Are YOU Living the Good Life?
A year and a half ago, I was asked to give the commencement address for East Stroudsburg University. As I prepared my remarks, I decided to focus on what makes for a full and fulfilling life. Since this issue of the Northampton magazine explores the good life, and its publication coincides with our own students’ commencement, I thought you might enjoy reading a few excerpts. Consider yourselves fortunate. The audience got the long version!

My first piece of advice to graduates — and to people at all stages of their lives — is to “find mentors.” Seek out individuals who can help and support you. I have been richly blessed by many wonderful mentors, some of whom have literally changed the trajectory of my life. Mentors truly have been my angels. They lift me up beyond where I could go on my own. But remember, relationships like that don’t happen by accident. If mentors reach out to you, reach back! If they don’t, seek them out.

Next, I would tell you … “Don’t be afraid to risk or fail.” There is much to be learned from both. This, too, I know from experience.

My third piece of advice is to “do something you love.” When you do, work is no longer work. One of the great blessings of my life is that my job doesn’t feel like work because I am passionate about it. The satisfaction of having a job that you love, that has purpose and impact is priceless.

I would also ask you to remember to live by the rule, “you are no better than anyone else.” Some of the most amazing people I have encountered in my life have been those who hold jobs our society might deem “low status,” yet their attitude and heart allow them to have an extraordinary impact on all who know them. At the same time, remember a corollary of this rule. While “you are no better than anyone else,” you must also remember that “no one is better than you.” Never underestimate your potential. If you believe in yourself, it is amazing what you can accomplish.

Last but not least, don’t let your life get out of balance. Take the time to develop deep and meaningful friendships. They will sustain you through the toughest moments of your life.

Remember that life is a journey … a mystery to be discovered. It will take twists and turns that you would never imagine, but go with it. Let your life evolve. Be open to new and different opportunities, explore your passions, take risks, learn from failures, find your mentors.

Wherever your journey takes you, approach your life with wonder and excitement, have fun, laugh often and never take yourself too seriously. Embrace life and it will embrace you back, sometimes with a bear hug that will literally leave you breathless. You will be amazed at what you will find. Yes, the good life.
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“I’M HERE TO PROPOSE THAT THE GOOD LIFE IS NOT YOUR OWN. IT EMBRACES THE LIVES OF OTHERS.”
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Thoughts about the journey of a lifetime

On The Cover: The logo used throughout the year to publicize programs pertaining to the good life was created by Susan Sewell, a student in Gayle Hendrick’s digital design and typography class. Sewell’s design incorporates a wide variety of symbols, prompting the viewer to ponder possibilities and priorities.
JANUARY GRADS PAVE THE WAY FOR MAY GRADS.
SUCCESS X 2
The spring commencement speaker, Michael J. Caruso, is a successful businessman, philanthropist and three-time National Collegiate Association wrestling champion.

Caruso founded and led Caruso Benefits Group, a firm that specializes in health, dental and disability coverage. He now serves as managing director of BB&T Insurance Services.

A proud graduate of Lehigh University, Caruso has also been a strong supporter of Northampton. He chaired the College’s Foundation Board and is an honorary alumnus of NCC. The basketball court in the Spartan Center bears his name. He and his late wife, Sandye, were among the early supporters of NCC’s Fowler Family Southside Center. A room in that building is named for Sandye.

Caruso has received many awards for community leadership, including the Vision in Philanthropy Award, presented by the Rolland L. Adams Society of the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation.

Members of Northampton’s Class of 2016 are likely to remember their timeline in academia in GB (gigabytes) and TB (terabytes) — in technology that tracks everything from how far we walk to how much we eat and by their increasing dependence on digital books and resources that have changed how they research, write and store information.

Representing a dozen states and nearly as many countries, these men and women began their journey in higher education during an increasingly turbulent time in the United States and throughout the world. They are graduating just before a presidential election. For many of them, an African-American has been president for nearly half of their lives, and it is not unrealistic to assume that a woman may hold the highest office in the country at some point in their futures.

They have been at Northampton through mass shootings in multiple states, an Ebola epidemic becoming a global health crisis and the fatal use of force by police and the resulting unrest in cities like St. Louis and Manhattan. They have seen the official end of the U.S. involvement in the Iraq War and the rising threat of ISIS.

Some of NCC’s students may have relatives affected by the refugee crisis in Europe. Many probably stayed updated on a missing Malaysian airliner via their social media apps, which they also would have watched closely during the Paris attacks or when the world came together to strike a deal on climate change.

Perhaps as a clue to how college-age adults have been dealing with uncertainty about the job market in recent years — and in response to the local job market — the most popular majors for members of Northampton’s Class of 2016 were general studies, criminal justice, business administration and nursing (licensed practical and registered). Many graduates will transfer to a four-year college next year; others will begin or continue their careers.

Graduates range in age from 18 to 60+ years old. Some came to NCC directly from high school. Others, like liberal arts major Annette Rodriguez, returned to school for the first time in their families who rely the most on the support they find at Northampton — support that encourages them to keep going.

“My advice to all aspiring students and for anyone thinking about going to school,” Rodriguez offers, “is that you never know what you can accomplish until you take that first step.”

On May 26, members of the Class of 2016 will step across the stage in the Arthur L. Scott Spartan Center to the applause of faculty and staff, family and friends who have gathered to celebrate their commencement and to wish them well in the future.

by Shannon Sigafos ’02
JOHN F. MALLOY JR. began his lecture as NCC’s Executive-in-Residence by repeating what he had told students and faculty earlier in the day at breakfast. “In academia, there’s a lot of snobbery. My best students at the community college could compete with the best students at any university. If you’re the best in your class, you can be the best anywhere.”

Malloy knows whereof he speaks. He taught for three years at Onondaga Community College in Syracuse, N.Y., while working on his Ph.D. in economics at Syracuse University, where he was a National Science Foundation Fellow. He also received a B.A. in economics with honors from Boston College and taught briefly at Hamilton College after completing his doctorate. But it was Malloy’s 12-year role as chairman and CEO of Victaulic, the world’s largest manufacturer of mechanical joints for piping systems, and previous position with United Technologies, mostly with the Carrier Corporation subsidiary, that brought him to NCC this semester to speak about “The Future of Manufacturing.”

Headquartered in Easton, Pa., Victaulic employs 3,600 associates around the globe, in engineering centers in Easton and in Dalian, China; manufacturing facilities in the United States, Mexico, Canada, Poland and China; and through a 600-person sales force around the world.

“There’s an argument that we don’t make anything in America,” Malloy told a capacity crowd in the David A. Reed Community Room. “I’m going to show you that’s not true.”

Using charts and graphs, Malloy demonstrated that there has actually been an increase in worker production. “There’s been a 50-percent increase in manufacturing output — almost twice as much as 25 years ago. The U.S. is still the largest manufacturer in the world. So why are people saying we don’t make anything here anymore? Well, we’re producing more, but we’re using fewer people to do it.”

Malloy credits this to the lean production revolution of the mid-1980s, started by the Japanese. “I saw this happen,” he attests. “Waste was eliminated — waste of materials, energy and workers’ productive time — based on these principles. Workers became more productive.”

Victaulic’s lean transformation began about 10 years ago, when Malloy says the company’s cycle time — the time between an order being placed to shipping it out to the customer — went from 30 days to three days.
He believes that while most organizations can get leaner, “we’re on the decline of that curve.” The next trend to significantly impact manufacturing lies in technology. “Automation will drive productivity in the future — automation of manufacturing and data collection.”

Malloy cited examples of this in the farming and construction industries, where fewer people are needed to complete jobs. Showing the audience an integrated model of a job Victaulic had done for PPL Center in Allentown, he said, “We’re not waiting until pieces are shipped to the job to have an engineer figure out how to put them in place. We can look on a 3-D model. Integrated modeling and the development of lasers used in construction tell us where to hang pipes.”

For manufacturing, Malloy said, 3-D modeling and printing are going to have a huge impact. “In the last five years, product design simulation has taken off. More and more of our work is done online, not by making actual physical models, revising them and making them again. With manufacturing simulation, we can design on the computer and make adjustments before making the final product.”

Robotics will also play a greater role in manufacturing, Malloy believes. Victaulic currently uses robotics to put on sprinkler heads, a job that was once done manually.

All of these factors will have implications for employment, Malloy contends. “When people talk about bringing manufacturing back to the United States — and they mean jobs for people working on a production line — I don’t think that’s going to happen. The future will be fewer jobs but more output. Current skill sets will be challenged.”

So what does Malloy say to students who are preparing for careers in manufacturing? It is the advice of someone who has seen what works in academics and in business: “Intellectual curiosity is the driver of success. Work hard. And don’t be intimidated to articulate your ideas.”

After his lecture, Malloy concluded his day as Executive-in-Residence with lunch with students and faculty and a tour of NCC’s Center for Advanced Technology.

Begun in 1985, NCC’s Executive-in-Residence program is funded by Jack and Cecile Shaffer in memory of their son, Hal Shaffer. The program allows students to spend time with the area’s most successful business leaders.

The U.S. is still the largest manufacturer in the world. So why are people saying we don’t make anything here anymore?

On “Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day,” NCC honored Caiyu Li, who plans on continuing her education in engineering after graduating from NCC this spring.

Li’s father, Brian, a mechanical engineer who graduated from NCC in 1979, noticed that Caiyu “thought like an engineer” when she spent days as a child constructing origami flowers and houses. He took her to his workplace, and she was hooked.

As a student at Easton Area High School, Li enjoyed building trusses with Popsicle sticks for science fairs. “It was fun to see which held up better and could bear more weight,” she says.

When it came to choosing a college, Li’s father recommended NCC because class sizes were small, the student/faculty ratio was low and the College offered an excellent library and a helpful Learning Center.

Li has been fascinated by her physics and engineering classes at NCC, especially the labs. “It is fun to learn how light travels and how much weight a spring can hold,” she says.

As one of NCC’s Presidential Ambassadors, she has met people in her field and received valuable career feedback from them.

Ultimately, she would like to work as a packaging engineer or to design planes or cars. Her mother also is an engineer.
FUNCTIONAL, BEAUTIFUL and environmentally friendly buildings that are also affordable are not something only to be imagined in the distant future.

NCC’s Monroe Campus is a shining example. A golden example, in fact. Sixteen months after it opened, the campus was officially certified as meeting LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold standards by the U.S. Green Building Council.

When students, faculty, staff and members of the construction team gathered to celebrate the achievement, natural light from the large and numerous windows in Pocono Hall flooded the food court, demonstrating just one of the LEED features for which NCC was recognized.

*This campus is literally a...
living and learning laboratory demonstrating what it means to be sustainable and what it means for our students to be great stewards of our planet,” said NCC’s president, Dr. Mark Erickson.

