

# Student News

Sauk Valley  
Community College

volume 1 • issue 2

SAUK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE • student newspaper • OCTOBER • 2016

## YMCA And SVCC Partner For Fitness Center

Nicholas Olds

For over a month now, SVCC students have noticed a large black tarp of construction on the river side of the building. While the noise is somewhat quieter than it was over the summer, it is still an eye sore to the student body.

Some students aren't even sure what is being built there. For those who don't know, a new fitness facility is being built—with a catch: The YMCA will now be taking over fitness at SVCC. There are some positives and some negatives to this however.

The equipment is expected to be a large upgrade to the old fitness center that is smaller than almost every classroom at the college. Also, the new public facility should bring in public revenue including students since YMCA members will now come out to Sauk to work out.

But, one true negative of the whole thing is that students are not sure whether  
*continued on page SVCC-5*



Malcolm Mabry goes soaring for a dunk during skills practice with the team. Mabry is a sophomore studying physical education. More on SVCC sports, page SVCC-4.

Photo by Ross Haley

## Logo And Name Contest Extended

Tom Irish  
Faculty Advisor

The naming of the Sauk Valley Community College newspaper and logo design has been extended to the end of the day Oct. 14.

"This extension will allow more students to participate in the contest," Tom Irish, Faculty advisor to the newspaper, said on the eve of the contest deadline last week. He explained that many students have just become aware of the publication as Fall classes began in mid-August.

Irish said that the design is to be "tasteful and represent the college in a professional and positive manner."

Entries are to be emailed to Tom Irish at studentnewspaper@svcc.edu. Submissions need to be high resolution .jpg or vector file such as an .eps file in full color with an approximate 4:1 size ration. Name the email "newspaper contest."

The incentive to enter the contest is twofold. Winners of the contests will receive prizes and each person winning will be acknowledged with a feature in the Sauk Valley Community College newspaper.

The prizes for winning are as follows:

First prize for the name of the newspaper is a \$50 Applebee's gift certificate; second place gets \$25. Prizes for first and second place for the logo are a \$50 Applebee's gift certificate and \$25 respectively.

Address any questions about the newspaper or the newspaper contest to Tom Irish at studentnewspaper@svcc.edu.

## Library And Learning Assistance Center Merge

Claire Fetting

During the summer semester, the library and Sauk Valley Community College's Learning Assistance Center consolidated into one space on the third floor, now called the Learning Commons. Since the Learning Assistance Center and the library offer related, but distinct, services, this move makes it easier for students to find the study and research

resources they need in one location.

Melanie Armstrong, the director of the Learning Commons, says that they hope having the library and LAC in the same space will also "remove a possible barrier for students reluctant to ask for help." Students should feel as comfortable coming to the tutoring center as to the library, and having both located in the same spot will help with that. Jane Verbout,

*"Tutoring is a resource for any student seeking an advantage."*

~ MELANIE ARMSTRONG, LEARNING COMMONS DIRECTOR

the Learning Commons tutoring coordinator, agrees, saying that she wants tutoring to be seen as a service for "study and self-help," like the library. She says, "Tutoring is a resource for any student seeking an advantage... The move has been an opportunity for the department to renew what

we're doing for students, and how."

Both departments have made adjustments for the merger. The library deleted 5,000 books, most of which went to Better World Books for resale. A percentage of the profits from the sales went to Books for Africa, the library's charity of choice,

and another came back to the library book budget. The LAC also discarded resources that haven't seen much use. However, neither department cut any services. The only change is that math testing, which formerly took place in both the LAC and the Testing Center, will now take place only in the Testing Center.

Group study is encouraged, with space allocated toward the back of the LAC. New services are

planned for the future, including in-depth information literacy workshops, group tutoring, and regular review sessions and study groups.

Learning Commons hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday. On Friday, tutoring continues until 2 p.m. but the library and group study areas remain open until 4:30. Students coming for tutoring are asked to sign in at the LAC; otherwise no sign-in is required.



