

## Student Aid Services



Students getting help from the student services center

By Alex Sterenberg

The academic Advising process at Sauk is easier than one might think. If you're stuck behind several students trying to register for classes next semester, try registering ahead. The experience is easy and pain free if you know what to do.

New students must start the process by enroll into Sauk Valley Community College with a copy of their high school transcripts. The

transcript must have the proper graduation date to be valid, and they also must complete a level of placement testing. This is how the councilors know which classes they can take.

If it is a pre-existing student, simply just re-registering for the fall then they can just meet up with an Academic Advisor or counselor and start planning! These are not therapists with legal pads and shrink chairs, but the councilors

who will help you follow your career path.

"There is no such thing as a general undergrad" said councilor Mandy Aldridge. She explains that every major has a specific undergraduate program that must be followed for the area of interest.

When a student first meet with their counselor, they help the student design their specific career path. This starts with what the student has tested into. This helps

the councilors understand which core classes to start off in. If a student only tested into BIO 103 it makes sense that they shouldn't start off at BIO 109.

From there on the Counselor can shape the student's career path so they can get done with the undergraduate program in the steady two years.

Once students have a completed schedule they can talk to the Financial branch of Sauk. Here they will take care of the loans or possibility of Financial Aid to help finance tuition and other expenses.

If it is a student first time taking out a loan, they must complete loan counseling. This is where students learn about the type of loan they are taking out and how much interest, also when you must pay the money back.

This process can take anywhere from 1 hour to several. Especially if student wait until the last moment and must wait behind multiple other students. So, get a jump start and register early for classes this next semester.

## Sauk Valley Community College Will Be Performing 'The Game's Afoot'



By Jill Straw

Enjoy a mystery? Sauk Valley College's fall play is *The Game's Afoot*. The play is based on William Gilette, a real life actor who played Sherlock Holmes on stage during the late 1890s. He and a group of actor friends gather at Gilette's home where they become part of a whodunit.

Emily Shaeffer is one of the eight cast members. Emily is not currently a student at Sauk Valley College. Every semester, in the fall and in the spring, a play is performed in the school's theatre. There are some roles that are for students and some that are for community members. Emily has been in at least a dozen plays at the college.

Monique Elmendorf, who has directed and acted in plays at Dixon's Stage Left, will be the director. This is the first play that Monique has directed at Sauk.

Emily is excited about working with Monique Elmendorf. "It's neat because she has done acting as well as directing. She can help us from an actor's standpoint. She gets us through the blocking right away so we can learn our lines with more ease, for example."

*The Game's Afoot* will be performed at the Jerry Mathis Theatre in Sauk's east mall on Friday, December 2nd and Saturday, December 3rd at 7:00 p.m. and on Sunday, December 4th at 2:00 p.m.

## SVCC's Newest Program

By Molly O'Brien

Sauk Valley Community College has an innovative new program that began in 2016. It is known as MEIP, Multi-craft Internship Program.

MEIP provides an opportunity for students to obtain valuable work experience and get paid while earning their two year applied associates degree in Multi-craft Technology at Sauk Valley Community College. Numerous local industries have partnered with Sauk Valley Community College

to offer part-time positions to students so they can apply what they are learning in the classroom and take it to the job site. Compensation packages will vary with details to be worked out before employment.

The companies that participate in this program are the following: Astec, Borg Warner, Crest Foods, Frantz Manufacturing, Genesis, Sauk Valley Container, Spectrum Brands (Rayovac), Tinken and Walmart.

Students in the program work three days a week on Monday, Wednesday and

Friday at the company that hired them and go to Sauk Valley College on Tuesday and Thursday and take the classes necessary for their applied associate degree.

The goal of MEIP is to help students graduate in a timely manner and to provide the Sauk valley region with a well-trained, well-educated employee in industrial maintenance and meet the diverse needs of Sauk Valley's students.

To learn more about this program, contact Josh West or phone (815) 835 6334.

## Body Found in Rock River Identified as Missing Dixon Man

By Samantha Rhodes

The body of 27-year-old Zachary O'Bryant was found in the Rock River in Dixon on October 29. O'Bryant had been reported missing just over a week beforehand, on October 20.

Reports say O'Bryant was last seen leaving Pat O's Irish Pub in Dixon, where he had been spending time with friends and family.

After a search crew — consisting of family, friends, and local residents from the community — spent over a week trying to locate O'Bryant, his body was discovered in the Rock River west of Dixon.

Police recovered the body from the north bank of the river, and the following Monday afternoon an autopsy confirmed that the body was in fact

O'Bryant's. The autopsy revealed the cause of death to be drowning, and there were no signs of foul play, according to Lee County Coroner Jesse Partington.

A memorial service was held on October 31 at 6 p.m. His friends and family, while grieving, are relieved that he has been found.