The laboratory is already producing real, measurable results. “By virtue of our solar panels, we have avoided adding 500 tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Multiply that over many years, and think of the impact it will have on our environment,” added Dr. Matt Connell, dean of the Monroe Campus.

“LEED-certified buildings save money and resources,” student Rebecca Cullen, president of Student Governance, explained before introducing a film created by Professor John Tindell, the NCC Film Society and the Sustainability Committee. The short film highlighted the many green initiatives put to use at the Monroe Campus, including solar panels, geothermal pipes, natural lighting, energy-efficient electrical lighting, the collection and reuse of rainwater, and recycling.

Silvia Hoffman of MKSD Architects spoke, calling the new campus “a testament to NCC and what they represent in our community. It shows that buildings that are beautiful, functional, affordable and green are doable.” She went on to thank Strunk-Albert Engineering, D'Huy Engineering, Mark Culp, NCC director of facilities, and the facilities staff for their work on the project.

Students Taylor Natiello and Morgan Natiello created a website to showcase the LEED features at the Monroe Campus. They also held a video contest, asking students to highlight the environmentally friendly features found on campus. The winners, Skyler Miller and Paul Corona, were announced at the celebration, and their videos were shown.

After the presentations, celebrants got to check out displays created by Morgan Natiello and to enjoy cake. Guests seemed to agree that although attaining LEED Gold certification was not a piece of cake, it was well worth the effort.

by Katherine Noll
As NCC approaches its 50th birthday, you may already be noticing a freshening up of the College’s look. After all, we’ve matured beyond the youngster we once were, so we’re having some nip and tuck done on our public face ahead of the big 5-O — and yes, it’s perfectly OK to notice and compliment our fresh appearance.

Our more observant friends may notice some adjustments to the familiar college logo. The “diamond N” icon has been enlarged and repositioned in relation to the college name, and the traditional deep blue color is now a slightly lighter shade. Nothing too radical — just a fresher, contemporary look. As winter melted into spring, new signage sporting these changes began appearing all around campus.

The brand refresh now is being carried through the College’s admissions materials, publications, advertising and letterhead design. Lively triangle motifs echo the shape of the NCC logo, accenting the new designs, all tied together with a consistency of look. The examples seen here are just the start. After all, we’re justifiably proud of our reputation and our image, so we’ll continue taking every opportunity to show our fresh face to the world. Our students, alumni, faculty and staff want nothing less.
Since Northampton joined the National Junior Collegiate Athletic Association (NJCAA) in 2009, NCC athletes have made a name for themselves competing among the best of the best, winning district and regional championships in volleyball and women’s basketball and a regional championship in golf as well. This year brought more success: a first-ever national champion, a fourth regional title in volleyball, a regional championship in tennis, two more All-Americans and a highly coveted award for sportsmanship.

**Remember Her Name**

You may not recognize it, but college runners do.

In her first semester at Northampton Community College, Southern Lehigh High School graduate Meseret Hart won seven (out of seven) cross country meets, capturing the Eastern Pennsylvania Athletic Conference championship and the NJCAA Region XIX championship. She went on to outpace 130 other runners to claim the first national title in Northampton history, finishing with the third fastest time in the history of the championship — 18:43.3. In addition to being named an NJCAA All-American, she also was named the Women’s Cross Country Athlete of the Year by the United States Track & Field Cross Country Coaches Association.

**A Return Trip to Minnesota**

For the second time in three years, NCC’s women’s volleyball team earned a ticket to the national tournament hosted by the National Junior Collegiate Athletic Association in Rochester, Minn. As the No. 7 seed in Division III, the Spartans fell to Brookhaven College (Texas) and Central Lakes College (Minn.) but beat Nassau Community College (N.Y.), finishing the season with an overall record of 26-8. Sophomore Jax Babezki was chosen as conference and regional Player of the Year and was named an NJCAA All-American. Head Coach Adrian Yaguez (135-14) repeated as conference and regional Coach of the Year.

**A Team of (Former) Rivals**

Freedom and Liberty may be rivals at the high school level, but Freedom’s Valeria Ceron and Liberty’s Emily Moss teamed up to place third in the nation in women’s doubles at the NJCAA women’s tennis championships in Peachtree City, Ga. The Northampton duo had previously won the Region XIX No. 1 Doubles championship. In Georgia they advanced to the semifinals with a thrilling 3-6, 7-5, 7-6 victory over Rowan College (N.J.) before falling to Suffolk County Community College (N.Y.) in the national semifinals 6-2, 6-2.

**Best of All**

What award makes Troy Tucker, director of athletics at NCC, prouder than any other? It is not a national championship. It is the “Champions of Character” award presented to the NJCAA Region XIX athletic program that “clearly demonstrates outstanding results in character development by embracing the true spirit of competition through the five core values of respect, responsibility, integrity, servant leadership and sportsmanship. The winner also demonstrates outstanding involvement in the community, which results in positive character development through sport.” Out of 34 colleges in Region XIX, Northampton was chosen to receive the award this past fall. “This award is about our entire program,” Tucker says, “not just one person or one team. It took all of our student-athletes, coaches and staff to make this a daily priority and part of the culture of Northampton athletics.”
Internships Prove Their Worth

HOW OFTEN DOES A college student help clinch the sale of a major piece of software to a prominent national organization? Sean Clarke ’16, a computer science major on the Monroe Campus, did just that this past year. As a participant in NCC’s internship program, working at Software Consulting Services, he helped to sell a digital asset management system to the White House Historical Association. Clarke, who plans to transfer to a four-year college and major in computer science, will do so with this remarkable experience in his portfolio.

“The purpose of an internship is to provide an official or formal program for students so that they can gain practical experience in an occupation or profession,” says Janice Kenyatta, experiential learning/internship manager at NCC. “Providing opportunities for experiential learning — a strategic priority for the College — is valuable because it gives students experience in a real workplace environment and the chance to make connections in their chosen career paths, avenues that could then lead to employment.”

That’s exactly what happened to Alex Rossi. As a marketing major, Rossi handled marketing responsibilities for the Fiat brand as an intern at Brown Daub Dealerships. She took and placed pictures of inventory on the company website and created fliers and brochures for promoting the brand at popular area events. “I improved my communication skills and gained hands-on experience that has helped me gain confidence in my creativity,” she said. After Rossi graduated from NCC, Brown Daub hired her as its marketing manager for the Alfa Romeo Fiat line. She is among seven NCC interns, so far, to gain full-time positions with the companies where they interned.

Internships have proved valuable to students in a wide variety of fields. Jeremiah Reardon, a communication design major, was sent out into the field (literally) to capture 360-degree panoramic images of beautiful sites as an intern with Discover Lehigh Valley. Using Google Trekker, he was able to create recordings that allow viewers to take a virtual walk through some of the Lehigh Valley’s most stunning places, such as the Lehigh Gap Nature Trail, the Ironton Rail Trail, Riverside Park and more.

“I’ve learned so much more about the Lehigh Valley through my internship,” he says. “There really are a lot of opportunities and things to do in the area if you know where to look. My photography skills have come a long way as well.” Reardon, who expects to graduate in 2017, plans to become more involved with photography, videography, website design and graphic design as a result of his internship.

Amanda Steinke, a computer-aided design graduate, secured a position as a senior drafter with her internship company, Harsco Industrial Patterson. In a letter to Kenyatta, Steinke wrote, “Harsco taught me how they did things in the workplace.” She credits the internship with building her confidence, expanding her knowledge and helping her establish valuable work relationships. “It’s made starting my career so much less intimidating,” she told Kenyatta.

Jessica Muccione, a criminal justice major, interned with the Slate Belt Regional Police
AS THE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM GROWS, NEW OPPORTUNITIES ARE LISTED AT HTTP://NORTHAMPTON.EDU/INTERNSHIPS.

EMPLOYERS CAN ALSO REQUEST INTERNS BY COMPLETING AN APPLICATION AT HTTP://BIT.LY/1NFN1PV.

Department. “It was eye-opening,” she says. “I saw the field from an academic perspective and firsthand. The internship helped me determine to go to the police academy.”

In another win-win development, the Monroe Campus Business Club made a presentation to the Ray Price vehicle dealership, resulting in paid internships plus bonuses for four business students.

Internships are voluntary in some majors and required in others. Auto tech students have always done practicums at auto service centers as part of their education. “Someone had to take time away from their own work to train the intern, resulting in a loss of production,” says Jack Dungan, who recently came up with a new approach as service manager at Brown-Daub Chevy.

“No one had to take time away because the intern is training them for free. They’re doing a multi-point inspection on their car while the service order is being written up. This increases the student’s confidence in dealing face to face with customers, and it’s a benefit to customers who get the instant gratification of seeing that their car is already being serviced,” Dungan says. When the service drive is taken care of, the interns work alongside a master technician, who trains them by having them assist on his own jobs.

by Myra Saturen

Teaching Teachers: New Leadership for Education Programs

Christina M. Lincoln was named director of education at NCC this spring, bringing all of the College’s associate degree programs in education into a unified structure. According to Dr. Elizabeth Bugaighis, dean of education and academic success, the reorganization will “give strength to our teacher education programs and even greater opportunities for cross-collaboration.” Lincoln will also oversee Northampton’s nationally accredited child care centers and the College’s continuing education offerings for educators.

Before joining the staff at Northampton in 2002, Lincoln was a preschool teacher, kindergarten teacher, curriculum coordinator and child care center director. She served as coordinator of child care services at Northampton for five years before being named to the education faculty in 2007.

Bugaighis says Lincoln is a perfect choice to lead Northampton’s education programs because of her previous experience and her involvement in education organizations at the state and national levels and because she is well-respected by her students and colleagues.

“She is caring and compassionate,” Bugaighis says. “She approaches her work in a collaborative manner, cross-departmentally and cross-divisionally.”

Lincoln earned a bachelor’s degree in education at The Pennsylvania State University and a master’s degree in education with specialization in early childhood education at East Stroudsburg University. Her thesis focused on the effects of an arts-based curriculum on preschool children’s creative thinking.

Northampton’s nationally accredited programs in early childhood are well known. Many people are surprised to learn that the College also offers transfer degree programs in middle education (grades 4-8) and secondary education as well as an associate degree for individuals who want to work as paraeducators for students with special needs. More than 1,000 NCC graduates have gone on to careers as teachers, administrators and aides in public and private elementary and secondary schools and in child care centers throughout the country.

Looking to the future, Lincoln says, “We want to let everyone know that NCC is a great place for students to start their careers in education. We’d like NCC to be known for providing a strong foundation in teaching, one that inspires a new generation of teachers to transform learning.”

