A string of public shootings have brought the gun control debate to the forefront of national politics. From government conspiracy theorists to unconditional pacifists, extreme opinions dominate the media.

Where do students’ feelings really lie?
SGA Executive Council

Not many students know the purpose of the SGA EC. Find out what it is, what they are doing for you, and why you should care.

Page 4

Sports

Women’s and Men’s Basketball at HACC. It’s fantastic and super fun, unless you break your wrist. The Superbowl is totally full of sportsmanship...or is it?

Page 8-9

Assault Rifles and Guns

Students have differing views on the gun debate. Find out why one student thinks guns should be banned, why another thinks we should all go back to cowboys and indians, and why maybe we should be neutral on the subject of Guns and Stuff.

Pages 10-11

Remembering Lisa Farver

Lisa Linton Farver was a longtime faculty member of HACC, who passed away unexpectedly on December 25, 2012. Read how several people remember her as a colleague, professor, and friend.

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Mental Health

Continuing our Mental Health Series: a step-by-step guide on how to find the right therapist.

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Tech Column

Is Windows 8 really worth investing in? Find out whether you should wait to upgrade.

Page 17
Saint Valentine and his day

By Audrey Ulsh
Contributing Writer

Depending on when you read this, you may be preparing to celebrate Valentine’s Day. Perhaps you’re going out for dinner, or maybe spending a nice evening at home. You might be getting ready to work, or you might not even know that Valentine’s day is happening. No matter your plans, this holiday has been occurring for hundreds of years.

Valentine’s Day, or the Feast of Saint Valentine of Rome, was originally a day to celebrate the martyred St. Valentine, who was beheaded in 268 CE for aiding martyrs imprisoned by Emperor Claudius II. Although the year of canonization is unknown, in 496 CE, Pope Gelasius marked February 14, the date of St. Valentine’s execution, as a feast day in the saint’s honor.

Romantic association with the holiday likely began in England around the mid-14th century, and was often related to birds starting to mate, as noted in Parliament of Foules, written by Geoffrey Chaucer in 1382.

“For this was on Saint Valentine’s Day, when every bird cometh there to choose his mate.”

Many historians believe that initial celebration of the day was to replace Lupercalia, the pagan festival of Lupercus, the god of shepherds. Some historians have asserted that many customs and traditions of Valentine’s Day are derived from this festival, which was outlawed under Pope Gelasius, the same to make February 14th Valentine’s feast day.

The legend regarding the sending of valentines is that Saint Valentine, while in prison, healed the blindness of the jailer’s daughter. Before his beheading, Valentine wrote the girl a letter and signed it, “From your Valentine.” Whether or not this is true is not known, but at the very least it gives us an annual excuse to celebrate our loved ones, and give card and chocolate companies lots of money.

Interested in joining TFE? We are currently looking for photographers, sports, and general news writers, illustrators, business majors, and other creative, enthusiastic people to join our team. For more information, email us at 4estate@hacc.edu or check us out on Facebook. Staff meetings are open to all interested students and are held Thursdays at 2 p.m. in Cooper 110.

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SGA EC: What is it and does it exist?

By Monica Graham
Editor-in-Chief
Tuition hikes. Class availability. Lunch options. Smoking on campus. These are all legitimate student concerns. What students may not be aware of is that there is a place to have their concerns addressed.

Issues and concerns impacting students can be brought up to their respective campus Student Government Association. It doesn’t stop there. For college-wide concerns such as smoking, they are brought to the Student Government Association Executive Council, which consists of two ambassadors from each campus. In its current makeup, the members consist of each campus SGA president, and an additional SGA senator.

Kadijah Kastriba, 32, president of the Harrisburg SGA and the HACC SGA EC says, “It’s an opportunity for all campuses to come together and explore issues that would affect students on a college-wide level.”

Unfortunately, the SGA EC was off to a slow start this past semester due to the reorganization. Scott Simonds, Gettysburg Campus dean of student affairs & enrollment management, was assigned as advisor to the SGA EC in July 2012, and he admits that having to work around five different schedules for each SGA made it difficult to agree on a scheduled meeting time for the SGA EC. After several failed attempts, the first meeting was held December 17, 2012.

Kastriba agrees that they had “growing pains” but says they are hitting things head on. Leadership was set up in order to get things started, and the remainder of the meetings were established. During the second meeting held January 25, an agenda was agreed upon. Kastriba says they plan to revamp the SGA EC constitution, go over administrative procedures as part of shared governance, and cohesively work together as campuses to share campus events and be more inclusive.

They are also planning the creation of a taskforce to evenly divide Virtual Campus student activity dollars, which were in excess of $800,000 as of June 30, 2012. Jazmin Simpson, virtual campus student success manager, says they are looking at how best to use the funds, as they need to benefit the students. She says surveys have been placed online through WebCT (and now looking for a D2L retool), as well as questions posted on their Facebook page, with little success.

“We’ve tried to organize a Virtual Campus SGA, and we even had one president, but it just isn’t working,” she says.

The meeting held by the SGA EC on February 22 had plenty of discussion, but it seemed that not all the ambassadors were prepared. APs were to be discussed, but Douglas Falcone, an SGA EC ambassador, lamented the fact that some of the board was completely unprepared. Three APs had to be postponed, to be voted on the following meeting. Neil Grover, Jr., SGA EC ambassador and Harrisburg SGA senator, regarding the postponement, said, “They could move forward as long as most of the ambassadors were familiar with the subject, they just weren’t in this case.”

Harrisburg SGA
Who they are and what they’ve been up to

By Monica Graham
Editor-in-Chief

The Student Government Association of the Harrisburg campus kept busy over the winter break. They participated in orientation, and researched documents from the SGA constitution and the SGA bylaws. Now that the semester has started, they continue to be busy.

The first meeting of the semester, held January 14, started with two of the executive board members stepping down from their positions: Rachael Cichy from VP and Bobby Potter from Secretary. Some rearranging had to be done in order to fill those positions, but Kadijah Kastriba, SGA President, appointed her e-board from the senators available: Nicole DuPree was moved into the VP position, Kendra Haines took over the Treasurer position that DuPree vacated, and Arthur Guise was appointed Secretary.

But with election packets becoming available February 25, who knows what the make-up will be? Look to the left for more SGA updates.
Former Exec. V.P. charged with $228k theft

Nancy Rockey, former HACC executive vice president, was arrested and charged on January 3, 2013, on charges of unlawful taking or disposition. According to documents filed by the Dauphin County district attorney’s office, Rockey is charged with allegedly stealing approximately $228,000 dollars from HACC between 2007 and 2012.

