

Dr. Yusef Salaam speaks as annual humanities keynote speaker

By: Reese Chadwick, Staff Writer

“If you want to go far, you have to go together.”

Dr. Yusef Salaam was this year’s guest speaker for the annual humanities keynote here at Northampton Community College, and he surely didn’t disappoint.

Salaam is famously known for being a member of the Exonerated Five (formerly: Central Park Five), a group of five Black and Latino teenagers convicted of raping a woman in Central Park in 1989, and who all were exonerated in 2002 after another man confessed to the crime.

Their story was told in the Ken Burns documentary *The Central Park Five* (as well as the Netflix series *When They See Us*) which Salaam spoke on in the student Q&A discussion before the keynote began.

“Ken Burns typically narrates all of his documentaries. He didn’t with ours,” he said. “He let us tell our story—he gave us our voices back.”

The question of rehabilitation and reintegration programs for prisoners was also raised. To this, he responded that there are so many resources out there, but they’re not being shared. And even if they were, it’d hardly be a simple fix—services are sorely needed.

About not being angry or reactive when someone—for instance, a constituent—engages with him in bad faith, Salaam said that the pen

is mightier than the sword. Don’t act in anger; instead, manage your emotions. For this, he quoted Nelson Mandela: “Being angry and bitter is like drinking poison and expecting your enemy to die.”

Salaam spoke of his mother and that she was, and still is, one of the primary influences of his life. She encouraged learning, asking him what he’d learned when he came home from school and correcting misinformation given. She pushed him towards the arts at a young age; particularly, jewelcrafting. About this, he said, “Art becomes things that you aren’t even aware of. [Everything] is art.”

Though he identifies primarily as

an artist first, he’s dedicated himself fully to a life of public service. An activist, motivational speaker, and a self-described “non-politician,” Salaam currently serves on the New York City Council, representing Harlem in the city’s 9th division. When asked what keeps him going, he replied that his constituents thanking him and telling him that things are better, even simple things like potholes getting fixed, makes him feel like he’s doing something right.

“During my campaign [for council], I realized along the way that I was seeing the trees. I needed to see the forest. Instead of a five year plan, I needed a 50, 100 year

plan. I might be dead by then, but I have the mindset of ‘I can, I will, I must.’”

He came back to this statement later on, but in a more dire light, referencing changes occurring on the federal level. “We are, right now, in someone’s 100 year plan, and they need us to participate,” he said. “Refuse. We need greater civic engagement. Politics has never had 100% willful participation, but what people don’t realize is that non-participation is participation.

“Even if you’re not the one, the leader, organize! Make your voice heard. We are not outnumbered—we are out-organized. If you want to go far, you have to go together.”



Professor Megan Nocek (left) and four NCC students speak to Dr. Salaam at Annual Humanities Keynote address
Photo by: Mary Pickett



NCC's Poetry Day!

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Combat Stigma 5K!

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By: Amelia Nagle, Staff Writer

Backxwash – Only Dust Remains (Experimental Rap) - 4.5/5

Zambia-born, Canada-based rapper, Backxwash, follows up her previous trilogy of albums with what may be her best work to date. Only Dust Remains is Backxwash at her most sonically lush, and the larger-than-life atmosphere produced throughout the majority of this record suits her style extraordinarily well. Meanwhile, her songwriting is at the absolute best it has ever been. Only Dust Remains is an acknowledgement of the state of the world and an embrace of the good and bad in an equal measure. No other album this year has managed to feel like a call for survival in a world trying to kick you while you’re down.

YHWH Nailgun – 45 Pounds (Experimental/Industrial Punk) - 4.5/5

This is one of the most bizarre, unique, and impossible-to-describe albums of 2025 so far. The fusion of industrial punk, progressive rock, funk, noise, and more feels like nothing else I’ve heard in recent memory, and the short runtime means that the band breaks into your house and smashes up your furniture just as quickly as they leave before you can do anything about it. This is an album that feels in-your-face levels of violent musically; yet, it is also wildly nuanced and deserves to be viewed with a critical eye. That isn’t to begin mentioning some outstanding production that gives each individual track a massive atmosphere, as well as Zack Borzone’s utterly astounding levels of energy as lead vocalist. If you honestly somehow believe that there’s nothing unique coming out of the music industry these days, 45 Pounds will prove you wrong and spit in your face while it does so.

