthrow the government and create the kind of nation they believe America should be. But, again, where is the time? It’s on the back burner. But I can’t wait until I finally have the time to get to it and get it done.

**What do you enjoy most about the writing process? What do you dislike most?**

I just like to write. As you can tell from my other answers, one of the things about me is that I don’t stick to a genre. *Weed Therapy* and *The Irreparable Past* are stories that are decidedly different from *One Night in Bridgeport* and *Terror in a Small Town*. I love that. The idea that I could sit down and write something completely different than what I’ve written before.

What do I dislike the most? Editing. Just leave me alone with that. You know. Just enough with the editing. I don’t want to go there. Hate ... it.

**As an author of many books, how many of your preconceived notions about writing have come true? How many have fizzled into thin air?**

I don’t know what preconceived notions I may have had, so I really don’t have an answer to this question. When I started *Bridgeport*, I just wanted to see if I could write a novel. I had no preconceived notion about what would happen. I just wanted to see if I could do it. I think I’m still in that space. With every story I start, I just want to see if I can do it. Can I go from a beginning, through

*continued on next page*
a middle, and get to an end and tell a story? Tell a story. That’s it.

**Which fictional character (of any time/genre) would you most like to meet? What would you ask them?**

This is one of those questions I completely suck at because it requires me to remember characters and things about them. I used to coach baseball with a couple of guys who could recite line after line from movie after movie and I marveled that they could do that. I can’t. I’ve been telling my kids for years when they ask me if I remember something from a book they liked, “you know I don’t. As soon as I’m done with that book and start reading the next book, I no longer remember the details.”

That said, I’m going with this. I want to meet Atticus Finch and ask him how he could have remained idealistic about the American judicial system in the face of the pervasive racism that existed at the time.

**Has there been a character you wrote that you intended to elicit a specific reaction, and received the exact opposite reaction?**

All I can think of here relates to Weed Therapy. One of my concerns was that the story was written entirely from the man’s perspective in a way that made his wife look like a total disinterested weak woman. I knew this was a reality with the finished product, but this was the story I wanted to write. I thought people would dislike Kelvin’s wife, Holly. And the first review that was posted was by somebody who was sympathetic to Holly. And others have followed with similar impressions. Well, wow, I wasn’t expecting that.

**How do you write? Pen and paper? Pencil? Computer, typewriter, or cave drawings?**

My laptop 99% of the time. Although, I think I want to try cave drawings.

**You are lost at sea and find an island refuge. Miraculously, your five favorite books are there. What are they and why those?**

*The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini – When I started this book, I was about to put it away after the first 20 pages or so. I kept on and was rewarded with one of the most riveting stories I’ve ever read.

*Everything Matters* by Ron Currie, Jr. – I won’t say anything more than that I believe this is a story that I believe everybody should read. There is a twist about two-thirds of the way through that turns the world upside down and makes you think about what really matters. Everything.

*This Much I Know is True* by Wally Lamb – I just loved this story. So intense, so real.

*The Shining* by Stephen King – Because I’ll need to be scared every now and then.

*The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein – Narrated by a dog, there are these observations of human nature, human relationships, and life that are unlike anything else you’ll read.

**Each one of your books is rated higher than the next one. What do you attribute this to? Your growth as a writer, or the fans that you have built up continuing with you each time you publish?**

I think it’s both, although I’d like to think that it’s primarily my growth as a writer. I think of Bridgeport as my novice effort. Weed Therapy is my apprentice effort. The next novel will be my journeyman effort. And finally, with novel #4 or #5, I will hit the point where I am a master craftsman. We’ll see if I can live up to that. (I would like to think that Weed Therapy may have skipped a couple of steps.)

**Last question Mark. What is one thing you would change about self-publishing if you could, and why?**

I’ve blogged about this a number of times and as I have always said when I do so ... my self-published efforts have included typos. Bridgeport had about twenty spread out over a little more than 300 pages. So, about one typo every 15 pages. Weed Therapy seems to have about half the number of typos. So, yes, I have typos in my published works. At the same time, my covers, primarily for the short story collections, have not been of the best quality. So, I’m being upfront. I have failed at what I’m about to say.

It’s about quality, folks. Quality in presentation, quality in cover, quality in the text, and quality of everything. Marketing, promotion, attitude. Quality. Quality. Quality. Fix the typos. Create a cover that looks as much like a traditionally published book as possible. Do whatever you can to create the best product possible. And be willing to accept valid criticism and constantly improve the product.

