Health Center to Offer Free HIV Testing

By Mike Weiss

Have you ever stopped and thought about all the people you’ve had sex with? How about all the people they’ve had sex with? It’s a dirty world out there, and knowledge is power.

The Curry Health Center is offering free HIV testing for students, faculty and staff. Tests are available this Friday, March 2, Wednesday, April 4 and Friday, May 4 between noon and 3:30 p.m. Representatives from Harbor Health Services, located in Milton, will conduct the tests using a fast-acting oral swab, said Ellen Kawadler, director of health services at Curry. Results will be made available in less than 20 minutes, and all tests and results are private. Kawadler recommends that people make appointments—although walk-ins won’t be turned away, she said—and tests will be conducted on the half hour, meaning only seven appointments per day will be available.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, people ages 13 to 29 accounted for 39 percent of all new HIV cases in the United States in 2009, the most recent year for which there are statistics. Seventy-five percent of these cases were found in people ages 20 to 24.

Curry’s free HIV-testing program began in the fall of 2010 as a service for students because some of their health insurance policies may not have covered the test. Kawadler said the Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that yearly

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Risky Recycling Business

By Erin Powers

Most college students are familiar with those large plastic bags of empty cans and bottles that leave a stench of stale beer in the air of a dorm room. It is how those bags are disposed of that can pose a challenge for some.

Students arrived back on campus for the spring semester to find a new addition to their dorms. As part of Curry’s recent recycling initiative, each room is now equipped with small green bins so that students can dispose of their trash with the environment in mind. A list posted on students’ doors displays what can and cannot be recycled; the guidelines are clear, and items from detergent bottles to pizza boxes and tissues are all placed in their respective categories. The lengthy reminder sheet also reads the policy for recycling cans and bottles.

However, what students cannot be sure of is what kind of risk they are taking when hauling their green bin of empties outside their rooms.

According to Rebecca Larroche, resident director for the South Campus Residence Hall, there is no set policy for the recycling of beer cans, bottles or empty liquor bottles.

“Personally, I am thrilled that we have a better organized recycling system and I have been encouraging my residents to recycle,” said Larroche. “But if I were to see a resident who I know is under age walking with a large bag full of empty alcohol containers, I would have a conversation with them about that.”

Students can enjoy a few drinks, and save the environment a little, thanks to Curry’s new recycling program. For underage drinkers, however, recycling carries some risks.

Searching for Life in Space

By Sebastian Humbert

Sarah Shirshac ventures inside the Levin Memorial Library every now and then, but only to use a printer. And only when her personal printer and all other personal printers in her dorm are out of ink.

“I like the library,” said the sophomore nursing major. “The book shelves are creepy and dark.”

Shirshac, who considers herself a brave person, isn’t the only student who’s generally unhappy with the library. Kyle Dailey, a senior communication major, believes the library “is not that comfortable of an environment.”

Stephanie Alliette, assistant director of housing operations, echoed Larroche, stating that the new bins are nothing more than a recycling initiative, not a “ploy for catching underage drinking.”

Moreover, behavioral expectations of students are the same as they were prior to placement of the bins.

But not everyone believes the coast is entirely clear.

“According to Alliette, all RD’s and community directors are expected to confront any underage student seen with an empty alcohol container, and to inform them of the school’s policy for underage drinking, which can be found in the Curry Student Handbook. It reads, “Possession or presence of empty alcohol containers is prohibited in rooms where students are under the age of 21 and will be viewed as evidence of possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages.”

“This would be the same expectation if emperies were sitting in a trash can in a room full of minors or on the desk in their room,” said Alliette, who added that there is no “one-size-fits-all” approach to policy violations, as mitigating factors are often involved.

Kawdler said the best way to prevent HIV is to use a condom during sexual intercourse, whether it’s heterosexual or homosexual. The Health Center gives away condoms by request, and they are often made available in the waiting room.

While Kawdler said condom usage is incredibly important, it won’t protect you from every possible STD. Some diseases can be contracted through skin-to-skin contact, she said. Kawdler also recommended that people not shave their pubic region, to reduce the chance of spreading bacteria.