HACC officials became aware of the alleged theft in February 2012 while Rockey was still employed. Rockey, then a HACC employee of 31 years, made a personal expenditure on her HACC issued credit card in the amount of $4,000 dollars in February of 2012. HACC officials state that once Rockey was confronted, she apologized and agreed to reimburse the college for the charge, which she did. An internal three year audit was then performed in which several allegedly fraudulent charges were discovered. Charges allegedly included personal payments for Rockey’s utility bills, Amazon and Target gift cards, and text books which never appeared. According to the affidavit of probable cause, in an interview conducted on December 5, 2012, Rockey admitted to the charges.

According to a statement by HACC President John Sygielski, Ed.D. obtained by Lancaster’s Live Wire and Harrisburg’s The Fourth Estate, the primary focus for HACC, “Remains providing quality education for our students and community.” The college has implemented several measures to ensure tighter measures on expenditures. “We have a different mentality about fiscal responsibility and accountability,” said Dr. Sygielski in the statement. In addition to a new mentality regarding fiscal matters, the college is also taking a more proactive role in prevention of employee theft and fraud by issuing fewer college credit cards, and “establishing a task force to focus on strengthening fiscal controls.”

The effects of the arrest are already being felt on HACC campuses across the system. Several college employees are issued p-cards (purchase cards) which require an expense report to be submitted along with the use of the card. According to the statement provided by Dr. Sygielski, new programs will be initiated, including, but not limited to, reduction in monthly and per transaction limits, closing of infrequently used cards, expanding purchasing card user training programs, and the institution of a zero tolerance policy for abuse. The college is also expanding use of procurement and purchasing software and early intervention training for violators of the new policy.

Rockey is free on $250,000 bail, awaiting trial on the charges. Unlawful taking or disposition (PA criminal code subsection 3921) in an amount greater than $100,000 dollars is a third degree felony and may result in fines, restitution, or a maximum prison term of seven years.
Students react to security following abduction on campus

By Elizabeth Hewitt
Contributing Writer

Although young female students feel as though the Department of Security at Harrisburg Area Community College is doing a respectable job in making people feel safe, many have started taking extra precautions after the incident that occurred early on the morning of December 4, 2012.

Many students at HACC’s main campus were focusing on the stress the end of a semester always brings, but no one could have anticipated what was to occur on the early morning of December 4. Right around the time that the 8am classes were to begin, a young female student was attacked and abducted from the HACC parking lot. Many students got the text from HACC to be careful, and although the text gave everyone a brief account and description of the abductor, it was hard to feel safe.

“When I first started going to HACC in the fall of 2012 I was a little hesitant about what security would be like, but once I got there I was pleasantly surprised.” said Kathryn McDevitt, 20, business, “Nothing has changed really, even though I’ve definitely noticed more security since the abduction and I now carry pepper spray.”

KelLee Warren, 20, general studies, added, “I’ve always felt safe at HACC, and besides the day of the abduction and evacuation, I still feel that way about HACC.” When asked about what precautions she might take KelLee said, “This is the first semester I will be leaving campus at night, and after the recent occurrence I do usually make sure I leave with someone.” Harley Stine, 21, elementary education, felt that something like that would never happen at HACC. She went on to say, “I was just disappointed with the fact that if an abduction could happen in the morning when the security is there then I’m not safe leaving my evening class in the dark at 8pm. I would walk with a friend to my car every night I had class. I feel safe because the security is now aware of what happens when they’re not on top of their game.”

The mass text that was sent out by HACC’s e2Campus service was helpful, but created a lot of uncertainty. Abby Resavy, 21, general studies, said, “I felt pretty safe before and after. However, I was unhappy with the fact that school was still in session the day it happened and they didn’t tell us until hours after it happened.”

“I felt pretty safe before and after. However, I was unhappy with the fact that school was still in session the day it happened and they didn’t tell us until hours after it happened. They could’ve handled it better.”

The e2Campus service is still fairly new, but it definitely was helpful in getting the word out faster. Arin Eppig, 21, biology said, “The texts were very helpful and HACC handled it well. I think it made me more aware.” Jennifer A., 21, psychology also added, “I feel that e2campus alerts are very helpful because they informed me on the abduction and the different updates, which helped to put me at ease.”

Even with all the security HACC provides, it is still very important for students to be aware of their surroundings, take precautions, and to take advantage of helpful services like e2Campus to keep students conscious of dangerous situations and create a safer environment.
Spring Club Rush

By Kent Sariano
Contributing Writer

January 23 – The Cooper International room was filled with enthusiastic students for this semester’s installation of Club Rush, an event where student organizations promote themselves to prospective members. Over fifteen clubs set up unique table displays from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m., reaching out to students with similar interests. Among the organizations present at Club Rush this semester were The SGA, Allies, L.I.N.K.E.D., The Fourth Estate, and SI/SA.

The gathering, held each semester, is designed so clubs can represent their interests while recruiting new members, a process which is vital to their existence. Chris Ketchum, a member of H.A.C.C. J.A.C.C., the Japanese Anime and Culture Club, said his club participated in the event to, “educate people in Japanese culture, animation, art, and entertainment.” The club displayed a wide array of Japanese fanfare, including Manga, Pocky, and Anime screenings to draw students in.

Club Rush also allows students to get involved with the H.A.C.C. community via student organizations. Throughout the day, students drifted between the rows of tables, learning about the college’s different clubs. Jessica Peters, a Theater major, said she came to Club Rush to, “show support for her school and SI/SA.” Clubs collected interested students’ e-mail addresses and provided them with meeting times.

Music for Club Rush was provided by Crazy Bob. Popular dance songs blared from the speakers as students chatted. At one point a dance-off broke out, but it wasn’t until Crazy Bob played “Gangnam Style,” by Korean pop artist Psy, that the event heated up. Students stopped cold, and smiles slowly crept up their faces as the song’s first synth notes rang out. Suddenly, as if on cue, students began performing the song’s popular dance routine, trotting wildly around Cooper. The impromptu dance routine, compliments of H.A.C.C.’s league of quirky students, induced laughter, and made for a memorable Club Rush.

SI\SA kicks off the annual RecycleMania event to motivate students to maintain an eco-friendly campus. Left to Right: Matthew Manotti, Kent Sariano, Megan Dickson. Front: Belinda Eigen.
Men’s basketball team had a rough season

Many HACC students don’t know that HACC has a basketball team, let alone the fact that they can be a part of it.

