For those who may be unaware, there is a rift on our campus between the STCC President, Dr. John Cook, and employees who are represented by the Springfield Technical Community College Professional Association and the All Unit Congress. In October 2017, a vote of no confidence was made against Dr. Cook and they believe he should no longer remain as the head of our institution.

How did this happen? Let’s take a quick look at the history that led to this decision. On August 01, 2016, Dr. Cook was selected to replace outgoing president Ira Rubenzahl by the STCC Board of Trustees. At the time, Dr. Cook was the youngest person to be selected to head STCC and one of the youngest community college presidents in the nation. Dr. Cook previously served as the vice president of academic affairs at Manchester Community College in Manchester, NH. I recently had the opportunity to talk with Dr. Cook regarding this issue and he told me that he felt his first year at the helm went well and that he “had little inclination to what was coming.” Indeed, a storm was brewing and it was set in motion by decisions and actions from Dr. Cook that quite frankly, infuriated some campus employees. The storm began when Dr. Cook placed longtime employee and Vice President of Academic Affairs Arlene Rodriguez on leave for undisclosed reasons. Ms. Rodriguez was a very popular employee who spent 23 years at STCC. She used her strong relationship with the unions to avoid grievances because she had a knack for mediating that negated the formal process. Dr. Cook declined to comment on the reasons for Ms. Rodriguez’s departure as he previously declined in an interview with a reporter from The Republican stating confidentiality requirements. Ms. Rodriguez’s situation was not the only issue that caused discourse.

The Professional Association and the All Unit Congress drafted a “Bill of Particulars” which outlines a list of nine Points for Discussion which is essentially a list of complaints against Dr. Cook. The list includes complaints such as failing to fill faculty and staff vacancies, ignoring the recommendations of a search committee in the hiring of a new Vice President of Academic Affairs, cancelling the STCC 50th anniversary celebration, and failing to be culturally sensitive. The entire “Bill of Particulars” is a three plus page document with more detail than can be included in this story. As far as I know, it is not a public document at this point, so the above is only a few points. When I interviewed Dr. Cook, he declined to address particular points on that document as he has in the past. The “Bill of Particulars” was given to Dr. Cook and he is aware of all of the complaints made against him. I also had the opportunity to interview two professors who are at the forefront of the side representing the STCC employees; Professor Nicholas Camerota who is a co-chairman of the All Unit Congress and Professor Robert Rodgers who is the union grievance officer. The interview centered on points made by the “Bill of Particulars” but produced no new facts to add to the controversy surrounding the president. I asked each of them if they knew why Mr. Rodriguez was put on leave and they said they did not know. Professor Rodgers stated that he has talked with her on a couple of occasions since her departure, but she did not disclose why.

The rift between Dr. Cook and the union was well documented in two previous articles that were published in The Republican and their website, Masslive.com. Unfortunately, the interviews I conducted with Dr. Cook, Professor Camerota, and Professor Rodgers failed to produce any new information that would shed more light on the issue. In fact, I was apprehensive even before the interviews that I would be able to find anything new. That is why I was determined to find out how the college is going to move forward from this point.

Discourse and strife between leadership and those under them can have disastrous consequences. As a retired service member, I saw such

Tutoring Centers: Services vs. Expectations

by Amanda Lambert

Through trial and error, students figure out their strengths and weaknesses in the courses they attend. More often than not, students who do well in Mathematics, struggle in English courses and vice versa. This is nothing to be ashamed of because we all can’t be Michelangelo, but we can strive to obtain the success we desire. The Student Success Center and The Writing Center offers an opportunity for students to progress in the courses they lack improvement in by providing tutoring in multiple subjects.

In these Centers, a student can rely on professors or peers for guidance in topics varying from Economics and English to foreign languages. Specifically in The Writing Center, there are five professors with extensive knowledge in English courses and Economics. Located in building 13, room 125, The Writing Center is easily accessible to where English classes are commonly held, and is open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday during the school year. In The Student Success Center, located in Building 27, first floor, most of the tutors are students who’ve received exemplary grades in classes such as Algebra, Tech Math, Calculus, Biology, Chemistry, Computer and Accounting. The Student Success Center hours extend later into the day, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. In both centers, students have the chance to practice their coursework under a knowledgeable eye.

