

# THE STUDENT VOICE

SPRING SEMESTER: FEBRUARY 2017

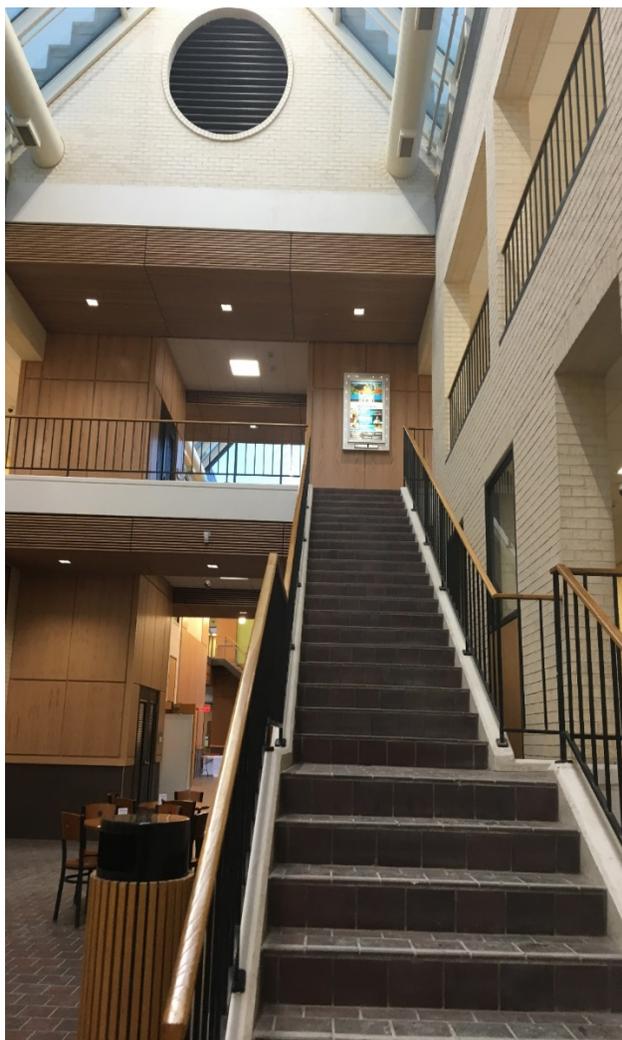


Photo: Amber Johnson; showcasing the Rome Campus

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## Carson Evans



### ***Utica's Regional Cancer Center; Staying Local and Fighting Back***

When you are diagnosed with cancer suddenly, everyone you know is an oncologist. Each and every one of them has the illusive cure to cancer on the back burner ready to whip out at a moment's notice. If you are planning on following the classic Western approach: chemotherapy and radiation therapy, instantly you are bombarded with how they do more harm than good. If you decide to go outside the norm and try alternative methods, you are met with concerned criticism from your friends and family. When the impossible happens and everyone agrees upon your path, chemo and radiation, and it seems there is nothing left to argue about, your choice of location for treatment is called into question.

When I was first diagnosed and decided to stay local for treatment to lessen the financial burden on myself and my family members, I could not escape the criticism disguised as polite concern over my decision to do the entirety of my treatment through the *Regional Cancer Center* in Utica, NY. I was met with,

“Wouldn't you feel more confident going through Boston?”

“I'm just worried about you not getting the best care possible.”

“Buffalo! That's not too far, wouldn't that be better?”

“Utica hospitals are a joke”

When someone has been told that they have cancer, it's not just an infection,

everything is not fine; it is genuine, full-blown cancer. The last thing one needs is to feel insecure about one's choice in medical facilities. Regardless of opinion or concern, no matter how genuine, the most important thing is support.

*Utica's Regional Cancer Center* saved my life, and I wouldn't have changed a thing about my care. My oncologist gave me her cell phone number and encouraged me to call her day or night for any concern no matter how mild. My nurses during chemotherapy adopted my dark sense of humor and honed it to apply to their own anecdotes. They made me feel comfortable in an otherwise uncomfortable situation, we joked about the chemo drug that was not-so-lovingly referred to as the "red devil." and they participated in and became a part of the inside jokes between myself and my companions. They never complained about our requiring three, sometimes more, chairs for my visitors, and they laughed along when my maid of honor reenacted comedy skits, that could have very easily been deemed disruptive. When chemo was over and I would go to the office for appointments with my oncologist, the nurses were always eager to ask how I was doing and catch up. Even the receptionists were always beyond personable, genuinely happy

to help and seemed to be invested in every single patient.