Black Country, New Road – Forever Howlong (Progressive Pop/Rock) - 4/5

After ex-Black Country, New Road frontman, Isaac Wood, departed following the release of 2022’s Ants From Up There, the future of the band seemed wildly uncertain. Despite losing their primary voice and songwriter, however, Forever Howlong manages to be an excellent new step forward for a largely different band than the one fans new only a few years ago. Georgia Ellery, May Kershaw, and Tyler Hyde all bring some excellent vocal work to the table, and although the songwriting may not feel as deeply vulnerable as Wood’s work, Forever Howlong still features some well-penned lyrics. This new incarnation of Black Country, New Road may feel a bit different, but that certainly isn’t a bad thing when the new sound is as fresh as this.

Deafheaven – Lonely People With Power (Shoegaze/Black Metal) - 3.5/5

Deafheaven’s latest effort is arguably their heaviest work since 2013’s Sunbather, and it is also quite the return to form after their recent delve into more palatable indie rock. Visceral vocals, a devastatingly intense rhythm section, and a wall-of-sound production style that gives just enough room for each individual instrumentalist to breathe are some of the defining factors of Lonely People With Power. This one might not win over any Deafheaven haters or black metal elitists that already can’t stand the band’s experimentation with the genre, but it will surely please pre-existing fans who hold the belief that Deafheaven began to fall off once they started stepping away from their more direct metal influences.

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NCC corresponds with LVJI for 2025 Peace and Justice Conference

By: Jacob Sweitzer, Editor

Northampton Community College held its 2025 Peace and Justice Conference in collaboration with the Lehigh Valley Justice Institute (LVJI) on Thursday, March 20, and Friday, March 21, at the Bethlehem Campus. The conference consisted of four panels which discussed mental health and a reimagined criminal justice system.

The first panel focused on mental health in school students and trauma-informed approaches to education. Speakers included Dr. Harrison Bailey III, superintendent of Wilson Area School District and former Liberty High School principal, as well as Nikolas Tsamoutalidis, former Liberty High School assistant principal and current Ad-

ministrator of Student Support and Wellness for the Bethlehem Area School District.

Dr. Bailey discussed the crisis of the “school-to-prison pipeline,” which refers to the policies and practices that push the nation’s schoolchildren, especially the most at-risk children, out of classrooms and into the juvenile and criminal justice systems.

The panel discussed proactive approaches to alleviating effects of mental health on students, keeping them in the classroom by treating their behavioral concerns as health issues rather than justice issues. “Being trauma-informed is a way of thinking,” said Dr. Bailey. “It’s really about the way you think

about and perceive behavior.”

Bailey and Tsamoutalidis helped put together Liberty High School’s first-ever wellness center using trauma-informed approaches, and Tsamoutalidis has since made efforts to broaden his role in providing students with mental health assistance.

Other panel speakers included Andrew D’Angelo, executive director of the Center for Humanistic Change, and Ezra Homonoff, a school psychologist for New Haven Public Schools, and a consultant to the LVJI.

“64% of adults report experiencing at least one Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE), and one in six report experiencing one by the time they’re 18,” said Homonoff. “There are no problem kids. There are only kids with problems. And we can help them with problem solving techniques.”

The conference also addressed the need for mental health professionals in emergency situations, where Chief of the Bethlehem Police Department, Michelle Kott, made remarks. Dr. Joseph Roy, former Bethlehem Area School District Superintendent, spoke about the mental health crisis in county jails, and The Honorable Elizabeth Hey, U.S. Magistrate Judge of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, spoke on the panel regarding a reimagined and innovative criminal justice system.

The conference also hosted a presentation from Yusuf Dahl, CEO of The Century Promise and founder of the Real Estate Lab in Allentown.

Dahl discussed his campaign to repeal the Thurmond Amendment, a longstanding amendment which imposes a lifetime ban of receipt of public housing benefits for anyone convicted of drug related offenses.

Dahl detailed his personal experiences and the progress of efforts to alleviate the effects of the Thurmond Amendment on state and national levels.