The tutors are more than willing to support and assist students, but there is a misinformation on what that help entails. Some students come in with expectations and demands. A few respond to the tutor’s advice, while others get an attitude and complain about how they are being helped. Numerous students expect the tutor to put in all the effort, while they sit on the sidelines, playing on their phones instead of participating in the session. There is a guide to a fruitful tutoring appointment. For subjects like Math and Biology, bringing in the textbook, notes, and completed attempted homework or paper is better in coming empty handed. The same is for those who need help in English courses who know it is not a public document at this point. Unfortunately, the interviews I conducted with Dr. Cook, Professor Camerota, and Professor Rodgers failed to produce any new information that would add to the controversy surrounding the president. I asked each of them if they knew why Ms. Rodriguez was put on leave and they said they did not know. Professor Rodgers stated that he has talked with her on a couple of occasions since her departure, but she did not disclose why.

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The Great Debate

When it comes to sports and topics to talk about, the greatest debate to have is who is the greatest player of all time in the American sport and who do you believe to determine who is the greatest player of all time, is in and most importantly, how do you determine who they are? So then I would say that Michael Jordan is the greatest player of all time. However, is this your opinion off of talent or who you would rather have on your team, I feel that most people would say LeBron. Looking at the time frame that these two played in, both really only had half of the last 15 years behind them for real. But then the last year of the 2013’s, the team that won the World Series, The Red Sox. Then the following year in the playoffs the slacker J.D. Martinez from the Arizona Diamondbacks who brings much needed home run power to the Sox. The core of starting pitchers remained the same and should be as effective as last. At this point, they built the fourth best ERA in the majors at 3.93. The Sox brought back most of their positional players and fastball staff. All told, the Red Sox now have the highest payroll in all of baseball. The Race for October is on, but the Sox are likely the hot team. So then I would say that you should be?

Source: www.basketball-reference.com

9/11 Museum and Memorial — Never Forget

by Michael Levesque

September 11, 2001 is a day that almost Americans remember very vividly. It was a day that etched itself into our memory and resulted in horrific loss of life in a manner that almost no one could have imagined. 19 years ago today, the twin towers were hijacked from Boston, American Airlines Flight 11 and United Airlines Flight 175, both Boeing 767s, were flown into the Twin Towers in New York City. American Airlines Flight 77, a Boeing 757, coming from Newark, New Jersey, was hijacked and flown into the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia. Passengers of Flight 93 soon realized the intentions of the hijackers and attempted to thwart the hijackers’ plan which forced them to crash the plane into the ground outside of Shanksville, Pennsylvania. The passengers and crew fought the hijackers and caused the plane to crash into a field, killing themselves and almost all of the passengers. It was a day that I will never forget.

Recently, I had the opportunity to visit 9/11 in New York. Like many others, 9/11 is a day that will be forever etched in my memory. I will never forget the images from that day: the planes crashing into the towers, smoke billowing into the air, the buildings on fire, the people leaping from the windows, and firefighters responding inside the towers to save those trapped inside, people helping each other carry the same look of terror and fear, and the towers tumbling to the ground as they gave way. The national monuments are dedicated to the lives that were lost on that horrifying day.

The memorial encompasses a large portion of the grounds that made up the former World Trade Center, which is now the Twin Towers stood along with other buildings that comprised the Trade Center complex, is now a memorial and a museum dedicated to the lives that were lost on that horrifying day.

There are many exhibits that one can experience the museum by moving around the area by yourself or you can take a guided tour. The group I was with opted for the guided tour which I highly recommend. The tour was approximately one hour in duration and what I really liked about it was that the guide provided information that was not readily accessible in the museum and personal reflections from day to day. I led on the tour from the main lobby to a passageway that features a huge black and white photo of the United States showing the flight paths taken by each of the hijacked planes. A video is played into the area in which recordings of people’s personal descriptions of the attack can be heard.

