



the
**campus
eye**

SPRING 2013

COON RAPIDS CAMPUS

**ANOKA-RAMSEY INVITES ITS
FIRST GRAPHIC NOVELIST TO CAMPUS**



**TURNING
A PAGE**

PAGE 8

Anoka-Ramsey Community College
11200 Mississippi Blvd NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55433-3470
Trisha.Collopy@anokaramsey.edu

FALL 2013 STAFF

Editor-in-Chief: *CM Dugan*

Photo Editor: *Lauren Kastner*

Assistant Editor: *Heidi Holthus*

Copy Editor: *Sarah Klebba*

Rampage Staff: *Nana Aforo, Macklin Caruso, Samantha Decker, Madeline Groschen, Heidi Holthus, Sarah Klebba, Caitlin Knealing, Elise Nikolic, Jake Osterbauer, Joey Osterbauer, Thomas Perowitz, Mary Schmitt, Alyssa Shovein*

Advisor: *Trisha Collopy*

OUR MISSION

The Rampage is published by students of the Coon Rapids and Cambridge campuses of Anoka-Ramsey Community College.

The purpose of the Rampage is to provide news from both campuses and views of <http://www.thecampuseye.com/wp-content/gallery/herb/Earth-Loosestrife-and-Kentucky-Bluegrass.jpg> f their students and staff. The newspaper also provides an opportunity for student reporters, photographers and designers to gain experience covering news and producing a newspaper.

Articles on these pages represent the opinions of the writers and not the Rampage, Coon Rapids/Cambridge Campuses or the student <http://www.thecampuseye.com/wp-content/gallery/herb/Earth-Loosestrife-and-Kentucky-Bluegrass.jpg> body.

WRITE TO THE RAMPAGE

The Rampage encourages comments, feedback and individual pieces by student writers. It is our goal to reflect the diverse voices of students and staff on the Coon Rapids campus.

If you wish to have your comments published in our Viewpoints section, e-mail your comments to Rampage adviser Trisha Collopy, Trisha.Collopy@anokaramsey.edu. Include your name, hometown and a phone number where you can be reached. The phone number is used for fact-checking purposes, and will not be published.

The Rampage office in the Student Activities area is open every Wednesday from 12-12:50 p.m. in SC177 (Coon Rapids Campus). The staff meeting is held each Wednesday during this time. Those interested in participating in the Rampage are welcome to attend.

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

To bring a factual error to the attention of the staff or to comment about the fairness or completeness of information you see in the Rampage, contact Rampage adviser Trisha Collopy, trisha.collopy@anokaramsey.edu.

The Rampage is on Facebook!

Find us at [facebook.com/TheRampageARCC](https://www.facebook.com/TheRampageARCC)

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Elise Nikolic & Lauren Kastner
Editor-In-Chiefs

This being the second year of The Campus Eye ,



COON RAPIDS CAMPUS

9/5/13: Student was reported to be down in classroom. The student was breathing, but unresponsive at. Security was notified, and 911 called. The student was transported to Mercy Hospital by paramedics.

9/5/13: Student who had seizures in the past was feeling faint. The student was picked up by their spouse.

9/5/13: It was reported to security that a student had visited the bookstore and left their bag in a compartment behind the counter. The student later discovered that a wallet was missing from the bag.

9/6/13: There was a small, non-reportable glycerin spill in the Visual Arts Center. Proper cleanup was accomplished and appropriate waste disposal completed.

9/19/13: \$10 was taken out of a wallet in the men's locker room. The wallet was left in a locker without a lock.

9/19/13: A student slipped and fell twice walking through gym doors three and five. On the second fall the student felt shooting pain in their wrist and leg, and also noted bruising and swelling. The student did not seek medical attention, but reported the falls to security. Facilities checked the floor; it was slippery and wet.

9/20/13: 911 was called for a student who was feeling faint at 12:50pm. The student refused transport and convinced the paramedics that he/she was fine.

9/20/13: 911 was called again for the same student feeling faint. The student's condition had worsened and was transported to the hospital by ambulance at 1:55pm.

9/23/13: A car in the parking lot was found by the owner with damage. The bumper of the car was found with scratches on the driver's side, and there were additional scratch marks on the parking lot surface. Police were called and a report was filed. Police are investigating.

9/24/13: At 3:38pm, 911 was called for a student who fainted in class. The student was lying on the floor and responsive enough to answer a few questions. Paramedics arrived at 3:45pm and the student was transported to Mercy Hospital at 3:55pm.

