

# THE STUDENT VOICE

April 2016 Edition

## *Great Danes are transfer students too*

By: Ashton Hanrahan



Google Images: University at Albany Logo and Great Dane Mascot

Becoming a college student is already a new, crazy, and vulnerable world, but what happens when you throw a new city into the mix? This is the question that every transfer student comes face to face with when applying to colleges after completing a degree, or just looking for a new place to pursue their dreams. I took a venture to *SUNY Albany* or as some call it *University at Albany*. This campus, to put it in perspective, could fit our little 'ol MVCC campus in it about five times comfortably. It is filled with 1,248 columns holding up the huge stone buildings that harness roughly 17,000 students on a day-to-day basis. This may sound like I researched my perspective colleges too in depth, but these are some of the fast facts that they include on their transfer days within the campus tour. This is exactly what I took advantage of.

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When looking into a new school, transfer day is one of the best days to attend. You can spend the day to take advantage of exploring and engaging yourself within your potential new school community –plus it's nice when they can put a name to a face when you decide to apply, brownie points!

The College Center building is where we met to begin the transfer day festivities. Walking through the main entrance and scaling the stairs, I was greeted by many smiling faces with a “Welcome to SUNY Albany! Sometimes a handshake came with this gracious welcome, so fast at me that I thought it was a lion attacking its prey while they vigorously shook in excitement for freshman fresh meat entering their domain.

Walking further there was a table where they now put a name to a face with a “Hello My Name is...” sticker for your chest that said your name and major. Of course, with the table set up at a college function, there is one thing that comes to your mind – free stuff. What college student doesn’t love free stuff?

“Take as many as you want, take more!” they exclaimed as if trying to earn commission off getting rid of all of their pamphlets and dry-ink pens –of course I took more anyway.

Now that I finally made it through the smiles, white enough for a gum commercial, and used car salesman attitudes giving out free merchandise, there it was – the Ballroom. I walk into a room where there are people that are wetting their pants just as much as I am – as well as those people keeping their cool on the outside, but a screaming little two year old on the inside. Sitting there, I could hear and see all of the tension in the room. There were many conversations that were based solely on “college talk”. Behind me, I hear:

“Look mom, they have my major!”

Every college kid wants to know that a college specifically has his or her major. This makes picking classes so much easier, and this way you don’t have to create a major out of thin air as though you’re mixing together chemicals with no instruction manual in some messed up chemistry class. Then comes your parent’s time to shine and throw in their two cents:

“Well honey, are you sure that’s what you really want to do with your life? You can make a decision later –you have time.”

This is the subtle parent way of saying “I don’t want you to do that because I want you to A). do what I want you to do, or B). I want to live vicariously through you, so you need to become the nurse that I wanted to be, or C). That job doesn’t pay enough to keep me out of a nursing home.

The last thing that students want to hear is their parents not fully agreeing with their life decision. There was not much else going on besides some people sitting alone and on their phone as most people do now days. There were more people sitting with their parents hoping they wouldn’t do something to embarrass them.

Finally some staff members went up on stage and started to talk to break the silence. They discussed their role within the school, and how long they have been there, and how great the school is because, of course, they are going to talk up their employer and more than likely alma mater. Everyone listened intently and awaited for the transfer panel to approach the stage table.

“What was the hardest thing about transferring?”

This was the first question.

“The hardest thing about transferring is finding a place that you fit in.”

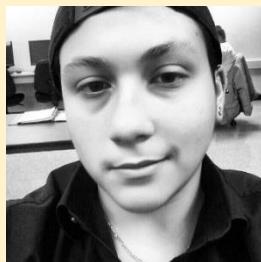
In my opinion that’s the hardest thing in life. Period.

“What dorm do you live in, and do you like it?”

“The dorms are nice, and there is a specific dorm for transfers.”

These are just a few of the questions that were asked, but many of the questions/answers I found that you can research on their website which is really convenient.

The rest of the day consisted of typical college jargon and walking through the campus on a tour that gave those fun facts I introduced this piece with. Overall, transfer day is very helpful, and it’s nice to be able to go and walk through, so that on the first day, you may not be as nervous. This is my college student to college student advice: take advantage of whatever you can to give yourself a step up. Email colleges, call them, chat with them, attend the school functions they invite you too –if you’re able. Also, pick a major, and do some research on it. Understand what it is you will have to endure for the next [insert number] years.