To Kindergarten and Beyond | INSPIRING A NEW GENERATION

Christina M. Lincoln

More on Internships

To Kindergarten and Beyond | INSPIRING A NEW GENERATION

Christina M. Lincoln
THE SIZZLE IN CHEF EMERIL
Lagasse’s three New Orleans restaurants guarantees his guests a “Bam!” with every bite. Six students and graduates from NCC who interned in those restaurants last fall also got a taste of professional excellence. “The restaurants measure up to the man and his image,” reports Sean O’Donnell, a culinary arts major. Classmate John Abela agrees. “Amazingly impressive” is how Abela describes the week long stay in which each intern got to work in all three of Emeril’s restaurants — Delmonico, Emeril’s and NOLA.

“There was very little standing around and watching. They showed us how to do parts of various dishes and let us make them so we could feel as if we really were a part of their kitchen staff,” recalls Abela. Among his tasks: making an array of sauces, fresh pastas and luscious chocolate truffles. Besides prep work, O’Donnell stepped in to help at Emeril’s sauté station and handled the broiler at Delmonico.

“I was left by myself to cook dry-aged ribeye steaks, lamb tenderloins, fillets and pork chops. None of the plates were sent back, so that really gave me a buzz!” O’Donnell says.

Hospitality majors Katherine Morris, Robert van Thiel and Kyle Lewis shadowed sommeliers for wine selling and serving tips and...
About the author: The Lehigh Valley’s Craig Claiborne, Diane Stoneback has covered NCC’s culinary arts program for years, once accompanying students and faculty on a culinary expedition to the kitchens and vineyards of Italy.

also met or served with staffers in front-of-the-house positions. Their working philosophy, “Your team is your team. Take care of your team and they will take care of you. Take care of the restaurant and the restaurant will take care of you,” appealed to Morris.

Their attention to detail also impressed her. “Reservation holders are greeted with smiles and addressed by name when seated,” she explains. “Napkins are placed in guests’ laps. If anyone is dressed in black, their white napkin is replaced with a black one, to prevent tell-tale white lint from being left behind. Three people, rather than one, are assigned to serve each table.” Adds van Thiel, “It’s no wonder no water glass ever drops to half-full in these restaurants.”

The interns worked hard, but they also got to experience first-class hospitality for themselves. “When we landed in New Orleans, we didn’t need to call cabs and find our way to the hotel and restaurants. NOLA’s head chef and the Delmonico sous chef picked us up. After we checked in, they drove us to NOLA, where they whipped up a massive five-course tasting lunch, concluding with 12 desserts,” says van Thiel.

Chef Sue Roth, NCC associate professor and culinary program coordinator, accompanied the group. “One of last year’s winners warned us to pace ourselves,” she chuckles. “She was so right. Our lunch ended at 3 p.m. and we were expected for a five-course dinner at 7 p.m. Ending with tastes of practically every dessert they make, the experience was nearly overwhelming.”

Consuming so much made the group feel as if they were nearing “culinary coma,” according to van Thiel. Abela’s efforts to take in New Orleans classics — gumbo, jambalaya, po’boys and banana cream pie, plus barbecue shrimp, at least 10 varieties of house-made charcuterie and drum fish served three ways — left him 10 pounds heavier for the trip home!

Earning one of the six internships to Emeril’s restaurants wasn’t easy. Besides good grades, completing enough course work and writing an essay, culinary students endured an Iron Chef-style competition of preparing a four-course meal from a mystery tray of ingredients. Meanwhile, hospitality students were grilled on sommelier skills from basic wine knowledge and wine and food pairings to wine service and blind tastings.

Although winning was difficult, O’Donnell encourages others to dare to enter future contests, describing working in Emeril’s restaurants as “a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

The winners of this year’s competition will be announced at the Lehigh Valley Food and Wine Festival at Sands Casino Resort Bethlehem on June 3.

by Diane Stoneback

SIX NCC STUDENTS AND two graduates won top awards this semester at the 2016 ADDY competition sponsored by the Greater Lehigh Valley Ad Club. ADDYS are the advertising industry’s equivalent of an Oscar for film or a Grammy for music. Gold winners on the regional level are eligible to compete in the national contest run by the American Advertising Federation. In the Lehigh Valley competition NCC art graduates Dave Meyers ’14 and Andrew Robertson ’15 were part of the creative team from City Center Lehigh Valley that captured the coveted “Best of Show” award. Student winners were Corey Sebring, who collected a gold and two silvers; Susie Sewell, with two golds; Rudy Ortiz, with a gold and a silver; and Andrew Bisson, Skyler Fehnel ’13 and Alec Hank, who each brought home a silver. The winners are pictured above with members of the NCC art faculty after the awards ceremony, which was held at NCC this year. 🌟

Above, left to right: Assistant Professor Jason Zulli, Adjunct Instructor Traci Anfuso-Young, Francesco Tornabene, Joseph Losgar, Ted Strohler, Corey Sebring, Instructor Mark Koberlein, R.J. Ortiz, Andrew Bisson, Director of Art Programs Thomas Shillea, Alec Hanks; seated left to right: Susie Sewell, Stephanie Giannakis, Andrew Robertson, Adjunct Instructor Gayle Hendricks

Below: Award-winners Andrew Robertson, Jane Heft and Dave Meyers

Catching the Judges’ Eyes

Art Students Win ADDYs

PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER ELSTON PHOTOGRAPHY

When It Comes to Design | STUDENTS SHINE

NCC / SPRING-SUMMER 2016 / 13
WHAT CONSTITUTES THE GOOD LIFE?

Award-winning Irish-American author Colum McCann tackled the subject April 14 in the Spartan Center gymnasium at Northampton Community College. “A wise friend of mine once said, ‘A long life isn’t good enough, but a good life is long enough,’” McCann told an audience — estimated at more than 400 students and members of the public — who attended his free lecture.

“If we’re going to have a good life, we have to be able to look beyond ourselves,” he said. “I’m here to propose the true good life is not your own. It embraces the lives of others. The good life is a life of learning how to listen. The good life connects us with one another. The good life recognizes empathy. And the good life is not about owning anything, but it is about recognition. The good life is also about having a laugh.”

McCann and his audience shared many of those during his talk. “Talking about having a laugh, I’m Irish,” he said. “And, as you all know, we’re never happy until we’re sad. ‘We’re the happiest sad people in the world.’”

At one point, he warned the audience: “Don’t get me singing. My standard joke is I do sing, but I can’t.”

McCann was good friends with fellow Irish-American writer Frank McCourt, who died in 2009. In a hospice immediately after McCourt died, his widow, Ellen, told McCann: “Come here, I have to tell you something.”

McCann thought she wanted to share some great death bed revelation by McCourt, perhaps something about God or literature. “She beckons me over, she puts her arm around me and she says, ‘Your fly is open,’” McCann probably got the biggest laugh of the night when a man in the audience asked a serious question about why more than 90 percent of people from Ireland came from rural backgrounds but settled in American cities such as New York, Boston and Chicago. Before giving him a serious answer, McCann replied: “That’s where all the good pubs were.”

Born and raised in Dublin, the 51-year-old McCann is the author of six novels and three collections of stories, most recently “Thirteen Ways of Looking.” His works have been published in more than 35 languages and have won numerous awards around the world, including the National Book Award. “Sometimes people ask me, ‘What are your books about?’ and I say, ‘They’re about … $25.’ Or ‘They’re about 315

Written by Randy Kraft, WFMZ.com reporter
Photography by Randy Monceaux
Radical Empathy

Colum McCann
National Book Award Winner
Puts a Thought-Provoking Spin on the Good Life
In addition to delivering a public lecture, National Book Award-winner Colum McCann met with students in classes, small discussion groups and at a book signing during his visit to Northampton. It was hard to tell who was more impressed with whom. Speaking of the light in students’ eyes, he said, “I go to a lot of colleges and you don’t always get that. Today was a group of non-entitled, brilliant young people who were investigating the way in which they might eventually live the good life.”

pages.” It’s hard to say what my work is actually about.” He was applauded after reading short passages from two of his novels, “TransAtlantic” and “Let the Great World Spin.” “Stories stop the flow of time,” he said. “And writing saves the present moment. Literature and knowledge and teaching succeed in remapping the bodies that we live inside.” His advice for an aspiring young writer was “if you have the philosophy that the only things worth telling are the things that might possibly
break your heart, you will tell a good story. Just try to break people's hearts.” He told of living for more than a year among thousands of homeless people in the subway tunnels of New York as a reporter and, earlier in his life, of spending a year and a half riding a bicycle across the United States.

“Thirty years ago, I came through Easton and these parts on a bicycle,” he told the audience. “I met spectacular generosity. I met a couple in Easton who owned a bike shop. Nobody here would recognize me. I was 21 years old, I had hair — and a big old scruffy beard.” McCann said he often lived on canned ravioli and ramen noodles “at 25 cents a package. I couldn’t believe it. I recently saw they’re still 25 cents a package!” He said he slept out most nights during that journey, one of the exceptions being “when I fell in love — briefly sometimes.”

It was while meeting “all sorts of extraordinary people” during his bicycling adventures that he began to develop the notion of “the democracy of story-telling.” He said everyone has a story and a need to tell their story. “But the true democracy is we all also have a need to listen to the stories of others. This to me is the great dignity: the ability to listen. We want to be recognized by others. We want to be valuable. We want our story to be valuable.” He said he discovered a way to listen. And he discovered, most of all, the privilege of listening. “The good life occurs not in the accumulation of things, but in opposition to difficulty. It occurs in the face of the darkness and the torment. Embrace difficulty. That’s the thing. That is the good life.” He acknowledged cynics have told him, “You’re just a sentimental old shite.”

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The ability to push people into understanding what it means to the other is one of the most extraordinary, powerful human characteristics that we have. Isn’t that a wonderful thing, that we don’t have to only just think about ourselves? But I’m also here to propose to you that empathy is not enough. Understanding is not enough. What we have to do is learn how to turn that empathy into action. That’s how the good life occurs.” He later offered more explanations for that phrase, including saying, “The good life occurs not in the accumulation of things, but in opposition to difficulty. It occurs in the face of the darkness and the torment. Embrace difficulty. That’s the thing. That is the good life.” He acknowledged cynics have told him, “You’re just a sentimental old shite.”

“But I am as tough as any cynic,” said McCann. “I see it just as dark as they do it. I will go toe to toe with any cynic and match her or his cynicism any hour of the day. And then I’ll say, ‘But so what?’ Big deal. No great revelation. The world’s dark. We’re nasty, we’re evil. You have to go beyond that.” He said some cynics “are cursed by their own rigidity. They are limited by the notion that human nature itself is limited and that goodness cannot occur. They don’t see the good.” He said he’s been traveling to the Middle East, adding, “Lord knows why. Talk about embracing difficulty.” He said he wants to tell “a rattling good story” about that troubled region of the world, adding: “I still haven’t figured out what it’s going to be. As a writer, I like to be a bit of an explorer and not be a tourist. I don’t know where I’m going or how I’m going to get there, but I’m going to get there eventually. The best writers are cast out to sea and they’re completely lost. But eventually we find land. So wish me luck.”

