

VOICES

Fall 2020

Volume 2

Issue 3

Artwork
&
Poetry!

Semester
Reflections with:
* Dr. Peter Eden
* Student Affairs
& More!

By the Students, For the Students

Voices Mission Statement

Voices magazine is an autonomous publication written and produced by students, for students. We take pride in showcasing the best work that the Landmark College student body has to offer, and to be a platform for all forms of student expression. We strive to give a voice to students through the mediums of Art, Photography, Creative Writing, and Journalism.

As neurodiverse students, we have been silenced in the past. This is a place where our voices will be heard. We are Landmark, this is us. These are our voices.

Letter from the Editor

As we close the book on only the second-strangest semester in Landmark history, we cannot help but reflect upon how it went, what we learned, and how we grew together throughout the brief twelve weeks we all spent together—and the additional three weeks that the *Voices* team regrouped for this final issue of the year.

When we met, there was much to do in the way of discovering how the publication would operate in practice, and with a crew of many faces—some returners, some newcomers, but all eager to put their all into producing a trifecta of issues to compliment and document the semester, in whatever way it unfolded.

Initially, we hatched a plan to produce a “COVID Package” - namely of journalistic documents to inform and preserve the memory of this historic return to “normal” operations. This package was intended for the first issue but has ultimately dominated the journalism section of all three issues; never underestimate how many stories there are to tell!

We have thus compiled a comprehensive post-mortem on what ultimately turned out to be a successful semester from multiple key parties around campus, and hope to convey an accurate account of the twelve in person weeks we all shared together

As always we would like to thank our faculty advisor and all of the individuals on the *Voices* Advisory Board, as well as the Landmark Administration, for their tremendous amount of support. And finally we would like to thank the Landmark students, who entrusted us with their fine work that has been featured in these pages! We could not do it without you!

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Keeping Us Healthy

Health Service personnel share their backgrounds and experience as front-line health workers as Landmark navigates through the uncharted waters of a once in a century pandemic

By Adam Sherman

Like many responders to COVID-19, the foundation for Landmark's began in the 1980s with the AIDs crisis. During that time, a young Registered Nurse named Jeff Huyett had begun branching out into activism. The similarities are numerous, as well as inspiring and disturbing.

"President Reagan didn't even utter the words AIDS towards near the end of his presidency, and he basically did nothing to deal with what was emerging," Huyett said in an interview, "And so at that time, a lot of health care workers became activists to demand that the government start to do something about HIV, because the government was just ignoring it."



Cindy Brown

In short, there are a lot of parallels to how the situation unfolded – and continues to unfold today with COVID-19. People were dying, the government seemed somewhat uncaring, and many people were left on their own. However, there are some things that are different. Back in 2019, Cindy Brown, the Health Services Office Coordinator, was in the position during 2009 H1N1 swine flu outbreak.

"Cindy is definitely the nerve center of Health and Counseling... We can't really function without her, she kind of keeps track of all of us and gives us an ear shot when we need to get something done."—Jeff Huyett

Despite her important role, Cindy was very quiet for most of the interview. She made it very clear that, despite her eighteen years at Landmark, many in health services, she is not a medical professional. "I always take my lead from the director because I am not medically inclined," she explained, "So I listened to what they have to say on this." She was not the only one to downplay her role and highlight the work of others.

Throughout the entire interview, the staff who sat down with voices Voices behaved in a manner that has come to characterize many of the true experts on and effective combatants of COVID-19: a quiet modesty tempered by equally quiet conviction.



Dawn Kenny, RN

Yet there is frustration. One of our newest nurses, Dawn Kenny, expressed frustration with how some haven't followed regulations. "The frustration for me is there has been very clear evidence for a long time how useful and how preventive the piece of wearing masks, so for the nurse in me it's been very frustrated having to frequently remind people to wear masks or have conversations around how important the masks are, *and making sure they're over your nose and your mouth.*"

Kenny is a veteran Nurse Practitioner who worked for well over two decades at the Brattleboro Retreat, mainly caring for children and adolescents as an RN. However, the type of work she jumped into at Landmark was new to her. “Where I worked before, we didn’t do the kind of COVID-19 testing that we’re doing here. I didn’t know what my role was gonna look like. So I wasn’t really sure what to expect with all the testing and the students being here on campus.”

Jeff also worked at the Retreat some years ago but spent more time in a community health center in Manhattan, treating uninsured families. Prior to that, he spent some time doing AIDS clinical research, a body of work and activism that introduced him to



Jeff Huyett,
Health Services
Director

none other than Anthony Fauci, the incumbent Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, who has become somewhat of a household name ever since COVID-19 struck the United States in March.

