# 

**WEDNESDAY** JUNE 8, 2011 **ISSUE 1/SUMMER'11** 

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SLCC student finalizing paperwork to enroll in summer classes.

**Photo by Toni Tippetts** 

### Headcount increases for summer semester

**David Bell** 

Staff Reporter

The number of students registered for summer semester this year at for a student from within the state. Taylorsville Redwood campus has 3 credit class for a resident student City campus. 13,832. The total head count as of

over last year.

One reason for the increased number of students during summer semester is that non-residents pay the same tuition as resident students. students, according to Sanchez. During the rest of the year, the regular cost for a non-resident student is about three times the cost seen an increase in comparison to is 417 dollars, while for a non-

A second reason for the increase have come in contact with has been schedule/index.asp.

May 16, 2011 is 14,310," Assistant is that students from other nice and helpful," Brown said. Registrar Patricia Sanchez said. colleges and universities often That is an increase of 478 students take undergraduate or prerequisite courses that are needed to graduate from another institution. These students must follow the same registration process as all other summer semester. The different

> One new student that is starting this summer at the South City campus is Tamara Brown. She is studying visual arts, and one day

the enrollment total for the summer resident student the cost for other would be. They have a lot more all. of 2010. "The total headcount of semesters is 1,236 dollars. But resources for help than I thought students as of May 17, 2010 was come summer, all things are equal. there would be. Everyone that I classes, go to www.slcc.edu/

"Although I did apply for financial aid, and I haven't heard anything yet, but either way the classes aren't that expensive."

Some classes are not offered for departments make the decisions as to what classes will be held during each semester. The semesters that classes are offered can be found in the student catalog. These are wants to make video games. She found with class listings in the Salt Lake Community College's For example, the tuition cost for a registered for school at the South catalog. The semesters are listed in abbreviation such as Sp. for spring, "It was easier than I thought it F for fall, Su for summer, and A for

### Softball and baseball teams wrap up their seasons

Ryan McDonald

Staff Reporter

The old cliche that it's not how you start but how you finish must have been written for the 2011 version of Salt Lake Community College softball. After compiling an incredible 61-5 record in 2010, frustrations were high after the team's record stood at just 2-4 after the first weekend of play.

"At that point we were pretty disappointed," said head coach Mary Kay Amicone.

As it turns out, though, Amicone feels that there was a positive to that tough experience. "I think it was good for us. It was actually good for the young group to know that you can't play like that and expect to win."

And win they did. Anchored by Scenic West Athletic Conference Player of the Year Krystin Jachim and the conference's pitcher of the year, Ariel Zimmerman, the Lady Bruins went on to lose just five of their final 59 contests en

Season wrap/Continued on page A3

# Finish general education quickly with GenEd Step Ahead

**Rvan McDonald** 

Staff Reporter

While college can be a great place to learn new things, meet new people and have new life experiences, sometimes students just want to be done with it as soon as possible. Beginning in the fall semester of 2011, Salt Lake Community College students will have the opportunity to make that thought a reality much faster than ever before.

In a recent e-mail that was sent to all students through MyPage, SLCC Provost Dr. Christopher Picard announced that a pilot for English 1010 and Math 1040 program called "GenEd Step Ahead" has been created, time in the GenEd Step Ahead which will allow students the opportunity to finish their general education requirements in just semesters in order to complete two semesters.

"If you thrive in a structured small-class setting and have not yet completed a significant amount classes during the Fall 2011 of college-level coursework but semester. are ready to enter college classes MATH 1040/1050 level, this may be an excellent program for you," Picard wrote.

accelerated this program is, general education requirements



GenEd Step Ahead program is available at SLCC's Highland Center, located at 3760 South **Highland Drive in Salt Lake.** 

(not an entire Associate's degree) take between 34 and 38 credit hours to complete if you are ready or 1050. Students enrolled full program will be taking an average of 17 credit hours over the two general education requirements in that amount of time. Students will be enrolled in a total of seven

"The intent was an opportunity at the ENGL (English) 1010 and for students to complete their general education quickly," said Sidney McGuire Brown, an Brown. academic advisor who will be in To put in perspective just how charge of reviewing applications of students, two of the cohorts will to the program.

Held at the Highland Center

Campus on 3760 South Highland meet in the evenings. Drive, one of the unique features of the GenEd Step Ahead program will be the opportunity for students and instructors to personal basis.