By Josh Brown
Sports Editor

Did you play basketball in high school? Do you enjoy playing a game of five-on-five pickup at the local gym or park? Are you under the age of 26 and currently enrolled as a full-time student at HACC? If you answered yes to these questions, the Hawks, HACC’s basketball team, want you.

Yes, HACC has a basketball team. “Most students and even some faculty don’t know that HACC has a basketball team and it’s sad,” says Randy Tobias. Tobias is in his first year as the Head Coach of HACC’s men’s basketball team. Prior to being promoted, he was the assistant coach for the past five years. “It’s really tough when we have twelve, then three and now five kids,” continues Tobias.

Tobias is convinced that the struggles the team has been facing this year (and years past) are a direct result of the lack of interest in or knowledge of the basketball team here at HACC.

The team does cover all of HACC’s campuses, Harrisburg, Lebanon, York, Gettysburg and Lebanon. While this provides a bigger pool from which to select players, it also makes it harder for any players to make it to the practices considering the team is based at the Harrisburg campus. Even if kids wanted to play on the team, they would still be required to drive anywhere from 30-70 minutes one way just to attend a two-hour practice.

This is where HACC’s lack of housing becomes an issue. Most of the colleges that HACC competes against in the Eastern Pennsylvania Athletic Conference (EPAC) have some sort of housing, giving them a leg up on the Hawks.

Aside from the transportation and housing issues, the fact that there is only two years of eligibility really hurts team chemistry and team building. “By the time I build a team and get them to play well with each other, they’re all gone and I have new kids. It’s very tough but that’s what I need to do and get better at. That’s my job. I wouldn’t change it for the world though. I love this,” explains Tobias.

While Tobias tries to get these kids to play well together and win, he knows that most, if not all, of them will be going pro in something other than basketball. “We really work on getting them to keep their grades up because we know most of these kids are going into a career after HACC. We strive to make these kids professionals. They are a student first and an athlete second,” states Tobias.

The grades are another factor that is resulting in so few players being able to stay on the team. Just like all colleges that offer athletics, students must keep a certain grade point average to be able to be on the team and must be enrolled in no less than 12 credits.

The men’s team this year has had little to cheer about. They finished the year with a 5-15 record.

Tobias is looking forward to rebuilding the team for next year. He plans to hold a number of open gyms and clinics throughout the off-season. He will use these to build chemistry with his returning players and also to evaluate new players that are hopeful to join the Hawks next season.

The talent hasn’t been an issue. The Hawks have two freshmen that played in high school: Mike McCray from Harrisburg, and Pedro Sperb from Brazil. They also have two players looking at playing at the next level. Sperb is looking to transfer to Messiah to play while David Randolph might be headed to Penn State’s Harrisburg campus.

Lady Hawks survived season

By Amanda Hodgkinson
Staff Writer

The Lady Hawks basketball team is like the little engine that could. Starting the second half of their season the women’s basketball team only had four players and was forced to reschedule a game because they didn’t have enough players to start. Then came teammate number five who helped the Lady Hawks resume playing.

The week of February 4, the fearsome five proved their playoff ability. The Hawks had three games back to back, and on February 5, the Hawks knocked off the Bucks 83-38, to confirm their spot in the 2012-2013 playoffs.

To the other teams, the Lady Hawks had looked like an easy win, but they had proven that they deserved to be in the playoffs just as much as everyone else. Each game they came out of the locker room with their game faces on ready to make every three pointer, lay up, and foul shot. They weren’t afraid of an aggressive game, and with two high scoring players on the team, Tawni Ruby and Krista Hoffman, it’s no wonder why they soon lost the ‘easy win’ moniker.

On February 7, the Lady Hawks continued their quest to be number one. Early in the second half the Hawks were down by eight points against Montgomery when Shaquana Watson fouled out of the game with fifteen minutes left of regulation. It was a 4 vs. 5 game and the Lady Hawks were down by eight points. Miraculously, the girls pulled it together. They played hard defense, were able to chip away at the eight points, and get within one point. The clock ticked down to 13 seconds and Amanda Hodgkinson took the ball up to the basket and got fouled. She headed to the foul line and sunk one of her two shots and into overtime the Hawks went. The girls went on to beat Montgomery 74-65.

With only five players on the team, that didn’t leave any room for mistakes. No one could foul out of the games. There were no substitutions; just five girls from start to finish playing a hard 40 minutes of basketball.

The next game was on February 9, when the Hawks took on the Lehigh Carbon Mustangs. This is the game where everything fell apart for the ladies. Early in the first half, Hodgkinson suffered an injury to her wrist, though she played on. The Lady Hawks suffered a loss to the Mustangs 41-75. Later in the week, Hodgkinson found out that she broke her wrist and thus, the Lady Hawk’s playoff season was over.

The women’s basketball team overcame challenges, and did the unthinkable when they came back from behind. Everyone loves an underdog, and with only four girls, they were able to beat a team by nine points in overtime. The Lady Hawks had an outstanding season. Next year, they hope to win again, but perhaps they will have more players.
“This really feels like a pro wrestling match.”

No, that wasn’t my girlfriend’s comment about the latest reality show, nor was it in complete jest because I am a former professional wrestler. Rather, it was a well-directed, well-informed comment made in hopes of getting a similar reaction out of me while watching this year’s Super Bowl.

Now, most red-blooded, football-loving Americans don’t want to hear things like that. They’d like to believe that the biggest spectacle in all of sports is completely legitimate, and as someone who has their favorite mascot tattooed on their left forearm, so would I. However, take a look at the NFL in general in recent years and tell me things aren’t just a little too convenient.

Isn’t it a little convenient that Ray Lewis, one of the game’s biggest defensive stars, announces he’s playing his last season before the playoffs start, and he happened to get to win the Super Bowl? It’s a shame that’s never happened before… Oh wait, it has. Ask John Elway or Jerome Bettis. and the other involved a little girl asking a certain future-retiring linebacker interview questions. What a surprise, those two teams were the San Francisco 49ers and the Baltimore Ravens.

Look, I love football, and I really hope it’s just a coincidence that the one big name who announced he was retiring before the season got all the media attention in the world, got glorified despite having a less than reputable past, and was the front-runner in the first commercial of the year. If you’re paying CBS 3.8 million dollars for commercial time, do you want them tuned out by the second half? The NFL didn’t want a blowout. Ask the BCS. A record amount of people tuned in to the BCS Championship Game… until Alabama treated Notre Dame like a third-rate FCS team, and ratings steadied back out to average at best.

