Soccer Team Goes to Nationals

by Val Williams

The Jefferson College Soccer Team became regional champions after defeating East Central Community College 4-3 on Halloween day. Winning this game not only declared them regional champions, but it also propelled them to nationals. The team will now fly to Martinsville, Virginia, on November 14th where they will compete in a tournament with a bracket holding the top 12 Division 1 teams in the nation from November 16 to 21. If they make it out of the group stages successfully they will have a shot at gaining the National Championship title. The last time the Vikings won this title was in 2006. Overall it has been a very successful season. Although early on in the season the team took a hard loss to St. Louis Community College for the first time in Jefferson College history, they did not let that discourage them. Taking only two additional losses since then, the team at one point held a 12 game winning streak.

The Vikings maintain a routine after each game. They are taking every step possible to ensure success at the tournament.

Sophomore Captain from Jamaica #21 Akeem Richards says, “This year a strong sense of unity has been displayed among the team. We are like a family. There are no cliques and we never have any major disputes. We even have FIFA tournaments in our spare time that serve as a form of team bonding. The team is commonly seen together whether it be in study hall, on the field, at the dorms, or even out in public at local restaurants. Richards actually attributes the team’s success to the family culture they have created and also to their routine prayer before and after each game.

“I’m very proud of our team this year. Everything has come together really well,” says Richards. Winning nationals would mean so much to the team as a whole, but also as individuals. It is important to remember the hard work that the team has put into the season thus far. Winning nationals would mean that the team is #1 in the nation, a huge accomplishment for everyone.

Sophomore striker from St. Catherine, Jamaica, #9 Chevaughn Walsh says, “Winning nationals would fulfill all my goals and dreams for my career as a Jefferson College student athlete. It would be the platform for my chance of playing for my native country.”

Along with their astonishing success on the field the following players have been named the All-MCCAC 1st team: Chevaughn Walsh, Akeem Richards, Fritz Alexandre, and Jorge Chavez. The following have been named to the All-MCCAC Men’s Soccer 2nd Team: Saiz Saenz, Brayan Lopez, and Mauro Gel-fusa.

The coaches and athletic directors are all very proud of the boys this year and wish them the very best of luck.

Faculty Focus: Prof. of Art Blake Carroll

by Christina Miller

Blake Carroll has been a fixture at Jefferson College for 20 years, and an educator for 10 years before that. When asked if he finds art in unexpected places, Carroll said, “I can give you many instances when I was in a museum and moved to tears literally, but I don’t often find things that really excite me in unexpected places visually. I don’t expect to find great art laying on the sidewalk, so to speak, but I went to graduate school in Boston and I remember walking through downtown Bos-
ton and seeing some kids with boom boxes on their shoulders that were rapping just as they walked along, and you know that to me is what that is about. Not that it should be recorded and preserved for posterity but it was just reflective of their life and what was happening right at that moment and that kind of thing knocked me out.”

Although he is a self-described elitist when it comes to art in everyday life, he derives his inspiration from the world around him. “I see things all the time that are not art and of themselves that inspire my art. I am fascinated by trash dumps. There’s one [painting of a dumpster] in my exhibit. They are not beautiful things, but you know the way the light falls on them and the different colors and the varieties of shapes...that inspires me.”

When asked why art is important, Carroll explains that art lasts and describes life as no written word can, saying, “What will endure from today’s time will be the art that we make today. What do we go to museums for? Do we go to museums to see what the politics were 300 years ago? I mean there’s a little historical background to it in that regard but most of how we see that or access that is reflected through their art whether it be paintings or sculptures or architecture...that’s what endures.”

Linda Fuentes and C.J. Santiago examine some of the artwork in the Administration Building Exhibition Space. Discussing the space, Professor Carroll said, “Select advanced students exhibit work there at the end of the spring semester through the summer. In addition to faculty and student work, we show outside artists of merit as well. Work shown in the space is selected and coordinated by myself and Associate Professor Nick Nhikea. A reception for my exhibit entitled Mostly Landscapes has been tentatively scheduled for November 17th at 2pm.”
A brief look at some of the instructors at Jefferson College
by Christina Miller