Only 100 students will be accepted into the program fit," McGuire Brown said. (academic advisors will register the students that have been chosen for the program) and they will be divided into four "cohorts" or groups, with 25 students in each group. Each cohort will take all classes together over the fall and spring semesters.

is some variety depending upon which cohort a student is in. Since each group of 25 students will be together throughout the entire school day, the teachers will come to the students' classroom instead of students travelling to different rooms for different subjects.

"Students are more successful when they are in a cohort together, and so that is part of the success of the program," said McGuire

In an effort to cater to a variety meet for classes in the mornings, while the other two cohorts will

"One of the groups of people that has been interested is returning adults. Returning adults have been thrilled with the idea. collaborate on a much more Sometimes you can only find a couple of classes that fit in your schedule. This way, all of them

> To be considered for entry into the program, students need to meet a few qualifications. First, applicants must be planning on completing an AA or AS degree or transferring to a four-year college.

Secondly, applicants must While the class selection has commit to taking at least three of already been determined, there the cohort classes plus LE 1000 ("ePortfolios For Success").

Students must also proficient with computers, as one online class (Lifetime Fitness) is included in the program. Finally, students must be ready for English 1010 and Math 1010.

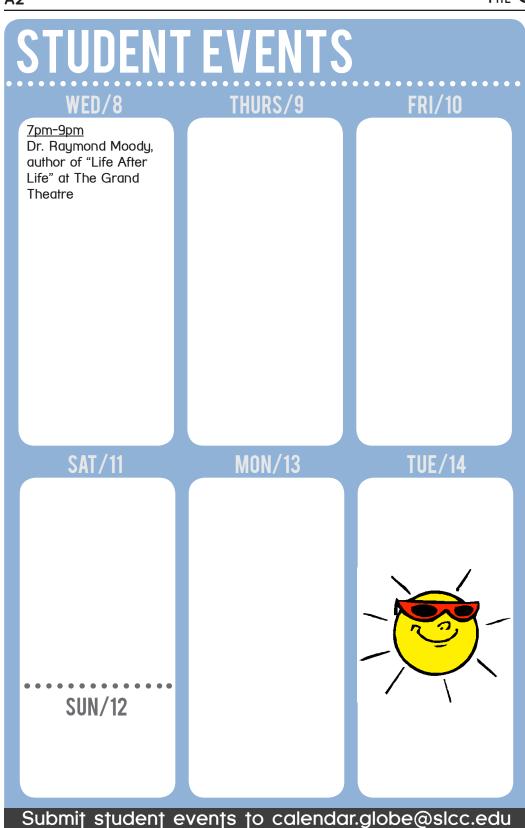
"We're really excited about it. We think it's a great opportunity for students," McGuire Brown said. She indicated that roughly 50 students had already inquired about the program as of last Friday.

Applications July 15. More information can be found at www.slcc.edu/gened.









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# **SLCC PICS**



Each week a different picture from an SLCC campus will be featured. If you know the location and campus of this week's featured picture, enter to win a prize by emailing your answer to

contest.globe@slcc.edu. Deadline for entries is Tuesday, June 14.

Entrants may only win once per semester. Mass Communication Center staff and SLCC faculty are not eligible to win.

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\_ Swinton, Oscar-winning

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Checks out It's often discovered dead in

a horror film Sweet beverages often served with dessert

Gallic girlfriends Proscription 8 Lively dances

2 Exchanges always say How tuna may be

packed Argonaut who slew Castor

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Mongolian nomads Gabriel, for one

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66 Catch some Z's

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The Globe is an independent student newspaper published Wednesday during Fall and Spring Semester (excluding holidays) and Wednesday during Summer Semester. The Globe editors and staff are solely responsible for the newspaper's content. Funding comes from advertising revenues and a dedicated student fee administered by the Student Media Council. To respond with questions, comments or complaints, call (801) 957-4019 or visit slccglobelink.com. The Globe is distributed free of charge, limit one copy per reader. Additional copies may be made available upon request. No person, without expressed permission of The Globe, may take more than one copy of any Globe issue.

# CAMPUS

Continued from page A1 team.

strengths of this year's here in Salt Lake against

route to a second place we were going to fight going into the seventh and finish at the National together," she said. "They final inning, a storm came, Junior College Athletic [her team] were always halting play for nearly an Association tournament in pretty hard working. They hour.