CAMBRIDGE CAMPUS

9/10/13: A black Saturn Ion was parked early in the morning. The owner of the Ion came back later to find that the driver's side rear bumper had been damaged with light blue paint transfer. The security cameras were checked and the victim was notified. The suspect was found and info was exchanged. No police report per complaint.

9/13/13: A security officer was notified of a suspicious male talking to students about concerning and disturbing topics. The male was identified and monitored from a distance until he started talking to more students. Security talked to the non-student male and noticed he had disturbing tattoos and notably dilated pupils. The male went to his car, where he sat until two unidentified students got in and they exited the parking lot. Person will be monitored by security. Police were later provided with the license plate number of the vehicle.

9/26/13: A car accident was reported by a witness who pointed out both vehicles. Cambridge P.D. was contacted, and both the victim and suspect were identified. Insurance info was exchanged and Cambridge P.D. will be completing an official report as well as handling the investigation.

newswire

Bemidji State Offers Four Year Program at ARCC

Staff Writer: Gail Wilson

Bemidji State University is offering a degree in Business Administration at Anoka-Ramsey Community College in Coon Rapids.

“We are trying to give a four year degree in Business Administration that is affordable, convenient and accredited,” said Anthony Iaquinto, Associate Professor at Bemidji State University.

Bemidji State is encouraging students who are already at ARCC to enroll in the program starting in January.

When students have to transfer to larger universities it can be costly. Bemidji State University is attempting to offer a better deal.

“It is an option for students that want to get a four year degree and can’t afford to go to private universities here in the metro area or the University of Minnesota,” said Iaquinto

This program is affordable way for students to earn a business degree.

“This is an attempt to make it as inexpensive as possible and as easy as possible for students who might see a clear path to making [a four year degree] happen,” said Dean Frost, Professor of Bemidji State University.

According to Iaquinto, receiving this degree in Business Administration is very versatile. Bemidji



PHOTO BY LAUREN KASTNER
Bemidji State has an office in the student lounge next to the coffee shop. SC172

is offering two programs: one in management and other in entrepreneurship.

“It is an option for students that want to get a four year degree and can’t afford to go to private universities here in the metro area or the University of Minnesota,” said Iaquinto

According to Iaquinto, management courses look at general managing of companies, and entrepreneurship courses focuses on establishing an business.

According to Frost, Business can be about transportation and logistics. It can be about manufacturing and service operations. It can be warehousing and distribution, sales marketing, customer service, the financing of business and the hiring of people.

“The average business person doesn’t do every single one of those things but a graduate with a four

year degree knows how to learn or can do all of those things,” said Frost.

The goal of the program is to teach the students during normal class hours and one on one student and instructor interaction.

“If they choose to do online courses they can. If they want to do night courses they can. But the goal of the experience is to provide a lot of contact with professors during the normal daytime hours,” said Frost.

Having Bemidji State here at ARCC has the chance to open up doors in a way they may never could have in any other way.

“I came from a very disadvantaged background so I am very excited about making this happen in a way that is not intimidating for people who don’t have parents that both went to Universities, that don’t have brothers and sisters that can explain how to do those things, This is opening the door for people. This

is a clearer path to getting a university degree on a different kind of career,” said Frost.

“It’s cost advantageous for all three parties; students, ARCC and Bemidji state,” said Iaquinto.

Actual faculty from Bemidji will be teaching on the ARCC campus for this program.

“I think that the average person has some farfetched ideas about a higher education. This is a very new and innovative idea. Have the professors come to you. Take them out of the ivory tower and let the learning happen where you live,” said Frost.

For further information on getting a B.S. in Business Administration, students can call (763)-422-6119 or (763)-422-6114. Students can email Dean Frost directly at dfrost@bemidjistate.edu or email Anthony Iaquinto directly at ataiaquinto@bemidjistate.edu

newswire

Tucked in the Cambridge library is a variety of...herbs?
Photographs of herbarium samples by Cassandra Fiskewold

hover mouse over image for descriptions of samples

Earth Loosestrife and Kentucky Bluegrass Running Clubmoss, Peat Mosses, and Interrupted Fern.

The Russell Johnson herbarium is housed at the Cambridge campus library. The herbarium is a plant reference collection. Students can learn about botanical classification, plant relationships, plant preservation, storage techniques and shelving models.

The herbarium is a collection of pressed and dried plant specimens. Specimens continue to be added to the collections

The Anoka-Ramsey Community College Russell Johnson Herbarium has been a labor of love for the Cambridge Campus Biology Department and students and the public are invited to visit or organize a tour.