We owe it to ourselves and to the others in the self-publishing world. Quality. Make it happen.

**Thank you very much for taking the time to do this Mark. I know time is a premium for you. Have a great day!**

Rich, it is my honor and pleasure. These were some incredible and thought-provoking questions that have really made me think about why I do what I do. Thank you.
Recipe of the Month

By Patty Jacob

Chicken Noodle soup

Usually at Christmas time you think of all your favorite Christmas treats, but what I think of after a long day of Christmas shopping or baking is a nice hot bowl of homemade “Chicken Noodle” soup. When I make my soup I make a big kettle of it and then I can freeze some for those days when I am feeling under the weather or too warm me up after a day out in the cold weather. Chicken Noodle soup always makes you feel so much better, so come on and make some today. (Don’t forget to freeze some for later).

Ingredients:

• 1 onion, chopped
• 3 carrots, sliced
• 2 stalks celery, sliced
• 6 cups water
• 1 chicken, quartered
• 1 cup small egg noodles
• Salt
• Pepper

Directions:

In a large kettle add water, onion, celery, and chicken. Simmer until chicken is done. Remove the chicken and let it cool. Remove the meat from the bones and shred or pull apart. Put shredded chicken back into the kettle and then add your carrots and cover with water. Add salt and pepper to taste and let simmer for about an hour until carrots are done. In separate kettle cook your noodles and then rinse in cold water and then add them to your soup. Cook for another 20 minutes.
Fox Times Interview – Marissa Hunnel
By Rich Weber

Recently I had the pleasure of interviewing Marissa Hunnel, the Wellness Coordinator for Fox Valley Technical College. She is excited to be here, and we are lucky to have her. Let’s get to our chat.

Fox Times — Hi Marissa. For those students who do not know, who are you and what is your role here at FVTC?

Marissa — My name is Marissa Hunnel, and I am the Wellness Coordinator for FVTC. You can find me in the Wellness (Fitness) Center during the academic school year.

Do you have any new and exciting plans for the fitness center? If so, what are they? Or are they secret?

Some of the plans for the Wellness Center are secret, others are well known. The Wellness Center expansion has been approved and is in the planning stages, with possible renovation happening in the summer of 2015.

The planning and proposal phase is happening for outdoor fitness equipment on the nature trails.

I am instituting new wellness programs, including a semester-long, well-rounded program. There are many things to be excited about and involved in with the Wellness Center in 2014-2015.

What are the hours for the fitness center?

7:00am-9:00pm Monday thru Friday, 8:00am-12:15pm on Saturdays. I am typically on campus and in the facility between 10:00am and 3:00pm.

Are there any classes or groups that students and staff can join to advance their better fitness levels?

Yes there is, and I am very excited about it. There will be group fitness classes, yoga, and cardio kickboxing. Check Student Life for schedule. Broken up into two 6-week sessions. Students and staff can sign up in Student Life or stop into the Wellness Center and sign up.

Every Monday thru Friday at noon, there will be a 10-15 minute targeted workout. Core Galore, Stress Relief, Calorie Cutter, and other such workouts.

10 minute total body sessions will be held in the Wellness Center as well. Check with me or stop in for the scheduling.

For those who have not been to the fitness center yet, where are you located?

Room E170. Closest entrance is entrance 6 on the south side of the building. Take the first hallway to the left and here we are!

Some people may be hesitant to come to the fitness center because they are scared of being made fun of or laughed at. What would you say to them to help them overcome that fear?

There is nothing to fear in coming to the FVTC Wellness Center. This is a judgment free zone, where I cultivate an atmosphere and attitude of group activities and of belonging. This center is for the students and staff to feel comfortable in and pursue their fitness goals.

What are you most looking forward to with the spring semester?

I am looking forward to beginning the relationships with students and staff and seeing them progress in their wellness journeys. Learning and growing in the position and helping our students achieve their wellness goals.

Thank you for sitting down with me Marissa. I appreciate it!

It was a pleasure, thank you for having me!

I am including the flyer from the Wellness Center for those of you who haven’t seen it. Take advantage of the services; they are here to help.

Fox Times is looking for photographers willing to take random pictures, attend sport events, and attend school events – email foxtimes@fvtc.edu if interested!
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR SERVICES!

What can the Wellness Coordinator help students with?