Photo by Misty Mulkey

Scenic West Athletic Conference Pitcher of the Year, SLCC's Ariel Zimmerman, fires one across the plate.

St. George in May.

pull together and make Lake." something great happen," Zimmerman said.

be resilient that Amicone championship game

Perhaps at no point

Season Wrap counts as one of the greatest the Region 18 tournament the College of Southern "We had a theme that Idaho. Ahead by three runs

> When the weather finally settled, CSI's bats came alive, as they racked up five runs to take a two run lead. The Lady Bruins charged back though, sending the game into extra frames. But CSI wasn't going to go away quietly as a home run in the top of the 8th inning gave them a one-run edge. SLCC's resiliency remained, though, as they strung together two runs in the bottom of the 8th to win the game, and the Region 18 crown. Amicone remarked that such a win "was exactly what we knew that everyone plays needed" heading into the following week.

> was their resiliency tested nationals for the softball

The Eccles childcare fa-

development and are lab

ployed by the Eccles school

development associates de-

grees, or bachelor degrees

in early childhood develop-



Bruins baseball first baseman makes the play despite come to Salt Lake thinking the slide and dust.

but the SLCC Baseball reached the pinnacle of the up on someone. You come Team had a very special national rankings, as they here knowing that you want season of their own. Thanks joined the Lady Bruins in to be the champion." to jumping out to a 30-2 record, the Bruins found themselves with the title of the best team in the nation at the beginning of April. At that time, head coach David "D.G." Nelson commented "We knew that we could their best game against Salt national tournament the that, "They (his team) just hate to lose and are going to A second-place finish at keep competing every day."

That willingness to It was that willingness to more than during the team would dominate compete every day didn't of headlines at most schools, end once the Bruins had

capturing a Region 18 title of their own. Unlike in softball, though, one more hurdle remained before a berth in the national tournament was secured. After winning region, the district tournament was held, where Salt Lake fell just short in the championship game.

Amicone summed up both the softball and baseball seasons well when she remarked, "You don't that you are going to be middle of the road or sneak

### IS HIRING PHOTOGRAPHERS AND **EDITORS FOR SUMMER AND** FALL SEMESTER. Contact The Globe at globe@slcc.edu or stop by our office at TB 325-G

### Child care for students, staff and faculty

**David Bell** 

Staff Reporter

makes Salt Lake Commu- Sharlie Barber, the manager students are studying child nity College unique from of the Eccles school. other institutions of higher

but I do give priority to students and faculty, although cility does have students needs to fill out the applicawe do accept children working there during the fall One of the things that from the community," said and spring semesters. These

Cost for this child care is students. The teachers emeducation is the number of 24 dollars for a 9 hour day, parents who are enrolled in although a sliding scale is



Courtesy of SLCC Eccles Lab School

Children of SLCC students, staff and faculty finishing an art project.

classes. Because of this, the available based on house- Friday they are open from child care system available hold income. at the Taylorsville Redwood well as faculty and staff.

At the Taylorsville Redwood campus, the Eccles Early Childhood Development Lab School is located program," said teacher Jackat the outer edge of the campus on the southeast corner. It is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The school takes 2 to 5 year-old children and offers a full-time and part-time schedule to avccommodate a variety of needs. Full time is all day Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., while part time can be either 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. or 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Recognizing the typical scheduling of classes, children can attend Monday through Friday, just Tuesday and Thursday, or just Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. They do not offer drop-in childcare at this location.

"We have a waiting list, valley."

and South City campuses is breakfast and lunch and helpful to both students, as gives them an afternoon calendar, including all holisnack. The child care follows the federal food guidelines when preparing meals. seven dollars for 0-3 hours

"We have a wonderful

The South City childcare offers almost the same program, though there are a few differences between it and

ment.

the program at the Taylorsville Redwood campus. No students are employed at the South City location. South City does offer drop-ins if they are pre-registered at the childcare. The cost for dropins is 3 dollars per hour.

The hours at South City are different also. They are Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., and 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The The school feeds the kids South City child care does follow the SLCC academic days and snow days.

The cost for this facility is per day, 14 dollars for 3-6 hours, and 22 dollars for



Courtesy of SLCC Eccles Lab School Children of SLCC students, staff and faculty playing outside on the playground.

ie Matthews. "We are the six or more hours per day. model for other programs. There is a one time 15 dollar We are one of the best in the charge for enrollment that is

non-refundable.