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# Easing Costs of College

By Josh Taylor

As the cost of college rises, many students look toward scholarships to help ease the costs.

Scholarships help students pay for college by offering “free money” to lower the total amount a student must pay. For those who must take out student loans, scholarships help lower the amount that an individual must borrow.

There are two different types of scholarships available to students. One type

of scholarship is Foundation scholarships. These scholarships are offered to only Sauk students.

The other type of scholarship is external scholarships. These type of scholarships are offered to college students across the country.

Megan Highsmith, of the financial aid office said “Foundation scholarships are the best option for Sauk students because they are solely for Sauk students. There is less competition to try to receive the scholarship that will help pay for

college.” Although external scholarships are harder, Megan encourages students to apply for those as well to help lower the costs of tuition.

According to Sherri Miller, representative of the foundation office, said “this year the foundation has pledged over \$75,000 in support from its endowments to SVCC and its students.”

Many scholarships go un-awarded due to the lack of information that students receive while applying to college.

# SVCC YMCA Set Up for Smooth Transition

By Nick Olds

Finally, the hammers have been set down. The miscellaneous noises from the first floor have ceased. Brand new glass doors have been opened. The new YMCA fitness center is finished and fully operational at SVCC at last.

Students and faculty have been patiently waiting for the construction to finish and to see their new fitness center in action. The new fitness center is more than twice the size of SVCC’s old one, and has so much more equipment it is tough not to notice.

The Sauk logo is everywhere to be seen in the weight room and on or near almost every piece of equipment, and while pleasing to the eye, students are still wondering what the new fitness center has to offer.

The main question students seemed to have was if the new fitness center would cost them money to use.

The short answer to that is yes. Unfortunately, students will have to pay an extra fee of \$19.99 a month to use the facilities on top of the cost of their college tuition. Plus, the added on fee if they want to participate in any of the specialty classes like the popular workout routine known as Insanity.

However, the membership does come with a few unexpected perks. First off, any student with the membership will be able to use the Sterling, or Dixon YMCA, so really the student is getting a bargain by being a member at 3 locations for only about \$20 a month. This would help any student who wanted to work out during times when the college is closed—like this upcoming holiday season for example.

Another question students had was if the PED class would get them free use of the facilities during the semester that they are



in the class. Again, the answer is yes. The PED class will be ran similarly to as it was in the old fitness center and each student will have to sign in to the system each time they use the facilities.

Though it was mysterious at first, the YMCA and Sauk seem to have a system set up that is easy for the students and faculty members to understand with no surprise fees or fine print detected so far. The facility has plenty of quality, convenience, and benefits for any student or faculty member who wants to become a member, and seems like it will be a positive addition to the campus.

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# International Students Happy to Be At Sauk

By Samantha Rhodes

For some students, attending their first semester at Sauk means meeting people who weren’t in their graduating class. For international students, it means living in an entirely different country.

There are currently seven international students at Sauk: four Albanian, one Brazilian, one German, and one Vietnamese. People may wonder what makes international students want to attend a community college so far away from home. It is often assumed that international students choose to study abroad for reasons pertaining to athletics or arts programs.

Mandy Aldridge, an

international advisor at Sauk, dispels this myth, saying she rarely encounters students who attend school in the United States for extra curricular purposes. Instead, students often opt to get an education in the United States for financial purposes, as well as to broaden their horizons.

Like many other students, the international students at Sauk realize there is value in attending a community college. They often use community college as a stepping stone as they prepare to attend four-year universities. As many students know, attending larger colleges can be quite costly, and studying two-year schools beforehand is

often a cost efficient way to obtain degrees without draining their wallets. Students can attend school in the United States, earn their degrees, and return home, ready to thrive in their desired careers.

Aldridge says it’s important that students study abroad not only to enrich their own lives but the lives of those around them as well. Students can learn a great deal about other places and cultures. “It’s important, especially in this rural area, that students have the opportunity to meet people from other parts of the world,” she says.

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(left) Alberto Gonzalez reads a short story he wrote during a recent open mic night at Books on First in Dixon. (right) Connor Schmall reads some of his creative writing during a recent open mic night at Books on First in Dixon. The event was organized by Tom Irish, a creative writing professor at Sauk Valley Community College, for his students and the public. His organizes two annually, one in the Fall and the other during the Spring semester.

## Veterans Overcome Adversity for Education

By Owen Casson

While some veterans may never return to traditional college classes, there are also those that attend class once they have finished serving. In fact, a number of veterans are enrolled at Sauk Valley Community College as we speak.

However, student veterans face challenges that other students would never have to worry about. Certain veterans may decide not to attend college due to these challenges, but others are able to persevere and receive the degree they need.