“Good question! My ultimate goal is to help you reach your personal wellness goals in mind, body and spirit. There is no cookie cutter mold that works for everyone so I will work with you to find what best fits you personally. Maybe your goal is a physical change or stress management or maybe you just feel unfulfilled and don’t know what is missing in your life. I am here to be your health coach, encourager and friend as you go through your own amazing transformation to become your ideal self whatever that may look like.”

~ Marissa Hunnel CWWS, CWP-Wellness Coordinator

In the Wellness Center we offer a variety of FREE services to you as students:

1. **Wellness Incentive Programs** – Participate in a variety of year round wellness programs to help you stay on track and upon completion your name will be entered for a chance to win all types of prizes including FVTC Wellness Center branded merchandise, Free Smoothies and up to $50 gift cards!

2. **Group Exercise Classes** – Check out our current group fitness schedule in the Wellness Center to find a time that works for you. Classes range from 10 minutes to 1 hour and are for ALL fitness levels!

3. **15 Minute Individual Consultations** – Come to the Wellness Center desk to schedule your consultation when it works for you. We offer a variety of consultation topics:
   - Fitness Assessment – You will undergo a test which includes 1 minute of pushups, 1 minute of sit up, 3 minute step test and a flexibility test to give you a starting point. Each month come back and retake this assessment to track your progress!
   - Body Measurement Assessment – During this appointment we will record all your current body stats including: height, weight, inches, body fat and blood pressure. Knowing your numbers is a powerful tool and a GREAT way to start any program.
   - Nutrition Assessment – Come to this appointment with a food log with at least a 3 day food record log and together we will create a realistic eating plan.
   - Equipment Orientation – During this meeting we will show you around the Wellness Center and teach you how to use the equipment, show you proper form while using the machines and set you up for success during your workouts.

If you have any questions about services offered please see Marissa Hunnel, our Wellness Coordinator.
A while back I was able to interview a great poet and writer, Sreejit Poole. Sreejit is a busy and interesting fellow with amazing poetry you should check out yesterday. I have read his poetry collections several times and I learn something new each and every time. Here is our chat.

Fox Times — Thank you very much for taking the time to do this Sreejit, I appreciate it a great deal.

Sreejit — My pleasure, I’m glad we could connect.

What have you found to be your biggest struggle as an author?

Ideas! They don’t come when you want them, they come when they’re good and ready! Mostly, I just need a first line or a first sentence and the rest of the poem or story falls into place. But, just because I make the time doesn’t mean I’m going to get anything done. I usually get most of my ideas while cooking (I’m a cook at Amritapuri, the headquarters ashram of Mata Amritanandamayi (Amma) in India). I’ve now gotten into the habit of bringing my computer to the kitchen with me so I don’t have to keep rewriting all of the slips of paper I used to collect while on the job. But that isn’t always practical, so, sometimes I just have a hook repeating itself in my head until I can get back to my room.

Which fictional character (of any time/genre) would you most like to meet? What would you ask them?

Probably the most interesting fictional character is Mother Abigail from The Stand, by Stephen King. This book rocked my world for a couple of years when I was a kid. I was seriously planning a cross country, on foot trip, for many years. I wouldn’t mind picking Mother Abigail’s brain on how she brought the survivors together.

What do you enjoy most about the writing process?

Seeing an idea turn from nothing into something that is getting even me pumped up. Especially with writing poetry, it won’t be there, it won’t be there, and then suddenly, you’re bobbing your head, swaying in your seat, smiling, and it’s all grooving. That’s when I know it’s ready — when even I am excited reading my own writing.

When did you decide to be a writer? And why?

I studied philosophy in college. While studying, I thought, there are only two things you can do with a philosophy degree — be a teacher or a writer. By the time I finished with my BA, I just couldn’t take it any longer, I was done with school. I couldn’t consider getting my Masters to become a teacher, so I started writing. That’s when I wrote Of Mind Or Matter. It was purely to say, ‘yes, I did indeed do something with my philosophy degree!’

But, even before this I was always interested in music, and writing songs. I learned piano, guitar and saxophone (in middle school) and so, would write lyrics to accompany my songs.

Your poetry strikes a chord with many people. Much of it is infused with power and elicits a variety of images. When did you discover that you had this talent? Why did you begin writing poetry?

I kept Of Mind Or Matter on an email file for about ten years, only showing it to friends that were interested. Then one friend, about two years ago, turned me on to the world of self-publishing. So, of course I published it and nothing happened. Then another friend told me I should start a blog to support the book. So, I started my blog and put an ad up on it for the book. Nothing happened. Then he told me I had to write something on it or no one would ever come by.