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# 2016’s Blistering Temperatures May Set Records

Owen Casson

Global warming is an issue that receives extensive coverage from the media, and it is also discussed by the general public. It is easy to see why, when considering how hot 2016 has been. Although 2015 is currently the hottest year on record, this year is set to surpass it. For the early months of this year, the temperatures actually obliterated

2015’s temperatures for the same months. Gavin Schmidt is the director of NASA’s Goddard Institute for Space Studies. Schmidt and his colleagues have spent plenty of time analyzing temperatures, and Schmidt has said that “2016 has really blown that [2015] out of the water” (Thompson). A few months earlier this year were among the first ever to exceed 1°C above average, while every month to this point has

had well above average temperatures. Schmidt has stated that the temperatures “are so in excess of any first part of a year that we’ve seen” (Thompson). This trend of global warming does not show any signs of stopping, and it is something that everyone should be aware of. One of the main causes of global warming is the emission of greenhouse gases, most of which come from fossil fuels found in cars. One obvious

step that can be taken to limit this problem is driving more fuel-efficient or even electric cars. While many people have already taken this step, convincing more to change what kind of car they drive could go a long way toward reducing global warming. Meteorologist Andrew Stutzy with SaukValleyWeather.com agrees that warming is occurring, with the last 15 consecutive months, starting with July of this year, setting new

records for both land and ocean surface temperatures according to NOAA. “At this rate, I would not be surprised at all to see 2016 setting a new record the way the year has played out so far. We will know from NOAA by early next year how 2016 shaped up as a whole. It is definitely concerning but thankfully the consensus is it isn’t too late to do something to curtail this warmth quite yet, but we are getting close.”

## OPINION Recognizing The Importance Of Female Movie Characters

Samantha Rhodes

Over the past year, Mad Max: Fury Road, Star Wars: The Force Awakens, and the new Ghostbusters film have been fodder for countless heated debates. It is no secret that these films have had their fair share of backlash. I have seen people rip these films to shreds online, and have heard equally unfriendly comments in my everyday life as a Sauk Valley Community College student. That's not to say I never hear praise for these films; they do get their fair share, and rightly so. However, such comments are few and far between, as the majority of the comments are complaints, not about film mechanics as one might assume, but about the films’ strong female characters. These characters are often deemed unnecessary; people claim they were merely tossed in for controversy’s sake. Con-

trary to these remarks, these female characters don’t exist for the purpose of making anybody angry; they exist to give women the positive representation they deserve. What the disgruntled commenters fail to realize, however, is why this representation matters. As it stands, women in film are typically assigned supporting roles. When this happens, they are often cast as eye candy or ditzy sidekicks, and while princess movies are fun, I’ve longed, as I’m sure many other women both young and old have, from a young age to see myself as a different type of character. Very rarely are women given the chance to be the heroes of our favorite movies, and this is heart-breaking. When films like those mentioned above come along, it gives women a reason to believe they are capable, durable, and powerful. The number of prominent female characters who aren’t hypersexual-

ized sidekicks is increasing, and while that’s not a bad thing, the increasing number of bitter commenters is certainly not quite as refreshing. The presence of strong women in film is often met with a dismissive wave of the hand at best and, at worst, an onslaught of negative criticism and venomous words. The importance of women in film cannot - must not - be understated. Women, whether they be college-aged, middle aged, or barely aged at all, deserve to not only see themselves onscreen but to see themselves as heroes. I urge those who argue that these films are pointless and unnecessary to please take a second to reconsider their stance and remember the women in their life who deserve to see themselves as heroes. For every Superman who is told he is unstoppable, there should be a Wonder Woman who is told the same thing, and everybody should attest to that.

## High School Students Can Benefit From Taking Dual-Credit Courses

Emily Spangler

Being a dual-credit student refers to a student who is still in high school that is taking one or multiple college courses. I understand the stresses that come with trying to plan your future. Thankfully, I had the chance to be a dual-credit student last year. Due to my personal experience with this great option, I wanted to see what current and fellow former dual-credit students thought of the idea and how it has helped them in the long run! Genesis Herrera, a senior at Sterling High School, has been taking college courses

*“It made sense for me to take college classes my senior year.”*  
- GENESIS HERRERA, SENIOR, STERLING HIGH SCHOOL

since her junior year. This year, she is taking Psychology 103, Chemistry 103, and English 101. “I’ve been in accelerated classes throughout middle school and high school, so it made sense for me to take college classes,” she said. For her, the number one benefit of taking these courses is graduating with college credits so she can get a head start on getting her Associate’s degree. Just like Genesis, Juan Cervantes — a student at Sauk


Valley Community College and a former dual-enrolled student — has found college is easier when you take courses that work around your own schedule. College may seem intimidating, but high school truly prepares you for the work and studying you will do in college. Both students shared they are glad they got a head start on college and encourage other students to talk to their school advisors to see if this option is possible for them.