“People that shave must make sure they change the razor head after every shave in order to prevent the reintroduction of bacteria into the small openings in your skin,” she said.

Mike Doyle, a freshman criminal justice major.

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HIV Testing
Currier Times Launches New Web Site

By Andrew Blohm

The Currier Times has joined the Internet.

Launched at the start of the spring semester, the new Web site will feature student-produced journalism and information pertaining to life on and around campus. The site, curriertimes.net, was produced out of the college’s News/Multimedia Journalism practicum course, taught by Professor Jeff Lemberg. The site features original student-written blogs on subjects ranging from travel tips and Curry sports, to music, media, politics and fashion. In addition, the site publishes student-produced news stories, photo slideshows and videos. The Currier Times also has its own Twitter account, @CurrierTimes.

“The communication program is over 130 years old,” says Jerry Gibbs, co-chairman of the Communication Department. “Curriertimes.net is one more milestone.”

Students who produce content for the site are registered in the practicum course, although Lemberg says he’s willing to work with any student who has an interest in journalism and new media. Students in the course also produce the print edition of The Currier Times. Future content from the print publication, which comes out three times per semester, will be republished online.

Sebastian Humbert, a senior communication major who has been involved with The Currier Times for three years, is the student editor of the online edition. Among other responsibilities with the site, he oversees the Times’ Twitter account.

“Online is the future,” he says. “Journalism is moving away from print, and having a Web presence is important.”

Adds Gibbs, “An online presence mirrors what we see in the newspaper world. It has to be interactive, and if students have the ability to do that, it should become a must-see destination for students.”

Windows of Opportunity

Students smuggling in the goods... and sometimes people, too

By Vanessa Kelly

Clear skies aren’t always needed to see a moon at Curry College. Walk past Lombard Hall at the right time some weekend evening and it’s possible you’ll witness someone’s butt hanging out of a first-floor window.

Some freshmen at Curry are having a hard time keeping themselves entertained, particularly on the weekends, since they are without a car on campus. Because they’re underage and not allowed to bring alcohol into their residence halls, a number of students have discovered ways around the rules. One of the busier smuggling routes—for both party favors and people—is through basement and first-floor windows.

All of the main freshmen dorms—Lombard, State, Mayflower and Scholars—are involved. Window diving, as some students call it, also happens at the North Campus Residence Hall, but not as often as other dorms because NCRH is in a more open area, students say. Woods and bushes surround the other three buildings.

Since the basement windows are at the same level as the ground, and first-floor windows are only about six feet off the ground, smuggling is relatively easy, students say.

“Sometimes, the hassle of going upstairs to sign them in is a pain in the butt,” said Alex Galvan, a freshman biology major who lives in Lombard. “Since I live in the basement, I just tell them to come through the window. The girls find it a fun game to play.”

On weekends, students who want to host someone who doesn’t live in their building must find the RA on duty to sign them in. That’s to ensure that the proper student takes responsibility for their guest, according to the college. If the guest isn’t a student at Curry, one has to go to Public Safety to sign them in. Once that’s complete, the student must still sign in his or her guest through the RA on duty.

Colin Eason, a resident assistant in State, said RAs are somewhat aware that freshmen sneak alcohol and other things into their dorm rooms. It only becomes a problem when students get loud in their rooms, if they can’t control their alcohol intake, or if Public Safety gets involved.

At Curry, the initial punishment for underage drinking is a write-up by an RA. The first write-up involves a letter sent home to the student’s parents. Those who are written up a second or more times have to go through an online alcohol education course and have a long conversation with one of the resident directors, Eason said.

Jenny Geffrard, a junior health major and an RA in NCRH, said she has seen it all. Last year, for example, she witnessed a student run and jump into a “sky dive position” in an attempt to go through a window. However, the intoxicated student didn’t realize the window screen was still in.

“First, I asked, ‘Are you OK?’” said Geffrard. “Then I said, ‘You don’t live here, do you?’”

General Tensions

more relevant for students,” said Kean. “I also think it will inspire self-discovery among students because it gives students more choices and causes them to reflect more on their learning.”