For years, Biology Faculty members Brad Wold and Phil Anderson envisioned an herbarium, but were unable to work such a project into their teaching schedules. In 1999, Mary Januschka joined the department and Anderson refocused to part-time teaching and herbarium curation. Starting from scratch, it was a very slow process.

Currently the herbarium has a database of 460 entries, many of which have several specimens. The majority of plants are from Minnesota and Wisconsin but also include plants from several other areas of the country.

The herbarium is open to the public Monday, Wednesday and Friday 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. or by appointment. Contact Phil Anderson (Phil.Anderson@anokaramsey.edu) or Mary Januschka (Mary.Januschka@anokaramsey.edu) for appointments. The herbarium phone number is 763-433-1888.

To find out more about the herbarium and access the database, visit www.AnokaRamsey.edu/herbarium.aspx

newswire

Herbarium



Photographs of herbarium samples by Cassandra Fiskewold

By: Campus Eye staff

Earth Loosestrife and Kentucky Bluegrass Running Clubmoss, Peat Mosses, and Interrupted Fern.

The Russell Johnson herbarium is housed at the Cambridge campus library. The herbarium is a plant reference collection. Students can learn about botanical classification, plant relationships, plant preservation, storage techniques and shelving models.

The herbarium is a collection of pressed and dried plant specimens. Specimens continue to be added to the collections

The Anoka-Ramsey Community College Russell Johnson Herbarium has been a labor of love for the Cambridge Campus Biology Department and students and the public are invited to visit or organize a tour.

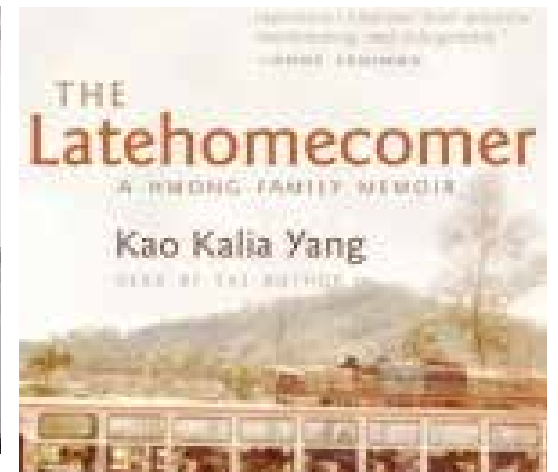
For years, Biology Faculty members Brad Wold and Phil

Anderson envisioned an herbarium, but were unable to work such a project into their teaching schedules. In 1999, Mary Januschka joined the department and Anderson refocused to part-time teaching and herbarium curation. Starting from scratch, it was a very slow process.

Currently the herbarium has a database of 460 entries, many of which have several specimens. The majority of plants are from Minnesota and Wisconsin but also include plants from several other areas of the country.

The herbarium is open to the public Monday, Wednesday and Friday 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. or by appointment. Contact Phil Anderson (Phil.Anderson@anokaramsey.edu) or Mary Januschka (Mary.Januschka@anokaramsey.edu) for appointments. The herbarium phone number is 763-433-1888.

To find out more about the herbarium and access the database, visit www.AnokaRamsey.edu/herbarium.aspx



Hmong Family History

By Emily Pike
Contributing Writer

Do you know what defines you and your family? Lee Pao Xiong recently spoke at ARCC's Cambridge campus in response to the widespread reading of Kao Kalia Yang's *The Latehomecomer*, a book devoted entirely to the history of the Hmong people. In it Kao Kalia tells about her family's history and how important knowing our history is for our day to day lives. Xiong expanded on this notion during his lecture and brought history to life by serving traditional Hmong food.

Room G201 was packed, the smell of delicious Hmong food wafted through the halls drawing even more people. Plates were piled high with temping dishes such as sticky eggrolls, Hmong cookies, and papaya salad. Eager students gathered together in groups and dug in, some sporting looks of absolute bliss as they took their first bite and others trying not to grimace as they swallowed. This was new, new flavors and new textures. Soon the crowd moved next door to the auditorium where Lee Pao Xiong, the Professor of Hmong Studies and American Government at Concordia University, spoke.

After a short introduction by ARCC's English professor, Bill Breen, Xiong took the stage. He began by asking what defines a people. "If you can't define yourself by clothing, food, language, culture or tradition, all that is left is history," Xiong said. He then went on to talk about the incredible history of the Hmong people. From their ancestor Chi You who was the patriarch of the entire Hmong race, to the Hmong people fleeing Laos and first coming to America in 1975.

