

The

SUMMIT



GROSSMONT COLLEGE'S STUDENT NEWS MEDIA | SEPTEMBER 2019



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GROSSMONT FINDS A NEW SOUND

Including styles of Indian, Persian, Arabic and Flamenco music, The Middle Eastern Ensemble is ready to show Grossmont what it's all about.

LAYOUT, PHOTOS AND STORY BY SARA ROTT



This semester, Grossmont College introduces The Middle East Ensemble, a community ensemble specializing in music from the large geographical area of the Middle East. Adjunct Professor Farhad Bahrami was offered to teach the course after being contacted by the chair of the Music Department and former undergraduate classmate Derek Cannon. Bahrami prepared roughly a year in advance after being contacted.

"I thought it was a prank," Bahrami said after he received a phone call from Cannon. "I thought he was kidding me, and I came in the next day and it was about this."

With a double major in software and music, he continued to progress in musical studies, earning his master's degree and playing with his children and friends. He had a niche for making "things work" in bands, so when he was invited to Grossmont to teach the new course, Music 142, he couldn't refuse the "honor to work with everyone here," he said.

The class is a test run for students to experiment playing instruments with a Middle Eastern influence. The students will be involved and work as a team, collaborating on learning new rhythms and pieces. Along with participating in group work, students will also individually seek their own potential.

On a whim, the class performed a short concert Aug. 21, showing students the kinds of music which the class will be showcasing. Even though it was short notice, the class put on a wonderful performance

of the different styles from the Middle East. Guests from the community and students came together for this opportunity.

Hector Delgado, a percussionist who was invited to the short performance by Bahrami, was given the open invitation to perform. Delgado accepted, and on arrival, discovered the course and joined the scene. "I ended up being the percussionist," he said.

Traditional instruments were played, like the well-known sitar, along with Westernized instruments like the electric guitar and cello during the small concert. When the first thought of Middle Eastern music comes to mind, one may not imagine Westernized instruments in this genre.

Karla Aguire, a student in the class, played her cello at the short show. She explained how



The Middle Eastern Ensemble performs its introductory pop-up concert.

there is a lot of traditional instruments that are similar to Westernized ones.

"A lot of Middle Eastern instruments are starting to have a picture in the Western world," she said. Studying mostly classical music, Aguire has expanded her knowledge, mostly through YouTube, listening to different genres and cultures to get inspired.

She said she looks forward to learning the theory behind the music. "There are (quarter-tones) that aren't in basic music theory, so I'm interested in learning that

and learning more about how to produce the genre and how to interpret it."

The class met for the first time Aug. 22. People came in with their own instruments, and Bahrami gave a history introduction.

"So defining it geographically, we sort of accept the super-set," Bahrami said. "So if there's doubt it's part of the Middle East, we include Greek, maybe we include Flamenco; we include maybe Indian music, because people interacted during those many thousands of years."

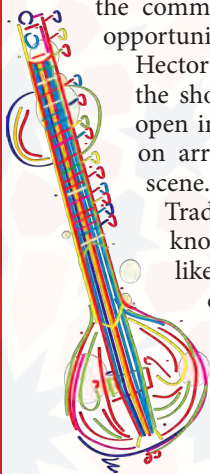
The class consists of listening to the tones and rhythms of the Middle East and reinterpreting it by ear.

More advanced players would play on top of basic rhythms to add depth. People will be working to their own potential and schedule.

Adding to the long list of ensembles offered at Grossmont, the Middle East Ensemble adds a new flare

“So, defining it geographically, we sort of accept the super-set.”

—Farhad Bahrami





Karla Aguire in action.

“I think it’s great for them to come here and listen to traditional pieces, maybe join and find a place.”

—Karla Aguire



Angelica Yume Pruitt plays the bass guitar during the on-whim concert.



to the music department.

“I think it’s a great opportunity to expand the music department,” Aguire said. “We do have a lot of international students here, so I think it’s great for them to come here and listen to traditional pieces, maybe join and find a place.”

Bahrami said he aspires that on the horizon, the idea would play a larger part in students’ learning outcomes— to create a World Music Certificate Program or a World Music Jazz Certificate Program, offered by Grossmont.

“The students would get a little Middle Eastern or whatever else music because we do not wanna separate the music so much,” he said “We want to benefit from each of them and sort of find where to dig deeper.”

The class meets Thursdays, from 7 to 9:55 p.m., to learn new skills and the history of traditional music from across the world. The class is also preparing for a concert in December. .



Hector Delgado plays percussion for the ensemble.



Karla Aguire and Farhad Bahrami playing in sync.

Junior colleges are often marketed as two-year programs, but thousands of students have moved past that marker.

BY ANTONIO CHAMBERLAIN

GROSSMONT UNIVERSITY?



Life never really goes according to plan. Many of us have aspirations to get from point A to point Z, and attempt to map out everything to a T in-between. Then reality sets in, and our plans take a detour. One might still reach point Z, but not in the way they originally envisioned.

Many students at Grossmont simply view the school as a point or a stepping stone to get to our next destination on our map, so to speak. We step on campus with the idea we're going to be here for two years, complete our GE courses and transfer to a four-year university. Community colleges are often marketed as such, but for thousands of students, it simply doesn't work out that way.

What was supposed to be a short two-year pit stop has turned into a long-term stay for Grossmont students for a multitude of reasons.

Third-year student Anthony Qattan, who has been placed on the President's List in each of his four previous semesters, said he believes the structure of Grossmont plays a role in keeping students here.

"I don't believe their goal is to get you in and out in two years; I believe their goal is to keep you here so they can make their money," Qattan said. "Students staying longer benefits the school, not you."

Ironically, the funding structure for the college has changed. The old scale for funding was based on enrollment, but it's now based on the Student Centered Funding Formula. This new scale is based on student success, like transfer and graduation rate.

Qattan doesn't completely sympathize with students and believes some students don't take an earnest approach to junior college settings.

"Some students collect financial aid checks year after year, so they take the minimal amount of units to acquire a certain amount of money," Qattan said.

He also noted that "life happens" for some students, implying that students' lives outside of school deter them from being able to finish in two years, but Qattan doesn't waver from his takes about the ideology that some students and administrators carry.

"It's a two-way street," he said.

Not all students share the same sentiment as Qattan. Fourth-year student Marquis Snowden, whose extended stay is due to a switch in majors, said he feels junior colleges

do their part in helping students reach the university level.

"People can get in and get out if they know what they want to do," Snowden said. "I believe it's a good thing that students declare their major as soon as they step foot on campus."

Another factor in Snowden's extended stay is the time it took to complete his general education courses, a system Snowden said he feels is flawed.

"But I do feel we should skip all of [the GE courses] and take classes that [are connected] to our majors," Snowden said. "There is no true difference between those courses and our high school curriculum."

Umoja director and Grossmont College counselor Jason Allen said he understands the sentiment students have when it comes to the junior college structure around general education, but notes how crucial and important it is to students' success.

"I've seen it from both sides, where students have been discouraged because all of the GE units they have to take, but there

year "in and out" expectation that's been placed around them.

"I feel like some students do stay here too long because they get comfortable in their surroundings," Scott said. He said he also feels like that's created a "negative stigma" around students who stay at Grossmont for more than two years.

Scott emphasized that everyone's journey differs, and while some students bring new meaning to the term "junior" college, students should still work toward achieving their goals, no matter the internal or external factors being a college student bring.

"A degree is a degree at the end of the day though, and nobody can take that from you," he said.

Lorena Ruggero, Grossmont's director of College and Community Relations, shared some insight as to why many students stay for more than two years.

"A majority of our students here at Grossmont College are part-time students, and that's a big piece of that," Ruggero said.