McCann teaches creative writing at Hunter College in New York City, where he lives with his wife and three children. He is the co-founder of Narrative 4, a nonprofit global story exchange organization between young people from different parts of the world. “They tell each other stories,” he said, adding exchanging those stories helps them break down barriers almost immediately. McCann’s appearance was the culmination of the college’s yearlong exploration of what constitutes “the good life.” He spent the day on campus before Thursday night’s lecture.

“There’s a great Irish phrase that says, ‘You’re in your grammys,’” he told the audience at the start of his talk. “What that means is you feel at home, like you’re in your Grammy’s house. I feel like I’m in my Grammy’s today — with the cherry cake and everything like that.” Praising the college, he said, “It seems to me that you are speaking toward everything I want education to be. It was really quite incredible to see the light in some of the students’ eyes today. I go to a lot of colleges, and you don’t always get that. Today was a group of non-entitled, brilliant young people who were investigating the way in which they might eventually live the good life.”

Literature and knowledge and teaching succeed in remapping the bodies that we live inside.
STUDENTS REFLECT ON THE GOOD LIFE
The Pursuit of Happiness

Guy Noir, the private detective on the popular radio show “A Prairie Home Companion,” is not the only one seeking “answers to life’s persistent questions.”

For the past nine months, students and faculty at NCC have grappled with one of those questions: What constitutes the good life?

Under the direction of Dr. Cara McClintock-Walsh, an English professor, members of the college and surrounding communities contemplated “life, the world and our place in it,” through reading and writing assignments and through films and speakers funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and generous donors.

Halfway through the year, students were asked to pick one word to describe the good life. Love, success and health ranked high, but happiness outranked them all.

In an essay written for an English class, Diane Ramprasad, a general studies major wrote: “When I think about living a good life, I automatically think of the American dream that was drilled into me ever since I was younger. To me the American dream is the white picket fence in a really nice neighborhood, with green grass, a white dog with a spot around its eye, and two or three kids and a perfect marriage. That’s what I picture in my mind. However, when I really think about a good life, I have different images and goals for myself.

“To me, living a good life is just being happy. Everyone has different things that make them happy. Things that make me happy include my family, my friends, my significant other, my job, my hobbies and things that I am surrounded by every single day.”

Classmate Karl Kuester, an architecture major, likened happiness to a task accomplished, a job well done: “I think to live a good, meaningful life, one must if not attain happiness, at least seek it. Happiness I believe is something that makes a person feel whole, complete, accomplished. One way to do this is to set goals and work toward them. Setting a goal gives it meaning. Goals can be anything from finishing a book to pursuing your dream career.

When students were asked how Northampton plays a role in their vision of the good life, they described the impact NCC has on their lives with comments such as these:

- NCC is a part of my vision in terms of improving myself and striving for greater things....It is providing me a map to navigate forward.
- I can follow the dreams I’m passionate about and find a career doing something I love.
- NCC is helping me to achieve my goals. I am finally happy with what I am doing.
- I am utilizing NCC’s educational programs to enhance the “mind” part of my “mind, body, spirit” unity.
- Environmental courses are showing me how to live a good and healthy life.
- NCC has been instrumental in my starting my own business.
- NCC is a place where students can learn more about other cultures and make lifelong friendships.
- NCC has been an essential stepping stone for me.
- NCC has given me the ability to advance my career and in turn, has given me a better life.
- Bettering myself and my future will not only make me happy, but contribute to my family and loved ones as well.

Students’ reflections affirm the College’s ability to fulfill its mission to provide an exceptional education and opportunities to achieve personal visions of the good life.

The endowment created to sustain annual humanities programming allows NCC to augment this mission in a unique way. Access to experiences in the humanities equal to those found at residential colleges and universities provides students with an enriched intellectual environment and venues to probe more deeply their assumptions and to grow as a result.

One student summed up the viewpoint beautifully by saying, “My NCC journey is just the first step to a life of happiness.”

BY DR. ELIZABETH TYLER BUGAIGHIS

About the author: Dr. Bugaighis serves as the dean of education and academic success at NCC and as the enthusiastic and thoughtful coordinator of the humanities series. Reflecting on this year’s theme, she says, “My view of the good life has certainly changed over my lifetime, but there are several constants: the love and pursuit of learning, travel to and enjoyment of different cultures, time alone and time spent with my partner in life, Tarek.”
FACULTY REFLECTIONS ON THE GOOD LIFE
Thoughts to Percolate
Technology and the good life

Espresso was invented in the early 20th century supposedly because Italian factory managers felt their employees were taking too long on their coffee breaks. They wanted something that could be produced and consumed quickly. Italians used the technology of the day to create coffee via the use of steam pressure. The result was espresso. The workers got a new taste sensation, but they also got shorter work breaks. So did technology improve their lives or not? It’s the same question asked today by people who have much greater access to information, anywhere and anytime, but as a result have less free time than ever. That’s the question we’ll explore today. But first we have to ask, “What is technology?”

When we talk about technology, most people think of smartphones, tablets, watches and video games. But technology has been around as long as humans, and basically it is anything made by humans to make life better or solve problems. So a related question is whether or not “newer” technology is necessarily better than older technology.

The piano was invented way back in the 17th century in Padua, Italy. The Medici family wanted a richer-sounding instrument than the harpsichord with its plucked string sound. So they employed Bartolomeo Cristofori to create a better instrument. He originally referred to it as the piano-forte, Italian for soft and loud, because the unique arrangement of felted hammers and strings allowed for greater control of volume and more expressiveness. This technology improved the lives of both musicians and their audiences. Its versatility reigned supreme for centuries and is not easily duplicated. Or is it?

Modern synthesizers and samplers trace their roots back to Robert Moog. His mother taught piano, and his father was an electrical engineer. In the 1960s Moog combined these skills and created the first “Moog” synthesizer. It didn’t sound anything like a piano, but that was the point. It was unique for the very fact that its sound was unlike any instrument of its time.

Later Moog worked with Raymond Kurzweil to create a new class of musical instruments. Kurzweil had developed a reading machine for the blind that certainly improved the lives of those who made use of it, but he also adapted that technology to make musical instruments that sounded like their acoustic counterparts. The Kurzweil Forte is a keyboard that accurately reproduces real acoustic piano sounds, using “samples” of actual recordings of acoustic pianos and computer technology to layer them in intricate ways that produce the sound and feel of a real piano. Sort of.

One difference is that the Forte has no sound board, so it always has to play through an amplifier and speakers. A recording of a real piano and a recording of a Forte sound very similar because both are reproductions. However, being in a room with a real piano and hearing the sound directly from the sound board is quite different from an electronic reproduction. In that sense, the synth can never equal the real thing. On the other hand, the synth has some decided advantages. One is that synths have dozens of different types of pianos to call upon, as well as organs, keyboards, horns, strings and an almost endless list of sounds. So which is better — the acoustic piano or the synth? It depends on what you want to do with it.

Sometimes older technology is clearly better than new technology. Take the Native American-style flute. These flutes are among the only acoustic instruments indigenous to the Americas. They use a unique and ancient technology not found in other flutes. They are not open all the way like transverse flutes. They have two chambers. Air goes through the first chamber, then routes through the “block” or “bird” in a special way and goes back down into the longer chamber. This produces a haunting sound. The unknown Native American who invented this technology created an instrument that is close to nature

BY MARIO ACERRA
Technology in and of itself does not guarantee a good life. In fact, technology can and has been used for some very bad purposes.

Bresson used these cameras to create one of the greatest collections of photographs in the world. Today's Leica cameras are mostly digital. They use a digital sensor instead of film to record images and a microprocessor to operate the camera. But essential to the “Leica” look is the lens. Leica produces some of the finest lenses in the world, but they are still handmade in small batches using glass formulas whose design, while aided by computers, dates back decades, even centuries.

The same “hybrid” approach exists in education. The latest trends in education are described with buzzwords like flipped classrooms, multimedia and distance learning. But as many longtime teachers will tell you, flipped classrooms are nothing new. Teachers have used this concept for decades when appropriate to the content. And multimedia and distance learning are really a hybrid of lectures and written materials, extended by new technologies.

Are these better than the older methods of teaching? I prefer teaching in person. I like the spontaneity and possibility of immediate feedback and live interaction. I have yet to find a technology that allows me to see the sparkle in the eyes of students that lets me know intuitively that they understand. And a well-delivered lecture is still to me a wonderful “technology.”

But the Internet allows us to reach greater audiences and to reach those who might not be able to attend classes in person. In a way it can be considered democratic because it extends the power of knowledge to more people.

Let’s return to the topic of espresso.

Italians say that to make great espresso, you need what they call the “four Ms”: Miscela, the coffee blend; Macinacaffe, the grinder; Macchina, the espresso machine; and Mano, the hand or skills of the barista.

The coffee blend involves balancing beans from different parts of the world: knowing about the farms and methods used to harvest; knowing how to combine and roast to create a blend that has just the right qualities.

The knowledge of how to grind is also essential — too coarse and the coffee will be weak and less flavorful; too fine and the result will be overextracted and bitter.

The machine also makes a difference. One of the finest espresso machines, the La Marzocco, is still handmade in Florence with hybrid technology that combines a method invented decades ago with modern microprocessors that more accurately control temperature and volume.

And finally there is the hand of the barista. In the old days the barista literally needed strong arms to manually pull the lever and produce steam pressure. Today the job is less physical but requires taking multiple variables into account to produce a great cup.

So does technology lead to the good life? Clearly technology in and of itself does not guarantee the good life. In fact, technology can and has been used for some very bad purposes. But can it improve life? In education, music, photography or any other area, I believe that it can when the four Ms are present.

First we need the right blend of information or parts. Then the proper delivery — too little and the result is weak; too fine and the result is bitter or unpleasant. The quality of the machine or technology matters. And finally the skills and intent of the user are critical. This last aspect is perhaps the most important of all, for in the end, whether or not a given technology will improve life is most often dependent on human factors. But like a great cup of espresso, when everything comes together, the result can be spectacular.

Mmmm … now that’s la dolce vita.

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About the author: Professor Mario Acerra heads NCC’s radio and TV program. He is an award-winning producer, a talented pianist, the composer of the College’s alma mater and a coffee connoisseur.
We have spent a year at Northampton pondering what constitutes a good life. This led me to consider the question across the cultures I call my own. Perhaps, this could help me to understand why my father took me to the hospital to see my grandfather on his death bed when I was just 10 years old.