## The Utica Comets Experience



Alec Ambruso

It was a freezing April day, a Sunday, and a FOOLS” after a stretch of rather decent spring weather. I guess it was time to put on the trusty timmies again. At least in this rebirth of winter, I had a *Utica Comets* game to look forward to after work. It was an early game, set to start at 3 o' clock, and the *Comets* were facing the rival *Syracuse Crunch*. Both of these teams at the time were fighting for a playoff spot as their point differential was minimal. Even disregarding the playoff race, it's always fun watching these two teams play, as they are only separated by 55 miles, and both teams have fan bases in and around the *Central New York* area. Based on these circumstances, I knew I was seeing a good matchup.

Entering the *Aud*, instantly I see the sea of green, blue, and white apparel, as seemingly the majority of fans in the building were representing their team in any way they could. Hats, shirts, jerseys – you name it – the fans have it and are proud. Personally, I wore my kelly green *Boston Celtics* knit hat, so as for the

color scheme, I was on the right track. Walking to the seats with my father, I could smell the beer filling the air like a brewery. A friend of mine has even said that there are more bars in the *Utica Aud* than there are bathrooms. I have to agree with him on that.

Oh, the bathrooms! The lines get so long, especially between periods, and it does not help that there are not very many. Same principle applies to the concession stands, of course. Now to the credit of the *Aud*, the variety of foods you can get there has improved. Like the new barbecue style concession stand, serving anything barbecue style from pulled pork sandwiches to chili nachos. It's a nice little twist to the usual foods you can get at a sporting event.

Walking into the actual arena, we saw ushers in every entrance dressed in black suits who can help you in finding your seat. Once we got to our seats, the game was almost about to begin. The green and blue spotlights were in a constant movement on the ice, a visual spectacle in itself. *The Comets* came out from the locker room and onto the ice, and the crowd cheered. The arena was packed, and I knew the crowd would be electric all game long. Once the *Syracuse Crunch* came onto the ice, the booze filled the air in the *Aud*. While yes, there were some *Crunch* fans in the house, they were in Utica territory. And they will let the *Crunch* fans know. So in the jam packed *Aud*, everyone's attention now turns to the ice for the national anthem. The singer of the anthem was a man in a black suit and reddish hair. He fills the *Aud* with



“OHHHH SAY CAN YOU SEEEEEE!”

Wow, this guy's voice was much deeper than expected. I honestly could not believe his voice. By the end of the anthem, the crowd began to cheer again for the glorious performance of the anthem. But now, it starts – the true reason for everyone's presence in the *Aud* that Sunday afternoon.

The opening faceoff is on, and the game is under way. Already in the early moments of the game, while the Comets are playing defense, a man behind me started chanting, “Let's go Comets!” It caught on with some people – some clapped, others joined in the chant.

Later in the first period, left wingman Joseph LaBate immediately shoots after the lightning quick pass from Jordan Subban, and the puck deflects off the stick of teammate Alexandre Grenier and SCORE – Oh wait, hold on, the referees are waving it off. They don't think the puck went in. The refs review the play, and to the crowd's disappointment, the puck did in fact miss by hitting the post. I hate those situations, you're about to get up in excitement and cheer and then it turns out the goal is no good. Bummer.

But no matter, at the 9:02 mark on the clock, LaBate gets a goal anyways, and yes, this time it's for real! The horn goes off and the interior of the arena is lit by an idle crimson, as is the exterior as shown by the two large screens in the arena. The players start to celebrate on the ice and the crowd jumps up and claps and cheers and the *Comets* have a 1-0 lead!

Welp, first period's over. Time to grab a snack! I proceed to go to a concession stand, and I do find one—after walking by two alcohol stands of course. Many people, old and young, are gathered outside of the stands and on the walkways, chatting about their lives and cracking jokes to one another. And there's a line of about twenty people, so it's a bit of a wait, but the second period wouldn't be starting for another fifteen minutes or so—by the time I got in line anyway. I bought some nachos just to hold me over until dinner. The nachos weren't too bad for \$5, not the best bang-for-your-buck I've seen at a stadium, but it was alright. The jalapeños added a nice spice to the mix.

Anyway, back to the game. But wait.....nachos.....oh there's a game going on.....stoppage of play.....NACHOS. It's tougher to pay attention to the game when you have food in front of you, I'll be frank with that. Despite this, though, I made sure not to miss the second goal go in! T.J. Hensick gave Carter Bancks the slick pass across the crease and Bancks snuck the puck in from the side. The crowd roared in excitement, and began to chant the goalie's name, saying “GUDLEVSKIS! GUDLEVSKIS! GUDLEVSKIS! YOU SUCK!!!” Everything is going great, and the *Comets* have all the momentum in the world.