Now I’m not saying that football games are entirely rigged. It’d be almost impossible to coordinate such things. I am saying that the NFL may have an idea of who they want in the Super Bowl, and how they want the game to go. When you have that much money invested in something, it’d be frivolous to say there isn’t a result for which they are hoping. The NFL even said themselves what teams they wanted in the Super Bowl this year when they made two commercials about their event in the pre-season. One involved a guy pretending to be the coach of a team, and the other involved a little girl asking a certain future-retiring linebacker interview questions. What a surprise, those two teams were the San Francisco 49ers and the Baltimore Ravens.

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Gun Control: Let's Talk It Out Again

By Dashiel C. Glace

Good ARGUMENT is a definition of terms. An argument is any discussion of that statement and the assertion of other definitions. They both make the exact same thing but the consequences of both are different. It is an open and honest discussion. That bit of rhetoric being said, let’s take a look at the facts of gun ownership. It’s a fact that we all know gun owners are allowed to own and possess a gun but that does not necessarily mean that they can carry guns in public.

One of the main arguments against gun control is that if you take away a gun, you are taking away a person’s right to self-defense. The right to self-defense is a constitutional right and it cannot be taken away. However, there are many exceptions to this rule that must be considered. For example, if you are a law enforcement officer, then you are allowed to carry a gun as part of your job. You are not allowed to carry a gun for personal protection.

The proponents of gun control argue that it is not enough to have a gun in your home. You need to be able to carry it with you at all times. The argument is that if you do not have a gun, you are not able to protect yourself from violent crimes. The argument is that if you do not have a gun, you are not able to protect yourself from violent crimes. The argument is that if you do not have a gun, you are not able to protect yourself from violent crimes.

The opponents of gun control argue that it is not enough to have a gun in your home. You need to be able to carry it with you at all times. The argument is that if you do not have a gun, you are not able to protect yourself from violent crimes. The argument is that if you do not have a gun, you are not able to protect yourself from violent crimes.

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Finding a fit for Honors Studies program

By Allison Stark
Associate Editor

Judi Ungar, assistant director of the new honors studies program, is excited. After a total redesign, two school years, and two changes in leadership, the HACC Honors Studies degree program is up and running. “We finally figured out who our target audience is, because that was kind of tricky,” she says.

In addition to incoming high school seniors, the new degree program is aimed at current HACC students who have a 3.25 GPA but who have only taken 18 credits or less. This is because 30 credits (or half of the degree requirements) must be honors classes to earn the Honors Studies associate degree. Students who are accepted into the program work with Director of Honors Studies Heather Burns, a counselor at York campus, to tailor their classes to fulfill both the Honors Studies major and their transfer requirements for a 4-year school.

Although transfer agreements with regional 4-year schools have to be re-established based on the new structure of the honors program, Burns and Ungar are already pursuing Honors transfer agreements with Dickinson, McDaniel, Wilson, and Shippensburg. One major local transfer school is already on board. “The really nice thing I’d like to stress is that we do have this signed agreement with Penn State Harrisburg, which is honors to honors, so that if you graduated from HACC with an Honors Studies degree, you would automatically be accepted into Penn State Harrisboro,” says Ungar. Students who finish a year at PSU Harrisburg are then automatically accepted into the prestigious Shreyer Honors College, although they can continue to attend the Harrisburg campus.

Ungar says the advantages of earning an honors degree extend beyond the academic. Speaking of the friendships developed among the students currently enrolled in the program, she says, “I think, especially at a commuter school, where it’s very hard to get involved unless you march yourself into Cooperr. You go to Fall-Free-for-All, you sign up to do something, that’s it: it’s very hard to find a cohort of people you feel comfortable with, you can share things with, and they really do respect each other because they come from such different backgrounds.”

Kadijah Kastriba, 32, honors studies, agrees, saying, “The foundations seminar was special. Very rarely does a student get to be in a class with just two other people. We really got to know each other and the professor. Now in the spring, Matthew Manotti, K.C. Mackey, and I can all say we have someone we can count on.”

Currently, though there are only three seniors in the degree program, there are 79 enrolled in honors classes. With a minimum enrollment requirement of seven students, and a cap of 15, most courses this semester are in the double digits. Matthew Manotti, 19, honors studies-specialization history and psychology, says he chose the honors studies degree program because it offered more challenges than typical classes. “It’s small, specialized, challenging, and really entertaining.”

The foundations seminar, a class specific to the new major, was rolled out for the first time this fall. Taught by sociology professor David Liu, the class focused on education as critical thinking. Liu says the seminar was “fantastic,” and described the students as “really receptive and really open.” Designed as a workshop in the style of a graduate seminar, the students engaged in critical analysis of the educational system and self-critiques of their writing.

“Although this semester we only had three students, so it was very intense,” says Liu. “As I said to them at the outset, you know—learning is not easy, but if you really are committed to the process of learning, and especially to being a better writer and a better critical thinker, then you need to learn how to take criticism because we’re here to help you get better.”

Manotti says, “It was most difficult in terms of critical thinking. Professor Liu has an excellent method of making people go insane. Yes, and I say that in a pleasant way—that’s a compliment. Because when you go out of his classes, especially that class, you don’t stop thinking about what you’ve just learned because you’re always left with more questions.”

“The class itself was the most challenging class I have ever taken. I really learned how to develop my thoughts and writing. Professor Liu is what other students say about him—hard! For anyone that truly desires to learn, they should take one of his classes,” says Kastriba.

Professor Liu is breaking more ground in his Honors Introduction to Sociology class this semester, partnering with the Social Inquiry/Social Action club to offer an optional overnight field trip to Philadelphia on March 22 to explore in person the sites used to study race relations in the book The Cosmopolitan Canopy: Race and Civility in Everyday Life by Elijah Anderson, which his class will be reading this semester.

“We’re going to try to do some kind of true experiential learning that’s not just finger-painting. I mean, you look at this analysis and you can see how it comes to life in the context of the city,” Liu says. The honors program is helping with the cost, and Ungar and Burns were fully supportive of the idea of taking learning outside of the classroom. Liu says, “I give the college credit because this is all part of a new initiative and I think it’s very exciting. You have to invest in the new to make things happen.”