The full faculty began discussing and debating the proposal in early February. The group’s next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 29.

According to the chairman of the second Gen Ed Taskforce, Professor John Hill of the Politics Department, is one of the concerned faculty members to redesign their courses,” said Hill.

Hill did say there have been many positive comments, but many questions have been raised as well. “I’ve heard a lot of positive things, and I’ve also heard a lot of concerns,” he said.

Andrew Horn, a professor in the English department, is one of the concerned faculty members, particularly in no longer requiring all students to take a literature course. “Our mission as tertiary educators is not just to produce nurses and police officers and broadcasters and corporate managers... It is to produce citizens,” he said via email.

Horn then commented on the faculty’s own college degrees. “It would be interesting to know if there are any members of the current Curry faculty or administration who were allowed to do no literature studies at all in their undergraduate degree. If not, should we be offering our own students a more impoverished degree than we ourselves benefited so richly from?”

Numerous faculty members said there was a lot of pressure, stress and tension at the last faculty meeting. Chief Academic Officer David Kean, said she would vote to pass the proposal if she was a Curry professor.

Kean said she understands some professors’ unhappiness with the proposal. “It forces faculty members to redesign their courses,” said Kean. “I do think that some of the professors may feel threatened because this is shifting things radically.”

But she has a clear view on what should happen with faculty members who are unwilling to change their courses.

“I think they should stop teaching,” said Kean. “I think they should retire or get some professional development.

“For my colleagues that don’t want to do technology or change their syllabi and are standing on years being here, maybe it’s time to retire and do something different.”

Natalie Petit, a senior criminal justice major and president of the Student Government Association, was among a group of students who received a presentation about the proposal from the Gen Ed Taskforce. (Although all faculty and staff can access the proposal through Blackboard, Hill said students cannot.)

Even though the proposed changes won’t affect her, Petit is in favor of the move.

“I think the Gen Ed [proposals] is good because with our forever-changing society, we as an institution need to change our way of teaching and learning,” said Petit, adding that she would vote to pass the proposal if she was a Curry professor.

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“First, I asked, ‘Are you OK?’” said Geffrard. “Then I said, ‘You don’t live here, do you?’”
Curry has long operated an academic support program that provides students hand-written notes from course lectures thanks to a paid classmate. But handwriting is apparently so yesterday. Goodbye, carbon-paper notebooks; hello, BlackBoard!

Chip Kennedy, the student disabilities officer at Curry, said he sought to update the college’s note-taking program last year to make it easier for the people receiving and taking class notes. After speaking with colleagues from other schools, he said he came to realize that Curry was behind the times. In addition, a digital platform would provide students with greater privacy, enabling them to download the notes remotely rather than collecting them in person.

Sarah Smith, the instructional technologist at Curry—or, as Kennedy refers to her, “the BlackBoard Guru”—helped launch the revamped project through the college’s Blackboard system. It was tested this past fall and received high marks from students, Kennedy said.

Yet, not everyone thinks the added privacy is necessary.

“At the core of the project is the desire to make note-taking more user friendly for students. Without the ability to download notes remotely, students may not be able to print them as they might need them,” said Kennedy.

While Miller’s point applies to the general atmosphere of respect on campus, some students simply don’t want to be identified as having a learning disability. And since the goal of the program is to help students achieve success in their coursework, making the note-taking program more confidential was an easy way to encourage greater participation, said Kennedy.

“Here at Curry, everyone knows about the PAL program and what the disability statement is within every syllabus, so I feel that the student should have nothing to be embarrassed about,” said Jenni Miller, a senior biology major who has taken notes for others in eight courses using the old-fashioned way of passing along ink-on-paper.

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For that reason, a number of professors in the Communication Department are working to create their own textbook for student use. Led by Professor Brecken Chinn Swartz, the group is looking to shelve the current book, “Fundamentals of Communication” to fulfill a CLAC requirement. They’re also looking to replace the current book, “a team approach that really talks around it, without all of the stories being told in the book, which we think is not effective for how students read these days.

“It was amazing how coherently our vision fell together in terms of the kinds of chapters that we wanted, the way we wanted to approach the book, the format of it, and the graphics of it,” Swartz added. “We’re really been amazingly on the same page.