## Day Trip: Buffalo Hill Exotics

Claire Fettig


Farm animals are far from an unfamiliar sight in Illinois. For Judy and Larry Rohner, the owners of Buffalo Hill Exotics in Centralia, Illinois, “livestock” means an entirely different thing. Buffalo Hill Exotics specializes in breeding seven species of exotic animals: bactrian camels, miniature horses, miniature zebu cattle, two species of wallaby, red kangaroos, and buffalo. However, Judy Rohner says that they use the term “alternative livestock.” People misunderstand the word exotic, she says; it simply means species that are not native to the area. The Rohners have been animal lovers their entire lives. Their first foray into alternative livestock was in 1977 when they bought a guanaco, a native to South America and relat-

ed to llamas and alpacas. Shortly afterwards, they purchased a small herd of buffalo, which gave the ranch its name. Although they do sell some animals for pleasure, the Rohners’ focus is not on the pet industry. Several of their animals have become service animals. They also raise American bison, which nearly reached extinction a century ago. Mrs. Rohner says part of the appeal of bison is they are native to the U.S. The ranch’s main customers are involved in zoos, breeding, and education. Mrs. Rohner says their animals are also used in displays and programs to introduce these species to the general public, for the “promotion, propagation, and preservation of species.” “We’ve always thought of our ranch as much more than a mere business operation,” they say on their website, “and our animals as more than mere livestock.”



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# OPINION

## Why Young People (And The Nation) Should Vote

Emily Spangler

The majority of young people go day-to-day not thinking about important issues facing this country, such as the economy, education reform, and funding for Social Security and Medicare. However, as we get older, it is vital for us to mature and realize that these issues are impacting us one way or another. In fact, ignoring these issues will lead us into trouble. This is why our generation needs to vote this election year. During this presidential election, we can have a say on one of the most controversial elections this country has ever seen — and who would not want to be a part of that?

We can not forget that state and local races are just as important. On a state level, voters will have a say on issues such as term limits and redistricting. If you are a person who believes that your one little vote does not make a difference, think again. It does! Some candidates win by just a few hundred votes — or less. I want fellow young people to have their voices heard because we are the next generation, and are fortunate enough to determine our own future. As President Franklin D. Roosevelt said, “Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves, and the only way they could do this is by not voting.”

# OPINION

## Candidate Bickering = ‘Cam-pain’

Nicholas Olds

He’s an idiot! She’s a crook! A woman can’t handle being commander in chief! You can’t just build a giant wall! These are sadly the only thing that we the people have been yelling and hearing throughout this whole election. He said, she said, just bickering between two candidates. The real problem may lie with the voters not in the candidates. After all, it is the people who make the final decision and with the election coming around we have to step back and make sure we are ready. Unfortunately, years down the road history may say that the voters simply made uneducated votes and chose the wrong person. Maybe there isn’t a right person for the job. But, if one thing is for sure, this campaign and election year has been closer to a circus than a standard election. Almost everyone is guilty of doing more criticizing than rooting on their own side. Maybe this comes from the lack of faith the country has in the two candidates we voted for to be on

the ballot come November. According to WGN radio, a recent poll shows that over 50 percent of voters disapprove of Trump and near 40 percent of the population disapproves of Clinton. What does this mean? This means that the country is in danger. The next president will likely be chosen out of spite of the other candidate which is simply wrong. It’s time America takes a true look at the issues and votes for who will give the country the best chance moving forward no matter the name or the candidate’s history.