One student in attendance, Rachel Swanson, a freshmen at ARCC reflected after the event. "It was really interesting, I learned new facts about the Hmong history." After hearing about the Hmong history, Swanson commented on her own family's history. "I am Scandinavian and I would like to learn who the first immigrant to America in our family was," Swanson said.

I believe knowing your family's history, just as Xiong says, is crucial to knowing who you are. Our ancestors lived and died to give us a better life for today. Do you know what defines your family?

newswire

Staff Writer Gail Wilson

Waking up in the warm comfort of your cozy bed, enjoying a refreshing shower. Relaxing in the convenience of your very own room and home. A yard to play in with your dog. For some Anoka Ramsey Community College students, this aspect of life is but a dream.

Twenty-three year-old Anoka Ramsey Community College student, Angelina Warner, has led a life of homelessness.

"I was pretty much homeless most of my life. My mother would drop me off at other people's homes so I always lived with other people or I would end up in shelters," said Warner.

Leaving her family at the age of 17, Warner hoped to finish high school.

"I wanted to graduate school and get my high school diploma," said Warner.

Warner continued a life of homelessness until less than a year ago.

"Sometimes I get overwhelmed and start freaking out and thinking something isn't going right and I am going to lose everything," said Warner.

"I lived with different people. I just couch hopped. I was just kind of staying wherever I stayed. I got a place when I was 22, I just turned 23 a month ago. I haven't even had my apartment for a full year yet," said Warner.

According to Thomas Berg, an outreach worker for Hope 4 Youth, a center that helps homeless and at-risk youth, Warner's situation is still very uncertain.

"She is still considered at-risk until her position is stabilized which is why she still works with the program at Hope 4 Youth to assist with the managing of finances, helping to sort out the bills, and helping to make the monthly budget," said Berg.

Warner was nearly evicted recently. Her power was turned off as well.

"I am going through a situation right now where they turned my lights off because I don't have the money to turn my lights back on. But they turned my lights on for me until I can make a payment," said Warner.

Coming out of homelessness is a struggle according to Berg. Hope4Youth_ Oct_22_2014_0103

"It takes only a second for youth to go from home to homelessness. If you lose your job or you have a major transition that you can't make the rent, if you don't have that assistance, it's gone," said Berg.

Berg says Warner is getting lots of support through all her struggles from Hope 4 Youth.

"For Angelina we were able to get her into one of our pilot programs. Not only were we able to cover a portion of it, but we actually have a mentor that comes out with her directly and helps work with her on bills to help manage the debt. Helping bring that down and eventually develop autonomy so she is more comfortable juggling the portion of it with school and with work," said Berg, a student in psychology at ARCC.

Though all these struggles make Warner's life very challenging she has something that really keeps her going: a nine month old therapeutic dog named Kanji.

"He is the best. He is awesome. He is my motivation right now. Just him being around, everything is ok. He helps me with wanting to better myself and he keeps me going. The minute I am going to have a mental breakdown he just comes up to me and starts licking me all over my face. Like, 'just love me, you'll feel better. Just love me.' He is very sensitive to my feelings and cuddles with me all the time," said Warner.

Warner said her dog is a huge factor in her life and who she is becoming.

"I want to give him a better life. I want to better myself. He keeps me wanting to show more improvement in myself. When I get stuck around the wrong people he keeps me away from everything. He keeps me away from all the bad things. He is a little white fluff ball, just full of love," said Warner, who lives mostly by herself.

Warner's basic day as an at risk for homelessness student is like most other students for the most part.

"I get up go to school, take care of my dog, do homework, go back to school. That's my normal day," said Warner.

Warner believes there are definitely challenges that come with being at risk for homelessness.



PHOTO BY LAUREN KASTNER Angelina Warner with her dog, Kanji

"It's a little difficult at first to get used to. I never had stability growing up so I am learning how to have stability for myself. I am going through my challenges with it. So sometimes I get overwhelmed and start freaking out and thinking something isn't going right and I am going to lose everything. But I have Kanji and I go down to Hope4youth and I talk to them. They are like: 'Breathe. It's okay, we can help you,'" said Warner.

Warner receives all kinds of help from Hope 4 Youth.

"Everything. Clothes, food, bus fare. Bus fare is like a huge thing for me right now. They have helped me with my rent these last couple of months. If I can't pay for utilities they help me come up with other ideas to get them paid. I can go to the food shelf if I need to," said Warner.