When it was time for radiation downstairs, the nurses were cut from the same genuine, caring and hilarious cloth. They made me somehow feel comfortable with lying topless on a metal slab in an oversized, cold, sterile room. They provided counseling for myself and my family at request and tons of free lotion samples! There was never a moment where I questioned the quality of the care I was receiving, and there was never a moment where I questioned whether or not my nurses loved their jobs. One of the staff members in my oncologist's office came in to hold my hand during my bone marrow biopsy, and she told me that she was happy to be there to support me, even though I dug my nails into her arm. When I went in for my appointment to find out whether or not I was in remission, I was terrified. Terrified that I would still have cancer and have to start all over again –more chemo and more radiation, but I knew that if I had to that with the support of the staff at the Regional Cancer Center, I could do it all again. When I was told, I was in remission it seemed too good to be true, just like the care I received while staying so close to home.

If a loved one or even yourself is put into a similar situation as mine, do not overlook *Utica's Regional Cancer Center*. They treat bladder cancer, brain cancer, breast cancer, colorectal cancer, leukemia, bronchus and lung cancer, melanoma, Non-Hodgkin's and Hodgkin's lymphoma,



The machine I was treated on for radiation therapy

pancreatic cancer, prostate cancer, thyroid cancer and uterine cancer all without leaving the Utica area. You can take comfort in knowing that your oncologist's office is upstairs from where you'll get your pet scans and down the hall from the lab; no one ever overlooks you and someone is always there for you, and if that's not enough, they also have free wi-fi.



Part of my radiation team and my sister after my final radiation treatment

## Amber Johnson



### **Planning, Progress and the Future of MVCC's 30 Million Dollar Rome Campus Expansion**

Believe it or not, a handful of times I've come across a fellow student who has not the faintest idea that MVCC has a secondary campus located on Floyd Avenue in Rome, NY. This situation happens much more often outside of the campus, however. I will tell a new friend that I am a student at *Mohawk Valley Community College*, and they will reply with "oh so you go to school in Utica!" Before the 30 million dollar expansion began, I would reply with "No, I have most of my classes in Rome." It wasn't rare to find somebody that didn't know the Rome Campus was even in existence. With a variety of new courses, larger community spaces for programs and events and more plans for the future, MVCC's campus in Rome is expected to gain much more

publicity; this is exciting for all those involved in this project, the student body as well as the faculty and staff to the architects, construction workers and more..

On Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, I am extremely grateful to have the opportunity to speak with the *Associate Vice President of Workforce Development* who is also the Dean of the Rome Campus.. Her name is Franca Armstrong and she has the utmost excitement for the expansion that has been taking place on MVCC's Rome Campus since June of 2015. Given a guided tour by Dean Armstrong herself, I can confidently say current and future students, faculty, staff and the local community alike will all agree the expansion has exceeded their expectations. Most of the funds came from

the state and county and all funding for the for project was secured three years ago, but the Rome campus was “always a part of the master plan” according to Dean Armstrong and chosen for the expansion for multiple reasons. The major reason being that the *Academic Building* is noticeably outdated, being over one hundred years old it is t planned to be torn down this February.

I sat with Dean Armstrong at a desk in her office as we discussed the planning, progress and future Rome Campus, she was excited to give me all of the information I needed, she was clearly very proud of the entire project, and she informed me that she held her important position as *Dean of the Rome Campus* for three years now. Some of her main responsibilities include maintaining the wellbeing and strategic planning of the campus. She expressed to me that watching the progress over the past years has made her “very excited beyond words.” I then asked a few more questions regarding the future of MVCC. When questioned if MVCC ever plans to become a four year college, Dean Armstrong boldly replied with “no, we are PROUD to be a community college!” she then informed me that MVCC was first opened back in 1946, and that it was the first community college

in New York State; a great reason to take pride in our school.

I was curious to find out if the student body had any impact or involvement in the expansion, so that’s exactly what I asked her. I was happy to find out that in fact, the students did have involvement. *Dean Armstrong* told me that *Student Congress* had the opportunity to speak to the architects and give their opinions on the interior of the school, they also got to pick out the furniture! Dean Armstrong also then expressed her gratitude for the architects and construction workers. Construction was done by *H.R. Beebe Construction Services* and the architecture services were done by *JMZ Architects and Planners, P.C.* I took note of the fact that Dean Armstrong was very pleased with how closely *JMZ* listened to their ideas and did exactly what they had asked for.