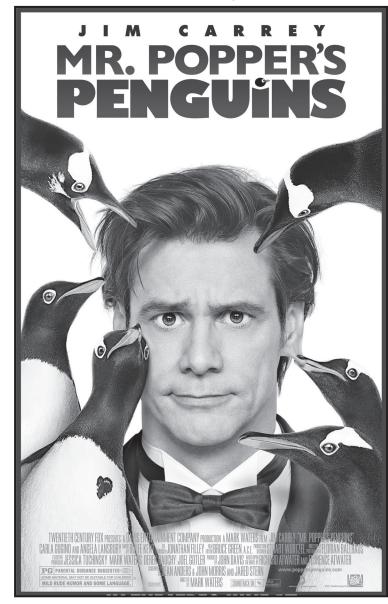
To enroll a child, a parent tion for enrollment that is basically a contact sheet. At the Eccles child care, times for parents must work with the child care's schedule.

Applications for these have their early childhood child care centers can be found online at www.slcc. edu/eccleslabschool, or at www.slcc.edu/ccfs.



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**IN THEATERS JUNE 17TH** 

# COMMUNITY

community.globe@slcc.edu

# Utah's top five summer fun!

**Stephen Romney** 

Staff Reporter

Summer is here. Like most people, you're 3. Summer concerts clueless as to what to do. That's why those of us at give you a few ideas to help you enjoy summer.

### 5. Summer classes

you are reading this then it's highly likely that you are taking classes during are taking a few classes, are taking core classes, a great, productive way to spend ones summer.

### 4. Summer movies

highly anticipated films for one of two seasons, summer and the holidays. Most of the films saved for the summer are usually as the new Pirates of the Caribbean film or, most 2. Summer projects notably, the huge string Avenger and Green Lantern it? Whether it's making a the season. are on the horizon with The short film with your friends However, if you're Avengers scheduled for or building a scale model of willing to spend the extra

of this annual strategy that of the best times to undergo enjoy a day at the Utahthis is lower on the list.

The Globe have decided to likely been waiting with many great stories to tell. anticipation to see the lineup for the 2011 Twilight 1. Summer outdoor fun Concert Series. This series This one is a given. If concerts is presented by recently, then you'll have the Salt Lake City Arts heard about the re-opening Council and runs from July of the lake in Liberty 14 through August 25. This Park, 11 months after the the summer. Some of you concert series also features Chevron pipeline leak. the Twilight Market, where Summer is the season to be some are full time. Some attendees can purchase a outdoors and what better variety of foods as well as a time is there to enjoy all some electives. I could go a variety of art made by that Liberty Park has to on and on about the benefit local Utah artists. However, offer. Not only is the park of taking summer classes, if a night downtown isn't abundant with the natural but that's not my field of your idea of fun, there are beauty of the region, you expertise. Nonetheless, it's more relaxed alternatives. can also explore the natural Murray Park is once again beauty of many of our It's no secret that events. The children's the world. Hollywood saves their most matinees are perfect for If you're into folk parents who want a fun and artistry, then you can also affordable way to spend a pay a visit to The Chase

fun or for a higher purpose, If you're musically no one can deny the fact inclined, then you've most that it will provide you with

If you've been paying of free Thursday night attention to the news holding its Arts in the feathered friends at the Park concert series with Tracy Aviary, where they a mix of day and evening display birds from around

Friday afternoon, where Home Museum of Folk Arts acts ranging from music to and look at folk art pieces magic will be featured from from the many cultures that action-packed epics such June 10 through August 5. call Utah their home. With the reopening of the lake, Have you ever had out paddle boats and go your summer fun. of superhero films being something you wanted out on the lake in addition released by Marvel and DC. to do or make, but could to enjoying the amusement Captain America: The First never find the time to do park rides that are open for

next summer. It's because the TARDIS, summer is one money, then why not these kinds of endeavors. exclusive amusement park, Whether it's for the sake of Lagoon? In addition to the numerous rides and games that Lagoon is known for, there are also performances to enjoy at the Carousel Theatre. The shows they are currently running are musical revues that feature hits songs from many of the nation's most famous artists as well as a homage to the musicals that have graced the silver screen throughout the years.