“It’s not just about the field of communications and where the main concepts are,” she said. “We’re hoping that the management student, the nursing student, the computer science student would be able to use the concepts in the book...for small-group communication, personal communication, and our way of viewing communication in the world.”

“Curry will be unique in that we have a textbook that is written by our faculty,” she said, “and we’re hoping we’ll be a leader in the industry.”
Curry, We Have a Problem
Students turn to Twitter to voice complaints about life on and around campus

By Brittany Jennings

Most college students feel uncomfortable expressing their opinions online. They also like to complain.

By combining the two, a number of Curry students have found a collective home on Twitter for their many objections about life on campus.

“One day, I saw that a bunch of my friends from Suffolk, UMass, Salem State, etc. re-tweeting from @SuffolkGirlProblems, ‘UMAProblems,’ ‘SSUProblems’ accounts and I thought it would be funny to create one for Curry,” said a senior female Curry student who asked not to be identified out of fear of retribution by the college’s administration.

“I can’t tell anyone that I was going to create the account, and the jokes just started flowing.”

The first of the many tweets on @CCProblems were, “Girls go to dinner in packs, that’s the rules. #Curryproblems” and “He bought me a pitcher at McGraths. #Romantic #Curryproblems.” Within two days, word spread among the student body and @CCProblems had more than 350 followers. That’s when the tone of the page took a turn.

Curry students began actively voicing their complaints on the page, criticizing boring professors, obnoxious girls, and the food at the Student Center, among other topics. It quickly became something of a safe space for students to vent.

“As a paying student at this school, I should have the opportunity to complain about certain aspects of Curry that I encounter,” said the page’s creator. One of her more pointed tweets read: #Romantic #Curryproblems. "When you walk into your common room and the cleaning crew is sitting on your couch watching tv instead of vacuuming. #CurryProblems.”

A few days after @CCProblems was created, an account titled @CCProblemSolved appeared on Twitter. @CCProblemSolved began responding to the various complaints posted to the @CCProblems page, offering potential “solutions.” One post read: “Curry College has an outstanding community, and our growth has been tremendous. Part of growing is seeking improvement, and solving problems.” In addition, the administrator of the page criticized the founder of @CCProblems for enabling the complaints of others, and even suggested that the administrator committed a crime by using the college’s logo without permission as her profile picture. @CCProblemSolved features a photograph of Samuel Silas Curry, the college’s founder.

It’s unclear who created the @CCProblemSolved account. Sarah Bordeleau, associate director of Student Activities, said neither her office nor the Student Affairs office created the account, and that “it’s up in the air if it’s an official college department that created the account.” Fran Jackson, director of communications at the college, and Erik Murrisepp, director of residential life and housing, both denied that the page was created through their departments.

“Students should be able to vent about certain issues at Curry,” said Bordeleau, noting she believes a Curry-loving student likely created the account. “The way it was done (through @CCProblems), was in a passive way and wasn’t effective. There are better forms to solve a problem. The problems should be brought to the right people to address the issue...The faculty and staff of Curry want to help.”

But according to some students, @CCProblems was a great way to express their opinions about the college, often in a comical fashion.

“The school should listen to some problems because we were there. Sometimes they were just funny,” said Kayla Urquhart, a sophomore communication major.

Added Neila René, a freshman nursing major, “A lot of what was said on @CCProblems is true and funny. Maybe the deans should listen to what the students are saying so there would be less ‘Curry Problems.’”

The account still lives on in Twitter, with the Curry logo replaced by a cat in a spacesuit, “the most random picture I could find...to show it was supposed to be a joke,” said the creator.

Joke or not, the page has inspired imitators. Today, there are various Curry-related “problem” accounts on Twitter. One is called @CollegProblems, and Curry students tweet more frequently there—it has nearly 230 followers—than on the original “problem” account. Another is @CurryGirlProbs, which has more than 100 followers. There is also a hashtag trend page, #Curryproblems. Trend pages are not administered by anyone, but instead serve as a central location for anyone tweeting about a specific topic, so long as they include the hashtag name. Some recent examples include: #No power in the state house basement... Great start to Monday... #CurryProblems #fashionproblems #fwi and “When your bagel in kennedy tastes old... #curryproblems.”