"I don't believe their goal is to get you in and out in two years; I believe their goal is to keep you here so they can make their money."

—Anthony Qattan

are some students who [understand] it," Allen said. "The goal for colleges is to give students a well-rounded education."

Allen also said some majors like history and sociology are lighter in terms of prep and units required to obtain an associate degree, while business and STEM majors call for an extended stay at Grossmont, as they can range anywhere from 70 to 80 units.

Allen offered advice to students who feel stuck at the junior college level: "Students have a lot of demands going on outside of school and it cuts down on their studying habits, but to alleviate those, students should try work-study. We work really well with students in that area."

Student Wayne Scott, one of those aforementioned STEM majors, is currently entering his fourth-year and offered up an interesting perspective as to why Grossmont students don't meet the two

"In addition, students go through a very beneficial exploration period in which they take courses seeking to find the career path they want to pursue."

Ruggero also highlighted that students aren't mandated to take GE classes; those courses are required if you are seeking upper-division transfer. Instead, students can just take the courses that align with a major and they can receive a certificate of achievement but she added: "Is that what employers want?"

Ruggero doesn't discount students' frustrations and offered up some resources for students to check out if they are struggling to find their career path or need assistance in taking the next step in their education.

"Visit with a counselor and converse about finding a defined end goal. Attend some of our transfer workshops," she said.

"Life happens for students; that doesn't mean you're on [TWO-YEARS CONT. ON PAGE 15]



appear to make this practice more convenient and safer, when, actually, nicotine and the aerosol emissions are being inhaled deep into sensitive lung tissue.

Surgeon General VADM Jerome Adams, has identified e-cigarettes and vaping as a “youth epidemic.”

“We must take action now to protect the health of our nation’s young people,” he declared in a recent report. E-cigarette usage jumped to 78 percent from 2017 through 2018 among high school students alone. He encouraged parents, school officials and teachers, healthcare providers and those in frequent contact with young people to become aware of any vaping or e-cig activity and to try to intervene even if the teen has not used tobacco products. Research has determined that this practice can lead to using tobacco and other substances when vaping. These substances and propellants contain oils, metals and particulates that cause irritation and inflammation and eventually scarring pulmonary cells.

Dr. Albert Rizzo of the American Lung Association has declared flavored tobacco pods may contain a chemical known as diacetyl. This substance, which continues to be used in the production of microwave popcorn, has caused some exposed factory workers to develop a similar lung condition known as “popcorn lung” that scars the alveoli, the tiny air sacs in the lungs where air is exchanged. The syndrome begins with frequent coughing, shortness of breath, nausea, vomiting and fatigue, progressing to respiratory failure if not treated rapidly. The increased potency of e-cigs delivers more nicotine than smoking the same amount of cigarettes. Rizzo cautions that some e-cigarette pods contain as much nicotine as a pack of cigarettes that can be inhaled within 15 minutes.

The Damage Done

At *The Summit*’s press time, the CDC has identified three deaths and over 400 hospitalized cases in 25 states related to vaping. The majority of the reported illnesses involved adolescents or young people; however, some middle-aged adults also fell ill enough to be hospitalized or die. Most of the



cases originated from tobacco-related usage, but symptoms were also reported from others after smoking cannabinoid infusions. The CDC has not been able to identify any specific substances due to the huge variety of products available for users but they are working in conjunction with the FDA to collect more information. At present, the FDA advises against vaping any substances to prevent future diseases and to decrease the incidence of the current lung problems.

No Need to Hit the Panic Button

The inhalation of fumes, vapors and other natural materials has existed for thousands of years. Smoking has and continues to play an important [VAPE CONT. ON PAGE 15]

Vaping or the use of electronic cigarettes (e-cigs) has peaked tremendously in the past several years to create a billion-dollar market. Many smokers find vaping more discreet, with usage accepted in many public places, less concern about second-hand smoke, decreased incidence of fire hazards and other conveniences compared to smoking cigarettes. Sounds chill until recent news reports in collaboration with the CDC and other health officials confirm there are some serious health risks associated with vaping.

How Did This Happen?

The practice of vaping has existed in American culture during several decades when a few scientists and entrepreneurs created devices to promote vaping as an alternative to smoking cigarettes. Early attempts to popularize vaping were thwarted until 2003, when a Chinese pharmacist introduced an affordable and user-friendly e-cig device. The industry, boosted by commercialism, exploded in the American and European markets.

By 2009, smoking cigarettes had declined in popularity as the negative health and environmental impacts were evident and concerned consumers sought alternative ways

to satisfy nicotine cravings. As sales dipped, the tobacco industry developed new products such as flavored tobacco and promoted alternative sources to regain the market. E-cigs seemed like a good alternative, especially when the FDA passed laws to ban flavored tobacco products and other restrictions. The popularity of e-cigs and vaping has soared to the current level, and a new subculture has formed around the practice.

This Tastes So Good!

Although the majority of e-cig products contain highly addictive nicotine combined with various chemicals, this does not appear to deter users as the trend continues to flourish, specifically among young users who are attracted to the flavored brands. A recent article published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine revealed that four out of five kids who have used tobacco, initiated use with a flavored product. Many reported they started vaping as young as 12 years old. The flavors disguise the taste of tobacco, encouraging usage and inducing the younger generation to become addicted to nicotine that can lead to lung damage and disease. Also, the sophistication of vaping devices



G-HOUSE



WOMEN'S SOCCER BRINGS HEAT

Women's soccer ties visiting Eagles of Mt. San Jacinto.

STORY AND PHOTO BY ANDREW FINLEY

Women's soccer was a hot topic this summer as the United States National Women's soccer team dominated the rest of the world and brought home its second consecutive title in three World Cup Finals appearances. The Grossmont College Women's soccer team looks to keep the sport a hot topic through the entire fall semester.

The Griffins began that journey on a hot August afternoon. Temperatures may have been flirting with 100 degrees on Aug. 30 at Grossmont, but not even scorching temperatures would stop the women's soccer team from performing in their home opener. The warm, gentle breeze flew across Grossmont's newly installed turf field, as it would be the ladies first game on it.

"Oh yeah, we're excited about this new field," Head Coach Jason Aldous said.

Grossmont opened this season with just three sophomores on the roster. This means new talent is coming in, but with that comes a lot of inexperience. That inexperience doesn't seem to worry Aldous.

"We are a young team. Not the biggest team in terms of numbers," the coach said, "but the talent is some of the best I've ever had."

The unheralded Griffins kicked off their home opener against the Mt. San Jacinto Eagles. Both teams had each lost their first contest the week before.

The Griffins were in possession first. And once the clock started rolling, it was game on. The Eagles and Griffins went back and forth in time of possession in this defensive battle.

The Eagles eventually broke through, scoring the first goal of the match, toward the end of the first half and would go into halftime with the lead.

Going into the second half, there didn't seem to be any one team dominating the field. However, coming out of halftime, it was obvious to see the Griffins had made some adjustments to their play as they seemed to have the edge on the possession battle over the Eagles.

"We were panicking when we got the ball," Aldous said, talking about his halftime adjustments, "It was just the girls calming down and knocking the ball around and finding the spaces between and behind the defenders."

Calming down seemed to do the trick as the Griffins would score their first and only goal of the match within the final 15 minutes of the contest.

The match would end via time running out with each team scoring one goal, which resulted in a tie score. Although the Griffins would have loved to have brought the home crowd of roughly 20 people a victory, they just fell short of a win on that sweltering afternoon.

"Overall, I'm happy," Aldous said after the game. "I thought we were the better team in creating opportunities, we just didn't finish."

"That's the hardest thing to do; create opportunities, and we're doing it, but no one likes to tie," he continued.