One challenge that veterans may face when attending a college campus is the

transition to a more normal life. Serving in a war will obviously change a person, especially if they have engaged in combat. For someone who is accustomed to the conditions of war, it can be difficult to adjust.

Many veterans have found college life to be boring, and said that they actually preferred life in the military. For this reason, colleges and professors must be prepared to make things easier on veterans who may not be totally ready for the college experience.

Another challenge that student veterans may face is a feeling of isolation. Army veteran Ben Miller served

three tours in Iraq before attending the University of Missouri-St. Louis. In an article from Military.com, he was quoted as saying: “I would show up on campus, talk to absolutely no one, and go home.” Miller also said that he “didn’t really feel like he belonged.”

Isolation is a very real problem that veterans may face if they attend college after serving.

Despite these challenges, many veterans have, and still are, persevering and earning college degrees. They know the importance of further education, and are sticking with it despite facing several challenges.

## Books on First Hosts Open Mic Night

By Owen Casson

On November 4th, Sauk’s creative writing class and the Books on First bookstore in Dixon hosted an open mic night. Everyone who signed up was given the opportunity to share some original work. The performances included fiction, poetry, and even a few songs. The performers were mostly college students, but professor Tom Irish and art instructor

Glenn Bodish also shared some of their work. The event was open to the public, so a few other members

of the community also performed.

Certain performances created a very somber mood throughout the room. Rachel Brummel’s “Bunnies” told the story of a killer dressed as a giant bunny. She said that it was based on the clowns that recently roamed streets throughout the country.

On the other hand, there were more light-hearted performances that got plenty of laughs. One of these was James Hutchinson’s story, which dealt with “stalker tables.” The audience was laughing repeat-

edly throughout Hutchinson’s story.

Although most of the work shared was either fiction or poetry, a few people played a guitar and sang a song. Among the three people to perform a song was Glenn Bodish, who was the final performer of the night.

For anyone who is interested, next semester’s creative writing II class will host another open mic night in the spring. You can go and perform yourself, or just sit back and watch the other performers. The date, time, and place will be announced in the Spring.

## Self-Published Author

By Jehovia Miniel

Olivia “Esther” Kerber, a current Sauk student, recently released her first novel titled *Briobands*, a futuristic book about a girl who challenges the actual use of the wristbands that the city is to wear, and when she discovers the real use, her world is turned upside down. It will be up to her to save the city she knows.

Putting words on paper may seem hard, but publishing a self-written work

or book can be easier than it seems. When thinking about the process, one might wonder if their piece is worthy and how they would contact publishers. Take some advice from 17-year-old self-published author Esther Kerber.

Kerber published the book herself, it had taken about three days to complete the process. Amazon CreateSpace is a publishing program that helped her create the layout of the book for the release. The

editing process is longer than the publishing process.

*Briobands* is available on Kindle and for print on Amazon. Esther also has also started book signings for her current fans, and to publicize her work.

If you have written pieces you believe is great material, don’t be afraid to try and publish it. The world is out there waiting to ready your work, and love it. IF writing is your passion, publish it.

## Be Aware of the Dogs

By Alex Sterenberg

The one thing that doesn’t have to stress you out about finals are these fuzzy animals. Therapy dogs are beneficial for students during the anxiety filled week. Last year during spring semester finals, CGH clinic hosted their therapy dog program, “Love on a Leash,” for all those students struggling with finals.

Last year, CGH brought in the dogs Holly and Emi into the East mall during finals week. It was a great hit with the students passing through.

Local student Molly Johnson said, “I thought hav-

ing the therapy dogs come during finals week was very beneficial for struggling students. It helped relieve some of the stress and anxiety about my upcoming tests. They were also very enjoyable and cute.”

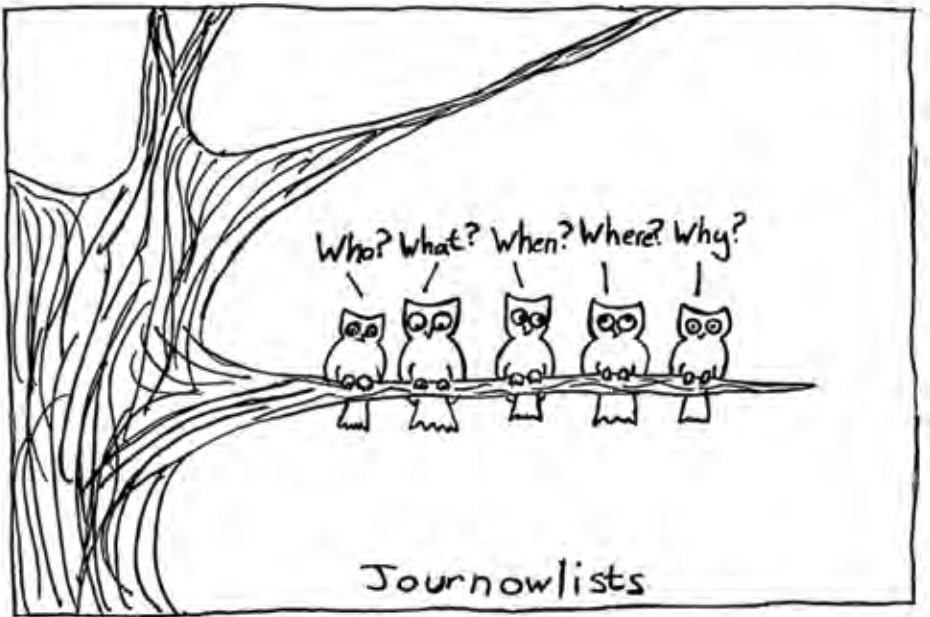
While the Learning Assistance Center at Sauk also brought in a Therapy dog to help with finals. A purebred Bernese Mountain Dog named Raven came and assisted the students struggling with stress.