The Lehigh Valley Justice Institute is an independent and nonpartisan 501(c)(3) nonprofit research institute working to develop and promote a reimagined criminal justice system that is equitable and fair for all communities. The Institute analyzes a data-driven approach focused on the criminal and social justice processes within the Lehigh Valley area of Pennsylvania. The Institute employs a three-step program--research, policy, and advocacy--to study and reform.

Panels were moderated by members of the LVJI, including Executive Director Joseph E. Welsh, Director of Operations Victoria Wrigley, and Researcher and Administrator Nicole Levy.

On the conference's second day, the LVJI unveiled their Injustice Map. The Injustice Map is a consolidation of datasets across six subject areas. The map acts as a tool for Lehigh Valley residents to better understand their community and the variables that affect their living experiences. The creation of the map was supported by funding from NCC’s Annual Humanities Program.



(From left to right) Bailey III, D’Angelo, and Tsamoutalidis take questions at the NCC Peace and Justice Conference, moderated by Wrigley (far right)
Photo by: Professor Janice Xu

Study abroad program makes latest trip to London

By: Theresa Bongiorno, Contributing Writer

During the week of Spring Break, 16 NCC students took a trip to London, UK, for a study abroad opportunity. The trip was led by Study Abroad Liaison Amber Gore, Adjunct English Faculty James Reibman, and ESL coordinator Brandon Andrews. The trip was an educational experience on the rich history of London, with an emphasis on classic literature.

The students had the opportunity to see many important historical sites such as Abbey Road, famous from the 1967 Beatles album, Big Ben, and Oxford University, a

school known for its prestige and successful research projects. The students also got to see musicals such as Six and Wicked, as well as famous museums like The British Museum and The Ashmolean Museum.

Emily Eisenhard, a General Studies student, attended the trip. She appreciated the differences in culture, and the ease of public transport: “The public transport is wonderful! As someone who commutes everyday to NCC, I wish we could learn a thing or two from London about public transport.”

Reibman had the idea for this trip before the pandemic, and the planning began in 2024. Northampton partnered with Roehampton University of London to help with planning and acted as tour guides. The purpose of the trip was to discover London and learn about its rich culture. Reibman wanted to introduce students to famous British authors like Shakespeare and Dickens. He also wanted them to become familiar with historical figures such as Henry VIII.

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Study abroad students outside London's famous Westminster Abbey

Poet Alicia Cook shares her works at NCC's Poetry Day

By: Amelia Nagle and Adam Shiekh, Staff Writers

On March 27th, NCC's annual Poetry Day celebrations included an appearance from poet and writer, Alicia Cook. Cook, who started writing poetry at the young age of eight, spent her time at NCC reading her poetry, as well as discussing the larger importance of poets in a societal context.

A relevant point of discussion was her own poetry and how it frequently delved into taboo and dark topics such as trauma, addiction, mental health, and various other notions that many would consider to be difficult to discuss.

She proceeded to read from four of her books and discuss the most personal poem from each. The book that she read the most from, entitled *Sorry I Haven't Texted You Back*, was an important point of focus for Cook's discussion, as it especially focused on the personal topics that define much of her work. Cook is also one of the few writers to do black-outs (covering up most of a

written work with a black marker, with the only remaining words making up a new cohesive work) of her own poetry; something that she also demonstrated during her allotted time this Poetry Day.

An important point of her talk was how poetry allows people to relate their personal struggles with a poet, allowing them to feel seen and heard in the medium of poetry. This idea of art being a vessel for both expression and relatability permeated itself through Cook's words.

Further notions put forth by Cook included the concepts of taking inspiration from anything that affects the average poet in their daily lives, as well as finding your own creative voice and utilizing modern mainstream mediums, such as social media, as a means to form community with other poets to share and workshop.

She also stated that she believed deeply in the idea that poetry could

spark important conversations between individuals who needed to bridge the gap between their respective ideologies and personal beliefs.

The full extent of the power of

words truly is incomprehensible, but Alicia Cook did a wonderful job in conveying the weight of her medium with her appearance at NCC's Poetry Day celebrations.



Cook (right) reads her poetry to NCC students, faculty, and staff at Poetry Day
Photo by: Javier Avila



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Men's volleyball ends season with 6th place in national tournament

By: Jacob Sweitzer, Editor



Fred Patton (#5) delivers a spike in the Spartans' match against CC of Philadelphia
Photo by: Tymes Vision

The Northampton men's volleyball season has finished as they took home 6th place at the NJCAA National Tournament.