The tie against the Eagles brought Grossmont's record to 0-1-1 on the season. Their next home game will take place Sept. 27 against San Diego City College. ♣



FALL SPORTS

SPRING TO FALL, WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL STANDS TALL

Women's volleyball opens the season strong at home, beating the Cerro Coso Coyotes in the annual Grossmont Classic.



The fall women's volleyball team is setting-up shop right where the spring beach volleyball team left off: serving-up dominance.

Following a CCCAA Women's Beach Volleyball Championship title won in May, Grossmont's indoor team is now heading in the same direction as their outdoor predecessors, minus the sticky beach sand. The ladies opened the G-house gymnasium Aug. 30, hosting the Grossmont Classic in true dominating fashion, dishing back-to-back 3-0 game wins against the Cerro Coso Coyotes, followed by the Riverside Tigers.

"It's very exciting; it's our home, it's our gym, our house," sophomore outside hitter Naomi Talisa Leilua said, after the win against Cerro Coso. "And we came in

excited and really just happy to be here, in our home—where we're comfortable."

The athletes looked more than comfortable on their home court as returning all-star beach volleyball phenom Shaney Lipscomb dominated on both sides of the net, spiking it to Cerro Coso often while jumping and blocking to defend the G-House court.

Along with Lipscomb, returning players from the spring Women's Beach Volleyball Championship team include the amazing athleticism of setter Haley Morton and outside hitter Chloe Emery who, like Lipscomb, stands at 6 foot 2.

These sophomore pros were back at it for the home-opener. Grossmont's first set began with the accurate serving of Morton supplied with Lipscomb dishing aggressive, "in-your-face" kill spikes. Cerro Coso was able to respond, receiving a point via an attack-error supplied by the hard-hitting Lipscomb. The one-point giveaway was desperately needed by the Coyotes, as Grossmont would crush them 8-3 in the following matches of the first set.

Error points seemed to be the only offense Cerro Coso could create, as their fourth point would come from a Carly Gonzalez service error. This error seemed to summon the Coyotes as they went on a five-point scoring run, until Grossmont smartly called a time-out with the score of the first set at 14-13 as G-House narrowly led by just one-point.

Assistant Head Coach Brooke Callahan was acting head coach in place of Jamie Ivers during the tournament. After the game, Callahan commented on the Coyotes' efforts: "Cerro Coso did a lot of good things. They're a super-scrappy team; they digged well."



STORY, PHOTOS AND LAYOUT
BY SHARISSE COHEE

The scrappy game play supplied by the Coyotes was not enough to take down G-House as the Griffins soared after the time-out, winning the first set 25-18.

This momentum would carry over, with Grossmont serving first in the second set, as the team went on a four-point scoring run. It was yet another service-error committed by the Griffins that would give the Coyotes their first point of the set as Grossmont led 4-1. G-house went on to annihilate the second set, going on two three-point scoring runs followed by back-to-back four-point runs. Behind the powerful and accurate serving of freshmen middle-hitter Brooklyn Anderson, the Griffins finished the set by an impressive score of 25-11.

"The first home-game, super-exciting; I think our girls did awesome," Callahan said.

While it was the first fall game played on the G-house gymnasium court, the women

[GHOUSE CONT. ON PAGE 15]



MEET AMSA: GROSSMONT CHAPTER

The American Medical Student Association: Grossmont College Chapter supports students pursuing careers in the medical field.

STORY, PHOTOS AND LAYOUT BY SHARISSE COHEE

The fascinating medical field is a forever evolving art. As breakthrough scientific technology has become prevalent in the field, now, more than ever, medical professionals are required to go through rigorous and intense education and training to successfully treat patients.

Grossmont offers an array of tools and programs to familiarize students with hands-on teaching to prepare them for the competitive medical field. One such program, which began as the Pre-Medical Honors Society, has blossomed and transitioned into the American Medical Student Association: Pre-Medical Chapter at Grossmont.

"AMSA is going on its second year as a social institution here at Grossmont and has grown exponentially since its establishment in 2018," said Club President Christina Buksa. A major in sociology of science and medicine with a premedical emphasis, Buksa originally served as the volunteer coordinator for the Pre-Medical Honors Society (PMHS) before being granted the privilege of serving AMSA as current president.

"I found out about PMHS – AMSA's name prior to merging with AMSA national – through a friend who had heard about the club through campus club outreach," Buksa explained.

According to the AMSA's Grossmont College website: "AMSA is the oldest and largest nationally recognized association of physicians in training. AMSA at Grossmont not only strives to provide valuable resources to students who hope to pursue a career as a physician, but also aims to educate and help guide members in their preparation for medical school admissions."

"AMSA would not be anything close to as amazing as it is without the hard work of my board of officers Kyla, Caroline, Melissa, Hailey and Sarah," Buksa said. "As well as our dedicated Faculty Adviser Taneisha Hellon, who has been with us since day one.



Hellon has been a counselor at Grossmont since 2017; she was approached by the former founder of the pre-medical honors society in Spring 2018 to become an adviser to the club.

"She was looking for a few club advisers who would be willing

to support her and some of the other individuals who wanted to be a part of this program that supports students pursuing a career in medicine," Hellon said.

Referring to her Grossmont comrades as "family," Hellon said she cherishes being able to integrate her counseling background and perspectives to help organize AMSA and support students striving to become future practitioners.

"Being a part of a club where students take control of their destiny— it's just been such a pleasure to watch the club grow, but not only that, watch the students grow within their connections with one another and their desire to become practitioners," she said.

Both Buksa and Hellon are truly proud of what AMSA has already accomplished at Grossmont, as well as the goals and endeavors club officials look to pursue for the organization. The adviser and club president contest that AMSA is not solely about helping students get accepted into medical school, but also connecting with their fellow peers and the campus.

"I just feel like students who are connected on campus tend to have this sense of belonging and accountability," Hellon said. "I feel that does really help with students' completion with their time here at community college, so I really felt like it was important for me to be present in that way—not only as a counselor at Grossmont, but as an adviser to support students and their goals."

Buksa, who is also a Peer Mentor for Via Rapida F.Y.E. Program at Grossmont, agrees with Hellon's tenacity to help others succeed: "What I cherish about AMSA at Grossmont is that I get to improve the lives of other people." She continued: "One of my biggest driving forces in life is my love for humanity. I like to see people doing well and thriving and pursuing and eventually reaching their dreams. It allows me to share the knowledge I have accumulated and pour my time and effort to individuals who will not only become excellent for themselves, but also for others."

AMSA meets every first Friday of every month from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in 36-340. 🐦

"The effort, time, and drive is truly what makes everything possible, and they really work hard to make our vision of AMSA a reality."

Receive your dose of a monthly *Scientific Journal of Medicine*, brought to you by student contributors from AMSA, to spark your neurons!



INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGY: THE FUTURE OF SURGERY IS SCARLESS

BY CHRISTINA BUKSA, AMSA CONTRIBUTOR

The medical field is an institution that is constantly evolving. Every second of every day, medical practitioners worldwide are discovering new ways to do things better, faster and more efficiently, leading to extraordinary outcomes, lower mortality rates and an increased quality of life. In the year 3000 B.C., the art of cutting and

manipulating of an organism's body to remove diseased tissue or correct injury known as surgery began to take root. No one could have imagined this practice, held in regard until present day, would be left behind. Medicine would turn a new leaf and a new era as "Surgery without a Scalpel" would begin to dominate the surgical field.

"Surgery without a scalpel" is better known as interventional radiology. Rather than cutting into a patient's body through an incision ranging in size, doctors use just a pin-sized hole, a thread and a catheter to correct a range of disorders throughout different areas of medicine. These branches of medicine include

cardiology, vascular, brain, kidney, liver, cancer and in-utero fetal intervention.