The Comets managed to get on the power play, and the crowd is expecting nothing less than another goal. A shot goes wide left and bounces off the boards and into the stick of the *Crunch*'s Matthew Peca, who skates on the breakaway, passes up to Joel Vermin, he does a nice quick deke and zips the puck right past the goalie Joe Cannata to cut Utica's lead to one. A

collective “UGHHHH!!!” could be heard throughout the *Aud.*

Two minutes later, the *Crunch* scored another goal to tie the game. This time, I definitely missed the goal happen. The game was definitely getting interesting now, as I expected going into it. But then a minute later, there's a battle on the boards for the puck, and it comes out and finds a *Crunch* players' stick, and four passes later the *Crunch* score AGAIN. Not only that, but it is Joel Vermin's second goal! Unreal!

The crowd is stunned now, and the only person standing up and cheering is the lone Syracuse fan wearing a blue shirt and waving an orange towel.

“WOOO!!!! YEAHH!!!” the man kept screaming.

A *Comets* fan, holding a beer in one hand, shouted at the *Crunch* fan out of frustration, yelling “Sit down! Sit down!! SIT DOWN!!!”

The *Comets* got back on the power play, and Alexandre Grenier slaps the puck into the goalie who stops it, but it bounces back into Alex Freisen who puts it back and SCORES!! Tie game! There is hope in Utica!

The *Crunch* fan sits silently in his seat as everyone else in the stadium goes wild, with the abrupt “YEAH” The goal is scored.

Then the sounds of horns, like the one next to me. The horn-blower's mother gestures to him by placing her hand on his arm when enough was enough.

But that was the end of all hope. After the *Crunch* scored three unanswered goals, my father and I decided it was time to leave. Many have the same idea.

Now, I can see on the other side the ocean of people moving downwards on the stairs and heading for the exits. While yes, the *Comets* did end up losing 7-3—the *Crunch* scored the seventh goal after we left—I had a fun time as I usually do at *Comets* games, and I do look forward to going to more. It is, after all, an experience.



Mark DiOrio/Utica Observer-Dispatch



Mark DiOrio/Utica Observer-Dispatch

## ***Donald J Trump Rally in Rome, NY***



Hunter VanDresar

When I went to the Donald J. Trump Rally in Rome, N.Y. on April 12<sup>th</sup>, I could not believe the diversity in terms of age of those that support Trump.

I was surrounded by more than 5,000 people. When I was speaking to some of the supporters, I was really intrigued about what they had to say.

One business owner said, "I am scared if the Democratic candidates, Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders, become president because of the rising businesses taxes. This Trump supporter is very concerned about the future generations having to pay back over 20 trillion dollars in America's national debt."

Another guy who I spoke with questioned, "I don't understand why Trump wants to have the headaches that come with the presidency. Trump already has it made. Why does he want the presidency?"

I said, "Maybe it's his ego and for him to give something back that no other person can do that is running – a chance for a billionaire to become president".

Just because he is a billionaire, it does not mean that he does not understand what the middle and lower classes of the economy are going through. However, through the middle and lower classes' eyes, it will be hard for us to see *The Donald* as a person that sees what all people are going through. Just because he's a multi billionaire, he doesn't have to struggle on a daily basis, like millions of Americans do trying to stretch their paychecks till they get the next one.

Another guy walking around the rally explains parts of the *United States Constitution* "Our money is worthless, paper is not worth anything. We as people were told that paper its worth something— it's only worth the paper it's printed on— there is nothing backing the moneys of the United States, except the full faith of the United States Government."

He was also saying that Gold and Silver Coin were the real money —

"It's physical and heavy compared to paper. However paper could weigh a lot when someone has a lot of money, but in today's world. the only people that have a lot of money are the wealthy and the banks."

Another elderly lady said, "We need him [Trump] we need to *Make America Great Again*.

We don't need another four years of Obama like policy's under a Clinton administration."

I took the opportunity to add my opinion since I do admire the man, "You may be right; however, we need a president that will bring our economy back— with being a billionaire compared to the rest of the candidates running for the presidency, *The Donald* must be doing something right. One never sees his children in the news for doing anything bad; their heads are on their shoulders. Trumps children aren't doing drugs or getting into unnecessary problems. Most of his children are the Vice Presidents of the Trump Organization and they are very ambitious."