The Spartans, seeded #7 in the double-elimination tournament, won their first two matches in straight sets, their second win coming against the eventual runner-up Nassau Community College.

Northampton then dropped their third match to Union County College, the same school that beat the Spartans in the Region XIX Championship game on Mar. 29. Then, they were eliminated from championship contention after a loss to the host school, and two-time defending champion, Finger Lakes Community College. The Spartans held a 2-1 lead before dropping the final two sets.

Northampton then played Bryant and Stratton College (WI) in a 5th place consolation match, where the Spartans fell 2-3. Per nccspartans.com, "We had our opportunities, but we simply could not make a big play when we needed to in order to turn the match back in our favor," said Head Coach Rachael Aquila."

The Spartans' run in the tournament was led by All-Region representatives Luke Smith and John Nice. Nice finished the tournament with a team high 60 kills, giving him a season total of 281. Matthew Gonzalez led the team in digs, while Zach Franges led the team in assists.

Nice's 281 kills are a single-season

program record, and several other Spartans set single-season records of their own. Nice broke his own record for service aces with 48, while Smith set the record for blocks with 129. Gonzalez shattered the record for digs with 360, and Franges broke his own assists record with 810 on the season.

Despite finishing a spot lower than a year ago, Northampton put together an impressive tournament performance. Their most notable moment came in the second round, where the Spartans stunned the #2 overall seed Nassau Community College 3-0 (27-25, 25-23, 25-16).

Per nccspartans.com, "Huge win for the guys to upset the #2 seed and remain in the winners' bracket," remarked Aquila. "We had kept an eye on Nassau all season, figuring there was a chance we would see them in postseason, we knew they were talented. I'm really proud of how the guys played."

The upset found the Spartans in the quarterfinals for the first time in school history, in only their third year as an NJCAA program. The Spartans also played for a Region XIX championship for the second year in a row, though they were unable to successfully defend their title.

The Spartans finished the season with an overall record of 16-7, and a regular season record of 13-3. The program now has a combined record of 42-12 across their three seasons as an NJCAA program.

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Playboi Carti – Music (Trap) - 1.5/5

This is what we waited for? Almost a full five years after Carti dropped the ever-polarizing *Whole Lotta Red* in late 2020, he makes the worst comeback imaginable by serving up a mess of incoherent slop that somehow manages to have a few solid highlights in an otherwise bloated tracklist. Songs like "Good Credit" and "Evil Jor-dan" are good for what they are (especially the former, with its Kendrick Lamar feature), but the extensive runtime and low energy of many tracks makes this an absolute slog to get through. Add in the accusations of AI usage on tracks like "Rather Lie," as well as the way that music isn't even particularly fun, and you have an atrocious listening experience that feels like one of the most creatively bankrupt projects any mainstream rapper has put out in recent years.

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NCC has been providing more study abroad opportunities to students since the world's recovery from COVID-19. "We loved London, and we plan to continue developing fun and educational programs in the future," said Gore.

All students are welcome to apply for study abroad opportunities, and they are also open to faculty and staff. The Office of International Student Services offers 1-2 study abroad programs per year, each of which last around two weeks.

NCC has plans to visit Japan, Thailand, and Austria in 2026. NCC is also corresponding with East Stroudsburg University to visit Athens, Greece in 2026. Students can fill out interest forms on the Northampton Community College website.

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Band of Brothers club wraps up year with Combat Stigma event

By: Kalei Pietraszkiewicz, Editor

Another successful year is in the books for NCC's Band of Brothers club. On April 12th, the club hosted its 2nd Annual Combat Stigma 5K Run/Walk, followed by the Combat Stigma: PTSD & TBI Speaker Panel on April 14th.

Both events were designed to raise awareness about the challenges veterans face when dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injuries (TBI), while also encouraging an open dialogue.

Through education, the barriers and stigma surrounding mental health for military members can be broken down, creating a community that empowers individuals to seek support without shame.

The Band of Brothers (BOB) is a student-led club at NCC dedicated to advocating for student veterans and military-affiliated students. Committed to building a strong and supportive community, BOB welcomes all who have served or are connected to the military.