Around this time, my friends and I used to play some song writing games, where we would each write a verse and then everyone would separately come up with their own tunes to the full song. In this mood I thought that I’ll just write a catchy verse and throw it up there. I put it up on my blog and instantly got some good feedback. That was it — I was hooked on writing poems ever since. That first poem was called Gypsy Soup, the name taken from a recipe which was sitting in front of me at the time.

Of Mind Or Matter is a well written and enjoyable ride through different emotions and confusion that most of us face. Many of the characters are deeply developed, and surprises abound (at least for me) throughout the book. When you started writing it, did it turn out the
way you envisioned? Or did the project take on a life of its own?

I had no idea where I was going when I started the book. I wanted to infuse some philosophical principles from school, so I just started writing with that in mind. The early versions were very heavy on the philosophy lingo, but later I realized it was the story itself that was interesting, not the ideas I was trying to force along. Little by little I dropped the philosophy and developed the story.

The character of Ballard Davies is precisely constructed and as a reader you get the feeling of truth from him. How much of you is in the character of Ballard if any at all? What inspired you to bring him to life?

Well, I think there is a little of me in all the characters, but with Ballard it is mostly the internal dialogue, the moaning, groaning and woe is me-ing. I tried to leave him a bit empty so that I could fill him with everything he was learning from the people around him. The story itself is completely fictional, though I've had friends who insisted I take them to Blue Bells, believing I couldn't have just made it up.

I have a number of favorite poems from your collections, The Politician’s Smile (The Epic Failure Of Mortality To Mean Something) and All The Coolest Parts (Dreams Are The Wisdom Of Kings) being chief among them. What can you tell us about these two poems?

Since I try to write something every day, I had to go back and check which poem this was — The Politician’s Smile. I had to start laughing as I read it. I guess I was really on a roll that day. Actually, the news had just come out about the NSA getting records from Google and Verizon, and I was just shocked. Of course, we all suspect these things are going on but the sheer magnitude of the information that the NSA is collecting had my senses reeling. Basically, most of the poem is about the fact that we can’t really believe anything politicians say any more. They know we don’t believe them and so they don’t even try to stretch the truth they just blatantly make up facts. And things which would have never been talked about openly when I was a kid, like assassinations and drone strikes, in today’s world we don’t even try to cover up.

And you really have to think we don’t even care. I read an article the other day, sorry I’ve lost track of it, it said the amount of damage we’ve done to the world at this point can’t be taken back. Really, it’s just a matter of time before we’ve made the world uninhabitable for ourselves. And do you think we would change with that knowledge? Of course not. We don’t really care what is awaiting our children or their children; we only care about our own comfortable lifestyle, and keeping it up at any price. Do you really think we would give up our cars if it meant that was the only way we were going to save the world? That is not the world we are living in. We can’t roll it back, we are forging ahead full speed to our own end.

On a lighter note, the other poem, All the Coolest Parts, was about me just wishing I had studied trumpet in school instead of the saxophone. When I was in sixth grade we had to pick an instrument and I picked saxophone thinking it would make me cool. But by seventh and eighth grade band class I realized the trumpet definitely had all the coolest parts!

If you could have a Literary career in the mold of a current author, living or dead, who would it be, and why?

Maybe Kahlil Gibran. (Is that current enough?) Not just a poet, but an artist, and mixed a mystical world view into his work. I love music, I love cooking, and I love working for the Ashram where I live. I wouldn’t want to be only a writer, although I wouldn’t want to ever stop writing either.

As an author of several books, how many of your preconceived notions about writing have come true? How many have fizzled into thin air?

Well, like many, I originally only thought you had to create great content and then you would be successful. After finishing Of Mind Or Matter and seeing that really was not even half the work, but the greater part of the job was selling yourself, I basically wrapped it up for 10 years and didn’t consider it again until I found out about self-publishing. I’m not a sells man. I couldn’t see selling myself as my main occupation. I love the creative process, and I love the performance, but the business end is where most of us fall off the tracks.

Last question Sreejit, and again, thank you so much for taking the time to do this. If you could change one thing about the Publishing/Self-Publishing world, what would it be and why?