I hope this list gives you a few ideas about how to enjoy your summer to the fullest. However, I've only covered these suggestions in a very broad sense. We here at The Globe hope to provide you with not only ideas, but also opportunities to experience something that you might not have thought about otherwise. As the summer continues, we'll be digging up more and more ideas for summer fun. If any of you come across any summer ideas we should talk about, send them to sromne16@ mymail.slcc.edu with the subject "Summer" and you can once again rent we'll spread the word about





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to join the team

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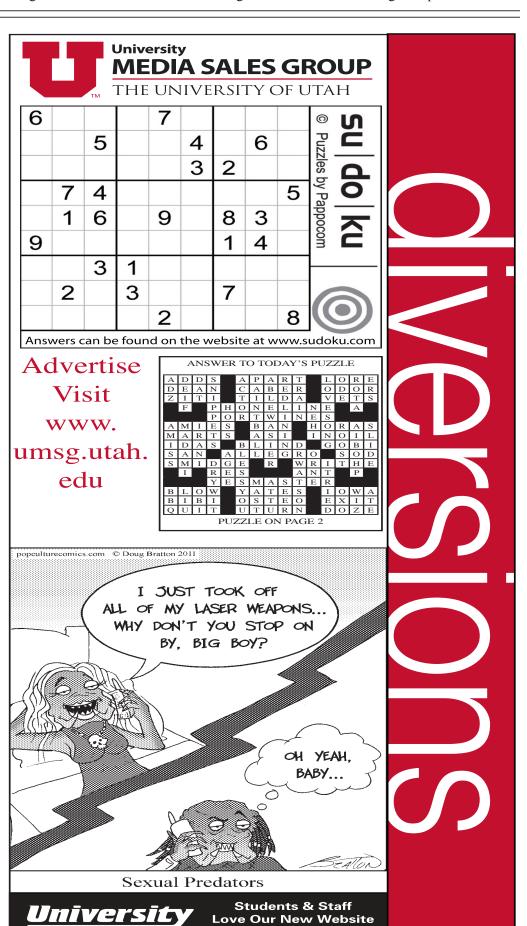


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# **OPINION**

### I love summer school . . . really Private school vs. public school

Bryanna Boyle

Staff Reporter

ummer break has finally come. I would guess that most students look forward to this time of year, especially the last few weeks leading up to it. School is out, so there is one more thing you can check off your list for a while, even if you do have a job.

Summer break is something that many students want to enjoy while they still can. In the not too distant future they will become tied down to a job that may not allow such things, so why not enjoy it now? As the summer progresses, however, many remember how boring it can get; day after day of no school, sitting around, wondering what to do. Of course everyone would like to travel but money can sometimes be an issue.

So what can you do? You can choose to sit and try and find something to do all day, or you can do as I'm doing and take a few classes during the summer. In high

school, there were often horror stories circulating around about summer school and how awful it was, which in turn led to some students doing better in class to avoid the awful experience. Let me tell a different story.

This is my first time ever taking classes in the summer and I must say I love it. It is the perfect balance; a couple hours of school a few times a week and still a lot of free time, but not enough to be overwhelming. I am taking one class and it has made my summer much more enjoyable so far. I no longer have days where I have nothing to do. I go to class three times a week and then I have a couple hours of homework to do.

Not only do I have things to do during my summer break now, but I will also be that much closer to graduating. By taking classes in the summer, I am making it so I don't have to take a crazy amount of classes in the fall and stress about the workload and getting my degree. I am

earning a mere four credit hours this semester, but those are still four credit hours I would have to do next semester on top of many more. Being able to take this class during the summer, graduation will be coming that much sooner.

I also have a lot more time to spend on my class and my homework. I am enrolled in a math class, which is a very hard subject for me to understand. It is helpful that I have as much time as I need to spend on it until I fully understand what we are learning.

So far, I have an A in the class and did great on the first test. I attribute a lot of my success in math to taking it during summer semester.

Maybe the rumors were right and high school summer school was a nightmare, but that certainly is not true about Salt Lake Community College summer school. It is a great way to further your education while keeping yourself entertained during the summer.

**Amelia Corey** 

Staff Reporter

recently started employment at a private school and was floored for a few weeks by what I saw there as compared to public school. Upon starting this new job, I saw the care and attention that was tailored to the individual students at the private school. Most of the children are in the top ten percent of testing. They are extremely clever and talented in a variety of subjects like art and physical activities.

One kindergartner named Thomas (name has been changed) is a well known trouble-maker. One day as one of the teachers was explaining the properties of what makes a molecule a molecule, Thomas was doing his usual song and dance to not pay attention. Another teacher called Thomas over to stand right in front of her.