Despite the many challenges and huge amounts of adversity Warner faces frequently, she has many goals, dreams, and ambitions.

"I want to run my own rescue group. I want to run my own grooming salon. I actually want to run my own zoo. I would love to have my own zoo. Everything is taking a step by step right now. Right now, I need to focus on just finishing my generals and keeping my place. Then getting into zoology. It's gonna take a while. It's gonna take a long process," said Warner.

Warner wishes to share a message of hope to others who are struggling with homelessness or who are at risk.

"There are people out there that are willing

to help them. There are people out there willing to give them support. They just have to ask for it. Not everything can be all bad. There is good in all that you do in life," said Warner, who is planning on staying in school until she graduates.

Warner feels there is much hope for others struggling with homelessness that she is overcoming.

"There is always somewhere to go. There are programs out there. There are programs in every city that I can think of that I know right now. All they have to do is ask anybody and somebody will help you. You are still young so don't just throw life away because you feel like you don't have any hope. Just ask and someone will help you. There's always people out there to help you," said Warner.

Warner has felt grateful for all the help Hope 4 Youth has given her along her journey back to having a home.

"If it wasn't for the last month of helping me out, I would definitely be back on the streets," said Warner.

newswire

Homeless on Campus

Staff Writer Gail Wilson



PHOTO BY LAUREN KASTNER

Thomas Berg showing the contents of a streetworks bag which is part of the Hope 4 Youth mobile outreach program. "When a youth see's this in Hennepin and Ramsey county...it's like Christmas" Berg tells The Campus Eye on Oct 15 2014. The bag is full of necessities such as spare clothing, toiletries, snacks, toothpaste soaps. "Everything that they need in order to just feel human again for a little while. That's our green bag" Berg said.

Homelessness and those that are at risk is a problem in our nation and at Anoka Ramsey Community College.

"When people hear the word homeless, they picture someone in three layers, curled up on the street with a big shopping cart and 18 cats," said Thomas Berg, an outreach worker at the Hope 4 Youth organization that helps homeless young men and women. According to Berg, stigmas are huge.

"The trick is you might be sitting right next to someone in class that is homeless and you would never know it," said Berg.

Berg is a leader at Hope 4 Youth, a homeless drop in center in Anoka. The center is for youth up to the age of 24.

"We provide showers, we provide laundry service, we provide meals, a food shelf, and a clothing closet. We also assist with job resources, interview prep and any type of housing across the continuum that we can get youth off the street and into a shelter," said Berg, who also

was the ARCC Student Government President last year.

Berg states that students that are homeless can be living in all kinds of situations. Some live in cars. Some may be couch hopping with friends. Some may be staying with relatives.

"So if a youth is having that challenge, we can come in and assess them for food stamps, we can assess them for cash assistance or even if they have their own place but they might be in danger of losing it, we can actually find money either through the county or other ways to help them. Prevention is a big part," said Berg.

"We have seen so many different situations at this point, we will be able to help you figure it out," said Temple.

Berg further explained that there tends to be a barrier for homeless individuals and at risk

students that they may feel they are not good enough to be in college. This is because "they struggled with high school or they were bullied or they were kicked out because of LGBT concerns. We see this a lot," said Berg.

Berg said once the youth receive the help they need to finish high school, they are just happy with the diploma.

"But we want to take them one step further because we know what the industries are looking for now. They are looking for college degrees," Berg said.

Hope 4 Youth also works with students and their financial aid. Many students use FAFSA, a system that bases aid off parents income. But for many homeless and at risk youth, they have no relationship with their parents.

"There may be zero relationship with those parents anymore because of abuse, because of trauma, because of drugs and alcohol. So they wouldn't even know the first thing about getting ahold of them for that information. But there is a new tool in the FAFSA. There is a homeless and at risk clause," said Berg.

Berg suggests students who qualify as homeless or at risk work directly with Hope 4 Youth, because there are numerous institutional barriers, including pushback from Financial Aid.

"They look at it and traditionally challenge it. It's a liability risk for the organization," said Berg.

The Financial Aid office claims that completing the FAFSA and providing verification can be a complex process and that every student's situation is unique.

"It can very easily feel like we are making it difficult on purpose or that there are road blocks in place. We have to document that students situation, their income, their family size. All of the things so that we can continue to receive title four federal funding and so we can get that student the exact amount of financial aid that they are eligible for," said Amanda Temple, Financial Aid Officer.