The new Rome Campus offers larger community spaces that can be used for a variety of things such as classes, events and study rooms. When being given a tour of the impressively beautiful campus what stood out to me the most were the culinary rooms. Dean Armstrong showed me the new kitchen, which is massive and allows for the students to feel as if they are already a chef and working in that environment. Along

with the kitchen, they have a new tasting room to critique and offer advice or compliments on what their peers have made, as well as a giant dining room to serve the food. A bonus is that the dining room can be used for other events such as ballroom dancing, or for future *DGV*'s. *MVCC* has already been getting requests to use this room as well as the other new community rooms on the Rome Campus, according to Dean Armstrong. I wanted to know what other programs Dean Armstrong is excited for, and she told me that she's very excited about the *UAS (Unmanned Aerial Systems)*, which are the drone programs. She is also enthusiastic about the cybersecurity programs. The great thing about these programs is that they are growing fields.

A lot of the new classrooms are designed to make the students feel like they are actually working in the field they are studying. This is important so they feel comfortable and have ample experience when they go out into the real world.

I had one final question for Dean Armstrong, whom I owe a special thanks to for allowing this interview to take place. "How are you feeling being the Dean of a brand new BEAUTIFUL campus?" I asked, because this is a position of such significant

importance. She answered that she is "over the top excited over the project and the building, a dream to work on the project and to help make the decisions, and watch it all happen along the way."

She talked to me about how she learned a lot herself about construction. Dean Armstrong made it known to me how grateful she is for all of the staff, and how the expansion wouldn't have been possible without them. As a matter of fact the buildings staff helped carry out 25 years' worth of different stuff in a matter of four days. Overall she feels genuinely "lucky" to have had this experience. Prouder than ever to see our campus expanding, Dean Franca Armstrong has this quote framed and hanging in her office; "I believe in you, so that you can believe in yourself. I am *MVCC*."



## Erika Parker



### The Learning Commons

Let's face it. College is not an effortless stage of your life. You wake up early, only to sluggishly roll over to hit the snooze button for the next twenty minutes. Indefinitely, rolling out of bed in the morning, minutes before you should be heading out the door for class, and frantically searching for the last pair of clean sweatpants seems painless. Nonetheless, that English 102 paper you've been preparing all week is finally due today, and it however felt like pulling teeth. As you return to your dorm, you cross off "English 102 Paper due Mon." on the bright neon green sticky note stuck in the corner of your desk. Full of due dates and reminders, tomorrow looks as if you have to take that complex test in anatomy and physiology you feel you're not ready for, regardless of how hard you studied. You agree that A&P is you're most difficult class, and you definitely need help.

However, we all know how awkward and uneasy meeting with a professor can be outside of class. Here at *Mohawk Valley Community College*, we as students have the opportunity to ease some of the stress we face on a day to day basis when it comes to succeeding in both our classes and our lives. Our college has provided us with the *Learning Commons*, a place that offers free tutoring services, as well as a chance to meet with college completion coaches. *The Commons* are open seven days a week, Monday- Thursday 7:30am-8pm, Friday 7:30am-7pm, and weekend hours are limited. On the Utica campus, the learning commons is located in the *Information Technology Building*, Room 129, while Rome's Commons Center is located in the *Rome Plumley Complex*, Room 102B.

Each location is staffed with numerous tutors who all reach for the same goal: helping students to feel more confident by breaking down what's important to learn, and how the best way to learn is during each session. Tutoring is offered for every general subject. On the same note, a math lab is also offered; however, it is not located in the learning commons. You can find its location in *Payne Hall* in the Library. Math lab utilizes tutors for help in any subject that incorporates math. Even walk in help is encouraged.

Also offered are study skills workshops which are designed to enhance note-taking and reading skills. In addition these workshops demonstrate how to prepare for quizzes and tests by finding what works for your academic abilities. Educational computer software, such as MyITLab, are broken down during these workshops too.

Making an appointment with a tutor is super easy and painless. Simply log onto MVC's website and find a tutor that can help you in the right subject. Next choose a time frame that is available and one that works for you. Cancellations can be made up to a

half hour before the scheduled appointments. On a side note, three no shows may interfere with future utilization of the Commons. Tutors look forward to meeting with you.

Directly taken from Mohawk Valley Community College's website are the Mission and Vision statements of the Learning Commons:

**Our Mission Statement:**

The mission of the Learning Commons is to provide holistic support and an enriched pathway to graduation through student-centered academic support across disciplines, connecting students to resources, and empowering them to become independent, self-advocating, and resourceful learners.

**Our Vision Statement:** The vision of the Learning Commons is to become a place where both faculty and students willingly rely on our resources, where they are free to question, take risks, and effectively achieve their academic and pedagogical goals. The purpose of the Learning Commons is to provide students with the resources and necessary tools to eliminate barriers to their success.