"Thomas, get over here, right in front of me!" Thomas walked over to her, stood right in front of her

and asked her one question. "Do you mean on these molecules here?"

The kids are clever and

smart. How many people know a kindergartner who knows what a molecule is? But with this intelligence that private school provides also comes some challenges. All of these children will be stuck with the same students as they work through the grades. A lot of people would think not having to make new friends every year would be a blessing, but in this situation, I don't think it's beneficial to the kids. These kindergartners will continually be with the same people. They will never have to stretch their social skills and will never get the opportunity to succeed or fail to learn what is socially acceptable.

As these kids get older they won't be offered different subjects that focus on a specific skill. They won't be able to take an auto class if they're interested in cars like at a public school. Art and dance is part of the curriculum, but not a specific type like jazz. They may not be able to choose between taking a painting class or a drawing class. The education is tailored towards everyone taking the school, even if being in a same classes and not having an option on what they

want to learn.

When I was in school, I remember deliberating on the classes I was offered for days. I took Spanish, dance, writing, wood shop, and so many different other classes. I can see the challenge of using the imagination that these kids will have as they get older since they won't be able to express themselves in a variety of ways.

The parents of these children seem to only want one thing from their kids-to be smart. So if you want a kid that will be able to use logic to come to genius conclusions, then private school is for your kids. If you want your kid to have an opportunity to grow up with some social skills, and to be able to pick their classes based on their interests, then stick with public school where they may or may not fall through the cracks.

I value my social skill above anything, which is why I picked Communications for my major. I don't think I would want my kids to miss out of the opportunities that I had in public private school makes them in the top ten percent.



email: philoftech@gmail.com - twitter: philoftech

# Wow, this game is cool!

**Patrick Cassell** 

Guest Columnist

nline games are very popular around the world as a means of diversion. These games are a way to win in ways that people do not see themselves winning in their real lives. It is possible to take the lessons learned in games and translate them into real life success. The key is to harness the skills that are learned by playing games and move those skills into the real world.

World of Warcrafthas millions of players around the world. It has grown to be one of the most popular online games ever made. Jane McGonigal, a game designer, said that games like World of Warcraft can be used to help people learn skills that will allow them to solve the world's prob-

During a TEDTalk recorded last year McGonigal explains how her 10 (now 11) years of experience as a game designer has taught her how gaming can foster valuable skills in the rising generation. "[Her] goal for the next decade is to try to make it as easy to save the world in real life as it is to save the world in online games."

McGonigal said that in 2010, "humanity" spent 3 billion hours per week playing online games. She would like to see the total increase to 21 billion hours of gameplay every week.

"If we want to solve problems like hunger, poverty, climate change, global conflict, obesity - I believe that we need to aspire to play games online for at least 21 billion hours a week by the end of the next decade.'

She goes on to describe how a person feels when they have an, "epic win," how that sense of accomplishment is expressed in their faces and how they feel they can do something that they had thought was impossible.

During her graduate studies she looked at games like World of Warcraft. She saidthat this game matches you with world-saving situations that are challenging, but not impossible.

"There's no unemployment in World of Warcraft. There's no siting around ringing your hands. There's always something specific and important to be done," she said.

As of her talk in February of 2010, World of Warcraft players had logged 5.93 million years of play time. She says that the average gamer spends 10,000 hours playing online games by the age of 21. This matches exactly with Malcolm Gladwell's 10,000 hour theory of success.

McGonigal said gamers are getting good at four things. First is urgent optimism. This is like extreme self motivation. Second is social fabric. The interactions with other people

in the game helps build up trust. Third is blissful productivity. Gamers are willing to work hard if they are given the right work. Fourth is epic meaning. She said, "Gamers love to be attached to awe-inspiring mission."

McGonigal's work is in getting gamers to believe that not only can they change their virtual worlds, but they can also change the real world. She shares the story by Herodotus of how dice games where invented about 2,500 years ago in the kingdom of Lydia. These games where used to keep the people from thinking about their hunger during a long famine. She said that "Recently scientists have suggested that Herodotus' crazy story is actually true."

To see how McGonigal has developed games that help people solve real world problems go to the TED website and search for, "Jane McGonigal: Gaming can make a better world." So, the next time you see someone playing World of Warcraft try to realize that what they are doing is not a waste of their time.