I’m not sure it’s about changing something so much as organizing. It’s basically what you’re doing at the Literary Syndicate — promoting indie authors and bringing all the resources together to try and compete with the big dogs. That’s why I want to thank You so much for having me here!
PHOTOS FROM INTERNATIONAL WEEK
December Flash Fiction Challenge
By Rich Weber

Welcome to the Flash Fiction Challenge!

There has been some question as to who can enter the challenge. The answer is simple. Anyone, Staff, Students, Faculty, Family members of Staff, Students, Faculty, etc. Do you have a pulse and breathe? Then you can enter! You might win a prize!

Flash Fiction is typically 500-1,000 words in length, for these challenges, we are looking for 500-600 word maximum. We are looking for as many of you, the student body, to submit your stories. The challenge is that I will give you a sentence, and you will need to create a story with that sentence as inspiration.

The sentence (or prompt) this month is,

Jennifer Aniston and a Leprechaun walk into a bar...

Use your imaginations and have fun with it!

Submit your Flash Fiction stories to fvtcfoxtimes@gmail.com with Flash Fiction in the subject line.

The Fox Times team will select the three best stories among the submissions for publication in the next edition of Fox Times! All submissions must be the submitter’s original, unpublished work and sent in for inclusion in the February issue no later than January 20th, 2015. Anything received after that date will be included in following issues.

*Stories will be judged based on grammar, spelling, typos and adherence to the challenge parameters. Any questions, let us know!

December Poetry Challenge

Welcome to the Poetry Challenge! Poetry is a fun, creative, and exciting endeavor for millions of people across the globe.

A Vampire, an Old Shoe, and Las Vegas

Please submit your original, unpublished work to fvtcfoxtimes@gmail.com with Poetry Challenge in the subject line by January 20th, 2015 for inclusion in the February issue. Any submissions after that date will appear in following issues. Thank you for participating!
Interview with Chris Czarnik
By Rich Weber

Chris Czarnik is the Manager of Employment Connections, formerly Student Employment Services. An interesting fellow and one every student should meet and know. Why? His job is to insure you do everything the correct way to get a job.

You have job searching/resume/interview questions? Chris and his team have the answers. A sad fact is, less than 1 out of 3 students ever step foot into Employment Connections. December Graduates, this interview is especially for you.

Fox Times — For those who do not know you, who are you and what is your role here at Fox Valley Technical College?

Chris — My name is Chris Czarnik and I am the new, as of three months ago, Manager of Employment Connections. We help prepare students for their job search and help connect students with employers who are hiring.

Student Employment Services is now called Employment Connections, what spurred the change?

Part of it is, Student Employment Services, as a name had been around for 25+ years. Bruce Weiland had run the department for most of that time, and built a tremendous department which was extremely effective. Unfortunately, many students never walked through our doors, those who did thought this is where you went to apply for work study or jobs within Fox Valley Tech.

I think people were so focused on their studies and lives and just walked on by. We had become part of the background. I myself graduated from FVTC 31 years ago and didn’t step into the office. It never occurred to me they were here to help with job search. A change in name and scenery makes someone stop and say “What is this?” and if we can get them in the door, our work will speak for itself.

I have read recently that many companies and hiring managers are making blanket policies which if you are unemployed you need not apply. What is your opinion on this type of thinking and how prevalent it is?

Number one, I think it is fundamentally false, and very simply bad news sells newspapers. We have had over 1,300 people complete the Job Seekers Network Program in the last five years and find jobs. If things were as bad as the news says it is, those 1,300 wouldn’t have been able to find work.

If there was an article saying everyone was happy, healthy, and working their dream job... Well, the article probably wouldn’t sell many papers.

According to Reference USA, a research tool we can use here in Employment Connections, there are over 34,500 organizations within 35 miles of Fox Valley Tech. The average person couldn’t name 100 of them. We can help them get in touch with so many opportunities, we just need the chance.

The economic downturn in 2007 through now is still impacting job prospects and hiring. What can students do to separate themselves stand out in a pile of 1,000 applications?

People’s mindset from an unemployment standpoint is still back in 2010. “Oh gosh, it is going to be so hard to find a job.” In 2010, yes it was difficult to find work, yes there was a tremendous job shortage. Today it isn’t like that.

We sent out an email saying we were having a manufacturing job fair and received over 90 responses from companies who are desperate for employees in just about every aspect. Machining, accounting, administrative, you name it, they wanted it. There is a real talent shortage right now.

There are two reasons people stay unemployed. First, the employers can’t find you. Second, there isn’t anything to differentiate them from another applicant. They took the same classes, same tests, have the same degree. What separates them?