Mario Love

A Google search of Mario Love will probably point you in the direction of a site that rates professors. What you'll find there are many comments from students who have thoroughly enjoyed class with this man. Love has a M.A. in International Relations, his thesis done on Revolution in Third World Countries, and his Doctorate in History with an emphasis in African politics. Any of his students can tell you his classroom experience often includes YouTube videos to further explain and flesh out the subject matter. Love says, "Students have changed in terms of the ability to retain information, so I think you kind of have to create new bridges to reach them where they are and I think individuals are often times visual so you have to readapt how you teach to bring essential points home. In my opinion, reliance on text books and traditional methods just don't work anymore, at least for younger generations." Love, himself, was inspired by a teacher in undergrad school at UMSci. Dr. Ruth Iybod, when Love struggled through a class, "I stuck in and fell in love with international politics and went to Webster's grad school and fell in love with it even more so it just was an ah-ha moment where the light bulb just turned on." Love often sends students out of class with a positive thought or message, and when asked what advice he would give to young people today said, "I suppose that no matter how bad things get it could always be worse. You have to kind of put the tough things into perspective and not associate them with being so unique to make it seem as if no one else is going to go through similar things. There's always a new day, right?"

Christopher Bailes

Christopher Bailes teaches German classes as an adjunct instructor at Jefferson College's Arnold campus in the evenings. Bailes became interested in German as a foreign language during his junior year in college. As a history major, he was required to have four semesters of a foreign language. Since Bailes was interested in German history, as well as philosophy (of which there are several famous German philosophers), his interest was naturally drawn to the German language. As well as being interested in the German language, Bailes also finds German culture intriguing, saying "Their is sort of a foundation culture to Western civilization, historically speaking, where we are sort of the New World, so it's sort of Old World vs. New World." And about the German people, "I'm always impressed with how innovative and creative they are. They are just tremendously productive and innovative in science and music and the world of ideas." While technology and travel makes the world a smaller place and mingles different peoples, Bailes feels the global melting pot is not necessarily a bad thing, saying, "I think that everybody, and cultures, seem to lose a little bit but also gain a little bit, too, in the process of globalization." Bailes passes on advice to students with one of his favorite quotes, "The good life is one inspired by love and guided by knowledge." - Bertrand Russell

Amanda Burch

Amanda Burch, MA, LPE, a well-liked psychology adjunct teacher at Jefferson College, not only teaches future generations, but pays it forward as well. Burch has a Little Library outside of her home where people can stop to take a book and leave a book, and also operates a book bus. Burch has always had a goal of pursuing psychology, not only in an educational setting but as a counselor and psychological examiner. Burch has been a psychology instructor at Jefferson College for 10 years and says psychology class is important for every student stating "Psychology is everywhere, in every field, in every occupation. If you can understand the way people think...react...in certain situations, I think you're able to work with people better." Many see psychology and psychiatry as being basically the same discipline, however there are significant differences. Burch says, "Psychiatry is just treating symptoms with medication. You go to a psychologist for talk therapy to find out why you're having the symptoms. You can't have one without the other in my opinion. You go to a psychiatrist and they can treat your symptoms...panic attack, anxiety...whatever you're having, but if you don't find out why you're having those panic attacks or anxiety attacks it won't work." Finally, Burch states that her ah-ha moments don't necessarily occur in everyday life. However, she says, "I think in an educational setting you can see when a student has their ah-ha moment and then that makes me think Oh, Yes, I got it through to them. You know? They understand what I'm trying to say!"