# Crimes of opportunity

Salt Lake Sommunity College

A letter from Utah Highway Patrol Trooper David Rose

**David Rose** 

Contributing Writer

uring my 20 year career as a law enforcement officer I have had many opportunities to interact with people in a variety of situations. Some situations were very positive and productive, others...not so much. Every interaction provided me with a learning opportunity and this is what I have learned.

First, mature and responsible people are, or at least have a genuine desire, to be good and honest people. Second, sometimes good people make wrong decisions and do bad things. These incidents, or bad things, are sometimes referred to as "crimes of opportunity."

Crimes of opportunity are not premeditated or planned. Crimes of opportunity are exactly what the name implies. Sometimes when good people are presented with an opportunity to commit an illegal act their thinking and logic become skewed and distorted. As a result they do the wrong thing. Examples of crimes of opportunity that have occurred at Salt Lake Community College are theft, vehicle burglary, vandalism, assault and harassment. These crimes do not occur often but they do occur. The question to

be answered is, "What, if anything, can be done to reduce or eliminate this type of crime?"

A crime, any crime, consists of three elements - desire, ability and opportunity. If any one of the three elements is reduced or eliminated, the result will be a marked reduction in crime. It is highly unlikely we will be able to reduce or eliminate another person's ability or desire to commit a criminal act. We can, however, greatly reduce and possibly eliminate the opportunities for crimes to occur. A reduction in opportunities to commit crimes will result in a reduction of criminal incidents.

Here's what you can do to reduce and possibly eliminate the opportunities for criminal activity to occur:

1. Accept responsibility for and safeguard your personal property.

2. Never leave your personal property unattended.

3. Establish and maintain a record of serial numbers from your computers, bicycles, stereos, iPods, cell phones, etc.

4. Never leave anything of value in an unattended vehicle. If you do, lock it in the trunk.

5. If your personal property is stolen, report it

immediately. 6. Be aware of your surroundings. If you see anything unusual or suspi-

cious, report it to the police immediately.

7. Avoid becoming involved in verbal and physical confrontations. Always walk away from these types of incidents and report them to the police immediately.

8. Never leave a running vehicle unattended.

9. Look out for and help each other.

10. If you find any unattended property that does not belong to you, either turn it in to lost and found or leave it where it is.

11. If you find yourself in a position where you have the desire, ability and opportunity to victimize another person, stop. Put yourself in your victim's shoes and ask yourself how you would feel if you were the one being victimized.

The Utah Highway Patrol proudly provides police services at the Salt Lake Community College Redwood Taylorsville, South City and Meadowbrook campuses. If you are ever in need of our assistance please do not hesitate to contact us.

We can be reached at the following telephone num-

- 911 – Emergency

- x3800 – From any campus telephone

- 801-887-3800 – Dispatch (Trooper needed for non-emergency)

- 801-957-4270 - Office And remember, stay safe!

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT arts.globe@slcc.edu

# X-Men: first class, best in the series

Joseph Meyere Arts Reporter

Prequels are a lot like rocket launches. If they are done well they're a benefit to all mankind, but if they fail they can be a catastrophic disaster. Sadly in prequels there are more Challengers than Apollo 11s. X-Men: First Class thankfully is a film that made it to Mars.

X-Men: First Class takes place in the early 60s before mutants were known to the general public. Young Charles Xavier (James McAvoy, Atonement) is recruited by the government to stop the evil and powerful mutant Sebastian Shaw

(Kevin Bacon, Footloose)and his little band of misfits from starting World War III via the Cuban missile crisis. Along the way McAvoy picks up a ragtag group of minors he can throw into dangerous situations, as well as his future arch nemesis Magneto (Michael Fassbender, Inglorious Bastards).

The film is of course filling in a lot of the back story from the other four films, and actually does a great job of it. One of the subplots features Mystique (Jennifer Lawrence, The Poker House) trying to come to terms with her identity as a mutant and the fact that, if she were to go around

in her natural blue form, she would not be accepted by society. This creates an interesting paradigm between her, Fassbender and Beast (Nicholas Hoult, Clash of the Titans). Fans of the series already know which way she ends up going, but it's still interesting to see what brought her to that decision.

One of the biggest drawing pieces of the comic book movies is the special effects. This time around fans get to be excited to see (playing for McAvoy's side) Banshee, Havoc, Darwin as well as the before mentioned Magneto, Beast and Mystique. Bacon's side is flavored with newcomers Riptide, Azazal

(who is such a Nightcrawler clone it's pretty much guaranteed he's going to be his father if another movie comes out), Angel and fan favorite Emma Frost (January Jones, Mad Men).