Temple stated that students should always

just come and ask if they don't know how to overcome obstacles.

"Don't give up. Don't fill out the FAFSA and hit the road block, because we have seen so many different situations at this point, we will be able to help you figure it out," said Temple.

Berg stated that with help from Hope 4 Youth, homeless individuals or at risk students generally get past the barriers and roadblocks when attempting to receive financial aid. Those students, who often receive thousands of dollars in financial aid, aren't accustomed to having that much money.

"This is still a huge leap out of their comfort zone or out of the life they have known. So guidance is huge. It's amazing how quickly that money disappears," said Berg.

Berg says homeless and at risk students tend to put the money they receive to good use, because they work so hard to survive.

"They are clawing and fighting for every inch they can get and they don't quit. Once they are locked on a target they don't give up until that diploma is in their hands," said Berg, also a student in the AA Psychology program here at ARCC.

Berg says students that are struggling can call the main office number of 612-354-3345. This will get them connected with the resources and help that is available to them. Youth can also drop in at the center at 2665 4th Ave. N. Suite 40 in Anoka, Minnesota.

The goal of Hope 4 Youth is to help youth to make connections and talk about where they want to go and what to do when difficult situations arise.

"We can help you get to your best life possible. Call us. We can come out with supplies. Don't be afraid of failure. I don't care where you have been my biggest goal is getting you where you need to go and I can help you get there," said Berg.



newswire

SPORTS

Fear is one emotion everyone has and will bring you down if given the chance. Stepping outside your comfort zone is one of the worst fears out there. Now the question is how do we overcome that fear? On November 14th Richard Coffey, former NBA player, and now motivational speaker came to Cambridge to answer that question. He gave an hour long speech on how you need to get out of your comfort zone to succeed. The former Minnesota Timberwolves player talked about the struggles from his life in the military and being a basketball player. The lecture hall was packed full of students.

“Fear is small stories we tell ourselves,” said Coffey. Being inside your comfort zone is where everyone wants to be. We have total control of everything in there.

Coffey talked about how scary it can be to step outside that comfort zone. To succeed you need to invite new situations and challenges you aren't use too. Focus on what you want most and just go for it. He told the audience about the time he was in the military and had to jump out of an airplane for the first time. He explained the struggle of being rejected to play professional basketball over and over again. Overcome that fear because you can get through it. Coffey talked on “The Seasons of Life” and how controlling the fear instead it controlling you is how you grow in life. The lecture hall stayed full until the very end. Many students commented on Coffey's powerful speaking. It seemed like everyone who attended took at least one thing away from listening to Coffey talk. We all have fear trying new things or talking to new people. We can't grow, however, without letting those things in. So take that chance and go for it. Take back that power.

newswire

SPORTS

newswire

newswire

arts

By Elise Nikolic
Campus Eye Staff

The Two Rivers Reading Series intertwines art and literature when it brings Minneapolis graphic novelist Tyler Page to campus April 8 speak about his college-oriented series “Nothing Better.”

“I have been drawing and telling stories since I was a little kid; I really respect the crafts of drawing and storytelling and what they have brought to my life as well as what they’ve let me give to others,” said Page

Volume 1 of “Nothing Better” displays the story of a first-year college student Katt and the struggles she goes through.

“Katt is very much a mix of myself and my best female friend from college,” said Page of Katt’s character throughout the novels.

The university in the novel is called St. Urho, but is based on St. Olaf. Tyler Page graduated from St. Olaf.

“It [St. Olaf] has very deep roots with Norwegian culture. My Scandinavian background is Finnish, which is where St. Urho comes from. I decided that if/when I did a fictional comic about college, I’d make it a college with Finnish roots and cultural attachments,” said Page.

Despite St. Urho being a university set up with dorms, Page believes that it still relates to Anoka-Ramsey students.

“There is obviously a big difference between a secluded private college like the one St. Urho is based around and a community college, but everyone is there to learn for one reason or another, and depending on what subjects you focus on, smaller communities of people spring up,” said Page.

Page believes the focus of “Nothing Better” is on the characters and their friends, and feels that any student can relate to that.

“Obviously community colleges don’t share experiences like dorm life, but they are still engaged in

learning; often they are looking to change their life or transition to something else,” said Page.

Two Rivers Committee member Chris McCarthy uses Page’s novel for his graphic novel class.

“‘Nothing Better’ relates to Anoka-Ramsey students with the characters being the same age. That stage in life where you are exploring your identity. We are a liberal arts campus,” said McCarthy.