New ways of exploring the subjects they teach is a common thread among the honors professors. Associate English Professor Rick Albright, who is teaching Honors English 101 in the virtual campus this semester, has developed it as a completely different class from his regular 101 sections, down to using a different text, Ways of Reading. The essays in the new text are more complex, and the text itself is designed with the intent of reading each essay twice, with different questions to consider each time. Albright has used the text before at other schools, and was excited to try it at HACC. He says, “I think it’s demanding more critical thinking and more making connections between some of the readings than I might typically do in my regular classes.”

Albright is embracing the interdisciplinary mindset of the new honors program by using locally-set book The Blue Orchard this semester. He was inspired by the First Annual Student Symposium at Midtown in April. “The theme is Imagining Central PA’s Future, so I had the idea of using The Blue Orchard as a way of kind of getting at Harrisburg’s past and how the politics, for instance—I call it the geopolitical forces—because they’re the political movements which helped to shape the city.” Albright is hoping to combine this with a book about the City Beautiful movement to have students work on a writing assignment that can be worked into the symposium.

English professor Iva Balic, who is teaching Honors English 102, is also trying new things with her honors class. Her students work in groups of three on a semester-long project on a topic of their choice, much as students would be expected to do on their own at a 4-year college. She says there is more work in her honors class than in her regular English 102 class, but that it’s not just pointless busywork, it’s something the students invest in. “It’s challenging, but I think because I give students a lot of freedom to decide what they want to work on and how they want to work on it, I am hoping they don’t perceive it as more work, they just perceive it as work that takes effort, but they know why they’re doing it and they want to be doing it.”

Philosophy professor Jonathan Gainer, who teaches Honors Ethics-Belief and Action, says the smaller class sizes in honors courses allow for more Socratic discussion and less lecture. He encourages his honors students to look outside of the textbook, and has them analyze articles in philosophy journals to learn more about issues which interest them. Gainer describes his honors students as self-starters, saying, “I tend to think that students who are honors students see education in terms of its intrinsic worth, as opposed to just its instrumental value.”

From the initial turnout, it appears HACC has plenty of students who agree. The college initially made a 3-year commitment to the new program in order to give it time to recruit students at local high schools, and both the directors and professors involved have faith that it will continue to grow.

Their optimism appears warranted, as President Ski recently touted the program in the January issue of Harrisburg Magazine, saying, “I think it’s important for us to be able to get the word out on the value of the community college and what role we play for valedictorians, honors students—we have a great honors program—and for those who may have never thought about college as an option.”
Many students, and faculty, will miss her cheerful demeanor and outgoing personality. Kelly Irwin, 20, and Sabrina Davis, 24, both commented on how nice she was. Molly Lemke, 21, enjoyed the stories she would tell in class, “She had many funny things to say about grammar and how it was used, like when a waiter says, ‘how can I get you started?’” when asking for your order.”

Lisa Farver didn’t let little inconveniences get in the way of being happy. “Every morning, when I unlocked my door, she would always say, ‘Good morning.’ She was always happy,” said Judy Dibert, senior professor of English/ESL/Spanish. “And I would always say, ‘I hate mornings. What’s so good about morning?’ She would do it on purpose, to get you to smile,” she says.

Many things amused Lisa Farver, from YouTube cat videos, to carrying around a little pouch in the shape of a sneaker – for her pencils. “She would laugh at anything – it was just so contagious and so heartfelt. It just made you laugh, no matter what you were doing,” says Ulmen.

Lisa Farver always loved a good love story, and many were happy when she found Dave in her life and got married in 2009. Mike Harris, 31, police operations, remembers that, “she was always talking about her husband and her stepchildren, how she loved them.” Dibert adds, “The last thing she said that I can remember is, ‘Judy, I am so happy. I am so, so loved them.”  Dibert adds, “The last thing she said that I can remember is, ‘Judy, I am so happy. I am so, so happy.’ And she was, being married.’

One of the memories that Shemas and Harris hold dear is the night they got engaged, during CSF’s fall festival. “The festival didn’t really turn out that well, but we still had a great night,” said Shemas. “Just her reaction to our engagement– her face lit up, she was teary-eyed and she said, ‘I’ve got to call my family and let them know that two of my students are getting married!’ She was just so excited for us, and that meant a lot,” says Shemas.

Lisa’s enthusiasm in the classroom and zest for life will be deeply missed. Her favorite room to teach in, Arts 216, will always hold a dear place in her colleagues’ and students’ hearts. The office bay she shared with many is now a quiet place. “It’s never going to be the same without her here. Ever. Especially upstairs,” says Ulmen, “That bay will never be the same. We’ll miss Lisa’s laugh. That’s all gone. It’s just…quiet.”

Gutwein says of Lisa, “If somebody asked me, ‘how do you think she’d want to be remembered?’ I’d say as a happy person, as a loyal friend, as a fine Christian woman, and as a person who loved teaching, and loved her family.” She continues, “She had a good spirit. Sometimes, I think we have a tendency to romanticize people after they pass away. I don’t think I’m being idealistic about her at all, because that’s who she was.”

“And she was very happy. I feel that I was really blessed to have had a journey with her. She just enjoyed life. This really ties into what Lisa was really about, in terms of enjoying life. We were travelling. We went to the Black Hills and decided to come out the Wyoming side and go to Devil’s Tower. A thunderstorm blew in from the prairie - lightning was flashing, and the clouds were getting heavy and the sky was gray. You’d see this lightning flash and it would light up the sky, and she yelled, ‘Stop the car! Stop the car! I just want to stand in the storm - it’s so beautiful! Just for a little while, I want to stand in the storm.’ So we stopped, and she got out and she stood there, just looking at it - reveling in its beauty. It was just one of those moments in time that I think is just really indicative of the kind of person that she was. She wanted to revel in the power of nature and she saw its beauty.”

-Geri Gutwein
True love and Central PA’s sense of community drew this San Francisco native to Harrisburg and HACC

By Allison Stark
Associate Editor

People are often baffled at Michelle Lynn Sheehan’s decision to move to Harrisburg from her home in San Francisco. The answer is a love story, with her partner, Sue Spangler, and Central PA itself. Michelle, 41, psychology, met Sue via the internet. They fell in love and, after two years of long-distance flights to spend time together, Michelle decided to move to Central PA and make her home here with Sue. She says, “Every time I would come here, I would take a little more in and a little more in. I just really like the people in PA – they’re genuine, and they’re very nice, and it’s very community-oriented. People are just kind of, I don’t know, they want to help each other, where San Francisco can be very cutthroat.” Despite the reputation of San Francisco as a progressive haven, Michelle says the tight confines of the city can bring out the competitive worst in its residents. “To make it there, you have to work several jobs, or have a very high-falutin’ job, so people will stand on their relative’s head to get to the next step if they have to.”