# OPINION

## Touch of Thai II: A Student’s View

Samantha Rhodes

If you’re looking to try something new, Touch of Thai II may be the restaurant for you. Open since June, the Thai and sushi restaurant is one of the Sterling/Rock Falls area’s newest places to catch a bite. The inside is spacious and offers a welcoming atmosphere. The exposed brick walls creates rustic decor which gives it a warm, rural feel. Those who enter Touch of Thai II expecting a quiet experience similar to its Dixon counterpart may be overwhelmed. I need to note I went on a Friday night, so it is likely not quite as busy during lighter hours. The menu features Thai and Japanese dishes, including various curries, stir fries, and sushi rolls. I ordered the seaweed salad, a potently sweet and salty dish with miso dressing, as my appetizer. The Hawaiian fried rice, my main course, married the flavors of curry powder with chicken, egg, cashews, onion, tomato, and tangy pineapple in a satisfying blend. For dessert I enjoyed mochi ice cream, in both mango and green tea flavors. Our meals were presented beautifully, with a decorative flourish of sauces. The ingredients were fresh and flavorful. I would definitely recommend Touch of Thai II for its mouthwatering, authentic Thai cuisine, a carefree setting, and swift, sociable staff. Touch of Thai II is located at 102 W. Second St., Rock Falls. More details about the restaurant can be found at [touchofthai2rockfalls.com](http://touchofthai2rockfalls.com).

# Third Party Presidential Candidate Johnson Gets Major Endorsement

Joshua Taylor

A third party candidate has risen from the shadows. Former New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson and his running-mate, former Governor of Massachusetts William “Bill” Weld, are running under the Libertarian ticket in all 50 states. Johnson’s campaign received an endorsement from a prominent Virginia newspaper, just weeks before the first presidential debate. Their first major endorsement came from The Richmond Times-Dispatch, which has endorsed the Republican candidate for the past three decades. The article stated, “Neither Donald Trump nor Hillary Clinton meets the fundamental moral and professional standards we have every right to expect of an American President.” The article continues by saying “Fortunately, there is a reasonable and formidable alternative.” During this election season, these candidates are running into an issue: They are not being allowed to participate in the debates. According to the Commission of Presidential Debates, a third party can only participate in the debate if they receive support of at least 15 percent of the national electorate. Johnson currently has reached 10 of the 15 percent, but that percentage may rise quickly in the coming days due to his first major endorsement.

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Photos by Ross Haley  
Russ Damhoff (above), men's basketball head coach and SVCC athletic director, says the team has a goal of reaching Nationals.  
Laron Carr (center in photo at right) jumps up for a basket as Sean Chislom (right) prepares to return the ball. The team splits into small groups to run drills. Carr is undecided in his major and a sophomore this year. Chislom is a sophomore studying business and marketing.



# Skyhawks Look To Build On Impressive Season

Photo by Ross Haley  
Seth Horn (left) lines up the shot while Lamont Patton runs up during skills practice. Horn is a Sauk Valley Community College Sophomore studying graphic design, and Patton is a freshman majoring in sports management.



Owen Casson

The Sauk Valley men's basketball team finished last season with an overall record of 26-7, the third best men's basketball record in school history. The Skyhawks reached the District Championship, but came up short against the Moberly Greyhounds. Although it was a disappointing end to the season, the team can certainly be proud of what they accomplished. Many of the players

who will return for this season showed what they are capable of, and this year's freshmen will now get their chance to prove themselves. The Skyhawks will have many returning sophomores on the team for the 2016-2017 season, which gives them reason to believe it will be another successful season. Head coach Russ Damhoff, who is entering his 31st season as a Skyhawk, has said: "our goals will not change." One of those goals is "the opportunity to

reach Nationals." Of course, the ultimate goal is not just to reach Nationals, but to win it all. Last season was definitely a step in the right direction. All signs seem to point towards the Skyhawks once again being a very competitive team. The Skyhawks open the season at Milwaukee Tech. on November 1st, and will play their first home game during the Sauk Classic, which takes place on November 4th and November 5th. Everyone come out and support the Skyhawks!