Aida Steiger

Coach Aida Steiger will enter her 9th year as volleyball coach at Jefferson College in January, 2016. During the last eight seasons, her coaching and guidance have led to a very successful volleyball program, with the 2015 Lady Vikings winning 24 and losing only 7 games. Jefferson College is recognized as one of the premier National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA), Division One, colleges in the nation. Steiger, shown here spotting college board of trustees president Steve Meinberg, says one of the things she loves about coaching is the relationships and long-term friendships created over the years, not only with her students but also with assistants. "Each team has a special place in your heart", says Steiger, "every single kid I had at some point I'm engaged with them, and at some point they invite me to their wedding, at some point they're on Facebook, at some point they want to be in my life, so many times they will come and watch a game, so it's like a bunch of grown up kids for me. I think that's special, not everyone gets that.” The students also find and form friendships that may very well last indefinitely. Steiger said, "I think the friendships that they create over those two years are something special for those kids. They live like sisters. You live, you eat, you travel, you practice together and stuff like that and they get to know each other really well.” In addition to coaching volleyball, Steiger also teaches health and physical education classes, such as Weight Training I and II, Aerobics, as well as Personal Health. Although volleyball season has ended for 2015, soon the whole process will begin again with recruitment of players and planning next year's winning strategy.
We are bombarded constantly with advertising, yet many of us are not aware of the types of appeals being used. Advertising appeals to our emotions, often trying to tweak them in the direction the advertisers wish. Consumers who are unaware of how advertisements use emotion are less able to determine if the emotional message is one that they wish to internalize. An example of this is the fear appeals used to sell everything from life insurance to skin cream. Everyone knows of death, and advertisers play on this fear to sell products that will “keep you safe.” While this fear may be true, one must analyze it logically to determine if the product will in fact help reduce the risk of death. Without media literacy skills, consumers will have difficulty setting aside the emotions engendered to make a rational decision.

Advertisements are not the only persuasive media to use fear or other emotional appeals. Many politicians and pandemics use similar emotional appeals to influence the public. The Second Iraq War was sold to the public using fear appeals. Intelligence agencies claimed that Saddam Hussein was obtaining yellow cake uranium, an extremely low quality uranium ore, for his nuclear weapons program. Nuclear weapons require very high quality uranium or plutonium, which is nearly impossible to achieve from a low grade ore. Since most Americans have little understanding of how nuclear weapons are made, the fear of Iraq with a nuclear weapons program was very real to the American public. The threat of nuclear weapons is so extreme that it seems to demand immediate action, rather than deliberation and fact checking. Citizens must recognize this tendency to react emotionally in order to control their initial reaction long enough to find out if there is actually something to fear.

Media literacy skills are extremely important when watching the news. Up to 90% of newsrooms use video news releases, or VNRs. VNRs are prepackaged stories delivered to newsrooms by public relations departments. Many news organizations will air a VNR with little or no editing, often just replacing the original voiceover track with one of their own. VNRs even come with scripts if the newsroom has difficulty writing their “own” voiceover.

The non-profit website PRWatch, has many great examples of VNRs. In 2005, KABC-7 in Los Angeles aired a report entitled “Is Your Child Constantly Sick?” Although the station did not identify it as such, the content originated with Quest Diagnostics, and was basically a commercial for a new blood test for allergies. The station made cosmetic changes to the report, replacing the graphics and voiceover tracks with their own, but neglected to do any journalism of their own to balance the story. Since the report was not attributed to Quest Diagnostics, consumers had no way to determine the bias. Many medical news stories originate with health care companies, leaving consumers with little access to unbiased information.

VNRs are produced to look exactly like news stories, and their provenance is often difficult to determine. Some news stations will identify the source of a VNR as they air it, but many do not provide attribution until the credit rolls. This makes it difficult to match the source with the content.

Media literate consumers can recognize VNRs by what is missing. There is often on attribution, no station personnel appear on screen, visuals are from a non-local source, and the report airs at a time dedicated to feature stories and soft news. Without the skills to recognize VNRs, consumers cannot judge the bias of a story properly. This can be a serious problem as estimates from both inside and outside the PR industry estimate that between 50% to 90% of stories consumers read in the media originated with PR operations.

With media exerting influence on consumers in every part of their life, citizens must have media literacy skills to have any power, even over their own minds. Without the skills to recognize persuasion when it is being used, consumers have no way to protect themselves from being influenced in ways they do not wish.

If you would like to learn more about media literacy, sign up for Mass Communications class, COM 130, in the spring.
So You Think You Know Gamers?

by Christina Miller

The last time I attended college, Doc Brown had just modiﬁed a DeLorean. Marty traveled back in time, the Cubs were set to win the World Series in 2015, and Pac-Man was still in its early years. Flash forward to now...2015...and I'm back in college again to ﬁnish what I started (and the Cubs still haven't won that World Series). To immerse myself in the college experience, I thought the cafeteria would be a good place to start. I sat near the windows, because that's where the high concentration of students hung out. If I wanted to be amongst a talkative, boisterous, interactive group of college kids, I chose correctly.

If you walk into the Jefferson College cafeteria around lunch-time and see a group of students congregating around the window area, chatting with each other, some on computers, perhaps a card game going on, you've found the gamers.