Michelle started at HACC several years ago, beginning with one class a semester, per doctor’s orders due to health problems. As her health improved, her doctor approved moving up to two classes a semester, although she took regular breaks to go home and help care for her ailing mother. After earning her Associate’s Degree in Early Childhood Development, Michelle remained at HACC in a dual enrollment with Penn State Berks, where she is studying to be an occupational therapist assistant.

In March 2011, Michelle was inducted into the honors society Phi Theta Kappa, which started her off on the path of volunteerism and leadership at HACC.

Michelle became active in clubs on campus, beginning with LINKED-Learning In New Kinds of Educational Diversity, a club which highlights student diversity and students with disabilities. “I’m someone who has my own physical and health issues that I deal with on a daily basis, but I joined LINKED more as an advocate for students who may be challenged in other ways, more than me – learning disabilities, physical disabilities,” she says. “Amanda Blose was the president at the time (and currently), and she just needed someone to kind of help her with linking to different official people here on campus so that her voice could be heard, and in order to get this club off the ground, and just trying to reach out to other students to show that we have a club to support them, whether it be for their needs or just a place to have fun and hang out.”

When she needed an art class to meet her transfer requirements for Penn State, Michelle chose glass because of her lifelong love of glass art, gained partially through her aunt and uncle. Michelle and Sue joined the Glass Club, and approached the club’s president with suggestions for activities and fundraising. When the president told them she would be leaving her position the following semester, Michelle and Sue volunteered for the job, and were voted in as officers.

“From there,” Michelle says, “we just kind of really blossomed. The club took off and I had a lot of ideas and ways that we could fundraise and make this club fun and also allow ourselves to be exposed to other artists and other communities of glass that we could visit.”

Last year, the club visited the Corning Museum of Glass in New York. This year, they are working toward a trip for the club to Seattle, Washington, to experience the glass community there. They plan to tour the Spectrum Glass Company, from whom they purchase much of the colored glass they work with, as well as the Tacoma Glass Museum, and the Seattle Space Needle, where prominent glass artist Dale Chihuly has created a garden out of glass. The club is funding most of the trip through its fundraisers, as well as moneys from SGA. Michelle says, “It just allows the students here, within our own community at HACC, to go beyond what they know here in Harrisburg and experience something else within the United States, and having that exposure as learning and growing experience for all of us.” Michelle credits the team efforts of the entire Glass Club with making the trip possible.

Michelle is also involved with HACC’s Building and Grounds committee. Initially, she joined to represent LINKED, but sees the need for a student voice on behalf of all students in the decisions made regarding our campus. It’s important, she says, “whether it has to do with security, maintenance, and such, that they can hear from our perspective because we are the meat of this college. We are the ones who fund this college, so to speak, and so we want to make sure the students’ voices are heard.”

Outside of HACC, Michelle and her partner devote time to homeless outreach. In their own vehicle, they can often be found distributing blankets, clothing, and food to Harrisburg’s homeless population. They take this on, says Michelle, “Just because it’s the right thing to do. Because there’s people who are in need. And I don’t like to see anyone hurting.” The lack of greed among the people they meet is one of the things that inspire her to keep reaching out. She says, “We could bring boxes and boxes of clothes with us, and we’ll offer them 2 or 3 shirts or pairs of pants, and they’ll always say, ‘Leave something for the next person.’ And they’ll always take one of each, which just always amazes me.”

When asked what makes HACC and Central PA so special to her, Michelle says, “HACC, for me, is a village. It’s a village that takes care of each other. And Harrisburg’s homeless population. They take this on, says Michelle, “Just because it’s the right thing to do. Because there’s people who are in need. And I don’t like to see anyone hurting.” The lack of greed among the people they meet is one of the things that inspire her to keep reaching out. She says, “We could bring boxes and boxes of clothes with us, and we’ll offer them 2 or 3 shirts or pairs of pants, and they’ll always say, ‘Leave something for the next person.’ And they’ll always take one of each, which just always amazes me.”

Another thing that makes this community important to her is its treatment of her and Sue as a couple. Michelle says, “Maybe everyone’s not in agreement with my relationship with a woman, but everyone has been very positive and embracing with having us within this village. Sue and I have never felt any prejudice from anyone. We’ve always been welcomed and allowed to blossom within this community, our village here at HACC. It has been an awesome feeling because people always say, ‘Why would you leave San Francisco and come here?’ That’s one of the reasons because of just how good-hearted people are here in PA.”
Employee Profile: Rose Miller, guru upstairs

If you have a question, Miller has the answer. All you have to do is ask.

By Lydia Hurley
Staff Writer

Rose Miller, enrollment services specialist, does more for students than her title suggests.

Even at 8 AM, Rose was busy helping several students with financial and scheduling issues. One student had dropped a class by the 50% reimbursement date, but had not received their reimbursement in their account.

Rose likes the student contact aspect about her job. “The most enriching thing about what I do is being able to help a student know that their destiny is in their hands and how to feel confident in steering their own destiny,” she says.

“It’s incumbent on us to put out a good product and I care very much about that: putting out a good product.”

Rose started at HACC because she needed benefits to support her daughter. “I started thinking about HACC because HACC had a gym, HACC was four miles from my house, very good benefits, had a really good reputation as a school. You can do customer service anywhere and that’s what I am good at: customer service.” She started in the cashier office.

“In the last eight years the feel of the place has become more businesslike. I was not here for all the people who have the stories of ‘I remember when…’ but I have heard a lot of those stories.” She says that HACC used to have more of a community feeling, but when an organization grows a structure has to be put in place.

This has some downsides, but it is necessary for a viable business; HACC would not exist if not for these changes. “They need to be fiscally centered changes to make sure that HACC is okay through the next several decades,” she says.

One of the saddest things for Rose at this point in HACC’s lifetime is losing the people who have been around since the beginning or close to the beginning. “There were several people who had been here for forty years all retiring very recently. It kind of has felt like a losing of the old guard. You can’t help but feel that there is a change because of that,” she says.

Rose sees some challenges in her area. “I wish we had more time to intermingle and have info sessions. I would like to be able to impart some of the reasons we do what we do to the faculty. And I would like to hear from the faculty about some of the things that they would like to see from our department,” she says.

“We have started to do cross training with financial aid,” she says, “which is a huge thing because our departments are so intertwined.” Having a knowledge of other departments will enable them to help students better.