Overall, the *Mohawk Valley Community College's* staff and professors care about each individual student's successes as they pave the way to graduation. Places like the *Learning Center* allow for students and professors to connect with both academics and each other in a welcoming, neutral environment. Each tutor and completion coach is unique in their own way of helping you to succeed in life and allowing you to feel confident while you strive to succeed!



<http://www.marchassoc.com/projects/higher-education/mvcc-learning-commons/>



<http://www.bing.com/images/search?view=detailV2&ccid=ebAI%2b5v7&id=D6B13C428E827DDF92350F05F41C8D1C4BD660D5&q=tutoring+mvcc&simid=608006064374677738&selectedIndex=9&ajaxhist=>

## Kristina Tiderencel



### Sodexo: The good, the bad, and the delicious

In this article, I wish to provide a new feel and greater understanding of our campus dining services. Our cafeteria and snack bars are run by the same company, *Sodexo*. *Sodexo* campus dining services provides the average every-day student with delicious, healthy, and inexpensive foods.

In order to successfully explain and describe this food network, I interviewed a dining supervisor, Ellen Klotz. Also, coming straight from the source, I interviewed two students about their foods and diets. On our campus, there are three areas to purchase food. These include - as named by the students - *The Hawk's Nest*, and then *Sammie's*, and last of all the snack area. I must comment that from my own experience, the food is very good and prices are fairly reasonable. The most popular and used foods at *The Hawk's Nest* includes hamburgers and French fries, and pizza. They are the most popular and hence most consumed.

I have found that *Sodexo* has been at our campus for longer than 25 years, although no one I spoke with knows the true age, such a guess seems to suffice. It was previously known and run by *Marriot*. Also, be it noted that *Sodexo* is a French company. *Sodexo* tries to buy locally when possible and use

local businesses. For example, the donuts are purchased by and/or from a company called *Daylight Donuts*, a company based out of Herkimer. Also, much of the food and produce is from a source and company called *Purdy and Son Farms*. It is a local farm approved as vender by *Sodexo*. Offered by the dining hall are healthy additions such as vegetarian, vegan, and local meals and ingredients to these meals.

A new addition to our campus via the *Sodexo* company is *Sammies*, which is a place where students can purchase sandwiches, wraps, and subs, amongst other foods. It is located in the AB Building and is open until 8pm every night. It's a nice place to grab a cup of coffee before class too.

Another newish and successful area of foods includes the *Chef's Table*. It is located in the dining hall and offers fresh produce and other ingredients where your dish is prepared in front of you. They literally cook a dish offered on that day from scratch. It's nice to be served food that is extremely fresh and healthy.

Also, via *Sodexo*, students are offered many meal plan choices, from dorm to commuter. The prices for meals are as follows: Breakfast is \$5.85, Lunch is \$8.75, and

Dinner is \$9.85. Noteworthy are the dates and times of meals. These hours of operation or service are as follows: Breakfast from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. Monday until Friday, Lunch 11 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Monday until Friday, Dinner 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday thru Thursday. Dinner is served on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. In addition, there is a brunch offered on Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.

I interviewed two students about the campus dining services. One student, Kieffer, claims "It's okay, decent food, but pricey. I choose what's cheapest. And the Mexican food is good" I got the impression from him that although expensive, it is good and healthy. Another student, Kevin, said "Services offered at *Sammie's* is insufficient accordingly, but I enjoy the food offered." I believe that they enjoyed the foods offered, but find it to be expensive yet tasteful. There were many other students that have claimed that they enjoy and indulge in the all-you-can-eat food buffet. When I first ate there, I was in shock that we get to consume as much as we possibly can with each time we go to the *Hawk's Nest* (the dining hall). Considering how expensive it could be to make your own food, when in fact, it is an all you can eat situation, we are definitely getting our money's worth.

*Sodexo* is an equally opportunity employer. A worker without experience can start work at roughly \$10.75 starting pay. They hire all walks of life including students. Workers get a free meal while working. I can personally

account for working for *Sodexo* as a few years back, at another college, *SUNY Binghamton*, I worked for campus dining services. I mostly worked the hot bar and the salad bar. It was a nice way to meet other people including students while making a few bucks. *Sodexo* was fairly generous and I prospered from the experience. I would definitely support any student looking to work on campus in the dining hall. The food is good and the fellow workers are interesting. I found it to be diverse and supportive of my college education. They definitely consider your schooling first, but simultaneously offer an opportunity to work with other students and food-stuffs.