It was refreshing to see that the casting favored more upand-coming actors than the usual high billing mega stars the other films featured. This gave the budget some room to take off on the writing rather than trying to dangle money over Halle Berry. There are very few examples where a super hero movie actually requires thought to watch, and X-Men: First Class happily fits into that category. The film seamlessly

savage brutality of Nazi Germany to the confusion and pain in a young teenager's heart over decisions that could affect her entire life magnificently told and masterfully acted.

X-Men: First Class is rated PG-13 for awesome super hero violence and a cameo by Wolverine telling McAvoy and Fassbender what they can go do with themselves.



Courtesy of 20th Century Fox

# DreamWorks delivers a winning blow with Kung Fu Panda 2

**Stephen Romney** 

Arts Reporter

Like most of you reading this, I rolled my eyes when I found out that they announced plans for a second Kung Fu Panda film. History has shown

us that sequels to hit films seldom do as well as the original. Often times, said sequels are just poor quality retreads of the original. However, this film defied that convention and even managed to out perform the film before it.

Kung Fu Panda 2 has not one but two stories throughout the course of the film. The first story, as indicated in the trailer, has our favorite panda, Po (Jack Black), and the members of the Furious Five on a mission to stop

vengeful peacock, Shen (Gary Oldman), from conquering China and wiping out the art of Kung Fu with his powerful cannons. The second story is more internal, as it follows Po on his search for inner peace as well as

the truth behind where he came from and who he

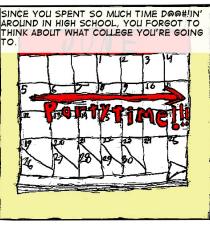
fear, but also as a man betrayed, a man who

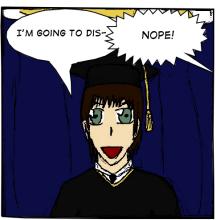


Courtesy of DreamWorks

"GOODBYE, HIGH SCHOOL!" BY C.A.TRAHAN













truly is. These two stories flow within each other and both carry equal weight throughout the film.

Contrary to the usual faire of the animated family film, the story can be surprisingly dark at times, comparatively darker than the original film. The philosophical nuances and darker storyline add a feel to the story that's akin to many of the classic martial arts films. That's not to say that there aren't the usual injections of comedy throughout the film, however. Much of the comedy stems mostly from by DreamWorks. Po, who tends to vocalize some of the thoughts the audience would have while watching the film in addition to showing how an everyman from the present day might react if they were in the same

situation. Not only is Po's character given more depth in this film, so are the rest of the characters, most notably the members of the Furious Five. The development of the Furious Five is more or less focused on the dynamic of the group as a whole, as well as how they've evolved since we saw them last.

This film is very well done, with most of the original cast returning to reprise their roles. Most surprisingly, one of the strongest performances comes from Jack Black, who proves that he's able to perform in dramatic roles, shown most strongly with theemotional scenes towards the end of the film. Another top notch performance comes from Gary Oldman, who plays the role not only as a villain, as someone to

fears his fate, but is too

stubborn to admit it.

One thing I found

interesting while watching this film was the blend of 2D and 3D animation. The bulk of the film uses 3D animation, which is the norm when it comes to the recent string of DreamWorks family films. However, when they show dreams and visions. predominately Po's, they use 2D animation that is on a level that hasn't been seen since films such as The Road to El-Dorado or

The Prince of Egypt, both

of which were also made

Now for a fairly important question - "Is it worth it to watch this in 3D?" This question, however, doesn't have a clear cut answer. In this reviewer's opinion, it doesn't really matter either way. The way this film takes advantage of the 3D effects is a bit of a mixed bag. Most of the 3D is used for atmospheric purposes, but there are a couple of those jumpat-the-viewer moments. However, they are structured in a way more reminiscent of first film where they parody action film clichés. On this front, the 3D works very well, but the experience will be pretty much the same if you see it in 2D.

Overall, this film is one that can be enjoyed whether you're a child, a parent or just someone looking for a good movie to watch during the summer. On my personal rating scale, 1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest, this film gets a 4 out of 5, a great family film that doesn't suffer from the dreaded "kid-film syndrome."

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