Originally derived from the medical scope used for diagnosis through imaging, medical practitioners acknowledged the flexibility and minimally invasive potential, crafting a new tool from this device. By tweaking the structure and adding a pencil tip-sized catheter, it allowed for easy and minimally invasive navigation and treatment when paired with a balloon, stent and other medical devices. Thus, the tool used to perform interventional radiology procedures was born.

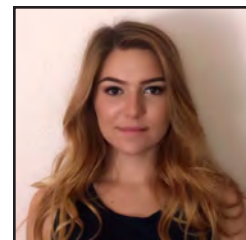
Interventional Radiology processes and procedures are much different than those of a regular surgical procedure. A small needle-sized puncture hole is created and then a metal thread is placed in the hole. The metal thread is then woven up through the vascular system following a pre-mapped vascular route acquired in pre-op. Contrast and dyes being injected into the body allows doctors to see every inch of the vascular system

that can act as a pathway for the thread to reach the diseased or injured location. The thread is then maneuvered up to the area of focus, depending on the procedure being done. The procedure to target the problem begins, ranging in scenarios among: cauterization, a more focused application of chemicals used to treat cancer, stent placement and balloon placement; the possibilities are endless.

The procedure results in



many advantages not achievable before such as quicker recovery time, little to no scarring, and greater precision, thus ringing in a new era of more advanced and focused patient care. Medicine is constantly growing and thriving. Interventional Radiology is just the beginning of an era that just may completely change surgical procedures as society knows them.



Christine Buksa,
AMSA President

DON'T LET CONSTRUCTION CONSTRICT YOU

With massive construction underway on the west-side of campus, routine routes become pinched, causing students to be inconveniently late to class.

With hallways impeded, makeshift paths can be tough and rugged to maneuver.



BY SHARISSE COHEE

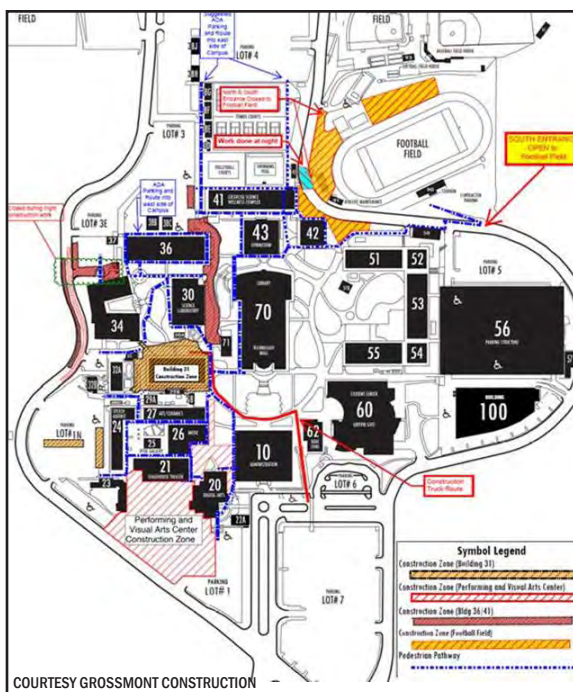


Renovation of Building 31. Phase 1 of the Science, Math & Career Tech complex. Building 31 will house the Administration of Justice program and Child Developmental Center. In addition, there will be classrooms for math and a shared computer lab.

PHASE 1 PROJECT ESTIMATE: \$13.2 MILLION
EXPECTED CONSTRUCTION: JULY 2018 - SEPT. 2019



The walkway access between buildings 30 (Science Laboratory) and 70 (Tech Mall/ Library) is inconveniently detoured, cutting off a major chunk of campus while installation of underground water pipes are constructed. This walkway access is closed along into Building 41 (Exercise Science Wellness Complex). Pinch-point pedestrian walkways have been designated that re-route paths along the north and east side of Building 30.



COURTESY GROSSMONT CONSTRUCTION

Rendition of Performing and Visual Arts Center, slated for completion Sept. 2019.

PHASE 1 PROJECT ESTIMATE: \$43.87 MILLION
EXPECTED CONSTRUCTION: DEC. 2017 - SEPT. 2019



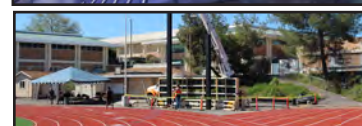
COURTESY GROSSMONT CONSTRUCTION

Pinch-point walkway near Performing and Visual Arts Center construction zone. Detour allows access to buildings 27 (Arts and Ceramics), 26 (Music), 25 (Hyde Art Gallery), 24 (Speech and Dance), 21 (Stagehouse Theatre) and 20 (Digital Arts).



COURTESY GROSSMONT CONSTRUCTION

Rendition of renovated Building 31 which is Phase 1 of the Science, Math & Career Tech complex. According to grossmont.edu, "tenants of Building 31 are housed in the interim swing space located in Parking Lot No. 5 South."



Renovation of the updated track and field was completed in March. Construction is underway to build an ADA-accessible ramp to the field and around the track. The north and south entrances to the football field are closed; the south side entrance of the field is open which is located across from Parking Lot 5 and Building 50. The track and field is open for use during construction.



First of two phases to construct the Arts & Communication Complex. According to grossmont.edu, "The scope of Phase 1 includes the removal of buildings 22 A-C and the construction of a new 38,680-square-foot, 390-seat teaching and performance theater. The theater will also include the new Hyde Gallery."



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

New faces, names and classifications— oh my! CCS faces some big changes.

BY JASMINE OSUNA



Big changes are coming to the Cross Cultural Studies program at Grossmont, thanks to the hard work of Dr. Sue Gonda, the CCS coordinator, and Raymundo Quezada, who is currently the only full-time professor for the program. They plan to add a new full-time professor who specializes in African-American Studies, to change the program's name, and to change from a "program" to a "department"— all within this academic year.

The Cross Cultural Studies program used to have two full-time professors in the 1980s and '90s. "In the early 2000s... we lost one to retirement... [then] we lost another to retirement," Gonda said. "We were down to none."

For several years, Cross Cultural Studies had no full-time instructors. Quezada credits Gonda for keeping the program alive when there were talks about the sociology department absorbing it. As Quezada put it: "She gave it CPR."

Gonda modernized the curriculum and fought to hire a full-time professor. At first, even getting the one was difficult. When a department wants a full-time instructor, they must first get approval from the Staffing Committee.

When Gonda first asked for a full-time professor position, she didn't get prioritized. "I really didn't realize how much misunderstanding there was (about what CCS is)," Gonda said.

Eventually – in a controversial move – the college president, Dr. Nabil Abu-Ghazaleh, overruled the Staffing Committee, stepping in so a full-time professor who specializes in *Chicanx* studies could be hired.

This time around, the Staffing Committee has prioritized hiring a new full-time professor for African-American Studies, ranking it first.

"When we are pushing for inclusion and equity," Quezada said regarding the school's hire, "we should probably have someone here who not only understands the history, but the culture and the current politics and the current educational policy."

Quezada is not the only one eager to see the department expand. Jasz Cabrera, a Grossmont student who identifies as nonbinary/gender queer, said they hope for a class with a LGBTQ perspective.

"Queer history is world history," Cabrera said. "We exist in every single society, and our history is really important. Our contributions to the world should be known."

When Cabrera first heard of Cross Cultural Studies, they held a common misconception of what the program was about. "I thought it was kind of like anthropology," Cabrera said. "It's where you study other cultures."

Cabrera is far from alone. Put simply, "Cross Cultural Studies" is too vague of a program title to be understood without explanation.