He was somebody that was in the scene that I’d heard speak many times and had met a few times back in the 80’s,” Huyett recalls,

“He was one of the people within the government that said maybe we should start listening to these AIDS activists.”

One of the changes since the 1980’s is that medical professionals all over the world have been preparing for the next outbreak. This time, it paid off “We were starting to get reports out of China in January and February,” Jeff said. “It wasn’t clear whether we were going to experience this outbreak here. You know, when SARS happened, which is also a coronavirus, it wasn’t clear whether we were going to see much of that in the US and we didn’t.”

This is referring to the SARS outbreak in 2003 and the H1N1 outbreak of 2009. Jeff was hoping this would be the same: really scary, but ultimately proof that the world’s medical safeguards would work. It did not work out that way.

Yet Landmark Health Services, the college’s Critical Incident Response Team, and many other

schools and organizations had already begun to plan for the worst. When asked about when the decision to call off in-person classes during Spring Break, Jeff Huyett says “I guess we were really talking about it in January, but we began to really plan in earnest in February.”

Equipped with a lineup of experienced veterans in the field of medical care, with additional support from Bridget Shea-Gander, another newly hired Nurse Practitioner, and longtime Landmark Health Services worker Liz Cooper, LPN, who came out of retirement to help take on the task of administering well over 1,500 COVID-19 tests this fall, the Health Services team was able to get regular and accurate reads on the overall health of the campus.

Their job goes far beyond administering prescriptions, Tums, band-aids, and replenishing a basket of free contraceptives in the waiting room, and their crucial role throughout the ongoing pandemic situation only further illustrates how essential they are to the wellbeing of the campus. Landmark was limited to all of three student infections during the 12-week in person session, and without the efforts of these key personnel, the numbers could have been higher, or worse – unknown.

Health Services setting up for a campus wide COVID test day in October. Photo by Todd Miller



The raw, uncut video interview by Sherman with these Health Services personnel is available for viewing on the voices blog at www.landmark.edu/voices

Success in the Face of Change?

Reflections on an interview with President Peter Eden

By Jaser Crespo—Camacho

During this past year, we've all had to deal with our trials and tribulations, from the fear of an invisible enemy to the loss of family and friends. Some people live in fear wondering if their next cough will be their end, even if they are perfectly healthy. More and more people are leaving cities like New York, which already had more people leaving than coming in. I, too, seek to leave the Big Apple for somewhere safer and more affordable in the future.

When I heard my classes would now go be online for the foreseeable future, I wasn't happy with my previous institution.

I simply couldn't learn that way, and it seemed my studies were indefinitely suspended until everything became normal again.

So when I heard there was a college still having on-campus classes and was located outside New York I jumped on it as soon as I could. This college was a small one, at least compared to what I've seen before, but a very beautiful one. However, even the President wasn't sure if it wouldn't be exposed to the virus.

I spoke recently with President Peter Eden of Landmark College and our conversation painted a picture of initial uncertainty but with an overall positive outcome. Dr. Eden told people during August not to expect Landmark to be case-free. This turned out to be true. We only had a few cases at different times during the college's on-campus period. Still, in August there was a fear things would get out of hand.

In turn, the college staff got to work to make sure Landmark college could be as safe as

possible. They followed the mandates, had people social distance, quarantined the students on arrival, and more.

In my interview, President Eden did express some discomfort with some of the regulations imposed upon the school by the state. Since Landmark was a small college, somewhat isolated with a lot of outdoor space, some regulations don't make sense for it.

Even though they followed the rules, the state kept changing said rules, which bothered President Eden because this would keep impacting the students' day to day life over and over. However, the rules must be followed if he wanted the college to stay open. This wasn't the only problem Landmark was facing.



A concern that weighed heavily on the President's mind was what if no one shows. What if a large percentage of enrolled students just decided not to show up. A college is still a business -- without its students it would be nothing. So they came up with the worst-case scenario: if 1/4th of their total students chose not to show that would be when the real struggle would begin.

Luckily this wasn't the case. The college only saw less than a 10% reduction in enrollments and although that still hurts, they also offered some full-time online course options that helped lift the strain as a few students opted to go fully remote.

President Eden expressed to me that he was happy about the outcome of the situation. He told me that he was very proud of the students for coming. Even though it may have been a struggle, they came and they succeeded.



The future seems even brighter so far.