A lot of people that I have come in contact with just couldn't believe that *The Donald* made a campaign stop here. He was gracious enough to take the time to come to Rome, N.Y.

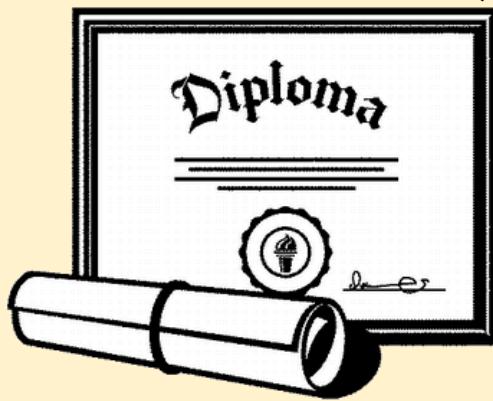


Hunter  
at the  
Trump  
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## Balancing Friendship and Work



By: Haleigh Kolek

Anyone who has worked at the same job for over three years like I have would know the relationships that you create with some of the people you work with are important. I can say that I have made easily a lifetime's worth of friends at my current job. Over the years, these people have earned a special place in my life, and I knew that I would not have made these wonderful friends if I had not started working where I do.

What I say here in this article is an experience that I feel compelled to share as an editor. It is one that most people may experience – and that decision may have to be taken.

In high school, I was always a shy student. I always had a small group of maybe two or three friends that I talked to regularly. The social aspect of high school always was a struggle for me. But in my senior year, I decided that it was time for me to get a job and start supporting myself and saving for college.

After applying to so many places, I found myself landing a job at the local movie theater. After being interviewed, I started working right away, and found myself enjoying it despite the fact that I did not know anyone. Slowly but surely, I started to have conversations with people who I barely knew and realized how easy

it was to get along with people that I did not know. Within the following years, I made many great friends and actually became a well-liked employee.

Over the past two months, my managers began to talk to me about a promotion. I worked hard through my years there, and I was a very loyal employee. I enjoyed my job and tried my hardest to do my work well enough.

A few weeks ago I received the promotion and became an assistant manager. My friends were excited for me, even though I would not be working directly alongside them anymore. It was a tough thing to face because I had grown to work very well with my peers. We had a good team and good system going in our place of business.

When getting my promotion, I knew it was going to be hard shifting into an atmosphere where I would have to be my friends' boss. But I had some faith that I could balance the two. In the past few weeks since I took the position, there are several changes that I have noticed not only with my peers, but with me as well.

I knew at some point in this position that I would have to put my attitude into a more authoritative tone. I had grown in my leadership skills over the years, but I felt I was nowhere close to having the mindset of a manager quite yet. I also knew that I would probably have to treat my close friends that I work with as my workers and lead them to do their jobs correctly. But I did not expect to have to have a serious conversation with one of my friends about their work ethic and how their performance had dwindled.

For privacy's sake, I will not disclose the problem that the management had with this specific staff member. But this was an on-going issue that I had experienced first-hand when I was a staff member working with them as well. So I felt I could relate to the issue and somehow come up with a solution to fix all of this.

But this is where I felt the first strand of tension build between me as a manager and my friends as staff members. I knew how I had felt when working with this staff member in the past, so I knew when other co-workers started coming to me that something needed to be done about the situation. When I was a staff member, the most I could do about the situation was tell a manager and hope they would follow through with a punishment or discussion. But with me being a manager myself, I was able to tackle the problem head on and make sure that something was actually done about it. Change needed to happen.

Another fellow manager decided now was a good time to bring up the issue, and I agreed to aid me in the discussion with this employee.

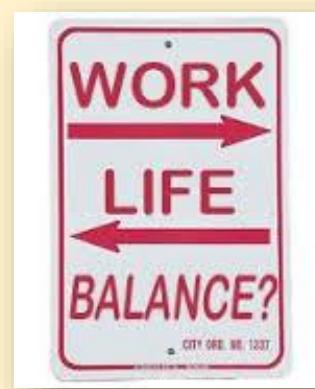
There was a very specific way that I needed to go about this, and I had to make sure that I did it correctly. I needed to respect our friendship, but also respect my job position, other staff members, and our workplace as a whole. The kind of behavior that was coming from this staff member could not be tolerated any longer. So with that mindset, I decided the best way to discuss these issues with him would be in the most professional way. This meant leaving friendships aside and giving the staff member an ultimatum. He needed the opportunity to change his ways or suffer the consequences.