I was also curious about what people whose relatives hail from other cultures would say. My parents came from different countries where the languages and cultural practices were quite dissimilar, and I am married to someone from Sub-Saharan Africa. I felt my perceptions might not be typical, so I set out to understand the good life from the multifaceted perceptions of the NCC community.

As a practitioner and secret cultural anthropologist, I was excited about listening to people’s stories about the good life from the NCC diaspora that includes students from 45 countries, 29 states and all over Pennsylvania. I get to speak with many of them each day in my work in Northampton’s Center for International Education.

Both my father and grandfather would have felt comfortable within the diverse international community at NCC, and I believe they would have felt like the world might be ready to hear thoughts on the good life from individuals whose lives are a menagerie of cultural contradictions.

As I listened intently to those individuals, I found striking similarities. Not only were the similarities consistent across cultural groupings, but I also found my own life experiences and pieces of myself in the responses. The most common concept of the good life was the idea of the family and family unit. The definition of family often extended beyond genetic or adoptive family and marriage to include close friends and nonhumans such as pets. The family concept seems to be based on the need for a sense of belonging.

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I belong to the family who assembled at the hospital to say farewell to my grandfather, Bertholein. To quote the Dutch social scientist Geert Hofstede, “Social scientists are children of their culture.” I am my parents’ child.

My father was born in Port Au Prince, Haiti, where he lived the values that he inculcated in both my sister and me. He emphasized the importance of family, education and, most of all, philanthropic engagement. Brice Jean-Pierre always concerned himself with uplifting the less fortunate.

BY DR. ANIZE APPEL
Some members of the NCC community have seen, lived, endured or currently dwell or exist in a cycle of poverty. To them the good life may simply involve just having enough food to eat or being able to pay their bills. While this may be heartbreaking, in talking with them further, one realizes that their view of freedom is about separating themselves from the mundane experience of meeting daily needs to an experience that allows for profound thinking, learning and growing.

One of the goals of Northampton’s Center for International Education is giving students a chance to travel to touch and to experience the good life in a context that may not be familiar. Traveling allows us to discover new ways of being. My parents both sought this freedom. They left their homes, like many others before and after them, in search of the good life in America’s freedom.

As a child of several cultures, I see things through a multifaceted lens, a kaleidoscope of sorts. I revel in the freedom to work to make the world a better place. Freedom allows us to communicate in new ways. So, for me, freedom also includes the ability to express views and to self-advocate without marginalization. This is an example of the blending and finessing of a cultural perception of the good life that I absorbed from my family. Although I wore the garments of an American while visiting my Haitian grandfather, I was a first-generation American whose ideas about the good life were being shaped by my neighborhood of immigrants. My parents encouraged me to challenge my beliefs and expectations by exploring the world through travel and to seek interactions with its people. He also knew that I would remember saying farewell to my grandfather. He knew that the good life is about people.

So the answer to the question of what constitutes the good life across cultures can be found in the smiles of members of the NCC community who are proud and excited about belonging to a community that gives voice to all its members.

The good life across cultures is in the freedom to be, become and dream about the people we want to meet and to be.

The good life is about the willingness to be active and engaged, to make a difference.

As a child of diverse ancestry, I humbly proclaim that the good life across cultures is basically the same.

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About the author: As the assistant director of Northampton’s Center for International Education, Dr. Appel reveals in her work with students and faculty from many different cultures. The good life for her encompasses music and gardening as well as family and career. One little-known fact about Dr. Appel is that she a Guinness world record holder in Kuchipudi dance.
When I was asked to write an essay addressing the question, “Do men and women see the good life differently?” two quotations immediately came to mind. One is by the French feminist Simone de Beauvoir, who wrote in “The Second Sex,” “In the midst of an abstract discussion it is vexing to hear a man say: ‘You think thus and so because you are a woman;’ ... It would be out of the question to reply: ‘And you think the contrary because you are a man,’ for it is understood that the fact of being a man is no peculiarity.”

I think, too, of Rebecca West’s statement about feminism, made at the turn of the last century: “I myself have never been able to find out precisely what feminism is: I only know that people call me a feminist whenever I express sentiments that differentiate me from a doormat or a prostitute.”

In other words, the question itself troubled me, because women rarely come out well in the answering of it. As de Beauvoir said in 1949, male opinion tends to be considered the norm, and female opinion, when it deviates from or challenges this norm, tends not to be accepted as equally valid, but instead as irrational, insensible or as a case of special pleading. The question itself rests on the very gender binaries — there is a definitive male point of view and a definitive female one — that the feminist and transgender communities have encouraged us to avoid.

The question, to my mind, overdetermines gender’s influence on one’s thinking. Imagine I approached you and asked, “What is your idea of a good, or meaningful, life?” And, after hearing your answer, I replied, “Ah, you must think that because you are a woman.” Or a man. Or black. Or white. Or gay. Or straight. Or Christian. Or Jewish. Or Muslim. Insisting that one aspect of your identity colors every answer you give denies you your individuality and denies you your own thoughtful response to life’s questions.

You might answer as you did because of something you read, did or experienced; because of a class you took; because of a life experience you had; because of a film you saw; because of your experience as a child, spouse or parent; because of some very specific combination of reflections and experiences that are individual to you. Reducing your response to a product of your gender is to diminish your ability to think for yourself. If you police gender lines, you limit human experience and the human articulation of that experience.

But there is a way in which this question can be useful and, indeed, vital. This question can prompt us to look at ways in which structures of inequality continue to govern our lives and can encourage us not simply to condemn structures that reinforce gendered inequality, but instead to work to change them. When “The Atlantic Monthly” published Anne-Marie Slaughter’s thought-provoking article “Why Women Still Can’t Have It All” in its July/August 2012 issue, it sparked a national and international discussion about gender and the workplace and what appears to be a specifically gendered challenge of establishing a satisfying work-life balance.

One of the reasons that Slaughter’s article was so incendiary is that it asked readers to contemplate what living a good life meant to them and argued that, even in the 2010s, it is exceedingly difficult for a woman to pursue a meaningful career and have a family at the same time. What surprised so many readers was the gendered way in which the question itself rested on — that the feminist and transgender communities have encouraged us to avoid.

Gender-colored glasses
How do social norms affect our view?
not the answer to this question, but the dismaying fact that the question “Can women have it all?” was still being asked in the second decade of the 21st century.

This article reminds us that childcare and child-rearing, once the exclusive domains of women, remain realms in which women are expected to bear most of the responsibility, partially due to the unavoidable biological demands of motherhood and partially due to convention and the ways in which society has been structured. Slaughter concludes, “I still strongly believe that women can ‘have it all’ (and that men can too). I believe that we can ‘have it all at the same time.’ But not today, not with the way America’s economy and society are currently structured.”

It is this last part, regarding the structure of American society, that deserves our scrutiny. Women are graduating from college at higher rates than ever before and indeed are surpassing their male counterparts in their college completion rates, but these same women, no matter how well-educated or how well-employed, upon the birth of children are still, if not dropping out of the workforce entirely, curtailing their professional lives, often against their will.

This, of course, is not a new revelation; in the 1980s, Catharine MacKinnon wrote that nearly every job is “structured with the expectation that its occupant would not have primary childcare responsibilities.” Decades later Amber Kinser, in her 2010 study “The Myth of the Opt-Out Revolution,” notes, “It is ... first and foremost ... mothers [that] are being pushed out of the workforce. Research indicates that most of the women who leave do so reluctantly and often after having tried, unsuccessfully, to arrange work hours, responsibilities and opportunities that did not acutely penalize them for having family responsibilities.” Clearly, the position of the mother in the public sphere is one that remains unresolved and urgent today.

This realization invites us to examine the ways in which many cultural and professional institutions have not changed in ways that would help make motherhood and the workplace compatible. The frank and repeated acknowledgment that the public sphere remains unfriendly to mothers in particular has not resulted in a thor-ough restructuring of the workplace and the home; instead, women’s movements have generally pursued what R.W. Connell calls “a politics of access.” While this politics of access has drastically and permanently changed the lives of women, its limitations become clear when we consider the still-unresolved figure of the mother in the public sphere.

Some professional fields, such as medicine, law and academia, are built upon structures of training and advancement that are particularly unfriendly to women who intend to have children (see Phoebe Danziger’s recent article in “The Atlantic” on duty-hour restrictions for medical school residents or the long-acknowledged fact that the age at which many women consider starting families tends to coincide, unhelpfully, with the time during which they are being considered for tenure).

But the good news is this: Structures can be altered — and with them, attitudes and opportunities for men and women and those with and without children-alike. But how is this meditation on men, women, parenthood and the good life useful to the rest of us? Would reevaluating social and professional structures in light of the specific demands of motherhood improve the lives only of parents? What of the childfree?

I would argue that mothers are only the most obvious example of a conflict between the private and public realms, and if motherhood leads us to argue for institutions structured around the ideal of a work-life balance, this benefits everyone, not just those with children.

This type of structural, institutional and societal reevaluation, coupled with the astounding technological capabilities we currently enjoy, could help lead to the ideal lives envisioned by such thinkers as John Maynard Keynes and H.G. Wells, who both imagined that the increased productivity technology offered would lead to lives that embraced a balance between work and leisure, work and pleasure, the advancement of society and the improvement of the individual. This technological utopia did not envision technology lengthening our work day; rather, the appeal of technology is in its ability to automate certain tasks, thereby freeing us to pursue our own outside interests and responsibilities, be they raising a family, caring for a parent, practicing or acquiring a new skill, traveling or devoting oneself to a passion.

So we can return to our original question, with a slight revision: What would it mean to have a meaningful work-life balance, and how can we help create spaces and structures that support this? Would this mean having paid parental leave? Flexible work schedules? Job-sharing? On-site childcare? Sabbaticals? A stipend for parents? Would it mean rethinking the ways in which we train and retain workers? Would it mean reimagining what constitutes a workplace?

Virginia Woolf, one of the most important novelists of the 20th century, in her study of women, war and education titled “Three Guineas,” imagines what changes in the professions would mean not only for women, but also for men: “For if your wife were paid for her work ... your own [burden] would be lightened. No longer need you go to the office at nine-thirty and stay there till six. Work could be equally distributed. Patients could be sent to the patientless. Briefs to the

Would reevaluating social and professional structures in light of the specific demands of motherhood improve only the lives of parents? What about the childfree?
What does the phrase the good life mean to you? Likely, The good life produces a wealth of images and possibilities for us all. Commonalities in our responses would likely include material stability in careers to assure the care and comfort of our significant others. Other answers might articulate abstracts such as fulfillment, peace and happiness. Hopefully, we would all be mindful to think not just of ourselves, but also of the vulnerable and the oppressed. But what might the slogan mean for American life within the larger world and our overall place in it?