"People don't know what 'Cross Cultural Studies' is. It's a term that's very old-fashioned," Gonda said.

Quezada agreed.

"It's old-school, and we need to update the terminology," he said. "I don't know any other institution, whether a community college or a state school or a UC, that uses 'Cross Cultural Studies' the way that we use it here."

He went on to explain when a school does have a cross-cultural studies department, it is comprised of classes about communication and media, not at all resembling the classes included in Grossmont's CCS program. Together, Gonda and Quezada came up with the new name for the program: Ethnic, Gender and Social Justice Studies.

The main motivation for this change is to solve the misconceptions many people have about the department. They both said they hope students will be able to recognize what the courses are really about.

Quezada broke down the new name: "Ethnic" to be seen more by students, 'gender' to let people know we are an intersectional department and an interdisciplinary department, and 'social justice'... because of the transfer degree, but also because of the themes [of the classes]."

Currently, Cross Cultural Studies is technically a program, not a department. The plan is to change that soon. While it functions as a department on paper, it isn't officially recognized as a department by the college.

Quezada said he hopes the change to a department will give it more respect. He sees the current classification as a program as "a relic of a time when CCS was not given the respect and the visibility it should have been given." 🦋



PROMI\$E?

Are you eligible for free tuition?

BY MATISSE SANCHEZ

You have finally applied and registered for classes at Grossmont College. For first-year students, getting to choose your own classes toward your future can be exciting. But what happens when you realize that you can't afford to take as many classes as you'd want this semester?

It's practical to say community college is the cheaper and more affordable way to go, especially for students whose families can't afford to pay thousands of dollars each semester at a UC, state or private school. Still, students are able to look for ways to gain support and maybe get a whole year paid without having to pay back any money or take out loans.

You may not be up to date with all of the plans that Grossmont has to offer, but all you have to do is make sure you follow these simple requirements in order to qualify.

If you are a California resident and attending Grossmont or Cuyamaca for the first time, you already knocked off two of the requirements for this plan. Following down the line, some of the other requirements are to sign the Promise Pledge, complete an Education Plan and orientation, complete your FAFSA and maintain a full-time status at Grossmont or Cuyamaca colleges. Furthermore, you may even qualify to extend this plan to your second year, if you maintain a 2.0 GPA and complete the 12 units during each semester of your first year.

"It was a burden lifted off of my family's shoulders," said Andrea Gonzalez, a student at Grossmont. "It was one thing less that we had to worry about financially."

This can be true for a lot of students' families who can't afford to pay for everything all at once. Another student, Brenda Romero, said, "It provided a lot of resources and gave us opportunities to explore and better know the campus."

But wait! In case you haven't heard: Second-year or transferring students, if you weren't aware of this Promise plan, can apply as well. Any second-year student can be eligible if you have completed 12 units for each semester of your first year, earned a cumulative 2.0 and are a California resident.

The deadline for the Promise plan expired Sept. 10, but those who are returning for a second year or know a student coming for their first should consider applying for next year.

Those who did apply this year will soon find out through email if they are eligible, so students should watch for them. Those who are eligible for the Promise Plan and have paid already for their starting classes will be automatically reimbursed. For those eligible who haven't yet paid for any classes, their tuition and fees will be "covered by the Promise Plan," according to the Grossmont and Cuyamaca district offices.

Why wait? If you can be covered by the Promise Plan, then sign up. It's easy for students, and even easier if you head over to Grossmont's Admissions and Records, where many people are willing to help guide you through the steps that are necessary for you to be eligible for this program.

For more information about the Promise Plan, you can contact the Promise team at mycollegepromise@gcccd.edu or you can visit the website at mycollegepromise.net. 🐦

YOUR NAME HERE

Students can submit their short films for recognition... and possibly money.

BY SARA ROTT

Filmmakers of Grossmont, if you're looking for a way to get your film work out into the world, look no more. Submit your short films to the fourth Annual Grand Foundation Student Festival, which showcases short films made by students from colleges, high schools and film schools from California, Arizona, Oregon and Washington.

The Grand Theatre House in Tracy, California, will transform into a movie theater to showcase student work on Jan. 25. Professional guest speakers will attend the event to offer advice and discuss filmmaking, along with giving an opportunity to network with fellow filmmakers.

Not only can you show your work to the world, but there is also a chance to win some money. Up to \$6,750 will be awarded to students from a jury panel.

The first place can win up to a \$1,000; second place will win \$750 and third, \$500. There is also an additional audience choice winner.

The entry fee is \$20, and each film must be between one to 15 minutes long. The deadline is Dec. 1, and the festival includes all types of genres. For more info, visit filmfreeway.com/GrandFoundationStudentFilmFestival. 🐦



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Closed Sunday

CHERISHED PROFESSOR PASSES AWAY

Zoe Close, 66, former chair of the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, died from illness on Aug.19 in Chandler, Arizona.

BY SHARISSE COHEE

Throughout her 30-year-career at Grossmont College, educator Zoe Close not only touched the lives of students as a Philosophy and Religious Studies Professor, but remained passionate in serving her fellow instructors, operating as chair of the department for nearly 20 years.

Her dedication to the college was also demonstrated as Close represented the department in numerous Academic Senates. This passion was noted and celebrated by the college, as Close earned multiple awards of excellence, including the prestigious honor of being named Distinguished Faculty during the 2004-2005 academic year. Her sudden retirement in 2018, due to health reasons, came as a surprise to her fellow colleagues.

"At the end of fall semester last year, she told the dean [Agustin Albarran] that she's retiring for health reasons and that's all he could say," said Bill Hoaglin, chair of the Philosophy and Religious Studies Department.

Hoaglin, who in 2001 was hired by Close, recounted her passion for the department.

"Zoe loved being department chair," he said. "She tried to do the best for the department, bringing in outside speakers and making it more interesting for the students."

Her selfless nature and positive personality was echoed throughout the department and persists even after her passing. In 1996, Assistant Professor of Religion and Humanities John Scholte was also hired by Close and the two became devoted colleagues throughout their more than 20-year tenure together.

"Her retirement happened fast and was so abrupt; we realize



now it was due to health concerns," Scholte said in a phone interview. "She was actually going to come back as an adjunct faculty [on-line] this semester. It was a real loss; she was a wonderful person."

Scholte continued: "In any department, there are people with all kinds of ideas, and she was always able to moderate it in a positive way. She always had a calming influence."

When reminiscing about her, there was a noticeable pattern in the way Close's colleagues perceived her: "Wonderful."

"She was just the most wonderful person; she was the life of the department," said Leila Parello, a philosophy instructor who worked in the department together since 1998. Parello described how difficult it will be, not only losing the warm-natured colleague, but a true friend as well.

"Having known her for so long and having had her support for so long, it's very hard, because she was so wonderful and supportive," Parello said. "She was genuinely caring and concerned about people and faculty, and it's so difficult to find that."

Her death, due to brain cancer, occurred at the Hospice of the Valley in Chandler, Arizona, and came as a great shock that deeply saddened her fellow instructors.

Albarran called Hoaglin, saying he "should be the first to know that Zoe had died," Hoaglin said. "And as it turned out, she had brain cancer, and that was the first I'd heard of that."

Colleagues recount Close as being a very warm and private person who kept her work life and private life separate, even keeping her devastating illness a secret to most.

"Zoe never told anybody that she had cancer," Hoaglin said. "She never shared that."

He continued: "I was actually talking to a colleague, who said that Zoe always wore her hair very long and straight and then a few years ago it was shorter. I don't pay that much attention to fashion or hairstyles, so I just assumed she cut her hair."

A colleague soon told him that it was a wig.

"So that was her sign," Hoaglin said.