In summation to this article, I welcome feedback, ideas, and thoughts relative to *Sodexo* Campus Dining Services. I found this food service to be delicious, healthy, and well worth it. These dining areas are good places to eat or consume, and work at. The fact of the matter is it's good, successful, and welcoming as a service for us, the students.



<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Sodexo.svg>

## Katelynn Williamson



### **The Movie *Split* and its Implications on the Stigma Surrounding Mental Illness**

Recently the movie *Split*, directed by M. Night Shyamalan, came out in theaters and since then has been getting mixed reviews about the plot and the many split personalities that was shown throughout the movie. We are repeatedly told that there are 23 identities within this one body of Kevin Crumble, but sadly we are only allowed to see eight out of the twenty-three identities. People are saying that it is similar to the *Clover Field Lane*, where a woman is being held in captivity along with another man.

In my own opinion, I do not believe that this is true. This movie, *Split*, is completely different from *Clover Field Lane*. Yes there are three girls being held captive, but each one has its own twist to the movie. Of course, the movie only focuses on one girl throughout the movie, which of course was a bit confusing at the beginning,

but it was necessary near the end of the movie.

Many reviews lack the appreciation for James McAvoy for his amazing job at going back and forth between each identity and giving each identity its own self. What I mean by their own self is by the way they talk, walk, their little pet peeves that we all have, and facial expressions. James McAvoy, unlike Heath Ledger, did not only have one character role that he needed to fulfill. McAvoy had twenty-three different personalities to create, no matter during the movie, we had only seen eight of them. James McAvoy did a fantastic, if not jaw-dropping, job when he did several voice changes as well as having a conversation with himself, while changing the pitch of his voice to match the identity he was portraying.

I cannot but hope to bring some light on the fact that there are people who are diagnosed with *Dissociative Identity Disorder*. This disorder is very real, it is usually caused due to a traumatic event that has happened within one's life. Not everyone who has suffered a traumatic event will develop this disorder, but many people do not understand the disorder at all. Some have claimed that it's an imaginary friend or that the person is trying to seek out attention. This is not always true. This disorder is real and could be as harmful as the movie has portrayed but not always. I am not saying everyone who is diagnosed with this disorder could be as dangerous as James McAvoy's character, but it is a real and this exaggerated perception can prove harmful to those whom suffer from it.

This movie was amazing in my own opinion and all I could really do is suggest

that you, as the reader, go and watch the movie as well and form your own opinion of this movie.



<http://www.denofgeek.com/uk/movies/split/42607/split-see-the-new-poster-for-m-night-shyamalan-s-latest>

## Ellabeth Hoke



## Small Town Feel

“Where are you from?” is a common question asked. For some people, the answer is easy and everyone knows where it is. For others, their home town is just a dot on the map. Starkville, New York is one place that few people know, even if it is 53.6 miles away. Population is 757 and dwindling, officially founded in 1828 named after Revolutionary War General John Stark. This small town covers an average of 31.5 square miles filled with history and generations of families that help built the town.

Starting in October 27, 1874 an entrepreneur was born to make history. A man they called Owen D Young. He would become one of the founders of General

Electric and partnered with President Woodrow Wilson to form a rival company with the *British Marconi Company*. He was also the founder of *Radio Corporation of America* to become the largest radio companies in the world. On March 22 in 1927, the town of VanHornseville accepted to motion to build a new school. Young wanted to give back to his community with a proper education. He even named the science lab after an old friend, Marie Curie. He would go on to say she was one of the greatest scientist out there. He was also named the “Man of the Year” in 1931 for the *New York Times Magazine*.

After interviewing the art teacher at Owen D. Young, she told me that with the

new *Capital Project* approved, they are redesigning some of the classrooms, creating a new media center that will improve the quality of learning for the students. Also, they are remodeling the science labs and the entire way, all while sticking to the original architecture of the building. It was very important not only to keep the look of the school, but also for some of the locals to keep the original look of the building. It is a place where history runs along the walls and shines through the stained-glass windows. The school building is filled with historical portraits of men that influenced and helped Owen D. Young build the school. There is one even of President Franklin D. Roosevelt attending the first Owen D. Young graduation ceremony in 1931. I have a personal connection, my grandfather, who was a kindergartener at the time sat on his lap during the ceremony. In the library, when you first walk in, you see two paintings. One of George Washington and the other of Owen D. Young himself. This library was built following the designs of George Washington's library.