Therapy dogs can be beneficial for those students struggling with the stresses associated with finals.



Students can become more motivated and just generally feel better in the presence of animals.

CGH program has not committed on coming back for this semester’s Fall Finals week, but they also said they have not been formally asked for a return.



Cartoon by Claire Fettig



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# Skyhawks Women’s Tennis Over for This Year

By Saul Juarez

The Sauk Valley women’s tennis season ended earlier than they wanted it to. On October 7th, the women’s tennis team headed up to the Regional tournament in Chicago hoping for success. Though no one of the girls were able to advance to the next round, it was an opportunity to gain some experience. In high school, the com-

petition in tennis is not as competitive compared to playing tennis in college. Some players may also have to do some more playing time than they are used to if they played in high school. So playing at the college level can really help you play to your limits. Playing in college will not only give you experience, but it will help improve you as a tennis player.

There are six girls on the roster and half of them are freshman. So even though no one did advance to the next round, it will surely help the Freshman for the next season. And if you truly do like to spectate tennis and cannot wait for the women’s next season, then you can also watch the boy’s tennis team that plays in the spring.

# Sauk Security Is Here to Help

By Saul Juarez

If you see men walking throughout the campus with a badge on their shirts, they are most likely campus security. Some of the baseline requirements to be a part of the campus security are: 18 years of age, high school education, associate’s in criminal justice, or any other experience in the field with criminal justice. The Campus security also helps people throughout the campus with situational problems. Says Troy Mairs, supervisor of the campus security, “some things that we can do is properly jump start vehicles, change

tires, getting into locked vehicles”. When it comes to medical, the entire staff is certified by the Red cross, which helps them when it comes to stuff involved with the use of CPR. In the near future, Troy hopes to be teaching CPR classes. Some of the defense tactics that the staff has is handcuffing training, pressure point tactics, and hand to hand styles. All of the security members have either graduated from Sauk as students are about to graduate. When a serious event takes place, such as a car gets broken into, the campus security drops everything that they are doing to attend the scene. The first

thing they do is to make sure everyone is ok and see exactly what happened and get all the information. After they take pictures of the scene, they call the Lee County Sheriff department and start investigating the scene. So, if it’s late at night and you’re about to walk to your car to leave campus but don’t feel safe walking by yourself, or you simply locked yourself out of your car, feel free to ask one of the campus security officers for some help. They’ll be glad to help you out. Troy and his security officers will do everything it takes to keep Sauk safe.

# Skyhawk Jamboree

By Jehovia Miniel

Although the Skyhawks had done their best to keep up while hosting their 2016 Basketball Jamboree, they fell short during both games. Even with the outcome of the tournament, the Skyhawks still look forward to a successful season, aiming for the basketball conference and so much more. Warming up first with the Oakton Owls, the men came to a 58-65 loss at 10 A.M. The team did their best keeping up among their opponents with neck and neck plays that fell just

short. At 2 P.M., the men’s team had faced the Elgin Community College Spartans and had come to a bigger, heartbreaking loss with a final score of 52-70. Returning Sophomores Laron Carr and Sean Chislom were just a couple of the players who had taken some game shaking shots during both games. Freshman Ethan Sanford also made a lasting impression with his swift moves on the court during Saturday’s game. Despite the outcome, Chislom was positive saying, “[Coach] was just trying to find a technique that

worked and executed well. We want to make it as far as we can, beat our record from last year.” Laron Carr had stood out with some great shots as well, scoring several baskets in both games. With the games looking a little shaky, it was up to the Sophomores to help the Freshman overcome the loss in order to get the win the Skyhawks are aiming for this season. With the help of their student section, the Men’s Skyhawks are sure to fly through the season, with the conference championship in sight.

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