Although gamers might be very diverse in whether they are trading-card players or video game players, they share a common hobby and pastime that brings them together as a group. In addition to the mental and strategic common ground of their hobby, there is a strong social and life experience connection within the gaming culture. Many gamers have been bullied as they grew up, but solitary. Luhm says, "games provide me with an outlet for my hatred and consuming. Dixon says, "I can get so into what I'm playing that I alter my breathing and my heart races, beating so hard I can feel it in my neck. It's pretty intense at times. That's mostly when I play fighting games, though.

Of his choice of characters when gaming, Luhm says, "I always play through as a paragon [a person or thing viewed as a model of excellence] because I like to try to be as kind and compassionate as I can to those around me. I make some of the characters' actions go above and beyond the level of kindness I could see myself doing because that's who I strive to be. Eventually these actions will become a part of who I am." The Legion of Gamers club meets Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m., in ASI, Room 115. According to club advisor, Matt Price, the club’s nature is to promote an environment that does not exclude anyone, and no special skill is required to be a member. In addition to social interaction between gamers, the club is very active in multiple charitable events in the community, including the Adopt a Family charitable events in the community, including the Adopt a Family, the club is very active in multiple charitable events in the community, including the Adopt a Family program.

To leave you with words from Wisdom: "To all my fellow gamers out there, Game On!"

What Are You Listening To?

by Valarie Williams

Released on October 23, 2015 “Hello” by Adele has hit record charts. According to the Global Charts on Spotify “Hello” is ranked 1, played an outstanding 5,941,338 times a day. The Wall Street Journal reports, “the video has been viewed more than 90 million times. According to YouTube, during the ﬁrst 48 hours, it was played one million times per hour, making it the biggest video debut of the year.”

The attention the song has gotten has literally broken records. Hello has sat at number one on Spotify, iTunes, and Vevo for at least a day or two.

The second ranked on the Global Charts on Spotify is the single by Justin Bieber titled “Sorry” with 4,349,769 daily plays. This song was released as a single shortly after, “What Do You Mean” was released. Bieber is expected to drop his new album, “Purpose” on November 13th of this year. Siting at number 3 on the charts is Drake’s very own, “Hotline Bling” is getting 2,865,691 daily plays. The song itself was released awhile back but it was on October 19th that the music video was dropped and it has since then resurfaced the excitement for the song.

The Legion of Gamers Club is very active in multiple charitable events in the community, including the Adopt a Family program, as well as a program that gives toys and games to children's hospitals.

Gaming isn’t gender based, although men and women tend to prefer different games. Benji Francis, a Freshman from Hercules, offers that women might prefer games such as Final Fantasy, Pokémon, and Animal Crossing, while the guys might prefer games such as Call of Duty, Halo, and Gears of War. Francis feels if there is a gender preference of one game over another, it’s more of a marketing issue than an interest issue.

Francis states that his gaming has also improved friendships, saying he’s “met people all over the world that he wouldn’t have dreamed of talking to without the games.” Luhm also adds, “I can think of several other friendships I created and strengthened through gaming as well.” LOG member Nicole Smith says, “Gaming has not only given me many valuable friendships that I wouldn’t trade for anything in the world, but it has also given me a soul mate. I met my husband in a video game. He’s like my other half.” Regardless of your gaming preference, you’re more than welcome in the gaming group. More than likely you’ll ﬁnd a bunch of kids that are very articulate, friendly, and happy to talk about what gaming is and isn’t.

While computer and video gamers tend to enjoy the reactive and interactive visual action of the games, trading-card players enjoy the mental challenges, tactical strategies, and aspects of building their deck to outsmart their opponents and plan for every conceivable outcome.

Gaming is very enjoyable and consuming. Dixon says, "I can get so into what I'm playing that I alter my breathing and my heart races, beating so hard I can feel it in my neck. It's pretty intense at times. That's mostly when I play fighting games, though.

Of his choice of characters when gaming, Luhm says, "I always play through as a paragon [a person or thing viewed as a model of excellence] because I like to try to be as kind and compassionate as I can to those around me. I make some of the characters' actions go above and beyond the level of kindness I could see myself doing because that's who I strive to be. Eventually these actions will become a part of who I am."