# Take Online Classes, View Grades And More Using Canvas Website

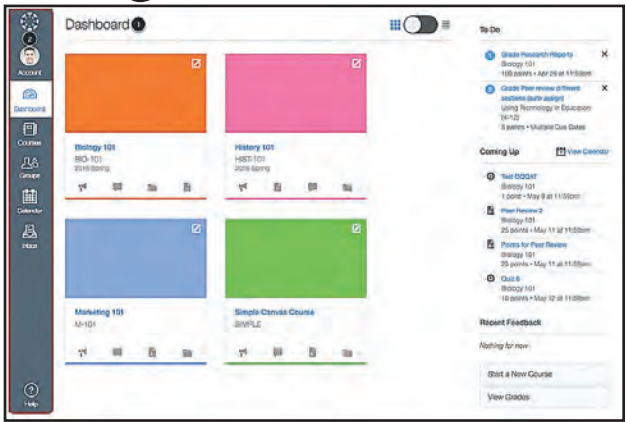
Saul Juarez

College life may seem difficult at first when a student is transitioning into college. One thing students have at Sauk that is very useful for them is Canvas. Canvas is an online website for students to view grades, see teacher announcements, email

teachers, and view the class syllabus. Students taking online classes use Canvas too. Canvas is also the program students can use to turn homework in. If you went to Sterling High School, you may find that Canvas works in similar ways that was used at Sterling, which was Skyward. Canvas has

now become the number one thing that many students have had to use this year. Students that went to Sauk prior to this year had to switch from Moodle to Canvas. But for students new this year, Canvas is in use to them for the very first time. The only flaw about Canvas would be when the drop box closes, a stu-

dent can no longer turn in their assignment. Depending on their teacher, the student may be able to turn in his/her assignment late to the teacher in person. Overall, Canvas is a well-developed online website that is very useful for students. Hopefully students find Canvas as a way to help make their life at Sauk easier.



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The Sterling-Rock Falls YMCA is partnering with Sauk Valley Community College to take over the fitness center. It will be a public facility with upgraded equipment.

Photo by Ross Haley

*continued from page SVCC-1*  
or not they will have to pay for a YMCA membership to use the new facility. Some students have expressed that they feel entitled as a paying student to use the facility for free and are concerned that they will be cheated into throwing more money in addition to the money they pay for classes here.

Freshman student Chase Fischbach says, “I’m excited for a brand new fitness center, but I won’t agree if students have to pay to use it because we already pay money to attend classes at Sauk.”

Only time will tell how beneficial the new partnership is, but students are definitely looking forward to the new equipment and quite curious on the details of how it will be run.

A follow-up story on the status of the SVCC-YMCA Fitness Center situation will be in the next issue.

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE ‘Pizza With The President’ A Favorite

“Pizza with the President” is one of my favorite activities at Sauk Valley Community College. Yes, I realize many of the students who attend are drawn by the free pizza and soda, but meeting with students (no matter what gets them in the room) affirms for me the value of Sauk and gives me hope for the future of the College, the future of the Sauk Valley, and the future of our country.

Student Government President Tyler Tichler kicked off the most recent “Pizza with the President” by introducing himself and the other officers: vice president Rachel Brummel, student trustee Kelsey Heslop, treasurer Emily Ditzler, and secretary Amy Castillo.

Next, I shared a personal (and likely lame) anecdote about being bitten in the posterior by a poodle



David Hellmich  
SVCC President

while a paperboy in my youth. The student government officers had encouraged me to begin with a light-hearted story to humanize myself. I fear they were disappointed.

Getting more serious, I shared the college’s new mission statement and details of our budget woes. I also asked students to raise their hands if they are registered to vote, congratulated those whose hands were raised, and implored the others

to register. I emphasized that a core function of Sauk Valley Community College and all other American colleges and universities is to create informed citizens – voters who look beyond sound bites, think critically, and take pride in their role in our republic.

Our time together ended with several thoughtful questions from students and Student Trustee Kelsey Heslop asking students for their input throughout the year so their voices are heard to keep Sauk a great place to learn.

I look forward to the next “Pizza with the President” and all other opportunities to learn from and share with our students. Teaching and scholarship are the heart of the college’s mission. I am proud we are fulfilling this mission so well with this year’s student body.