The club's mission is clear. Alexis

Sullivan, club advisor and Director of One-Stop and Military-Affiliated Student Services, explains, "We strive to create a welcoming environment that eases the transition from military service to college life and helps lay the foundation for future success."

Planning for these events was no small feat, as BOB began organizing them as early as last year. The strong turnout and positive feedback from the previous Combat Stigma events inspired the club to bring them back for a second year—bigger and better. The overwhelming support from both the campus and local community made it clear that these conversations are essential.

This year's 5K followed the same route as the Spartan 5K path, beginning and ending at the Veteran Plaza. Sullivan notes that the plaza is "a symbolic and safe space for veterans, service members, and their families."

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Veterans at the "Rendering Honor" ceremony, dedicated to all those who have served
Photo by: Kalei Pietraszkiewicz

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"Oldies but goodies" Alfred Hitchcock

By: Jaime Gallagher, Adviser

Greetings! Welcome to a new column where the movies of yesteryear take center stage. Each generation has the tendency to gravitate toward contemporary films, though the movie industry dates back over a century. Here, we will focus on the great cinematic adventures released before 2000.

When one mentions great directors, no list is complete without Alfred Hitchcock. Hitchcock was a pioneer in terms of filmmaking, with unique camera angles, bold storytelling, and a desire for utter perfection. For more than four decades, his films thrilled audiences in the United States and across the world. Here are FIVE of his masterpieces worth your attention.

The quintessential Hitchcock experience is 1960's Psycho. Often referred to as the granddaddy of slasher films, Psycho stars Anthony Perkins as the reclusive Norman Bates, the caretaker of an isolated motel and caregiver to his invalid "Mother." When Marion Crane (played by Janet Leigh, the mother of Jamie Lee Curtis from

the Halloween series) flees to his establishment after stealing some money, the most monstrous events unfold. Psycho is unrelenting in its suspense, threading nail-biting scenes together until an infamous twist ending.

Also famous in the Hitchcock library is Vertigo, a 1958 film with James Stewart (from the Christmas classic, It's a Wonderful Life) portraying a police detective obsessed with a beautiful woman after experiencing a traumatic incident on the job. His neurosis creates a mind-bending story as he pursues the woman, and later, another woman bearing a striking resemblance to his previous "interest." The plot twists make for an almost surreal experience until its shocking finale atop a bell tower.

James Stewart also stars in 1954's Rear Window, a claustrophobic thriller where a wheelchair-bound photographer believes he witnesses a murder. This film explores the concepts of voyeurism and the audience's perception of the events onscreen.

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Q&A with criminal justice and political experts throughout the Lehigh Valley

By: Reese Chadwick, Staff Writer

Over the past month, I've had the pleasure of conducting a series of Q&A interviews with people knowledgeable of and integral to the criminal justice and political fields in the Lehigh Valley.

The first, with **Joseph Welsh, executive director of the Lehigh Valley Justice Institute (LVJI):**

Could you give me an overview of your academic and career history? I got my bachelors from Lehigh University, then I got talked into going to law school in Chicago, and really went into politics there. I came back [to PA] and did a lot of political and IT consulting, then ended up working for a few years for the city of Easton as an assistant business administrator, then went back into law working on civil rights cases, mostly involving police misconduct and prison conditions.

What made you want to do that? It seemed like a need at the time. I'd left Easton because of a political firing—which I later won a lawsuit about—and, well, I'd always been involved in civil rights in one way or another, whether labor organizing in college or organizing on environmental issues, which I did in the late '80s. I won a major case against the Pfizer corporation for polluting the Delaware River, and after that, civil rights work in the wake of 9/11 seemed like important work.

And then I ended up...on the Pennsylvania ACLU's Board of Directors. [My] second term there ended just as I began LVJI.

What made you want to found LVJI? First was the need, and second was the opportunity. Right after the lynching of George Floyd, there were a host of demonstrations across the Lehigh Valley, and they were remarkable to me. I'd been involved in demonstrations back to the Vietnam War days and this, by far, was the largest demonstration I'd seen in the Valley. What really struck me about them was...the di-

versity in the crowd, and particularly among young people. There was a lot of energy there.