This school is the educational grounds for families for generations. In the interview, the art teacher says she has been at the school for almost eight years now. She has now seen what was the 5<sup>th</sup> graders her

first year are now the current seniors that will be graduating this spring. Because of the unusual fact that Owen D. Young (ODY) is a kindergarten through 12 school, she teaches everyone, so she can watch her kids grow up from spit balls in the art room to figuring out what to do after senior year. She also has the pleasure of teaching a former student's child. She says, "It's funny to think I watched the parents graduate and now I'm teaching their children." With such a small school, you really get to know everyone and their families. Most kids who are in clubs are also a part of the sport programs, so many teachers will come to the sporting events and cheer on their students. It also helps the students as well, you are with the same kids from kindergarten all the way through the day you graduate. Many are still friends and see each other around town. Many families have gone through starting with their parent's parents and then all the way down to their great-great grandchildren attending ODY. My father's father went to ODY, then my father went with his six other siblings, then my three brothers and sister and I went to ODY with all our cousins.

The local bowling alley is where you can find some of the ODY's alumni chillin' on a Friday night after a basketball game. Or after school, you will see students eating

dinner before their games. Many childhood birthday parties have been at the local bowling alley. Their pizza and wings are even a staple food on a Friday or Saturday night. The bowling alley is right up the road from *Feed Mill*, where you can find your cat and dog food, or corn for your animals. You'll even see the town supervisor working the register. Everyone is involved in something in the town.

In the small town of Stark, you won't find any stop lights or hardly any sidewalks. Although it's a small town we don't live that close to each other. "Intown", a small stretch of about a mile, you might find your neighbors are close, but outside of town, it is covered with farm land. If you take a drive, you can see fields and fields of corn growing and swaying in the wind during the summer days, fields of hay green and gold shining in the sun. Or if you go down to the Owen D. Young nature trails, you can explore the tress and the waterfall, you can see the old cheese box factory or the lumber mill ruins all along the trails leading to the waterfall. The students of ODY that are in the Tech club spend time making benches and maintaining the trails.

A local and my father, Anthony E. Hoke, was a graduate from ODY in 1972,

13<sup>th</sup> in his class, and has lived in Starkville all his life. He drove around in his *Plymouth fury 2 1967* every day to school from the family farm on Hoke road. He remembers when there was the *Starkville Hotel* that was in town even after it burnt down. And the *Sinclair Gas Station* that was on the intersection of route 80 and 168. If you ask other locals who Anthony Hoke is, they might refer you to Tony, even if he didn't like it. He tells stories like when he would get \$.25 from his father on a Saturday to get a gallon of gas that he would put on his bike handle bars, and he would still be able to get a candy bar with the change in 1962. The family farm had only 50 cows and other small animals like a goat named Susie and a sheep named Sam. The Hoke farm was one of 5 family farms in Starkville. He even met Owen D. Young on his 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday and Young offered him a piece of birthday cake. Now you will see Anthony's name on a plaque in the trophy hall down by the gym for first place in the *1971 Sectional Champions Class D Boys Basketball Championship*. He thinks that the school, ODY, would be the most historical landmark to tell any outsiders. He even remembers the *old Griss Mill* that was powered by the old pond in *VanHornseville*. If it wasn't for that one man, this school

wouldn't be there. That man was a powerful and momentous figure that helps keep the town's historical feel.

Even for a small town, it has volumes of history with generations of families that still live and run their farm and send their kids to ODY. They go to the bowling alley on Friday night and church on Sunday morning. This may sound like a country song, but where we live we are country strong.



[https://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC22K3K\\_the-caves-of-otsquago-creek?guid=48346445-3947-4e46-969e-3ba91e378b7c](https://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC22K3K_the-caves-of-otsquago-creek?guid=48346445-3947-4e46-969e-3ba91e378b7c)

## Shamar Brown-Pettway



## Tyga; Success and Nostalgia

Micheal Stevenson, known by his stage name Tyga, is an American rapper. In 2011, Tyga signed a recording contract with *Young Money Entertainment, Cash Money Records* and

*Republic Records*. For the past couple years, Tyga has had label issues. *Billboard* and *The Hollywood Reporter* has exclusively learned in September 2016, he signed to *Kanye West's G.O.O.D. Music, UTA* in North America and select global territories, and he will be represented by a team of agents in all areas.

He also has had 31 hits on the *Billboard Hot R&B/HipHop Songs* chart, including the No. 1 “Deuces.” Chris Brown features Tyga and Kevin McCall and sold 638k albums, 12.2 million digital songs and 1.4 billion on demand streams, according to Nielsen Music. He released his major label

debut *Careless World: Rise of the Last King, Hotel California*” and *The Gold Album* followed in 2013 and 2015. But his first debut album was *No Introduction* back in 2009. More recently the 27-year-old rapper collaborated with Desiigner on his new single *Gucci Snakes* and announced a European tour that kicks off on Feb. 23.