For me, a self-professed hip-hop junkie turned sociology scholar, the good life, where have you gone?
long-standing American ethos that hard work equals achievement for the individual and for our country at large. The ideals of an egalitarian and empathetic good life appeared to be alive in CL's lyrics: “Hear me now, brother,” but such positivity was constrained by a warning that failure to achieve the good life comes at a steep rate as “the mind is a terrible thing to waste.”

This is what I find fascinating about popular culture: It both reflects and shapes our understanding of larger social values. Its creativity sometimes distorts, not unlike a funhouse mirror, but also reveals truth, albeit altered and open to interpretation.

In the 1990s questions arose in many hip-hop songs, artwork and videos regarding whether the good life was even a reasonable possibility for most Americans. Was the good life achieved by fame and wealth or by respect and equality? For the post-Civil Rights generation, hip-hop became a vehicle to pursue those possibilities. Shattering taboos and cultural norms along the way, hip-hop culture produced as much notoriety as it did a sense of progress in its quest for the good life. In the 20th century, hip-hop did not provide an image of the good life any more definitive than other popular representations, but it did make something startlingly clear: Achievement in America, whether for the individual or the group, would come by effort and determination, price and struggle.

Where does that leave the good life in America in the 21st century? What voices have utilized hip-hop in attempting to update the idea? Consider the work of this century’s ubiquitous rap star Kanye West in his 2007 song aptly titled “Good Life.” With a joyous crash of synthesizers, drum machines and a chorus of competing voices, the song begins:

Like we always do at this time
I go for mine, I got to shine
Now throw your hands up in the sky.

Immediately, West’s depiction of the good life is personalized (“I go for mine”) with a need for recognition from listeners to respond with their “hands up in the sky.” The conceit here is that West’s mate-
It is no secret that wealth inequality has increased dramatically in the last three decades, endangering Americans’ sense of possibility and fairness. This widening gap might be attributed to dozens of reasons, including a growing population, post industrialization, rapid technological change, growing global financial power and decreasing regional and community representation.

Rapid socioeconomic change has improved prospects for some Americans, but it has also exacerbated previous existing racial and gender divides. They are now so sharply pronounced, they are impossible to ignore when caught on video, retweets or sound bites.

Such social problems have escalated because, like West, our pursuit of the good life has largely focused on ourselves. In his 2015 book, “The Road to Character,” David Brooks cites a Gallup poll from 1950 in which 12 percent of high school students considered themselves “very important,” noting that by 2005, the figure had grown to 80 percent.

Trumpeting one’s self-importance is perhaps an act of self-preservation, a reaction to a profound distrust in our institutions. In an essay titled “In Nothing We Trust,” shared on the PBS NewsHour in February, Jeff Greenfield highlighted a Pew Research study revealing that only 16 percent of Americans trusted the government to do what was right “most of the time in 2015 compared to 57 percent in 1957. Political polarization has produced a presidential campaign in 2016 where candidates forego statesmanship in an attempt to harness the anger and dissatisfaction of the electorate. Oh, good life, where have you gone?

Perhaps it is time to begin to clean up the after party of West’s celebration of the self. Perhaps the good life as defined by mass consumption, has a price tag that we can no longer charge to a credit account. Perhaps we should heed the call of previous speakers at Northampton such as Wes Moore who urged us to fight on behalf of the marginalized of our society whose potential exceeds the opportunities that are open to them. Perhaps we should take action supporting Will Allen’s attempts to organize ecologically sound local food for underserved urban communities. Or perhaps we should take to heart Colum McCann’s appeal for “radical empathy.” The good life may require rethinking or outright rejecting the very paradigms that initially created the conceit.

Taking a concluding glance into the carnival looking glass, we see such potential reflected in the verses of rapper Compton’s Kendrick Lamar, whose work has so captured the imagination of listeners that he was invited to perform at the White House this past year. In “How Much a Dollar Cost,” Lamar rapped about an encounter with a homeless man. Although he was initially reluctant to offer the man spare change, Lamar composed a meditation of compassion with theological import:

Guilt trippin’ and feelin’ resentment
I never met a transient that demanded attention
They got me frustrated, indecisive and power trippin’
Sour emotions got me lookin’ at the universe different.

The lyrics implore the listener to recognize that success doesn’t necessarily preclude personal gain, but that it should definitely involve considering the price. Perhaps in the pursuit of such questioning, Lamar has revealed a certain truth of the good life. The examined life is, indeed, worth living.

About the author: McIntosh, an assistant professor of sociology holds a bachelor of arts degree in American studies from Bard University and a master’s in social relations from Lehigh. In addition to spending time with his wife and children and in working with students, the good life for McIntosh involves spinning old-school hip-hop as DJ ARM 18.
Architecture
2012 Douglas Dries of Macungie received a bachelor’s degree in business administration at Muhlenberg College’s Wescoe School in 2015. He says, “The education I received at NCC was of the highest quality and prepared me to continue my education at Muhlenberg. All my credits transferred, making enrolling at Muhlenberg quick and easy.”

Business Administration
2001 Melinda Stumpf of Bethlehem has been appointed to the board of directors of the Carbon Chamber and Economic Development Corporation. The CCEDC is dedicated to bringing its members together to create cooperative and prosperous businesses that enhance the community while providing opportunities for networking and growth in community and business within Carbon County.

2010 LeVaughn Nesbitt of Philadelphia has been promoted to senior internal auditor at Knoll.

2012 Michael Desiante of Leola is attending Villanova University for a master’s degree in taxation. He is the chair of the PICPA Schools and Colleges Committee, which focuses on attracting students into the accounting field and career development. Desiante is a CPA and a tax accountant at Herbein+Company, Inc.

2013 Andrew Truscott of West Chester works at the Delaware Theatre Company. He recently was awarded the Gold Medallion from the Region II Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. He is a 2009 theatre graduate who also holds a degree from West Chester University.

Computer Information Technology – Networking
2005 Michael Lichty of Reading is a senior field technician at T-Mobile.

Dental Hygiene
2001 Janel (Smale) Keppel of Stroudsburg is a dental hygienist at Bangor Family Dental. She writes, “I enjoyed my education here so much I’m reapplying for the nursing program.”

Early Childhood
2010 Jennifer Bicknese of Gettysburg is an art therapist working for Children’s Aid Society. She spends her days instilling hope and encouraging children to believe in themselves despite the trauma, abuse and neglect they have experienced. Bicknese received both bachelor’s and master’s degrees in art therapy at Cedar Crest College. She writes, “I am lucky enough to say that I was able to achieve my dreams, and it all started at NCC. Thank you to everyone who made an impact in my life while I was at NCC.”

Education
2008 Lorna O’Farrell of Tannersville went back to school later in life after a full career as a 911 paramedic responder. The mother of three children, she is vice president of operations of the Sherman Theater, a nonprofit that does community work and shares the arts with everyone. O’Farrell says, “I had the best time in my life at NCC. I made lifelong friends and learned lifelong lessons.”

Environmental Science
1977 Ronald Wagner of Boyertown is a sales/fishing outfitter at Cabela’s, Inc.

Fine Art
2007 Michelle Rivera Getz of Pocono Summit works at the Mount Airy Casino as a cage shift manager.

General Education
1984 Roger Ross Williams of Roxbury, N.Y., is the director and producer of “Untitled Prison Project,” a film that expresses his deeply personal journey to understand why so many friends from his childhood hometown of Easton, Pa., are in prison. His film was one of 33 independent documentary films selected for the Sundance Institute Documentary Film Program support in 2015.

In January 2016, Williams won the Sundance Film Festival Directing Award: U.S. Documentary, for “Life, Animated.” The film tells the real-life story of Owen Suskind, the son of Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Ron Suskind and his wife, Cornelia. Diagnosed with autism, Owen didn’t speak for years, but then Owen memorized dozens of Disney movies and turned them into a language to express love and loss, kinship and brotherhood. The family took on the roles of animated characters to communicate with Owen in Disney dialogue and song. “Life, Animated” will be released in North American theaters later this year.

General Studies
1997 Jason Huggan earned a bachelor’s degree in anthropology at Bloomsburg University and a master’s degree in archaeology from the University of Leicester. He participated in an archaeology expedition in Peru and worked various archaeology and anthropology jobs in New Orleans, Kentucky, California and Virginia before his current position at the Department of the Army at Picatinny Arsenal as a cultural resource manager/archaeologist. He lives in East Bangor with his wife and two children.

2008 Gardenia Dargon of Chatham, N.J., was recognized by the Healthcare Businesswomen’s Association Metro chapter as an honored...
Where do I belong? Who am I?
These are questions that many students coming through the doors of Northampton Community College have asked themselves. When David Good started taking classes at NCC in 2005, he was no exception, although his story is exceptional.

Good is the son of American anthropologist Kenneth Good and Yarima, a member of a remote Amazonian indigenous tribe, the Yanomami. In 1975, Kenneth began a 12-year stint in the rainforest, living with and studying the Yanomami. He met and married Yarima during that time.

A typical day in the life of a Yanomami is very different than that of an American. The Yanomami have no written language and no calendar. Instead of trips to a grocery store, they derive what they need from the rainforest. Life is lived in a communal shoabono, a roundhouse structure that serves as the center of the community.

When Kenneth was unable to renew the permit he needed to continue to live with the Yanomami, he had to return home to New Jersey. Yarima agreed to accompany him.

“It was like going into a time machine and fast forwarding 2,000 years,” Good said of his mother.

Yarima had to adjust to everything from cars to mirrors to a husband who left her and their three children every day to go to work.

“She was like a fish out of water. She was suffocating,” explained Good. During a visit to the Amazon when he was 5, his mother decided to stay in her homeland. Good felt rejected. “I thought I wasn’t good enough. I began to hate her and hate myself.”

His father moved the family to Easton when Good was in the sixth grade. After high school, Good attended NCC. “It was a transformative time in my life. I was dealing with intense emotions, trying to identify who I was and my place in the world. Even though I was struggling internally, academically I had a great time. The combination of the faculty and the institution created the perfect atmosphere for me,” he shared.

Good’s struggle culminated with him understanding his mother’s decision and wanting to see her again. He reunited with her in 2011.

He lived among the Yanomami for several months, learning rainforest skills from his family and something else. “They taught me how to be human. They live a life based on reciprocity. They share everything.”

The Yanomami’s world was changing due to sustained contact with missionaries and other outsiders. They found having to traverse politics, rapid rates of acculturation, health care and more overwhelming.

Wanting to help, Good started The Good Project when he returned home. The Good Project aims to help remote indigenous groups cope with modern-day struggles while preserving their traditional way of life.