Close's support for her colleagues shined, as she was not only the recipient of numerous prestigious academic awards herself, but celebrated the recognition of her fellow instructors. Scholte recounted when he received the honor of the Distinguished Faculty award in 2014, Close attended the ceremony, which touched him deeply.

"She was there really supporting and really cheering me on," Scholte said. "Not just as a department chair, but as a true supporter."



"One of the most positive points about her was that she treated everyone as a colleague; she was wonderful," Scholte said. "She was concerned about the adjunct faculty and made sure to give people opportunities to teach."

Close received her bachelor's degree from Penn State University, State College in 1974 and, only one year after, earned a master's degree in philosophy from San Jose State University. Close was highly respected in her ability to invite outside educators and presenters to

Grossmont, incorporating philosophy educators from distinguished universities among San Diego, and even famous authors as well. Scholte recalled bringing in Dr. Van Voorst, a premier religious scholar, to speak to students on "Religious Pluralism" and professors on "The How To's of Getting Published."

Close will not only be greatly missed by her Grossmont family. According to dignitymemorial.com, "she is survived by her loving family - husband Mick Tarel, son Michael Dane Tarel, grand daughter Evelyn and brother Carl Zane Close."

Hoaglin put Close's departure very poignantly, when empathizing with the late educator's decision to keep her illness hidden from staff: "I guess she left us, in a sense, as privately as she was when she was here."

Services were held at the National Memorial Cemetery in Phoenix. In commemoration of Close, cards for signing to send condolences were available to students and staff at the Instructional Dean's Office from Aug. 26 through Sept. 3. Donations are also welcome; they will go toward purchasing flowers for the family and will be accepted by MaryAnn Landry, whose office is also located at the Instructional Dean's Office. 🐦

"She was just the most wonderful person; she was the life of the department."

- Leila Parello



Zoe Close (right) and colleague John Scholte (left) pose with Dr. Robert Van Voorst at the theologian's educational presentation at Grossmont.

TWO YEARS [CONT. FROM PAGE 6]

your own to figure it out, we have resources for students to help them out," Ruggero continued. "Our vision here at Grossmont is to prepare individuals who can be contributing members to society, local and global citizens. That's what's best for our community at large." 🐦

VAPE [CONT. FROM PAGE 7]

role in most primitive and modern societies. The practice continues to convey religious and spiritual connections, friendship and cultural connotations and personal preferences.

Unfortunately, it has escalated to major proportions to affect related health and morbidity rates in modern societies for a variety of reasons. American public health officials and organizations are concerned about the impact of future illnesses and chronic diseases. The message of this story is simple-use common sense, discretion and conscious choice before starting or continuing to smoke or inhale any substance.

Many individuals reports e-cigs are a step-down toward decreasing or eliminating smoking from their lifestyle versus topical or oral methods. Additional information is available at Student Health Services in Building 60 on campus. 🐦

GHOUSE [CONT. FROM PAGE 9]

played with a sense of cohesiveness and resilience true veterans demonstrate.

The Coyotes would not be laid to rest easily though, as they dug deep and kept the third set of the game neck-and-neck.

Grossmont started the third set with Morton serving hard, but the Coyotes howled back, scoring the first point of the set. G-House roared through, scoring four straight points after the initial Cerro Coso score. The Griffins' comfortable lead though began to be jeopardized, as the Coyotes played stealth defense, forcing G-House to work hard for every precious point.

The third set proved to be a contest of perseverance as the teams battled back-and-forth, when the Coyotes tied the set 9-9, off an attack-error. Cerro Coso received a glimpse of daylight as, for the first time in the game, they took the lead over Grossmont 11-10. The Griffins' offense took offense to this lead change, and came out hot. G-House went on a five-point scoring run behind the scary serving skills of freshman setter Sydney Frigerio. It was all G-House from there as the team went on a three-point scoring run, sealing the victory. The Griffins went on to win the third and final set of the game, 25-18, as Grossmont swept the Coyotes under the rug, beating team in three straight sets.

"We've still got a lot of work to do, but for our first game I think it was a really good first match," Callahan said after the game. "It's just a matter of us picking up our system and making sure we go into our next game and kind of have our systematics." 🐦

To ESL or not to ESL?

That is the question international students face with ENGL-020. | BY AMMIE PHAN

This semester, Grossmont will be applying a new required supplemental course for international students. English 020 will supplement English 120, the first semester transfer-level composition course, “designed to develop critical reading and writing skills essential to academic inquiry across the disciplines,” according to the Courses of Instruction in Grossmont College’s Catalog 2019-2020. This means that in order to take English 120, there is a requirement of taking English 020, a one-unit class, as a supporting course applied for students who have received the English placement result in English 120 level.

Moreover, by taking English 020 while taking English 120, which is a three-unit class, international students do not need to take any English-as-a-second-language (ESL) courses. That way, they can save their time spending on completing transfer-level ESL coursework requirements, which usually takes one or two semesters— or could take even longer since English is not their first language.

The addition of English 020 to the English program is an implement of Assembly Bill No. 705 (AB-705). In Chapter 745, the bill authorizes the board of governors to, “establish regulations governing the use of measures, instruments and placement models.” This was designed to reach to the maximum time students, particularly international ones, will enter and complete transfer-level coursework: one year for English and mathematics, and three years for ESL instruction.

There have already been some meetings between the school administrators and staff members, mainly from Admissions and Records, Counseling, and the English and ESL Departments. These meetings are to keep them updated with the new regulation and figure out a way to help international students in choosing the right path for completing English requirement coursework before transferring to a four-year university.

For international students, it is an important decision to determine which way works the best for them: spending more time to be more proficient in English comprehension and writing, or skipping the ESL courses to save time and money to complete transfer-level English courses. Under the pressure of AB-705, international students also need to be mindful of their educational plan so they can also work on their financial plan accordingly.

Counselors who work with students to choose classes have the most knowledge about the students’ situation, especially those first encountering English 020 this semester.

“It just gives our students another option besides having to take the ESL classes. Now they have the option of either choosing the ESL or English,” said Narges Heidari, an international counselor at Grossmont.

She added many international students come to Grossmont with more time in language schools, and say they think taking further ESL classes is a waste of their time, so English 020 “no longer forces them to take ESL.”

Heidari said although English 020 is non-degree applicable and cannot be counted in an international students’ full-time 12-unit minimum, it can be more affordable compared to taking more ESL courses.

For example, if an international student begins with ESL 105 before taking English 120, that student needs to move gradually to ESL

skip all the ESL classes might create higher risks. Heidari said that ESL-105-level students might struggle and fail English 120; therefore, \$1,244 could be wasted.

“It’s a lot of money to lose by experimenting,” said Heidari, adding that she always tells students to think carefully before choosing ESL or English classes, and suggests they drop English 120 during the first two weeks of the semester if they see it is not possible for them to continue the class and choose ESL instead.

In fact, Loveless said even though she has seen a drop in ESL 119 at the very beginning of the semester, she also has been receiving a lot of requests from international students to get back into ESL, mostly in the second week.

English 020 is a new offering, but some international students still take it in advance. Harris said that the English Department opened 18 English 020 classes this semester, and they are all full. “We know that there are many students who are afraid, and part of that

class is to address those fears, where they come from and to help students notice that they can be successful in the class,” she added.

For the students’ success, Loveless has some suggestions for the school to support the international students who have difficulty in deciding to take either ESL courses or to take English 120 with English 020 and skip all the ESL. She said having a late start for some ESL classes at the third week of the semester might be a good idea, so that the students who change classes will not miss information from the first two weeks and not be left behind from the course schedule.

She also suggests a way to help international students determine which class is more suitable: “Pick up a book (they’re reading in English 120) and read its first 20 pages to see how it feels. If you feel overwhelmed, you are right for ESL.” But most importantly, Loveless said that she hopes the students can be “honest with themselves” so that they can be in the right place.