Rose grew up in Colonial Park. When she was ten she wanted to be both a gymnast and a country singer. “You can do both of those, right? You can do whatever you want,” she said. In her free time Rose likes to read and go to the gym, especially Zumba class. “I love Zumba class, I always say in Zumba class I feel like a dancing cow, but that’s okay because it’s a room full of dancing cows. Only the instructor is up there looking all sexy and Latina, swinging her hips, looking right,” she says.

In her free time she likes to read, and she is now reading Thunderstruck by Erik Larson.

Rose is planning on buying a bike, so in the spring she’s looking forward to biking. In general she’s just looking forward to being outside. “Sometimes I’ll go home and cook a nice light meal and go out on the deck and eat.” And she would like to add some wine to that scene.

Rose will dance anywhere and tries to add levity to tense situations. But more than anything, she thinks her secret talent is to connect to people. “I just honestly think my secret superpower is I have a feeling for people,” she says.

Rose would be fine if she was stuck on an island with only three things. “This has some merit; I’m thinking ‘where can I go?’ If I had my daughter, and cell phone because of access to books and music, and food, good food; I would be set. I’m kind of there,” she says.

If she could have dinner with anyone, dead or alive, she would pick Abraham Lincoln. “I might warn him, ‘Dude, don’t go to the Ford.’” She says she has a thing for the Civil War. At the same time she had plenty of runners up: Bruce Springsteen, Nelson Mandela, Christine Buransky, Jesus—“But he probably wouldn’t talk. I’d want answers and he would not be giving them.”

The thing that keeps her here is, “The feeling that I really am making a difference in the lives of students. The freedom that I have in my job to do new and interesting things. I volunteer for everything.” She does orientation for new students and volunteers for committees.

About changes in her office Rose says, “There’s really not a whole lot that’s changing since the fall. There are just little things going on. We’re trying to make smarter decisions where we can move duties around. Where we can share duplicated tasks and streamline a bit more.”
How to find the right therapist for your situation

By Kadijah Kastriba
Contributing Writer

So you have just received your mental health diagnosis. A psychiatrist has spent at least an hour, possibly even days, asking you questions about your history, your moods, and what you think about when you are alone. You now have a diagnosis with which to label all of the turmoil that has filled your life for months or, in most cases, years. Now what?

Regardless of whether you are diagnosed with depression, borderline personality disorder, or bipolar disorder, it is important to realize that medication is not always enough. There are other steps that a patient can do to proactively help the healing process. At the beginning it is best to take it slow, but there is one thing that can be the difference between getting better, and just surviving.

In his book Living Well with Depression and Bipolar Disorder, John McManamy explains that negative thoughts and feelings of anxiety can be controlled through proper cognitive thinking. A well trained therapist can walk you through the process of changing how the mind thinks, and teach you how to change a thought process that is snowballing out of control into something productive. Along with medication, these techniques can help you start to put the broken pieces of your mind back together.

There are several things you should look for when finding a therapist.

Do your research. When shopping for a car, there are several things you do before making a decision. You see what you can afford, whether the car is reliable, and if the car will be a comfortable fit. The same goes when finding a therapist.

Contact your medical insurance company to see who is in your network. If you do not have insurance, get in touch with NAMI, the National Association on Mental Illness, as they have resources to help you get in touch with local agencies that help people in your situation.

Find out if a therapist will be a comfortable fit. Websites like psychologytoday.com give therapist profiles and testimonials. You will want to see if the therapist treats your disorder, and if they do, is only going to cause you more pain. Be willing to accept that not every therapist will be the right one, and that you may have to start the search again. This may be the most frustrating. So you did your research, and you interviewed a very nice therapist, but you just are not feeling any better. First, have you given it enough time? Rome was not built in a day, and your illness will not be cured quickly. For most people suffering from mental illness, it takes somewhere between 2 to 10 years for there to be any significant improvement, according to McManamy. If it has

A well trained therapist can walk you through the process of changing how the mind thinks, and teach you how to change a thought process that is snowballing out of control into something productive.

If you do not have insurance, get in touch with NAMI, the National Association on Mental Illness, as they have resources to help you get in touch with local agencies that help people in your situation.

Having a hard time finding a therapist at HACC? The Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT) can help.

Email Kadijah Kastriba at mak2025@hawkmail.hacc.edu or Jeff Fazio at jmfazio@hacc.edu
Let’s watch Mama...or not
By Nicole DuPree
Contributing Writer
*SPOILER ALERT*
Have you ever seen something that was so scary that it made you question reality and everything around you? Or a movie that would haunt your dreams? A good scary movie should do all of these things, and Mama does none of them. If you’re curious about the best part of the movie, it was the end credits. If you want something truly scary, put a sheet on your head, walk around your house in the dark and have a friend jump out and hit you with a baseball bat randomly; that’ll be much scarier.

I had the great misfortune of going to see the movie Mama. During the entire movie the director asked you to feel sorry for the ghost while she went off and killed a bunch of people. I’m sorry if I have a hard time feeling sad for someone who killed a small group of people for less than noble reasons. How are you going to force me to care about someone who stabbed a nun, kidnapped their own baby, tried to drown said baby, then ended up stalking and killing a small child, and breaking up a family...what the fuck?

If you have Windows 7 and can’t afford the upgrade, don’t worry about it; Windows 8 doesn’t deliver anything very novel or groundbreaking.

Microsoft recently released the Surface tablet, their answer to the iPad. The Surface utilizes the Windows 8 Smart Tile technology to effectively manage apps and update them in real time. This feature is more effective on the tablet than the home computer. Most of the time, tablet users are switching between apps and checking social feeds more often than doing substantial tasks. This provides for an effective use of the operating system. The basic model goes for $499, but if you spend $100 more you can pick up the keyboard cover at Best Buy. Another Best Buy exclusive is a line of laptops by Lenovo. These laptops can be manipulated by twisting the keyboard behind the screen. The laptop can then be used as a tablet. The laptops range from $1,199 to $1,299. The other option for a Windows 8 device is the Windows phone. Microsoft has re-launched their phone operating system this year, promoting its more user-friendly interface, which is very similar to the iPhone. The Windows phone ranges in price from $49 to $99 with the purchase of a two year contract.