Sometimes, it just feels good to vent.

CECC Turns 30

Continued from Page 1

toddler and preschoolers. Approximately half of all enrollees are children of faculty and staff members, who enjoy the benefit of subsidized tuition from the college. Other enrollees tend to reside in the surrounding area.

The Center itself is a bright, cheerful space. Children’s artwork adorns the walls, while every type of plant in the outdoor playground has been carefully selected to be both bird- and butterfly-friendly, Pierce says.

Eleven paid professionals comprise the core of the Center’s staff, but approximately 35 Curry students are also employed there each semester. It’s this opportunity, according to Pierce, that makes the Center so unique.

Assistant teachers, or aides, range from freshmen to graduate students who most often are early childhood education, nursing or psychology majors at the college. However, Pierce says there is no requirement when it comes to the declared major of a potential student employee. Health majors, for instance, have done nutritional lessons with the children, while fine arts students have helped the kids learn their respective mediums. Assistants work under each classroom’s certified teacher and help supervise the playground, take part in teaching the specified curriculum, lend a hand in clean up, and generally just play and engage with the children. While some assistants are paid $8 per hour through a work-study program, Pierce says many others participate as unpaid interns, or through an education practicum for college credits.

Megan Bucchianeri, a sophomore Early Education major and a teacher’s assistant at the Center, says that one of the best parts of her job is the opportunity to interact with fellow students outside of her major who share the common interest of working with children.

According to Pierce, the most important qualities in potential student teachers is a “willingness to learn, and having the right attitude. We are happy to train you.” She emphatically adds that the Center is “open to anyone” and that she would love to work with college students from a variety of majors. Pierce is particularly interested in someone wanting a marketing internship or to obtain the title of the Center’s very own Artist-In-Residence.

Sophomore management major Nikki Fry-Ferraris has worked at the Center since her freshman year. She aspires to teach dance after graduating, and says that “working at the daycare has effected my experience at Curry because it has helped me have great time management, as well as improving my skills with working with others, even if they’re 4.

“it is a great way to learn how to deal with people of all personalities...and sizes.”

Sara Berman, a senior early childhood education major, is among the many Curry students who work at the CECC.
Taking Chances and Chasing Time

LAUREN HAWKINS

I decided to part ways with Curry College for one semester mainly because I wanted to broaden my horizons. I also left because I was sick and tired of hearing students refer to the college as “Camp Curry.” Camp is a place where adults send their children to play and fill time. College is a place where “we” decide to go to gain a better understanding of the world around us. But I felt that I had to leave the bubble of Curry to truly experience that world.

Many of the students I’ve met in Europe are pretty much like you and me. Most of them worry about their future and what life will be like after college. They also are arguing that religiously affiliated hospitals should not be required to offer employees an insurance program that provides contraception. What do you think?

The Republican candidates for president generally argue that the nation’s largest women’s reproductive health care provider. They also are arguing that religiously affiliated hospitals should not be required to offer employees an insurance program that provides free contraception. How do you think?

The 2012 presidential election is around the corner, and the public is once again waiting around for something to happen. I finally got tired of waiting around for something to happen. I finally got tired of my escape and it’s at your doorstep. This election year, there are many important issues up for debate. These include that most college students care deeply about: abortion rights, employment and job training programs, Affordable Access to Healthcare, and lowering the costs of higher education. The list goes on and on. And the people who are elected into office get to decide how these issues are dealt with, if at all.

Funding at the local level. President Obama and many Democrats disagree. What do you think?

And everyone who’s running for office this November is talking about the need for more jobs. We all need jobs, right? Obviously this affects you, particularly those who are graduating this spring. So, find out where the candidates stand. What are their plans? What are their priorities?

The only way that our government can work well is if people get involved. A government by the people for the people requires that people make their voices heard. Everybody cares about something, and there’s often a policy implication at stake. Figure out what you care about and fight for your beliefs. More importantly, work to support the candidates who share those beliefs. Utilize your Facebook and Twitter accounts to reach out to the issues that matter to you. Use your social networks to share information and educate your friends and family members.