Introducing English 020 might cause some confusion, not only among the school’s administrators, but also international students. There is nothing ensured right now since the course is new to them, but the school’s administrators and staff members are looking for some positive outcomes.

“It’s a waiting game,” Heidari said. “I am both excited and concerned to see the outcome by the end of this semester.”



106 and ESL 119 to be able to take English 120, which costs them nearly \$5,000 for 16 units (as \$311 per unit) in total in two years (four semesters). In comparison, taking English 020 is a one-unit course added to the three units of English 120, so international students just need to pay around \$1,200, which is four times cheaper and also takes less time.

“We were putting unnecessary barriers in front of students,” said Dr. Cindi Harris, co-chair of the English Department. “What we recognize is that some students need more support. They need more help, they need more time, they need more access to student services, so that’s why we developed the English 020 class.”

Even though there is a positive perception of the new English course, there are still some concerns. Barbara Loveless, chair of the ESL Department, said that for international students who have no ESL support – especially no grammar support, which is needed in English 120 – and start at a very low level of English, “English 120 is extremely hard.”

Heidari shared the same concern as Loveless regarding the international students who have low-level ESL assessment results, and said that taking English 020 to

FINANCIAL AID FRIDAYS

Close up the week with a little help from your Financial Aid friends.

BY AUSTIN PEREGUD

Every Friday until Dec. 6, the Financial Aid department will be hosting workshops for Grossmont students who need help with their FAFSA, Dream Act or Bank Mobile.

This is a great opportunity for students who need help filling out their applications. There will be Financial Aid advisers there, as well as peer advisers. But keep in mind, that this is not a Financial Aid Advising Workshop, so any petitions you bring can not be signed off.

Those who are seeking Financial Assistance need to complete the FAFSA to see if they are eligible. The checklists below tell you what to bring if you are a dependent or independent student.

The workshops begin at 9 a.m. and will be held in the Tech Mall (70-103). For more information regarding the upcoming workshop, you can contact Financial Aid 619-644-7048 or you can walk into Building 10 for any more questions. 🐦

All workshops will be held from 9 to 10:30 a.m.* in 70-103. Please arrive no later than 15 minutes after workshop starts to be properly assisted.

DATE	BRING WITH YOU...	
	DEPENDENT STUDENTS	INDEPENDENT STUDENTS
Sept. 13		
Sept. 20		
Sept. 27		
Oct. 4*		
Oct. 11	<input type="checkbox"/> Your FSA ID from <i>fsaid.eg.gov</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> FSA ID from <i>fsaid.eg.gov</i>
Oct. 18	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent's FSA ID from <i>fsaid.eg.gov</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Driver's license
Oct. 25	<input type="checkbox"/> Student's driver's license	<input type="checkbox"/> Alien registration number if not U.S. citizen
Nov. 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Alien registration number if not U.S. citizen	<input type="checkbox"/> Student's marital status
Nov. 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother's Social Security number	<input type="checkbox"/> Student's 2016 taxes, if filed
Nov. 15	<input type="checkbox"/> Father's Social Security number	<input type="checkbox"/> Student's 2016 W2, if you worked but did not file taxes
Nov. 22	<input type="checkbox"/> Student's 2016 taxes, if filed	<input type="checkbox"/> Student's annual income of federal government benefits, if any (SNAP, WIC, etc.)
Dec. 6	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent's 2016 taxes, if filed	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent's annual income of federal government benefits, if any (SNAP, WIC, etc.)	

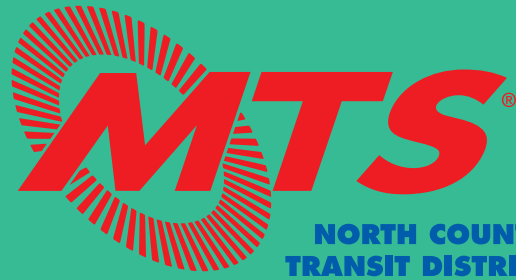
*Meets 9 a.m. to noon

PICASSO AT THE LAPIN AGILE —ANTONIO CHAMBERLAIN

Theatre Chair Beth Duggan is directing an ambitious production of legendary actor and comic Steve Martin's penned stage play *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*. If you ever wondered what a conversation would be like between genius inventor Albert Einstein and the most famous artist of all-time, Pablo Picasso, you get to see it here.

The tale follows these two historical icons before they changed the world with their talents, as they are drawn to one another's curiosity and self-confidence over a run-in at a legendary French restaurant. These witty and intellectual exchanges create a thrilling story.

Picasso at the Lapin Agile will be shown at the Stagehouse Theatre. Shows will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 3, 4, 5, 10, 11 and 12. An additional 2 p.m. showing will be offered in Oct. 5. You can purchase tickets online at grossmont.edu or swing by Building 22A.



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REEL TALK

SLEEPER HITS

BY DONOVAN HOLLAND

Check out these films praised by critics and ignored by pretty much everyone else.



THE NICE GUYS 2016 - Directed by Shane Black

Holland March (Ryan Gosling) will never be happy. At least, that's what he writes on his palm every day in black sharpie. A private eye who's a few exits past being "down-on-his-luck," he takes a case to investigate the supposed suicide of a pornography star in 1970s Los Angeles, hurling him into the path of another PI, Jackson Healy (Russell Crowe). March and Healy reluctantly team-up to investigate, each feeling as if the other knows more than they let on. As the two investigate the mystery, the story gathers more layers and becomes more suspicious while the duo navigates the seedy underbelly of LA.

The Nice Guys sets itself apart from other buddy cop films within the first 20 minutes. Crowe's Healy is no-nonsense, but he has a heart under his blue leather jacket. Gosling's March is dopey enough to get you to feel sorry for him, but cool enough to make you admire him. From the leads' fantastic chemistry, to the biting funny dark comedy, to the colorful backdrop of 1977 LA, Black shows he can direct a '70s detective black comedy better than most others in the business.

2017 - Directed by Joe Lynch MAYHEM

After being fired under unjust circumstances, corporate lawyer Derek Cho (Stephen Yeun) finds his high-class company is corrupt— not only by corporate greed, but by a mysterious virus that causes its infected to act out their most savage and primal impulses. When the whole building goes on lockdown, Derek must partner up with another disgruntled company employee (Samara Weaving) with a vendetta of her own to stay alive amid all the chaos. Bloody action, black comedy and economic commentary abound in this Tarantino-esque thriller about the gory downfall of a crooked company.

Yeun, of *The Walking Dead* fame, is absolutely believable as a high-up lawyer who has had enough of his job. Likewise, newcomer Weaving brings the same type of believability in her performance, and one can tell these two are done playing by the rules. The corporate satire is both humorous and sharply poignant, while the action is stylish and satisfying. In a sort of "race to the top floor" premise that might be too over-the-top or campy if done by most others, Lynch really brings his audience along for this crazy, intense and sometimes hilarious ride, that keeps us on the edge of our seats, all the way up.



WAR DOGS 2016 - Directed by Todd Phillips

In the true story of *War Dogs*, we see how fast treasonous business deals can go downhill, when David Packouz (Miles Teller) and Efriam Diveroli (Jonah Hill) get in over their heads supplying guns to Afgan Soldiers during the Iraq War. David is a good man who just wants to provide for his wife (Ana De Armas) and new baby, while Efriam is a shady guy who is opportunistic and unscrupulous. We watch avidly as David attempts to navigate this web of chaos, confusion and dirty business dealings, while also making the right choices in his partnership with Efriam.