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SVCC Campus Photos by Ross Haley





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# SVCC CALENDAR

## THIS MONTH

SVCC Spring Scholarships available [svcc.edu/gimmemoney](http://svcc.edu/gimmemoney)

### SAT, OCT 1

10:30 a.m. - Men's Tennis vs. McHenry

### TUE, OCT 4

6 p.m. - Volleyball vs. Carl Sandburg

### WED, OCT 5

12:30-1:15 p.m. - SGA officers meeting, 1CO9  
12:30-1:30 p.m. - ADA Club, 1C01

### FRI, OCT 7

Last day to file intent to graduate  
Men's tennis regional tournament, College of DuPage  
Volleyball Lincoln Land Invitational, away  
10:05 a.m.-3 p.m. - ISAC

### SAT, OCT 8

10:30 a.m. - Cross country Fighting Bee Invitational, St. Ambrose  
11 a.m. - Golf Region IV tournament, LaSalle

### SUN, OCT 9

10 a.m. - Golf Region IV tournament, Oglesby

### MON, OCT 10

10 a.m. - Golf Region IV tournament, LaSalle  
12:30-1:15 p.m. - ALAS meeting, 2L1B

### WED, OCT 12

6 p.m. - Volleball, Illinois Valley  
11 a.m.-1 p.m. - Upper Iowa City, 1F13  
12:30-1:25 p.m. - SGA general meetings

### THU, OCT 13

9 a.m.-noon - Discover Sauk, 2K02  
12:45-4 p.m. - CNA testing, 1K04  
6 p.m. - Volleyball vs. Waubensee

### OCT 14-15

Volleyball tournament, Illinois Central College

### SAT, OCT 15

10:30 a.m. - Cross country Skyhawk Invitational

### MON, OCT 17

9 a.m.-3 p.m. - SVCC Blood Drive, East Mall  
10 a.m.-1 p.m. - Methodist College Unity Health, 1F13

### TUE, OCT 18

4:30-5:45 p.m. - SVCC Nursing Info Session, 2E8A

### WED, OCT 19

Noon - SVCC Rad Tech Info Session, 2H16  
12:30-1:15 p.m. - SGA officers meeting  
12:30-1:30 p.m. - ADA Club, 2L06

### FRI, OCT 21

Last day for student-initiated withdrawal

### SAT, OCT 22

10 a.m. - Volleyball, Kankakee  
Noon - Volleyball, Kalamazoo

### MON, OCT 24

12:30-1:15 p.m. - ALAS meeting

### TUE, OCT 25

11 a.m.-2 p.m. - Rock River Human Resource Professionals, 2K02  
6 p.m. - Volleyball at Highland

### WED, OCT 26

12:30-1:25 p.m. - SGA general meetings, 1C03  
6 p.m. - Volleyball vs. St. Ambrose

### OCT 28-29

Volleyball Parkland Tournament, away

### SAT, OCT 29

11 a.m. - Cross country regional meet, Moraine Valley

### MON, OCT 31

Volleyball Region IV Round 1 playoffs

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# Student News

Sauk Valley Community College

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# SaukFest: Learn About Clubs And Area Businesses

Jehovia Miniel

One of the most beneficial activities at Sauk Valley Community College is SaukFest. SaukFest is a one-day celebration that happens every semester. Some of the activities include free food, inflatables, a glimpse into the future for other great events, and a chance to get to know some of the clubs at Sauk and businesses within the surrounding communities. The local YMCA, Com Ed, and many more businesses participate in SaukFest to help the students reach out to their community for support.

Student Activities Coordinator Ana Salgado had mentioned that SaukFest to her "is another great opportunity for students to explore what is available for them at Sauk."

One fun fact is that it used to be called Free-For-All and Saukapalooza at one time. Sauk's main aim is for the students to understand that there are great things that are in store for themselves, to take advantage and have fun along the way.

Some of the clubs offered are Nursing, Journalism, Social Justice, Criminal Justice, Association for Disability Awareness, and many more! For more information on how to get involved, visit the Sauk website and search for Student Organizations.

If you happened to have missed SaukFest Fall 2016, look for it in the beginning of the Spring 2017 semester for a great time and an opportunity to know your school and community for a better experience here at Sauk Valley Community College.



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