And above all else, register to vote! If you aren’t already a registered voter of Massachusetts, you’ve missed your chance to cast a ballot in the state’s March 6 Republican presidential primary. But Massachusetts residents still have until mid-October to register to vote in the Nov. 6 general election. For information on how to register, go to sec.state.ma.us/elecr/howtovote.htm. Each state has different rules, so be sure to check your state’s regulations.

Natalie Pett, a senior criminal justice major, is president of the Student Government Association.

Data Points

Care, Share and Vote

NATALIE PETIT

The 2012 presidential election is around the corner, yet you’re probably thinking to yourself, “Why should I care about politics?” After all, for many young people, politics can seem like a bunch of old folks arguing about useless issues. It can be confusing and oftentimes boring.

In many cases, you’d be right. But it’s not the politics that merit your attention. Rather, it’s the policies behind the fighting that’s worth caring about.

This election year, there are many important issues up for debate. These include that most college students care deeply about: abortion rights, employment and job training programs, Affordable Access to Healthcare, and lowering the costs of higher education. The list goes on and on. And the people who are elected into office get to decide how these issues are dealt with, if at all.

Whether you’re pro-life or pro-choice, you should know that those who are running to be the Republican nominee for president are calling to defund Planned Parenthood, the nation’s largest women’s reproductive health care provider. They also are arguing that religiously affiliated hospitals should not be required to offer employees an insurance program that provides free contraception. What do you think?

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And above all else, register to vote! If you aren’t already a registered voter of Massachusetts, you’ve missed your chance to cast a ballot in the state’s March 6 Republican presidential primary. But Massachusetts residents still have until mid-October to register to vote in the Nov. 6 general election. For information on how to register, go to sec.state.ma.us/elecr/howtovote.htm. Each state has different rules, so be sure to check your state’s regulations.

Natalie Pett, a senior criminal justice major, is president of the Student Government Association.

Taking Chances and Chasing Time

LAUREN HAWKINS

I decided to part ways with Curry College for one semester mainly because I wanted to broaden my horizons. I also left because I was sick and tired of hearing students refer to the college as “Camp Curry.” Camp is a place where adults send their children to play and fill time. College is a place where “we” decide to go to gain a better understanding of the world around us. But I felt that I had to leave the bubble of Curry to truly experience that world.

Many of the students I’ve met in Europe are pretty much like you and me. Most of them worry about their future and what life will be like after college. They also are arguing that religiously affiliated hospitals should not be required to offer employees an insurance program that provides free contraception. What do you think?

The Republican candidates for president generally argue that the nation’s largest women’s reproductive health care provider. They also are arguing that religiously affiliated hospitals should not be required to offer employees an insurance program that provides free contraception. How do you think?

The 2012 presidential election is around the corner, and the public is once again waiting around for something to happen. I finally got tired of waiting around for something to happen. I finally got tired of my escape and it’s at your doorstep. This election year, there are many important issues up for debate. These include that most college students care deeply about: abortion rights, employment and job training programs, Affordable Access to Healthcare, and lowering the costs of higher education. The list goes on and on. And the people who are elected into office get to decide how these issues are dealt with, if at all.

Funding at the local level. President Obama and many Democrats disagree. What do you think?

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A Long Road Trip
Nursing and math students to make biennial trip to China this May

By Courtney DiBiasio

More than two-dozen Curry students will be traveling halfway across the globe this summer, but it won’t all be fun and leisure.

For the past eight years, students from the college’s nursing and math programs have traveled to China to study abroad. This summer will mark Curry’s fourth trip to the world’s most populous nation.

The biennial trip runs for about two weeks and begins on May 21. The goal, according to the professors involved, is for students to experience a new culture and to examine another nation’s healthcare system. The group makes visits to hospitais and military universities around the Beijing area.

“I love it,” said Professor Susan LaRocco of the Nursing Department. This will be her second time going on Curry’s China trip. “It’s a nice opportunity to work closely with students in a more casual setting.”