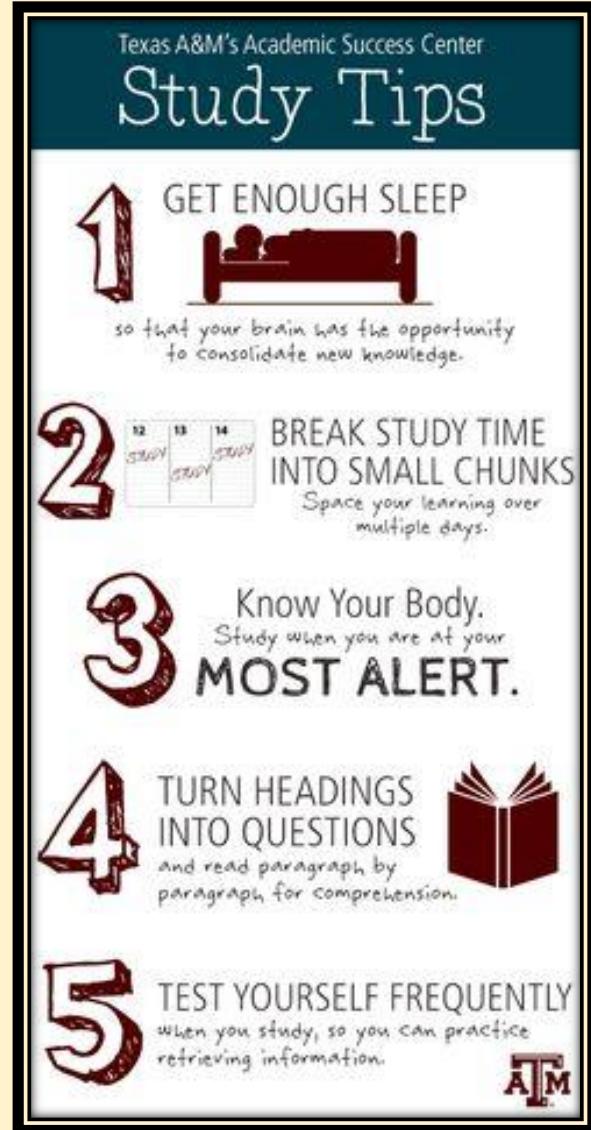
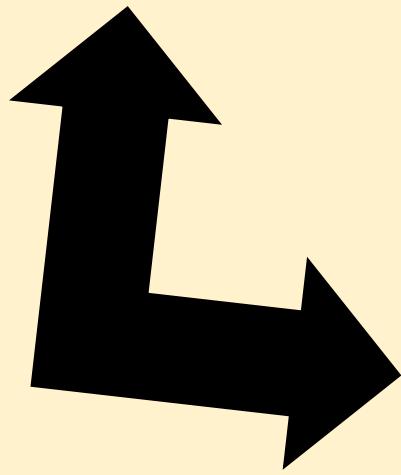
After the encounter, I felt an immediate difference in me. I felt a little taller. Not with confidence, but in a different sense. I was

growing – I was building upon my character and leadership skills.

I noticed a few things that happened with my peers after that encounter. Of course everyone knew about it. Anything that happens there spreads like wildfire. The person who I had the discussion with would not look at me nor would he speak to me. But the other people in that group told me that I had done the right thing, and that I should be happy because I have taken a step in order to better the workplace. The manager who I had spoken with me to have the conversation with the staff member messaged me after the encounter and told me that I had done a good job. He told me that he knew it was tough, but that I had handled it well and hopefully this person learned a good lesson going forward.

Although I have only been in my new position for a short amount of time, I have come to realize that balancing friendship with being the boss of friends is tough – but that does not mean it cannot be done. I am still great friends with my peers that I work with, and I know that our friendships will last long after we leave that place for bigger and better things.





Texas A&M's Academic Success Center  
**Study Tips**

- 1 GET ENOUGH SLEEP**  
so that your brain has the opportunity to consolidate new knowledge.
- 2 BREAK STUDY TIME INTO SMALL CHUNKS**  
Space your learning over multiple days.
- 3 Know Your Body.**  
Study when you are at your **MOST ALERT**.
- 4 TURN HEADINGS INTO QUESTIONS**  
and read paragraph by paragraph for comprehension.
- 5 TEST YOURSELF FREQUENTLY**  
when you study, so you can practice retrieving information.