The opportunity side of things was when Richard Master, our main funder, was looking for a local project and was very much interested in social justice issues. And with that, we were able to take the energy we saw on the streets and harness it into some positive change, focused locally.

Any closing thoughts? I'd like to say that we appreciate our relationship with NCC and that I hope that students will go to our website and look at our Injustice Map and see what kind of data we have available. ...We're also looking for interns, if any students are interested in criminal justice and/or social reform.

The second interview with **Vertel Martin, criminal justice professor at NCC and East Stroudsburg University:**

What got you into law? I walked past 42nd and 5th Avenue [in NYC] and saw the most beautiful building I've ever seen in my life. It's called the New York City Public Library. I always had a love of law...So, I walked up those stairs...and I went to the librarian and asked where the law library was. I went up there and there were homeless people, paralegals, aspiring lawyers, and I just went to town, studying like crazy. Every day. I...skipped school [and] went to the library every day and studied law. It was my passion.

You had enough credits at Columbia University to complete your PhD, but you didn't. Why is that? I finished my coursework. I'm what they call ABD, All But Dissertation, and I did actually do a couple chapters of it, but then I was called to service for 9/11. After I did that, I just couldn't get back on the saddle.

What courses do you teach here at NCC and at ESU? I think the shorter answer would be what don't I teach? I've been at NCC for 20

years and ESU for 22—I've taught every course in the criminal justice program. Currently, I'm teaching what I call the "Hot Topics" course called Social Inequality: Crime and Justice. I call it Hot Topics because the current political climate looks at diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) as a hot topic, but that's essentially the subject matter of that course. It's a hard one to teach, too, because I'm shoveling you-know-what against the tide. But it's certainly important work.

With the Trump administration coming in, there's been a resurgence in ICE activity. Mahmoud Khalil in the Columbia protests, Rumeysa Öztürk of Tufts—is this activity ethical, and is this a product of the Trump admin? Can anything be done about it? Well, that's a big question. To say the least, the actions and activities of the current administration, as it operates, is unconstitutional. Hopefully our last bastion of justice lies in the courts, because, unfortunately, the executive branch and Congress are, for the most part, in sync, and the Democrats are in minority, so they're not going to be able to muster up enough votes to change the course. I'm hoping they'll put the kibosh on unconstitutional and, in some cases, illegal activity.

Would you mind giving some examples? To me, shipping people off to another country without due process of law is illegal. It's fascism [and] it's exactly what the framers of the Constitution looked to prevent. If you're on U.S. soil, you're protected by the Constitution. There's no way the government should be able to dismiss this.

The final interview with **Robert Johnson, an organizer affiliated with the Blue Future PAC:**

What's your academic history? I had the privilege of studying at NCC and Penn State, [where I] got my bachelor's in International Pol-

itics...Then, I went to Lehigh University for grad studies for Public Policy. I aspire to, one day, earn my PhD at Lehigh University.

What work are you doing? I'm doing Base Building for Power, which is affiliated with the Blue Future PAC. It's mainly training organizers from across the country to defeat Republican members of Congress. It's a great program that I'm honored to be a part of.

What are your thoughts on the state of the Lehigh Valley? I think Northampton County—Lehigh as well—struggles a bit, because things that happen, or don't happen, on the federal level trickle down to what we can or can't do. As far as the political climate right now, we have a Democratic majority in the Northampton County Council of Commissioners. I'm hoping that we can win in this next election. We have two Democratic candidates running for the primary, Tara Zrinski and Amy Cozze, against a Republican that's currently a Northampton County commissioner, Thomas Giovanni. I think the incumbent, Lamont McClure, has done a really good job as Northampton County executive, especially when it comes to improving people's day-to-day living conditions as well as keeping organized labor as part of the governing coalition.

Is there anything you'd like to say to our NCC students? The most vulnerable and at-risk members of Northampton County are really depending on student advocacy and activism, now more than ever...A lot of students at NCC, by design, are working full-time while also navigating daily life, which makes it difficult to find time. I do really urge them, though, to engage in coming out and advocating for solutions to the betterment of the human condition.

For more from these interviews, please check out our Commuter website.

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Princess Grace Kelly portrays his love interest and Perry Mason star, Raymond Burr, is the suspected killer. The film keeps the audience guessing until a pulse-pounding conclusion.