In January of this year, Good traveled to southeast Costa Rica to work with the indigenous Cabecar people. After his Costa Rica trip, he returned to the Yanomami to establish a pilot program to collect oral histories from the elders and to transcribe and translate them to create bilingual textbooks.

“I left my village a long time ago, and it took me a 20-year detour to get back home,” Good shared. “I went from absolutely hating and renouncing my heritage to embracing it.”


by Katherine Noll
his NCC massage therapy grad has got your back. Is there anything better than having someone work out the stress in your muscles, leaving you completely relaxed? According to Victoria Canavan ’15, there is — being the person who makes it happen!

“I love watching my clients come out of the room after a massage. Before, they were stressed, tensed and sore. Afterwards, I can see the relief I brought them. They’re relaxed and happy,” Canavan said.

The desire to help people coupled with a love of science inspired Canavan to apply for Northampton Community College’s massage therapy program.

“I’ve always loved science. Even in middle school I was the first one to jump into dissecting worms and frogs,” Canavan shared. “And I always knew I wanted to work in the health field in order to help people. It just took a while to decide which path I wanted to follow.”

After graduating from Bloomsburg University with a bachelor’s of science in health sciences and a minor in psychology, she had her first professional massage. People sometimes joke that a massage is a life-changing experience. For Canavan, it actually was. Not only did the massage relieve stress in muscles she didn’t even realize were tense, the therapist’s enthusiasm for her job was inspiring. “She shared with me how much she loved helping people relax,” Canavan said.

Something clicked. The very next day she began researching massage schools. NCC was on the list, as Canavan’s mother, Patricia, works in the Public Information Office at the College.

“I knew NCC had a great reputation in the community, plus the program seemed more thorough than some of the others I considered,” she said.

After being accepted into the competitive program, Canavan began classes in anatomy and physiology, kinesiology, business and, of course, massage techniques. Luckily, she had a furry friend to help with that part of her homework.

“I would go home and practice on my dog, Zaya. She loves it so much that to this day, when I ask her if she wants a massage, she jumps up onto the massage table,” she said.

Working on fellow students, however, took some time to get used to.

“Everyone was a little nervous at first about giving each other massages, but we used that time to get to know each other, and we all became great friends by the end of the program. It was also very relaxing getting massages once or twice a week. It made getting up for an 8 a.m. class so much easier!” Canavan said with a laugh.

She completed the program in the summer of 2015 and immediately began studying for the Massage and Bodyworking Licensing Examination (MBLEX). She passed on the first attempt.

“The exam was difficult, but the NCC program had me well-prepared for it. The instructor, Sallie Urffer, was a fantastic teacher who taught at the students’ pace. Not only is she very skilled and knowledgeable, but her critiques were always done in a positive way. She also brought in other massage therapists to teach us more about their specialties, like sports massage, hot stone and energy work,” said Canavan.

After passing the exam, she began a job search. A career fair at the Monroe Campus brought a lead that turned into a job as a licensed massage therapist at Great Wolf Lodge, an indoor water park and hotel in the Pocono Mountains. There she offers five different types of massage: aromatherapy, organic, therapeutic, maternity and a signature foot massage.

“Working at Great Wolf Lodge has been a great experience. Inside the spa, it’s quiet, calm and relaxing, but when I leave, it turns into a loud, exciting and fun place with kids and families having a great time and making memories.

Surrounded by smiling, relaxed faces, this NCC grad couldn’t be happier!

by Katherine Noll
2016 LEHIGH VALLEY FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL

SAVOR THE DATES

JUNE 3-5, 2016
SANDS EVENT CENTER, BETHLEHEM PA

The Sponsor Reception & Emeril Dinner will be held on Friday, June 3 featuring a 5-course dinner by Chef Emeril Lagasse. The Grand Tasting will be held on Saturday, June 4 and Sunday, June 5 featuring the best restaurants from the Lehigh Valley dining scene, and over 50 wine and spirit varieties from Southern Wine & Spirits of Pennsylvania.

The weekend schedule, ticket prices and sponsorship opportunities will be available at www.northampton.edu/foodandwine
Questions? Email foodandwine@northampton.edu

SPONSORSHIP PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE NCC FOUNDATION.

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TO VETERINARIAN DR. GENE

Witiak, each new work day is an opportunity to create a lasting bond. But not only with his furry patients.

The connection he shares with his clients over their pets quickly develops into something more than a business relationship, he says: They become friends.

This was clearly evident one spring-like day recently, as Gene and his wife, Joan ’78, made their way to their seats for breakfast at a Bethlehem café. In just a few moments, Gene was stopped three times by fellow diners who wanted to say hello and thank him for what he has done for their families.

Veterinary medicine is a career Gene never expected. But after more than 50 years in practice, which included authoring two books and several nationally published articles, he wouldn’t change it for the world.

“I like people, and animals are even easier to like,” Gene said with a smile. “I’ll meet a new client and tell them, ‘You know, I keep practicing because of you.’”

Kindness and compassion are important qualities to the Witiaks, and Gene saw these traits in Dr. Susan Stadler, a veterinarian he hired at his practice in the ’80s. Stadler, who later went on to direct Northampton’s veterinary technician program, died unexpectedly in 2014. Though she had moved out of state a few years prior, the local veterinary community was devastated by the loss. “When our [veterinary] techs got the word, they were crying,” Gene said. “You can be a good vet if you are good with animals, but she was so much more: sharp, kind to others and a real team player. Everyone loved her.”

Joan agreed. As business manager of Gene’s practice, she had gotten to know Stadler well over the years. “She really supported her students and always showed that she cared,” she said.

The Witiaks wanted to honor their former colleague, while also helping a student looking to enter the veterinary field, so they established the Dr. Gene and Joan Witiak Veterinary Technician Scholarship Endowment in memory of Dr. Susan Stadler at Northampton. The first scholarship was awarded last fall to freshman Jessica Kalar.

“I work very hard in school to make sure I am able to provide for my son,” Kalar said. “I want to show my son that going to college is an obtainable goal and not a financial burden. I truly appreciate Dr. and Mrs. Witiak’s scholarship, and I hope I make them proud for seeing my potential.”

Gene, who sold his original practice in 1997, is now seeing patients in his new practice: HanoverView Animal Hospital, on Route 512 south of Bath. All of his veterinary technicians are certified and graduates of the Northampton program. He has high praise for its students and alumni and says the program produces top-notch graduates. Gene has been a member of the advisory board of the veterinary technician program at Northampton since its inception in 1998.

“In this field, you learn a lot about how your colleagues treat people,” Gene said. “It makes us feel good that we are honoring Susan by helping someone get a start in the program she loved.”

by Sandy Stahl

Donor Profile
Gene & Joan Witiak

34 / NCC / SPRING SUMMER 2016
BECAUSE OF YOU, and the opportunities at Northampton Community College, biology student Angela Albrecht has had her eyes opened to the opportunities for women in STEM fields. Angela is on the path to fulfilling her dream of becoming a neuroengineer and wants to someday open her own start-up for biomedical devices.

Please give generously to the annual fund, which supports our students.
NORTHAMPTON.EDU/ONLINEGIVING
NCC REMEMBERS

May E. Champagne ‘76 passed away on Sept. 30. In addition to earning a bachelor’s degree in music education from Lebanon Valley College, she earned a certificate in medical transcription from NCC 14 years later. She was a music teacher in the Easton Area School District and the Rondout Valley School District in New York.

Raymond Darrohn passed away on Nov. 2. He worked in the maintenance department of NCC until retiring in 1991. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1944 to 1947. The owner of Darrohn’s Superette and The Spot drive-in, he was also a life member of the Hecktown Fire Company.

Lamar J. “Bud” Dull Jr. ’96 passed away on Oct. 15. He was a ride mechanic at Hershey Park.

Elmer Gates NCC and the Lehigh Valley

Sydney R. Eltringham Jr. passed away on Feb. 12. He was an adjunct professor at NCC and also taught for the East Stroudsburg Area School District and the Trenton Area School District. He earned a bachelor’s degree from King’s College, a master’s degree from Temple University and a doctorate in education from Lehigh University. He served as a volunteer in many civic organizations and founded the Vietnam Veterans’ Club at NCC.

John Freeh Sr. passed away on Feb. 12. He became an adjunct professor at NCC after his retirement from Bethlehem Steel, where he was superintendent of electrical/mechanical maintenance, Saucon Division for 43 years. A graduate of Lehigh University, he served in the Navy during World War II in the South China Sea. He participated in many community service organizations.

Lowell E. “Bud” Glaser passed away on July 15. He was a longtime donor to Northampton Community College. The recipient of a Bronze Star, he served his country in the Philippines and Japan during World War II. He earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in civil and structural engineering from Park and Purdue universities, respectively, and worked for Bethlehem Steel Company in the 1950 Loop Division and the Fabricated Steel and Plant Engineering divisions. Upon Bethlehem Steel’s closing, he became a project engineer in the engineering division of the City of Bethlehem Public Works.

Virginia Glicas, a retired secretary with NCC’s financial aid office, passed away on Oct. 27. Prior to coming to NCC, she was a secretary for Bethlehem Steel.

Maryalice Gross ’70 passed away on Nov. 5. She received an associate degree in registered nursing from NCC and a bachelor’s degree in education from East Stroudsburg University. Her many career roles included nursing instructor and supervisor. She was also a nurse aide instructor for 15 assisted living communities in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

Debra MacEwen ’13 passed away on Dec. 20. She attended NCC before continuing her education at East Stroudsburg University, where she planned to earn a bachelor’s degree in health care administration.

Deborah J. Mayer ’04 passed away on Dec. 29. After earning her associate degree in dental hygiene, she was an agency pool dental hygienist in various dental offices.

Ernest J. Nadenichek ’81, ’82, ’86, ’88 passed away on Aug. 26. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and worked for Bethlehem Steel in the railroad sales department. He also worked as a mail carrier for the U.S. Postal Service.

Francis J. Pecuch ’73, ’74 passed away on Oct. 19. He earned a general education degree and a registered nursing degree from NCC. During the Vietnam War, he served with the 95th Evacuation Hospital. After going on to earn a bachelor’s degree in nursing from Kutztown University and a master’s degree in human resources from the University of Scranton, he served in administrative roles at the Allentown State Hospital, Cedarbrook Nursing Home, Lehigh County Prison and Lehigh County Juvenile Detention Center.

continued on page 40
Advancing the Mission of NCC while Maintaining Your Financial Security

Giving to NCC through a charitable gift annuity is a win-win situation. In exchange for your gift of cash or stock, NCC will make fixed payments to you during your life time. A charitable gift annuity also offers tax saving benefits, in addition to a lifetime income and membership in the Heritage Society.

In addition to helping NCC to continue its good works in our communities, you will be providing financial security for you and your loved ones for years to come.