Rising juniors and seniors are eligible to participate in the trip, as are continuing education students. “Having both traditional undergraduates and continuing education students travel together gives both groups the rare opportunity to interact and share common experiences,” LaRocco said.

As of press time, 26 students have signed up for the trip. The question is why.

“I hope to understand more about the Chinese culture and how patients are treated and cared for so I can bring that back here,” said Caitlin O’Neill, a junior nursing major who is registered for this summer’s trip. “I’m really excited to do all the touristy things and see all the sights because you always hear about places like the Great Wall of China on the news and in textbooks, but we’ll be able to see everything firsthand.”

The number of Americans studying in China has grown 30 percent annually from 2001-2007, according to the U.S. State Department. Still, 10 times more Chinese students come to the United States for educational opportunities than American students go to China.

Hilary Labonte, a senior nursing major, traveled to China when the trip was offered in 2010. She said she has no regrets whatsoever. “I loved the whole trip!” said Labonte. “The experience was something I never thought I would have.”

One of the cultural differences between the United States and China, she added, was the sheer size of the population over there. “There is no such thing as personal space in China,” said Labonte. “Everyone is always crammed together.”

Labonte said the Chinese and American healthcare systems are more different than they are similar. Although the Chinese use many Western medical practices, they also routinely perform many traditional Eastern treatments, such as acupuncture, hot stones and herbal medicine, she said.

During the trip, nursing students are required to take a course called contemporary topics, taught through Curry. Throughout the course, students are asked to maintain a personal journal of their experiences, thoughts, feelings and impressions.

Math students on the trip are also required to take a course, with Professor Tracy Wang of the Mathematics Department. Wang, a native of Beijing, launched the China trip eight years ago. She said she wanted to provide Curry students with the chance to see another culture, where she came from, and to learn more about China itself.

All students must pay their own travel expenses, which total about $5,300, as well as tuition for the course they take.

Education from the Edge
Graphic design students support AIDS awareness

By Erin Powers

Students in a graphic arts senior seminar class found themselves working for more than just a grade this past fall.

Part of the required capstone project in Professor Laurie Alpert class was to create something for a New York-based AIDs fund-raising event called “Postcards from the Edge.” But the experience didn’t just end there. In January, 19 Curry students had their projects displayed at the Cheim & Read Gallery in New York City, to support AIDS awareness and education.

The Edge campaign is an initiative of “Visual AIDS,” a contemporary arts organization dedicated to HIV prevention and AIDS awareness through producing and presenting visual art projects. The campaign, held Jan. 6-8, featured 1,450 different postcards and raised more than $82,000.

This was the second year Alpert and her students have participated in the “Postcards from the Edge” campaign. She said she first learned about it online and liked the idea of tying an academic assignment to a worthwhile service.

“What’s particularly exciting,” Alpert added, “is that because all of the work is signed on the back and exhibited anonymously, our students’ postcards could conceivably hang next to the work of many famous artists like John Waters, William Wegman, Jeff Koons and Yoko Ono.”

The project required each participant to create a 4-inch-by-6-inch postcard that expresses—abstractly or more obviously—some connection to the cause.

Students were able to choose their own style, such as painting, drawing and digital imagery, and each card’s price tag was $85.

“I was excited to hear that my postcard sold,” said junior graphic design major Craig Dudley. “I had an art piece that sold in an NYC exhibition!”

Dudley chose to focus on the sometimes overlooked fact that the AIDS virus can transmit through birth from mother to child. His digital illustration showed two skeleton images, one smaller than the other, holding hands. Each skeleton wore an AIDS awareness ribbon.

Candace Cobuzzi, a senior graphic design major, went with a more abstract concept, using acrylics and imprints of real-world objects. Both students agreed that the project was nothing short of a positive, worthwhile endeavor.