Page is speaking at two different talks, one for literature students and one for the Art Department. McCarthy also feels this is why he uses “Nothing Better” for his graphic novel class, because it brings together two different disciplines.

“It [adds] another audience. That’s why I’m using graphic novels where we incorporate both images together. It gives us an opportunity to see how we can put them [art and literature] together,” said McCarthy.

This is the first graphic novelist

the Two Rivers series has brought to campus.

“‘Nothing Better’ gives a vision of where they might go, it prepares you for next college. Like the one depicted in Nothing Better, private or public it gives you a good sense of what more independence feels like,” said McCarthy.

“Nothing Better” has already sold a couple thousand copies. “Nothing Better” volumes 1 and 2 are available at the ARCC bookstore and they’re also available at Tyler Page’s website.

Page begins with the characters of the novel, which leads to the relationships and then finally to the drawing of the novel.

“At this point in the series, the writing process is about making good on past points and carrying the characters forward in a way that is respectful of who they are ; I start a new chapter with a list of all the characters and all the things that have recently happened to them,” said Page.

After the characters are established, Page begins to write the novel; the actual drawing and laying out the story happens last.

“Once I feel like I have enough going on to fill the chapter, I’ll start writing specific scenes. Sometimes it’s actually typing up a script like for a movie or sometimes its doodling scenes in my sketchbook. Once that part is ironed out is where the actual layout and drawing happens,” said Page.

After the last novel in the series of “Nothing Better” comes out Page plans to continue working on graphic novels. He is currently working on a graphic novel memoir about ADHD.

“Since I started a family six years ago, I have taken on more and more freelance work, alongside ‘Nothing Better’; my wife and I have also just pitched a project together, but overall I would like to keep doing ‘Nothing Better’ when I can as I look for fun freelance projects,” said Page.

artsviewpoint

By Vanessa Calhoun
Campus Eye Staff

How do you perform a musical based on a silent movie? That's one of the challenges of Anoka-Ramsey's spring production of "The It Girl."

The play is based on a silent movie about a woman working in a department store who catches the eye of the son who inherited the store.

"The woman, Betty Lou Spence,

is a simple lady and Jonathan is supposed to be marrying a rich girl," director Scott Ford said. "Betty is a go-getter and tomboyish. Betty is the 'It Girl.'"

Jarrold Dukowitz plays Monty Montgomery, the sidekick of the rich-boy main character. Dukowitz described himself personally as a "huge goofball," which he used for the character. "Monty is very comedic."

Maddison Benberg who plays Adela, Monty's girlfriend, who

has her eye on Jonathan. "Adela is more of a villain role and is outside of her element."

"I don't see myself as a meanie," she laughs.

Dukowitz said, "The cast is what makes the whole musical."

"The It Girl" was created back in the 1920s when everything was supposed to be shown in black and white, not to mention it being a silent production.

Ford said the theater faculty picked the musical because they liked the style of music, because it was the right size play for the number of students and because there are some unique challenges in the play.

"The It Girl" has a cast of 15 and is still adding to the crew. Ford said the faculty decided to work with a choreographer and costume designer off campus to make sure everything was well prepared for the opening day.

The most challenging part of the musical was, "Having everybody involved doing different things and the production being a silent musical," Ford said.

Music will be provided by the ARCC Music Department.

"The It Girl" will be performed April 18-19 and 24-26. Students can request two free tickets through the web link sent to their campus e-mail or pay \$8 for tickets at the door.

campus culture

tilted view

a photo series by students in
anthony marchetti's digital
photography course, fall 2014