If you think a charitable gift annuity might be an option that can work for you, please visit our website, www.northampton.giftplans.org, or for more information, contact Catherine DeHart, Planned and Major Gift Officer, at 610-861-5449 or cdehart@northampton.edu.

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(Gift Annuity Rates Recommended by the American Council on Gift Annuities)
Food & Wine Launch Party
The Lehigh Valley Food & Wine Festival on June 3-5 has been a year in the making. The planning committee, chaired by Mark Juliano and Mike Molewski, feted the sponsors and participating restaurants at a launch party in the Foundry Room at the Sands on Leap Day. Among the guests enjoying the reception were Martin and Tiffany Till and Chrissie Wagner.

Retiree Luncheon
Once a member of the NCC family, always a member of the NCC family. The annual retiree luncheon is an eagerly anticipated homecoming for former faculty and staff members. NCC’s founding president, Dr. Richard C. Richardson, and his wife, Pat, enjoyed chatting with President Erickson. Professors emeriti Doug Heath and Craig Kilpatrick have not lost their sense of humor.
Phantoms Hockey Game
More than 100 alumni and friends enjoyed the action when the Lehigh Valley Phantoms faced off against the Utica Comets at PPL Center this winter. Next up? NCC Night at the IronPigs on June 18. Call 610-861-5088 for tickets.

Mocktails
Steve Sheptak shares career advice with communication major Willie Careri and marketing major Christopher Curtis at a networking reception on the Monroe campus.

Kraus Awards Ceremony
Members of Patrick Kraus’s family stand with winners of the juried drawing competition held in his memory. Patrick was a talented artist who attended NCC in 1985-86. Shown here are his brother Larry (left), sister Katie (right), his mother Katherine, and award winners Dustin Madrigal (first place) and Laura Sarria (second place).

Chef-in-Residence
John Squarcia, an NCC trustee, samples delights from the Middle Eastern scallop station during the Chef-in-Residence reception. The featured chef this spring was NCC’s own Daniel Goulet ’01, who attained his first executive chef position at the age of 21. Now executive chef at Lords Valley Country Club, he is grateful for what he learned at NCC. He is shown here with one of his instructors, Chef Sue Roth, who is justifiably proud of this graduate of NCC’s culinary program.

Phantoms Hockey Game
More than 100 alumni and friends enjoyed the action when the Lehigh Valley Phantoms faced off against the Utica Comets at PPL Center this winter. Next up? NCC Night at the IronPigs on June 18. Call 610-861-5088 for tickets.
volunteer at the "Second Annual Paddle, Push and Persevere: Overcoming Challenges Together" in Langhorne, Pa. She is a senior training coordinator of global clinical learning services at Celgene Corporation in Summit, N.J. She received her master’s in business administration from Chaminade University in 2012.

2013 Janice Wilson of Stroudsburg earned a bachelor’s degree in public health with a concentration in health services administration and a minor in psychology at East Stroudsburg University on Dec. 12, 2015.

2014 Njeri Maxwell of Easton began her journey at NCC in 2006. It included an internship at Walt Disney World and a break in her studies until 2012. She had her son, August, took night classes and worked at Bayada Home Health Care fulltime. Maxwell plans to become a respiratory therapist so she can support her son’s asthma condition. She writes, “I would recommend NCC to anyone. It’s a stepping stone that I wouldn’t trade for any amount in the world.”

Liberal Arts
2004 Patrick Green of Allentown is the chief engineer for Spectra Venue Management at PPL Center in Allentown.

Real Estate
1982 Andrew Svaby of Allentown has been recognized by the Marine Corps Institute as being the most-MCI-educated “devil dog” of all time. The retired gunnery sergeant completed a total of 439 courses at MCI, 317 before his 1997 retirement from the Corps. Svaby was honored at the MCI deactivation ceremony at Marine Barracks Washington on Oct. 1, 2015, with a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for his volunteer efforts to mentor young Marines and his prolific completion of MCI courses. He tutors local Hispanic high school students in English as a Second Language and serves as the Armed Forces chair for the local chapter of the NAACP. He says, “I just want to give back to the community what the military gave me for the past 42 years.”

Registered Nursing
2013 Kerry Knight of Hilton Head, S.C., became a post-anesthesia care unit nurse with only one year of experience after completing NCC’s nursing program. She recently earned her bachelor’s degree.

Social Work
1998 Sandra Thomas of Bethlehem has accepted an active-duty contracting position with the U.S. Navy at the Defense Logistics Agency in Philadelphia. Lieutenant Commander Thomas has been a member of the U.S. Navy for more than 27 years. She previously was director of development at Miller-Keystone Blood Center in Bethlehem. She is also a member of the Alumni Association’s board of directors.

2007 Victoria Montero of Allentown is the manager of youth development initiatives at St. Luke’s University Health Network.

Special Education: Paraeducator Training
2009 Robert Webb of Bethlehem quit his high-paying job and went back to school at NCC to get a degree while working as a paraprofessional in a special education classroom. He received a bachelor’s degree in special education at East Stroudsburg University and a master’s degree in education, specifically, in Teachers of English to Speakers of other Languages, at DeSales University. He currently is working on a second master’s degree in technology. Webb says, “I now have the highest level of education in my family, and it all started with a class at NCC.”

Sport Management
2007 Ted Snow of Easton is the owner and head strength and conditioning coach of WarriorFit Performance in Easton. His mission, and the mission of WarriorFit Performance, is to educate, encourage and empower young athletes and adults to develop long-term success and perform at their best when it counts the most. He received a bachelor’s degree in exercise science from DeSales University.

Alumni Connections
Keep us posted! Send your story and photos to alumni@northampton.edu or submit at www.northampton.edu/alumniupdate.

Get Social with Us

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David Ripple ’09 passed away on Oct. 12. A business management graduate, he was employed by Country Junction in Forest Inn as a clerk in the hardware department. Previously, he was employed by the former Paris Neckwear Co., Walnutport, for more than 25 years.

Andrew Bryan Ritchie passed away on Jan. 2. He attended NCC from 2006–10, earning 55 credits at NCC as a sport management major. He was a champion wrestler. He worked as a dietary aide at Moravian Hall Square and as a landscaper.

Nicole LeeAnn Smith passed away in mid-September. She was a dancer and former NCC student.

Tina L. Van Dine ’84 passed away on May 16. She was a data processing major at NCC.

Richard Voigt passed away on Feb. 19. After graduating as a minister from Evangelical Theological Seminary in Naperville, Ill., and being ordained, he was invited to teach an introduction to philosophy course at NCC. He retired in 1996 as a full professor and received the title of professor emeritus. As the first philosophy professor at NCC, he established the department and developed courses. One of his courses, “On Death and Dying,” is still a requirement for funeral service majors. He served as a pastor in eastern Pennsylvania churches until 1971 and was a resident ethicist at St. Luke’s Hospital.

Brenton Wieland passed away on Dec. 13. He was a student at NCC, majoring in automotive technology.
don’t box YOURSELF IN

The Good Life May Be More About the Journey than the Destination

FOR SEVERAL WEEKS

this spring, I sat in front of my computer staring at the cursor trying to breathe life into the idea of the good life. I finally realized that I can’t—not for lack of trying, but because I don’t know what a good life is.

Others have their ideas of what a good life is and what it means to have a good life. Personally I don’t know how to define the concept. The good life is an ideal like the American dream, a concept that gives people hope.

The good life is a phrase that provides people with the motivation, faith and hope to move forward, but definitions of what it means vary from individual to individual. To a homeless person, maybe the good life is finding a comfortable place to sleep at night; to a kid, the good life might mean winning a basketball game; to an adult, it might mean paying off some debt and going on vacation. Our individual characteristics will determine what a good life is.

I aspire to a better future for the sake of my children, but I don’t think of this as a good life. I try to live in today while facing the uncertainty of the future. Life is an everyday occurrence that plays out. Some days are great and others not so much. Moments of happiness coupled with unexpected struggles have shown me that life just is. For some it’s a good life. For others it’s a hard knock life. For the rest it falls somewhere in between.

Quite some time ago at the age of 19 my road veered toward Northampton Community College. Uncertain but determined, I threw myself into the world of higher education. I had no idea what I was going to do with my life, but I rediscovered the love of learning, something I had forgotten. Northampton reignited this intellectual curiosity I had long ignored.

At NCC I found mentors who guided me. These mentors, along with my desire to be an inspiration and role model for my children, fueled my passion for learning. In 2009, when I finally completed my degree, I was still uncertain about what I wanted to “be,” but I had discovered that I loved to learn and that I enjoy helping others.

Eventually I enrolled in a bachelor’s program at Muhlenberg College. I became an English major because I realize that reading and interpreting the written word make me a better person.

When I complete my degree in 2017, I will have transformed from a young girl into an empathetic adult who understands the struggles and the beauty of life. I aspire to live life to the fullest through pain and laughter, trying to inspire others. My time at NCC molded me into a curious adult who strives for a better tomorrow.

I look forward to whatever that may be. ♦

by Delia Marrero ’09

About the author: As a student at NCC, Delia Marrero ’09 impressed all who met her with her thoughtfulness and determination. A single parent, she has helped to put herself through school with jobs on campus and now at the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley, striving to be a good role model for her daughters and to show them that “if you want something, it takes constant effort.”
NEXT ON OUR PLATE
A Study of the Local Food Supply

Is it possible to ensure that everyone in the Lehigh Valley has access to safe and nutritious food? Does the Lehigh Valley have the potential to become a food “hub” where food grown locally would not need to be transported to Lancaster or Philadelphia for processing and then transported back? How many jobs would that create? When making the decisions, who is at the table?

These and other questions will be addressed in a series of community-based conversations sponsored by NCC starting in May and culminating with a report on the findings in October.

The discussions will include a cross-section of area residents and organizations, including RenewLV, Second Harvest Food Bank, the Hispanic Center Lehigh Valley, Buy Fresh Buy Local Greater Lehigh Valley and the Penn State Extension.

The meetings will be facilitated by six scholars, including Kelly Allen, associate professor of English and founder of NCC’s Community Garden; Breena Holland, associate professor of political science at Lehigh University; M. Dawn King, faculty fellow and lecturer at Brown University; Ben Cohen, assistant professor of engineering studies and environmental studies at Lafayette College; Maria McGrath, associate professor of humanities and history at Bucks County Community College and Dr. Sandra Aguilar-Rodriguez, assistant professor of Latin American history at Moravian College.

The project is being funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities’ “Humanities in the Public Square” initiative, which underwrites projects that draw on knowledge of the humanities to engage the public in understanding contemporary concerns.

Activities will include workshops, cooking demonstrations, writing projects and film screenings. All events will be open to the public.

To see the schedule, go to northampton.edu/publicsquare