Say for example, one of them participated in extra-curricular activities. The Fox Times is a great example of this. You would stand out compared to another graduate with the same resume because you have additional experience. FVTC understands this, which is why there are so many clubs and organizations offered to help differentiate you.

What types of services are offered within Employment Connections?

I am so happy you asked. People think all we do is resumes and cover letters. We are excellent at doing these. But,
we do so much more. Connections to employers, mock interviews, job fairs, TechConnect, we post 90 jobs a week just in this area on TechConnect.

**What is TechConnect?**

TechConnect is a partnership with all 16 Technical Colleges in Wisconsin, and employers can post jobs directly to TechConnect. We code each job to whatever programs you are in. For example, you are in Auto Body, the computer emails any jobs which are posted in the field to you. You can register for TechConnect the day you start in school.

**Many programs require students to complete an internship prior to graduating. Can students come through Employment Connections to find internships?**

Of course, many students find their own internships and we can help with that. TechConnect is a great tool for that.

**What is the difference between TechConnect and JobSeekers Network?**

TechConnect is a direct posting system employers can post jobs onto for people registered in the Technical College system.

Job Seekers Network (JSN) is available to the public. A step by step, day by day process. We go after the 75% of jobs which are never posted anywhere other than word of mouth. Right now in JSN the average person is 45-60 years old, and is getting job search help from a network of job seekers. The point of this is to talk with people that are already working in your field and know what it takes. We have 1,300 “graduates” of the class who are more than willing to help others the same way they were helped. The class is free and available to everyone without pre-registration on Mondays at 11:30am in room A162.

**Do you advise using LinkedIn for job searching and networking?**

LinkedIn is the biggest advance in job searching/networking in 20 years. We have a group for the Job Seekers Network with all 1,300 people on LinkedIn. It is an incredibly engaged group.

Fox Valley Technical College supported Job Seekers Network as a free program, a no cost program available to the public at a time when they needed it the most. At the depths, the worst part of the great recession this College opened its doors to everyone and said let us help you with your job search. I am pretty proud to work for an organization which cared about people so much. Now those who have completed the program want to give back.

**From what you are seeing, are you seeing markets begin to improve and more people being hired?**

I have to stop you there, your question lets me know how much people are still in the bad news mind set. We have less than 6% unemployment. We are at the highest levels of employment since before 2007. You have to go back to the early 2000’s to find this level of employment.

Companies are calling here daily starving for employees, asking for as much talent as they can get. They need Welders, Manufacturing, Dental Assistants, etc. The perception is so skewed from the reality. There are 3.3 million unfilled jobs in this country right now. These are quality jobs that need talented people. We can help students find these jobs.

**The media is doing a disservice to the general public by focusing on the glass being half empty?**

Here is a point of reference for you. If a company lays off 30 people, where is it going to be placed? In the newspaper above the fold, the top story flashed across your television, you’ll hear it on the radio. How about the four companies that hired 10 each? I bet you won’t hear a single peep about them.

Example for you, Steinhafeil’s is a great company to work for, with excellent pay and benefits who is looking for a number of people to staff a brand new store. They can’t find enough people to fill those positions.

You can’t drive a mile in Appleton without seeing “Now Hiring”. What does this mean? The minimum wage jobs are difficult to fill because we have close to full employment and opportunities abound for better jobs for those who can find them. Again, we can help you with that.

**Your book, The Human Search Engine, is highly rated across all platforms. What is the best thing you experienced, or you took away from the experience?**

Great question, I am very proud of the book, co-authored with Chris Jossart. The best thing I think is when Representative Reid Ribble obtained 435 copies of the book and personally gave them to all of the members of the House of Representatives in Washington D.C. He recognized it as a model for job search across the nation.

But politicians can’t read...

*Laughs* Ouch, I won’t touch that one.

The Job Seekers Network demonstrates the methods within the book work.

**Thank you Chris for the time. I think this is a fantastic amount of information for everyone within the college.**

My pleasure, I am glad you thought enough of us to include me in the issue. As you can tell, I am passionate about this and we are willing and able to help.
Comics by Phil Hands

1) Merry Christmas, 2) Noel, 3) Santa Claus, 4) Rudolph, 5) Presents, 6) Candy Cane, 7) Snowflakes, 8) Christmas Tree, 9) Stocking

Answers for Word Scramble from page 9.
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