From there, we moved to a large ramp that led us down to a balcony so we could view the empty rooftop where the original “Starry Walks” are visible along with a lone steel beam that is emblematic of the二维倦怠 of firemen. The area is filled with rows of small white columns that emulate the firemen. The architectural design of the entire area is filled with the memory of the lives that were lost.

One room in the museum is dedicated to the loss of 2,996 lives and the wounds it inflicted upon our society still today.

Best Rivalry of All Time?

by Joseph Lucia

Every sport from professional to college, to even high school, is filled with rivalries. But which rivalry is truly the best? It’s a debate that could go on for weeks if not months, and the debate there still will be no clear winner. So what are the greatest rivalries in the history of sports? Rivalry is the players on the teams? Is it the fans or the regions of the country?

If you start in basketball, in the NBA by far the biggest rivalry is between the Los Angeles Lakers and the Boston Celtics. These two teams have met over three hundred and fifty times throughout history and the Celtics winning nine times of twelve. Currently the rivalry might not be as heated as it once was, but with the Lakers winning the last 2012 NBA championship and the Celtics winning the last NBA championship, it’s safe to say that both teams are a lot more competitive against each other than they were in the past.

In baseball, I think everyone can wrap this debate up pretty quick saying that the New York Yankees and the Boston Red Sox form the biggest rivalry. These two teams hate each other so much and have beat each other so badly throughout the years that it’s almost a shame to see them face each other. Whenever these two teams play, it’s a must see TV because it’s likely that a whole lot of hate and stoppage will happen between the two. Just recently this year, the two teams met, and the contention between the two teams was as high as ever. There wasn’t anything serious, almost like a warning to each other. During the second inning, fighting broke out, but when the fighting wrapped up, the game continued. Baseball isn’t the most interesting sport to watch, but when two teams play, you know something good is about to happen and add to the excitement.

When we look at college football rivalries, I think in college basketball it would be the Ohio State Buckeyes and the Michigan Wolverines. These two teams play every year, and it’s a game that is always on the books. Ohio State’s fans just want to win, and Michigan fans are just hoping to lose. If we went to college rivalries, I think in college basketball it would be the Boston Celtics and the Los Angeles Lakers. These two teams play, and you know something good is about to happen and add to the excitement.

In football, it’s almost a shame to see these two teams play. It’s almost like a train wreck, and you just hope that one team wins.

Johnny Boy No More?

by Joseph Baumgart

Following a string of incidents involving parties, drugs, and domestic violence, Texas A&M star and NFL hopeful Johnny Manziel, continued to off the field. The potential for his career is off the charts, since we’ve seen Manziel, if teams do not call now they probably won’t ever. For those teams on the outside of the NFL it has been thought that they can only hope someone will be kind enough to give him a shot. ❇️
The Effect of Color

by Michelle De Jesus

The way we view the world today is greatly influenced by what we see, and color is a big part of that. The color of something can be attributed to messages conveyed in graphics or pictures, which often include colors that elicit specific emotions just the same as words or phrases. Graphic design, also known as visual communication design, uses color to convey messages through images and textual content. It involves images-based design and includes characters, logos, symbols, and type-based designs, using one or several of these to create images that are based on the ancient Greek word ‘graphikos’ meaning something written, which usually employs color to convey meaning or design on a type of surface.

The earliest known form of visual communication design includes the form of cave paintings and markings on boulders, bone, ivory, and antlers. As far back as 40,000-10,000 B.C., possibly even earlier, primitive images of animals, events, mythological shapes and patterns, even people, were found throughout different parts of the world. Some were monumental, while others were recorded on a scale of a few millimeters to several centimeters, sometimes 200 or more years. Color can evoke an emotional response as well as a mental health/color_blindness/facts_about colorblindness.html; www.pantone.com/ The reader is encouraged to explore the sources of visual communication among the ancient peoples. While the Ancient Egyptians created a type of book-like art known as the Book of the Dead, another type of visual communication among the ancient peoples was the use of colors to convey messages to other people in visual form, helping to advance their understanding of the world.