“Being a part of this event really made me feel like my work was reaching a higher purpose other than just grades,” said Cobuzzi. “I was given a chance to help someone else.”
From Shadows to Spotlight

Defenseman Ryan Barlock’s talents are now for all to see

By Brandan Blom

As a defensemen on the Curry College hockey team, Ryan Barlock has often stood in the shadow of others. Last season, he played alongside senior Ryan Warsofsky, who was among the nation’s top defensemen in all of Division II and III and has since taken his talents to a professional league in Europe. This season, Barlock has largely played in the shadow of classmate Payden Benning, a senior forward and two-time captain. Benning amassed a team-best 19 goals during the regular season, leading Curry to an 11-3-0 conference record. But while goals often get most of the attention, someone is usually assisting in the offensive output. And that’s where Barlock shines.

The 6-foot-1, 190-pound native of Chicago tallied a team-high 27 assists this season, to go along with 11 goals, in leading the Colonels in points. Moreover, Barlock broke the career 100-point mark this season, a spectacular feat considering he plays from the blue line. He is just the 26th Curry player to score 100 points in his career; teammates Benning and senior forward John Williams also reached the milestone this season.

“He’s a remarkable player,” said Barlock, 24, who played two years of junior hockey before coming to Curry. “It’s an honor to be in that group, to be with the other players in that club. A lot of hard work was put into it.”

He also just topped another record, becoming the top scoring defenseman in Curry history. Barlock has 33 goals in his college career—he scored 8 goals in both his freshman and sophomore years, along with 6 last season and 11 so far this year. The previous record was 31.

An assistant captain, Barlock attributes his skills to long, hard practice sessions, and also to his teammates. “When players around me make plays, it makes it easier for me,” he said. Head Coach Rob Davies said it’s often the other way around. “He has always brought that grit to every game,” said Davies, who earned his 200th career victory this season. “He always shows up and gives it his all. His physical play opens up the ice for the other players.

“He’s absolutely a leader,” the coach added. “He is a good player, a good student, and he works hard on and off the ice.”

A management major and two-time member of the ECAC All-Academic squad—“I think my competitive nature transitions well into the world of business,” he said—Barlock wants to continue playing hockey after graduating from Curry this spring. He said his preference would be to play in the United States but is open to playing in Europe. “I definitely will play somewhere,” he said.

For now, Barlock is focused on helping the Curry hockey team reach its goals. The team has struggled out of conference this season with a 2-7-2 record, and ended its regular season on a sour note. The Colonels lost two of its final four games, all in-conference affairs, but the team is working to earn yet another birth in the NCAA Division III tournament.

Curry won the ECAC Northeast title the past two seasons, earning a place in the national tournament, but has failed to win a single game on that stage. The Colonels will defend their conference title at the Ulin Memorial Rink in Milton on Wednesday, Feb. 29, at 7:35 p.m. If they win that game, the team will play for the championship on Saturday, March 3, at a location still to be determined.

Said Barlock, “We want to take it to the next level.”

Trying to Break the Spell

A.J. “The Beast” Stephens is running out of chances to shine

By Andrew Blom

“I thought this was the year,” said A.J. Stephens. “I had something to finish and I’m mad about not finishing it…again.”

Stephens is a 6-foot-5, 250-pound basketball player nicknamed “The Beast” because of his aggressive style on the hardwood. At age 24, the junior communication major was named The Commonwealth Coast Conference Player of the Week on Feb. 6 and was having a stellar season for the Colonels. But that season came to a premature end this month, and The Beast is once again wondering if he’ll ever enjoy a happily ever after.

On Feb. 8, Curry traveled to Springfield, Mass., to take on conference rival Western New England University. The Colonels would go on to lose the game, 71-70, but Stephens wasn’t on the court or even on the bench when the final buzzer sounded. Receiving just nine minutes of playing time, he left the game and his teammates

He moved on to South Plains College in Texas, where he stayed for two years. He played basketball his first year at the school, but was unable to continue because of poor grades, he says.

Stephens took the 2008-09 academic year off and moved to Daytona Beach, Fla., explaining that he needed “a change of scenery.” When he returned to Connecticut in May 2009, he says he thought about the campus tour of Curry he took in 2004 and decided to call Coach Wynn. Soon, Stephens was enrolled in a summer class at the college and was accepted shortly thereafter.

In his first season at Curry, Stephens started seven games and averaged 17.7

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