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## A Day of Silence



By: Akito Houck

Friday, April 15, 2016 was a busy day for the *LGBTQ Committee at Mohawk Valley Community College*. The first two weeks of April were busy for the committee because of preparations for The Day of Silence.

The *GLSEN Day of Silence* is held annually. GLSEN stands for; *the Gay, Lesbian. And Straight Education Network*. GLSEN is actively helping teens and adults to be treated the same regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

*The Gay Straight Alliance* was busy for the week of April 15th, trying to get willing members who have breaks in their classes during the allotted time to help out at the table. Several members of the GSA helped out at the table or had stopped by at points during the day.

I was involved, but not a key factor, in both the pitch of the idea of acknowledging the *Day of Silence* and the implementation of the idea into reality, but it was mostly thanks to the other wonderful members of the *LGBTQ Committee*, the print shop, and the people in GSA.

I sat and observed the people and chatted some with my friends. There were several people who were curious about the *Day of Silence* and what it stood for. There were cards

that were given out that I had taken one, so that I could put what exactly it says here:

“Please understand my reason for not speaking today. I am participating in the *Day of Silence (DOS)*, a national youth movement bringing attention to the silence faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their allies. My silence echoes that silence, which is caused by anti-LGBT bullying, name-calling and harassment. I believe that ending the silence is the first step toward building awareness and making a commitment to address these injustices.”

Then in bold it says on the bottom, “Think about the voices you ARE NOT hearing today.”

The event from what I heard around me was a success. I watched some students pretend not to see the signs and table that was set up. I imaged they were those who were against what the *Day of Silence* stands for.

From what I had observed of the people who went up to the table while I was there, I figured that they were either confused, or they were eager to help by taking the day long vow of silence.

My observation had only lasted an hour due to scheduling. What I had seen from most of the students at MVCC was very encouraging for the future of *LGBT* people and their allies. It was from what I observed – a positive reception.



how can **you** help end the silence?

## **MVCC *StrengthsQuest*- Strength Talks with Faculty**

By Stone Bogart

MVCC is a strengths based college, and what this means is that everyone here at MVCC believes that our students come to us with the ability to succeed naturally within them. It's our job here on campus to help students identify and develop their natural talents to apply them in life. Developing the strengths based culture on campus is one of the many jobs that our student ambassadors, such as myself, are in charge of. To that end, I created an individual project that consisted of holding interviews with faculty and staff. These interviews are posted on the MVCC *StrengthsQuest* page and can be viewed by anyone.

The first of this series of interviews was done with Professor Shaw. Professor Shaw and I talked about what *StrengthsQuest* has done for him, his students, and his career. Professor Shaw had a very interesting story about his initial reactions to taking the *StrengthsFinder Assessment*. Check out his full interview at ([www.mvcc.edu/strengths](http://www.mvcc.edu/strengths)).



The next participant for these interviews was Dean Kahler. Dean Kahler and I held a great discussion about *StrengthsQuest*. He describes a story of when he saw *StrengthsQuest* really help students who were falling behind academically. Dean Kahler also shared what his talents mean to him, and how they interact with one another. Check out Dean Kahler's full interview at ([www.mvcc.edu/strengths](http://www.mvcc.edu/strengths))



President VanWagoner was the third participant to be interviewed. President VanWagoner and I had a great conversation about *StrengthsQuest*. President VanWagoner describes his initial reactions to taking the *StrengthsFinder Assessment*. He also has a very intriguing discussion about how following a strengths-based philosophy helped in the process of raising his daughter. Check our President VanWagoner's full interview at ([www.mvcc.edu/strengths](http://www.mvcc.edu/strengths)).



The last, but certainly not the least, participant I interviewed was Dr. Barlett. Dr. Barlett touches on the shadow side of our talents by giving us insight into how some of her top talents were perceived by others as annoyances. She also discusses how her talents have helped her become successful in finding the right career. Check out Dr. Barlett's interview at ([www.mvcc.edu/strengths](http://www.mvcc.edu/strengths)).

There is so much more in these interviews that cannot be shared here. These videos are meant to help students understand what *StrengthsQuest* is and share some experiences from individuals who have played to their strengths. Please take the time to check these videos out. You may just learn something new by watching them!



### Note

This is the last of our issues for this semester as the course *Journalism EN 196* ends.

I hope that some of you will enroll in this class for the fall and be instrumental in creating our newspaper, *The Student Voice*.

*Alina Mildred Treis, PhD*  
Professor of Humanities