PHOTO BY SUHAIB HAMMAD
Main entrance to Coon Rapids



PHOTO BY PHEYLAN ANDERSON
The Legacy Room, Coon Rapids



PHOTO BY CASSANDRA KEOCHER
College Services, Coon Rapids

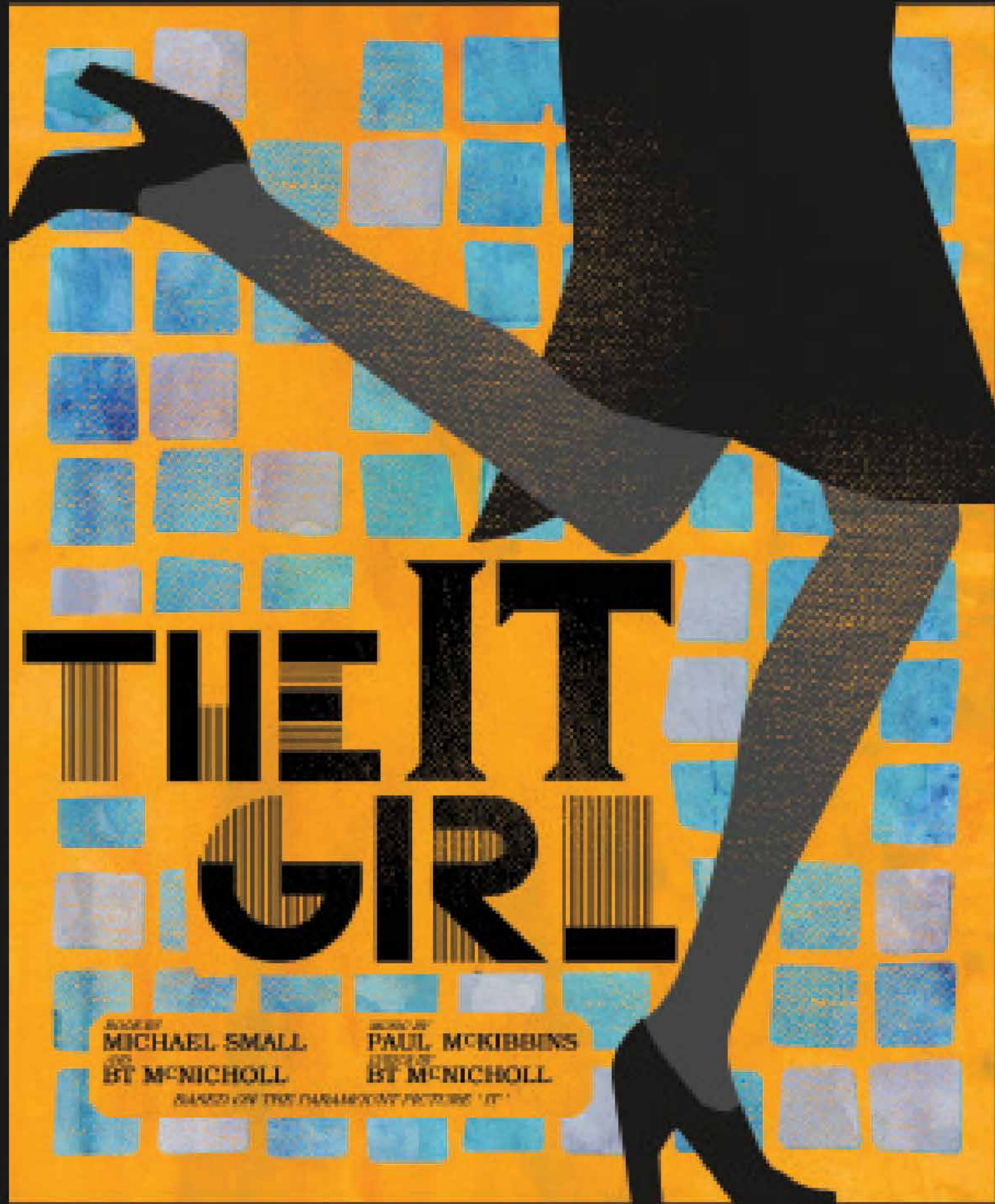
campus culture



PHOTO BY JADELynn ISAACSON
Music Building stairwell, Coon Rapids



APRIL 18 - 19, 24 - 26 | 7:30PM



THE GIRL

BOOK BY
MICHAEL SMALL
AND
BT MCNICHOLL

BOOK BY
PAUL MCKIBBINS
AND
BT MCNICHOLL

BASED ON THE PARANORMAL PICTURE 'IT'

TICKETS ARE \$8 IN ADVANCE AT THE COLLEGE BOOKSTORE, ONLINE AT WWW.ANDORARAMSEY.EDU/THEATRE OR AT THE DOOR AN HOUR PRIOR TO THE PERFORMANCE. | STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES CAN REQUEST TWO COMPLEMENTARY THEATRE TICKETS ONLINE USING THE PROMOTIONAL CODE AND WEB LINK SENT TO THEIR ANDORARAMSEY EMAIL. | *INTERPRETED PERFORMANCE TO ENSURE THERE IS AN INTERPRETER TICKETS MUST BE REQUESTED BY MAR. 28.

COON RAPIDS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
11200 WESSINGTON RD NW, COON RAPIDS, MN 55433

 **Andora Ramsey**
CHARITABLE COLLEGE