Graphic design evolved as a design and business discipline that helped to create new forms of visual communication. With new productions available, the design of a communication medium changed and so did the way people and businesses produced and communicated. The use of colors in printed materials was used to make printed materials more visible. In the 19th century, the phrase “Graphic Design” did not exist. A typographer by the name of William A. Dwiggins, coined the term to identify the new emerging field. Throughout the 20th century, graphic design continued to evolve with the business, allowing designers to continue to greatly advance. With it, so did the possibilities for using the creative design. They were no longer limited to books and newspapers, but were able to expand and create other things, such as magazines, book jackets, posters, and advertisement designs. With the advancement of other technologies over time, such as the portable computer, motion pictures, and computer technologies, eventually computers, graphic design could only continue to move further as it became the most advanced tool of the 21st century.

With the creation of computer software and tools that aid the field in the design of graphic design, the graphic design was now able to create anything within the limitations of imagination. Computer graphic design has evolved into a global profession as technology continues to advance, and the industry is spread throughout the world. With the need to communicate reaching far greater heights than its approach up the 21st century, graphic design has evolved into a global profession as technology advances.

The effects of color in visual communication can be understood through the use of color, the effects of light and color, and the effects of light and color on human perception. The use of color in visual communication can be understood through the use of color, the effects of light and color, and the effects of light and color on human perception.

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A Goodbye Letter to STCC!

by Alysia Levis

The honest with you, STCC, wasn’t my first choice of a college. When I graduated high school, I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do with my life. I debated for a long time and finally decided to go to a college in Vermont for computer science. I thought that was what I wanted to do. So I loaded myself up with as many classes as I could, taking classes I was taking, and between a job and the ROTC I didn’t have much time for doing my schoolwork.

At the end of the semester, my family had to and made the decision to move back home, be with my family and start over. But it all changed when I got my first real job. I worked my ass off, taking classes and working at the same time. After I passed my first interview, I decided I would be better off going to college and finding a job. I was going to be able to do that job.

So I took my ass off, taking classes, and by the end of the year I was on time. I took summer, fall, winter, and spring classes and got to my associate degree. At the end of May, I felt as if I would be happy that I had already received my degree and left STCC. I was on top of the world. I was free from all the stress, money, and traveling around campus and explaining what I had been doing all semester. It was all worth it.

I would be remiss if I didn’t send my thanks to my fellow students, to my professors, and to my STCC President, who took time to enlighten me about the world of technology.

From novels, music and fashion, to role-playing games, the vampire subculture is vast and evoking as many interpretations as there are different cultures, some of which are ancient, others are modern, some of which are real, others are fictional. The Vampyre, the first modern vampire, was created by John Polidori in 1819, and it was the basis for much of the modern vampire subculture inspired by the game Vampire: The Masquerade, published in 1993. The game introduced the concept of vampires as a subculture inspired by the game Vampire: The Masquerade, published in 1993. The game introduced the concept of vampires as a subculture inspired by the game Vampire: The Masquerade, published in 1993. The game introduced the concept of vampires as a subculture inspired by the game Vampire: The Masquerade, published in 1993. The game introduced the concept of vampires as a subculture inspired by the game Vampire: The Masquerade, published in 1993.
It's important to see them so that we never forget what happened to them.

I hope, if you visit the museum, that it is important to see them so that we never forget what happened to them. The 9/11 Museum is open daily from 7:30 am – 9:00 pm year round. There are many different ticket prices with discounts offered to select categories. Guided tours are available at an additional cost (and worth every penny). The museum has a large gift shop to purchase a variety of memorabilia.

There is also a restaurant on the second floor which is a good place to rest and reenergize. Please visit the 9/11 Museum website for more information (@www.911memorial.org).