If you have Windows 7 and can’t afford the upgrade, don’t worry about it; Windows 8 doesn’t deliver anything very novel or groundbreaking. If you don’t have a laptop, or are looking to buy a tablet, the Surface is definitely worth the money, and comes with a version of Microsoft Office suite. Your best bet is to stick with my Windows 7 and wait for Microsoft’s next operating system.
Americans’ appetite for fast, easy answers and internet memes fuels a vicious cycle of ignorance

When something like the Aurora movie theater massacre occurs, our first reaction is to figure out who to blame. We want a fast, easy answer to assuage our sadness and powerlessness against senseless tragedy.

As Americans we get so caught up in the now, which sounds great, but when it concerns lives, shouldn’t we take the time to make sure things go right? Americans are great at doing one thing - sensationalizing a story. We can bitch all day and night about something we read on Facebook or some scandal from Twitter. And all those memes...Who hasn’t seen ‘Ex Benedict’?

If it goes viral, and is featured on YouTube or the Today show, that’s what you know Americans are paying attention to. Sadly, it’s mostly scandals - or cats.

You know what Americans are not good at doing? Coming up with solutions that are agreeable to everyone. We are still stuck in this quagmire of debt, with no end in sight. The rich don’t want to give up what they have and the poor are sucking up what they can.

God forbid you should bring up something controversial, like guns. You are either for or against having them, with no in-between. There seems to be no compromise in sight. Our government is attempting to come to some kind of resolution when it comes to bearing arms, yet all you read are Facebook rants with no basis in fact - just knee jerk reactions.

As consumers, it’s our fault our society is the way it is. We drive what we feel is noteworthy to the front, not always knowing, or concerned about, the full details. You can’t turn on a news station without hearing a story being run as, “An unidentified man seems to have shot another person. No details are available at this time.” Why? Because they don’t have the details. Why say anything at all? Because the viewers demand instant gratification. Whether the facts are correct or not, it doesn’t matter. What matters is that we know more than the person beside us.

What we should be concentrating on is re-learning what we should have learned in grade school - respect for other people. With that virtue alone, so many of our country’s wrongs could be set right. By respecting others’ privacy, by respecting their right to bear arms (or not), by respecting their sexual orientation, by respecting people as human beings instead of putting them under a microscope, we could come to some sort of agreement to live together amicably.

After all, how many of us would come out squeaky clean if the media latched onto us?

Robin Young ’13
International Studies Major
Spanish Minor

“Arcadia accepted all of my community college credits.”

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No Camouflage for the Un-Uniform Opinion about the Commander in Chief

By Matt Jones
Contributing Writer

As President Barrack Obama was sworn-in as the president of the United States on Jan. 21, he also reaffirmed his role as our military’s commander in chief.

Several thousand uniformed service members gathered in Washington, D.C., to take part in every aspect of the event. Marines in crisp dress uniforms stood guard near the official ceremony; Vietnam veterans in faded olive drab made the trek from the wall to the mall; and digitally camouflaged National Guard members from dozens of states—including more than 1,200 soldiers and airmen from Pennsylvania—managed crowds and traffic in busy areas.

The diversity of the military members participating was matched only by their feelings towards the man of the hour.

Two months earlier, this same spirit was alive and well in a Pennsylvania National Guard officer who marked the re-election of Obama in a unique way. Late into the night of Nov. 6, 2012, as the Electoral College votes were being counted by the round-the-clock news stations, this officer flipped the flag he flew in his front yard and painted “America, 1776-2012, R.I.P.” on a large panel at the base of the flagpole.

Others use the relative anonymity of Facebook and other online media to voice their opinion.

One state guardsman expressed his displeasure of the inauguration mission by posting on the organization’s Facebook page. He said the mission was a disgraceful waste of taxpayer money being used to support a glorified political rally. The fact is the military has supported every inauguration since they assisted with George Washington’s trek from Mount Vernon to New York City more than 220 years ago. I’m sure, however, that there were far fewer supporters of John Adams there than fans of Mitt Romney or John McCain supporting Obama’s respective ceremonies.

This problem isn’t exclusive to conservative troops. At the height of the ‘stop loss’ policy that kept troops deployed beyond their enlistment contract, opposition to President George W. Bush and his support of this policy was relatively common. Just like today, the vast majority of troops either supported the decisions of their commander in chief or kept their opposition quiet, but those who did voice their opposition did so loudly.

No amount of military training can take the citizen out of a ‘citizen-soldier.’ Like other U.S. citizens, those who wear the uniform are as divided on the political landscape as they are united on the battlefield.

I was sent to the inauguration as a member of the National Guard’s public relations team. My job was simple: tell U.S. citizens about the great job their troops were doing in support of the inauguration.

This seemingly honorable job proved to be a difficult one.

No respectable service member will disobey a lawful order, but many will curse under their breath while carrying out an unpleasant one.

With so many troops participating in one mission, it should come as no surprise that some were less than thrilled to be there. What surprised me, however, was not the amount of people complaining, but the vehemence with which they objected to the mission and the person around whom the mission revolved: our president and commander in chief.

A few days earlier, while briefing the president and commander in chief, a young airman first class asked me what he should say if someone asked him if he was proud to be there. I knew why he was asking the question, but asked him to explain himself, hoping the audience filled with his superiors would force him to question the direction in which he was heading. Instead, he and several others said they would simply not engage members of the media because they had no pride in supporting the inauguration of a president they didn’t vote for in front of an audience of people with whom they theoretically held opposing values.

The diversity of the military members participating was matched only by their feelings towards the man of the hour. So what’s wrong with a service member—especially a reservist—voicing their personal opinion? Nothing at all perhaps, unless that opinion is voiced while wearing the uniform or using an online profile as someone who is clearly a member of the military. It then quickly undermines the civilian-led chain of command upon which our military was built.

Some would argue that vocalizing such opposition is no different than a Vietnam-era G.I. badmouthing President Lyndon Johnson, a common occurrence at the time. There is one big difference, however, between those who spoke against Johnson or Bush and those who do the same now: today’s military is an all-volunteer force. No one wearing the uniform today does so unwillingly. We were not drafted, and we are not being kept beyond the date we willingly agreed to.

There’s a saying in the military that you don’t have to respect the person, but you must respect the rank. We may not like every military leader we work for, but we fight willingly as a member of their team, because that is the promise we made to each other and the American people. That is true of every sergeant, lieutenant, and general.

As I walked through the mall towards Pennsylvania Avenue on the cold January morning our president was sworn-in, a countless number of the estimated 800,000 citizens in attendance thanked me for serving. Several asked to have a picture taken with me and my comrades. It was clear to me that we have earned a respect greater than perhaps any other group of people. The least we can do is return that respect to our citizens, our civilian leaders, and especially our president and commander in chief.
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