The Birds is a 1963 film depict-

ing a possible apocalypse where our feathered friends turn on humanity. No reason is given for their sudden animosity, but Rod Taylor, Tippi Hedren, and Jessica Tandy do their best to survive the avian attacks. Unique to this film is the absence of a musical score or soundtrack; nothing but the screeching of the birds can be heard as the plot unfolds.

Finally, Strangers on a Train features Farley Granger and Robert Walker in a 1951 film about two men who playfully agree to "exchange" murders. They are simply passing the time during a train ride when they speculate about killing someone seen as a burden to the other. Imagine what happens when one of the two gentlemen follows through

with the murder plot and expects his companion to do the same. The final nerve-wracking scene on a carnival carousel leaves the audience gasping for breath.

Hitchcock's library of films is immense. If any of these films appeals to you, be sure to check out The Commuter website for other recommendations.

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To spread the word, BOB utilized a wide range of promotional efforts, including social media outreach and, most effectively, word-of-mouth networking within the campus and veteran support organizations.

Advertising efforts proved successful, as registration for the 5K

saw an increase compared to last year. In 2024, 100 participants had signed up. This year, 121 individuals registered ahead of the race—comprising 80 runners, 20 walkers, and 21 self-identified veterans. “While we’re excited by the numbers, our greatest hope is to continue reaching and supporting more members of the military-affiliated community, along with their families and allies,” said Sullivan. “Together, we are investing in futures—on cam-

pus and beyond.”

All proceeds from the 5K will benefit two organizations. A portion will support the Band of Brothers club, allowing them to continue hosting events like the 5K and providing vital support to student veterans and their families.

The remaining proceeds will be donated to Homes for Our Troops, a national nonprofit that builds accessible homes for severely injured post-9/11 veterans, helping them re-

build their lives.

But the momentum doesn’t stop here. The Band of Brothers club is already gearing up for another impactful year, with a full slate of events and programming set to be announced this summer. Remarked Sullivan, “Stay tuned for more opportunities to engage, connect, and support the veteran community here at NCC.”

Upcoming Open House and campus tours help prospective students experience NCC firsthand

By: Jacob Sweitzer, Editor

Northampton Community College is holding an Open House on Saturday, April 26 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Bethlehem campus. The open house is an opportunity for all those interested in attending NCC to visit the campus, have their questions answered, and complete their to-do list all at once.

Those who attend the open house will be able to experience a guided tour of the residence halls, engage with faculty members to learn more about the school’s academic programs, and connect with student services such as financial aid, admissions, academic advising, and student life.

Additionally, members of the tour will attend a welcome address from NCC President Dr. David Ruth, Admissions Director Dr. Millie Roman-Buday, and the school’s academic deans in the Lipkin Theater.

The school regularly hosts tours for individuals or groups of prospective students. NCC’s Admissions Office hosted students from Easton Area High School on a campus tour on April 15. Students spent around 90 minutes exploring the Bethlehem campus where they learned about programs of study and saw extracurricular opportunities that Northampton has to offer.

The Admissions Office staff led Easton students on their tours, which

included walks through classrooms, the residence halls, and the outside areas of campus.

Jessica Schantzenbach, Assistant Director of Admissions, spoke to students about the hands-on experience students can expect at NCC in fields such as automotive technology and the health sciences fields. “We do try to be as immersive as possible,” said Schantzenbach. “If there’s a way for you to be doing what you’re learning about, you will be doing it.”

NCC is an open-admissions school, meaning anyone who is a high school graduate or has a GED can immediately start taking classes in-person or online. The only exception to this is the health sciences program. Schantzenbach advised students to take general education requirements before applying to the health sciences programs to lessen the workload on students.

Those interested in attending the Open House can RSVP on the Northampton Community College website.

If anyone is unable to attend on April 26, they are always able to schedule an in-person or virtual tour of the campus by contacting the Admissions Office to have their questions answered.



Jessica Schantzenbach (right) speaks to Easton Area High School students in NCC's automotive service facility in Commonwealth Hall, where automotive technology majors can get hands-on experience
Photos by: Jacob Sweitzer



Easton students explore the scenery of NCC's Bethlehem Campus as they learn about student life opportunities



Schantzenbach speaks about NCC's health sciences programs in the radiography lab, located in Commonwealth Hall