Tyga, like many of us, is nostalgic for the late 90s and early 2000s hip-hop scene, but it’s not just for the music — though he does note artists like Eminem and Jay-Z as his biggest inspirations. He also pines for its bygone idea of celebrity, where “back in the day”, he reminisces about a time when artists made headlines for their work, not their personal lives. “In the early 2000s, when you see a star, that’s who they were. You didn’t hear anything about their personal life or when it was not them on

stage or not them on camera,” he says over the phone with a hint of longing in his voice.

“And I just come from that.”

It’s not unusual for the 27-year-old Compton, California - born rapper to harken back a time when artists were more famous for their music than their personal history.



[http://www.zimbio.com/photos/Tyga/2012+MTV+Video+Music+Awards+Arrivals/ozgl\\_WUljBi](http://www.zimbio.com/photos/Tyga/2012+MTV+Video+Music+Awards+Arrivals/ozgl_WUljBi)

## Alec Ambruso

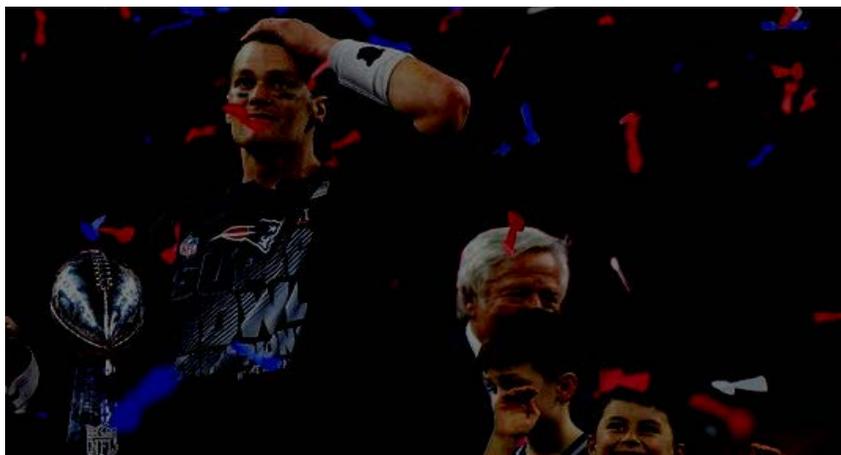


### Should Tom Brady Retire?

In the past week, the *NFL Network* has been showing programs almost exclusively featuring the *New England Patriots*, and this could only mean one thing: the *Pats* are *Super Bowl* champs—again. As a *Patriots* fan myself, I'm enjoying the *Super Bowl* replays and documentaries surrounding the team as they provide fans with a greater appreciation for the work the players and personnel put in to solidify what has been a dynasty since the turn of the

franchise first *Super Bowl* victory in 2002 is still going strong today – that duo being head coach Bill Belichick and quarterback Tom Brady.

There was always doubt surrounding Tom Brady. Despite some impressive games played in college for the *University of Michigan*, Brady was overlooked and heavily criticized with scouting reports questioning his strength and abilities. As a result, in the *2000 NFL Draft*, it took 6



*Brady taking it all in. Photo courtesy of USA Today.*

century. What's most amazing to me is that the same duo that was critical to the *Patriots*

rounds and 199 picks for Brady to be chosen by the *New England Patriots*. After being

drafted, in the old *Foxboro Stadium*, Brady met with the *Patriots* owner Robert Kraft and said to his face, “I’m the best decision this organization has ever made.”

Now, 17 years later, it’s safe to say that Brady was right. Seven *Super Bowl* appearances and five wins later, Brady has ascended into the “Greatest of All Time” debate among quarterbacks, joining the likes of Joe Montana and Brett Favre to name just a couple. He is a twelve time *Pro Bowler*, two time *NFL MVP*, and four time *Super Bowl MVP*, the lattermost never accomplished until now. This all sounds pretty good. The man got more *Super Bowls* than any other player and in the back end of his career, solidified his case for the best to ever play quarterback after just mounting the greatest comeback in *Super Bowl* history in *LI*—the likes of which we may never see again in our lifetime. He absorbed all of those accomplishments, so a question is raised: is it time for the “Comeback Kid” to ride into the sunset? Brady’s wife, Gisele Bündchen, thinks so.

Three times after *Super Bowl LI*, the woman asked Tom to call it a career, but he wouldn’t budge. Due to his ability at age 39 to play at a high level that actually tops his younger days and his ongoing love for football and desire to play, Brady does

not want to quit just yet. He’s one of those guys who if they retire, they might enjoy the free time for a couple weeks, but then an inescapable itch to keep busy and do something will drive them crazy and force them to go back to work, maybe even in the same position as before.