Phillips, director of *The Hangover* trilogy, hits this story of getting in too deep out of the park. The story is engaging and unpredictable. Phillips translates a real-world story to the big screen while staying true to the events that transpired. Also on display is Hill's compelling performance as a dirty businessman; Teller also shows us his acting chops as an everyday-man who wants to do the right thing for his family, but is tempted by money and the high-life. As the plot unfolds, the audience will become increasingly invested in the story of how these arms dealers' lives spun out of control.

2016 - Directed by David Mackenzie HELL OR HIGH WATER

Two small-town bank robbers, Toby (Chris Pine) and Tanner (Ben Foster) – who also happen to be brothers – are plotting their final heist while on the run from a crafty sheriff (Jeff Bridges) and his contemplative partner (Gil Birmingham). Toby is just trying to take care of his son and robs banks to make ends meet, while Tanner is trigger-happy and in it for the thrill. As the Texas law closes in, the brothers are forced into making increasingly erratic decisions, knowing their time will soon be up.

Hell or High Water grossed a decent \$27 million in America due to limited showing across theaters, but after viewing this resonant film, one can easily see why it was a winner at many film festivals in 2016. This film has a huge amount of factors going for it, including a fantastic cast, sharp humor, a good amount of heart, skilled cinematography and a beautifully harsh setting in rural Texas—not to mention the chemistry the two lead outlaws, as well as between Bridges and Birmingham. *Hell or High Water* is exhilarating, vivid and a movie that will stick with you long after the credits roll.





ETERNAL SUNSHINE OF THE SPOTLESS MIND

2004 - Directed by
Michel Gondry

In the aftermath of a painful breakup, Clementine (Kate Winslet) goes through a procedure to erase all of her former memories of her ex-boyfriend, Joel (Jim Carrey). Once Joel learns this, he makes the decision to get the same procedure done on himself, just to stop the hurting. While his memories of the woman he loved more than anything else slowly start to fade from existence, we get a look inside the mind of Joel and what it looks like to have someone who was always there wiped from your mind forever in this ethereal tale of love and loss.

Carrey has always been a well-liked actor, but he truly brings his A-game here, in arguably his best and most complex role yet. Likewise, Winslet is lovable and exciting as Clementine, in a role that's as vibrant and colorful as it is dark and forlorn. The supporting cast is also phenomenal, with amazing talents like Elijah Wood, Tom Wilkinson, Kirsten Dunst, David Cross and Mark Ruffalo. This film is beautiful, both in aesthetics and story. It takes us for a ride that's captivating, melancholic, funny, bittersweet, stark and everything in between. 🐦



Tarantino has released nearly 10 films, but do Grossmont students give his latest a 10?

BY DONOVAN HOLLAND



Quentin Tarantino's ninth film, *Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood*, was released in American theaters in late July, and was welcomed by nearly only positive reviews. The film received praise for many of its elements over its two-hour and 40-minute runtime. Critics spoke highly of the strong performances by Leonardo DiCaprio and Brad Pitt, the varied 1960s soundtrack, the authentic vintage set pieces and the nail-biting climax of the film, just to name a few. The film currently holds an 8.1/10 on IMDb, a "certified fresh" 85% on Rotten Tomatoes and an 83% on Metacritic.

However, some reviews criticized aspects of the film as well. Many reviewers thought the film dragged a bit during its second act, especially while on the Western set with Rick Dalton, one of the more lengthy scenes in the film. Tarantino was also criticized for his under-use of actress Margot Robbie for the film. Critics argued that for the great actress she is known to be, her screen time was surprisingly sparse in the final cut of the film. Other parties believed Tarantino's well-known foot fetish went a bit over the top in this go-around, but that's another conversation altogether.

Among a handful of Grossmont students asked about the movie, the consensus was it was generally well-liked, except in some specific areas.

First-year child development major Kailie Briggs had a high opinion of it.

"This is going to have to be one of my top three favorite movies," Briggs said. "It was so much fun to watch, and I loved all the '60s elements of the film. The style, the cars, the Hollywood location—it was just all so great. Also, Margot Robbie does an incredible job bringing Sharon Tate to life and brings a really fun energy to every scene that she is in. Seeing it a second time is just as fun as the first. "It's like *Splash Mountain*," she continued. "You know that insane finale is coming up, and that's by far the best part of the ride, but you enjoy the other parts too, cause they're just fun."

Holden Shaeffer was another student who liked the film. "I thought the movie was a super-refreshing narrative after his last film, *The Hateful Eight*, which his second blood-filled Western," Shaeffer said. "It did kind of slow down a bit around the middle of the film, but it was more than made up for by the dazzle of the '60s motif throughout the film."

Sam Grant, a Grossmont student currently doing a double-major in media communications and audio production, noted: "It was a bit different than I expected, but I loved how he took a true story and put his own spin on it with that twist ending, where heroics prevail instead of a tragedy. It just makes for a much more enjoyable film."

The only mixed review came from media arts major and member of

the Grossmont Film Club, Brendan McDonald.

"I was kind of underwhelmed by the film, if I'm being honest," McDonald said. "As a film student, I highly respect Tarantino's work, and it's just that I expect better from him than what we got this time around."

"The plot was unfocused and I really feel the second act was extremely bloated and slow compared to the first and third acts," he added.

McDonald added that he didn't wholly dislike the film.

"It kind of seems like I'm hating on the movie, but I enjoyed my time at the theater with it," he said. "The music was fun, the dynamic between Leo and Brad was super-cool to see, and it was super-stylish. I just wish it flowed a bit better."

Another film student, Jake O'Mara had his own detailed take on the film, which he called "surprisingly subdued" and "calm."

O'Mara explained: "He takes his time to flesh out multiple stories that weave throughout the film while maintaining the sinister backbone of the Manson Family story that lingers in the background."

"Leo and Brad both bring some major star power, but it's Pitt who steals the show," O'Mara continued. "He's cool, calm and collected throughout the entire film, and the scenes of him driving throughout LA are some of my favorite in the entire movie."

Grossmont History major Calvin King said he has seen the film four times. "I think it's probably one of Tarantino's best-written films, with strong performances from Pitt and DiCaprio," King said. "The attention to detail when it comes to his depiction of 1969 Hollywood is also extremely impressive and adds to the immersive nature of the film."

The consensus seems to be that, even if *Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood* doesn't have the components of a conventional masterpiece, all these students enjoyed their time at the theater. Though the movie wasn't narratively perfect, isn't personal enjoyment why people go to the movies? Because if it is, then mission accomplished.

More than a month later, *Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood* is still in theaters, and Tarantino and Pitt are rumored to be part of the Academy's nomination for "Best Original Screenplay" and "Best Supporting Actor," respectively. 🐦

Every Day's a Holiday

September is one to remember.

COMPILED BY SARA ROTT

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 National Pet Rock Day	2 Labor Day 	3 National Skyscraper Day	4 National News Carrier Day	5 National Be Late Day	6 National Read a Book Day	7 National Show Rain or Snow Day
8 National Grandparents Day	9 National Teddy Bear Day	10 National Swap Your Ideas Day	11 9/11	12 National Video Games Day	Friday the 13th	14 National Cream-Filled Donut Day
15 National Wife Appreciation Day	16 Mexican Independence Day	17 National Apple-Dumpling Day	18 National Cheeseburger Day	19 National Talk Like a Pirate Day <i>Arrrgh!</i>	20 National Drink Punch Day	21 International Peace Day
22 National Appreciate the Elephants Day	23 NATIONAL PLAY CHECKERS DAY 	24 National Cherry Day 	25 National Comic Book Day	26 National Family Day	27 National I Have a Crush Day	28 National Bunny Day
29 National Coffee Day	30 International Podcast Day			SEPT. 14		