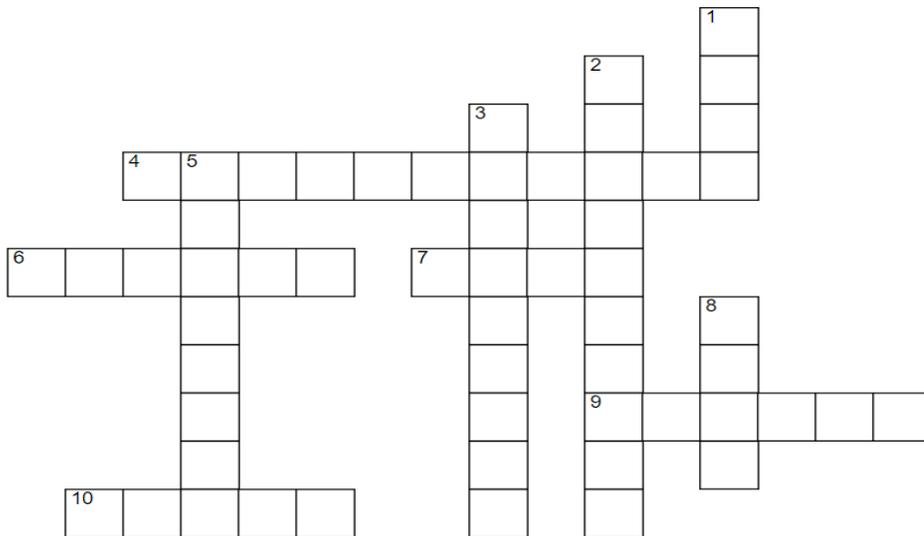
In the case of an athlete, though, age physically wears down the body, so a continuing love for the game won’t land a job as a player if the body is not capable. Let’s be honest, if age wasn’t a factor, would Michael Jordan have retired? Despite age, being in his late thirties and early forties, even MJ came back to play on the *Washington Wizards* after taking a few seasons off, but you could tell he wasn’t the same freak athlete as he once was. Brady went on *SiriusXM NFL Radio* and had this to say: “If you love what you do and you’re capable of doing it, then I might be so bored if I wasn’t going out there knowing I could still do it.”

In Brady’s mind, everything he has in him will be left on the field. Once he does retire, he wants to be absolutely sure there is nothing more to waste on retirement or give as a quarterback without hindering his team’s success. Who could blame the guy? After all, who’s to say Jordan couldn’t win more rings between 1998 and 2001

when he was “retired.” Brady wants no “what ifs” in his career. The man is a sixth round pick on a mission. He's probably thinking of ring number six, which would match said draft rounds it took for him to get picked, and satisfy the recently trademarked slogan for the *Patriots*, “Blitz for Six.” They sure are creative aren't they? As for the ring for Tom Terrific's thumb, *Super Bowl LI* could have been a fairy tale ending for what

is already the best quarterback to play the game—in my opinion—but the performance he gave in that game leaves more football from him to be desired, and not wasted.

Besides, why are we talking about Brady's retirement? The better question is, where on Earth is the man's *Super Bowl* worn jersey? Send out a search party already! “Roger that!”



ACROSS

- 4 Other than a degree at MVCC you can receive a \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 What company provides food on campus?
- 7 MVCC's Mascot?
- 9 What does ACC stand for? \_\_\_\_\_ College Center
- 10 A program used to access your positive attributes, strengths \_\_\_\_\_

DOWN

- 1 MVCC is New York's first community college, true/false?
- 2 An important online tool used by many professors?
- 3 In Payne Hall you can find the \_\_\_\_\_ aid office
- 5 Who is welcome at MVCC?
- 8 How many DGV events do you need to graduate?

# Acknowledgments

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Taught by Dr. Alina M. Treis.

We accept articles for this paper. Please send your articles to [atreis@mvcc.edu](mailto:atreis@mvcc.edu).

## Upcoming Diversity Global View Schedule for March

- LECTURE: “BITE: An Urban Project,” with Doug and Jay Leonard, Owners of Bite Bakery (ROME/DGV) (3/1/2017)
- CONCERT: Pianist David Kim (UTICA/DGV) (3/1/2017)
- WRITING WORKSHOP: Author J. Robert Lennon, Associate Professor of English at Cornell (UTICA/DGV) (3/9/2017)
- ART LECTURE/EXHIBIT: “Distorted Senses of Proportion,” with Artist Rachel Abrams (UTICA/DGV) (3/21/2017)