According to the President we will still be resuming classes on February 8th. In even more positive news for the college, the President told me there are even more applicants for spring and next fall compared to several years prior.

I wondered about the consequences of an infection on campus, who's to blame, if at all. President Eden told me that under normal circumstances no one would take the blame for this. Seeing as they can't 100% control people no one would be in trouble unless the college was outright responsible.

For example, if the college had a rugby team and allowed them to partake in risky behavior the college would be held responsible. As far as legal ramifications President Eden didn't think there would be any unless the college was very negligent and seeing as Landmark college had a few cases in separate times I don't think they'd be in danger of anything.

Of course, President Eden couldn't have done this alone. He worked alongside the Critical Incident Response Team, which was already responsible for emergency plans before Covid-19.

This team, along with two people in Health Services from the Critical Incidence Response Team, worked alongside the President to manage everything in terms of understanding guidelines. So far it's been working out for the college as a whole.

The last thing the President wanted to say I'll leave in his own words:

“I'm grateful the students and families trusted the college this fall and succeeded even with the restrictions. I hope they continue to have confidence in us and that students continue to succeed in their lives.”

The full Q&A between Voices Staff Writer Jaser Crespo-Camacho and Dr. Peter Eden can be found on the Voices blog at www.landmark.edu/voices

Academic Delivery During the in Person COVID-19 Semester

Reflections on an interview with Academic Affairs, and remarks from relevant individuals on academic delivery, support, and effectiveness

By Declan Halloran

The past year has been full of turmoil brought on by COVID-19. This has been especially true throughout the field of education. Over the summer, across the United States, officials had to quickly scramble together plans and guidelines for schools and colleges to get back in session.

Colleges and universities had to be looked at as hotspot settings for young, and potentially asymptomatic, students to spread the pandemic like wildfire. The slow release of guidelines that could change as often as Covid-19 infection statistics made many colleges and their students weary of their return and what it would look like.

Just like everywhere else, Landmark College had to change the way they operated, an especially difficult task for a college that already strived to operate differently for their students who learn differently. Luckily, Landmark College and its Critical Incident Response Team was working diligently, preparing for all possibilities since everyone went home in March of the previous semester.

To provide the quality and supportive education that Landmark prides itself on, the college and its officials had to think of creative solutions to work within the parameters set by the Vermont state government.

When planning on how the college could provide the best education they could, Landmark had to take many aspects into consideration. They had to consider the safety of the students, faculty, and staff when creating a schedule to accommodate as many students as possible for in-person classes, planning class times and daily schedules to minimize students and faculty crossing paths.

This ended up looking like a block schedule containing a mix of online and in-person courses. A combination of two six-week blocks for in-person courses,

one twelve-week block, and because none of the students were allowed to return from Thanksgiving break according to Vermont's rules, a three-week block after Thanksgiving for an online course for each student.

When I asked the Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Gail Gibson Sheffield about the block schedule and how she thought it was handled, she expressed a great admiration for the faculty and students for how they handled it.

She anticipated a lot of confusion from students about the block schedule and was surprised by how few hiccups there were. She was impressed with how quickly the majority of students adapted to the brand-new block schedule. She admired the staff and faculty for the extra work they had to put in to make everything work for the students. Every professor had to adjust their standard curriculum to make it fit into the shorter blocks they were given.

With the creative block schedule solution, many professors had to equally think of creative ways to adapt their courses to shortened course lengths, and many had to teach their entire curriculum online for the first time ever. Dr. Sheffield discussed how while some courses like accounting were easier to convert into online courses, many were an adjustment, and all courses embraced more online tools, with Dr. Sheffield preaching the usefulness and effectiveness of the Microsoft Office Suite, particularly Teams and its versatility.

Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Gail Gibson Sheffield



“The in-person part, I think, went exceptionally well,” said Geoff Burgess, Dean of Professional Studies and Science, “I wouldn’t say we mastered it, but we made significant progress,” he continued. “The faculty made significant progress in creating a strong online environment and students made a good, good-faith effort to buy into that.”

Of the online courses that happened simultaneously with the 12-week in person sessions, Dean Burgess alluded to the types of courses being chosen for online work versus in person meetings, stating that “I think the curriculum doesn’t suffer too much from that, but then another course, let’s say some sort of discussion based course, you need to have that in person.”

“I wouldn’t say we mastered it, but we made significant progress,” —Geoff Burgess

Teams was used for office appointments and meetings throughout the semester and was adopted by the Drake Center for Academic Support to share documents during in-person meetings, and even offer support for students who lived off campus and only took online courses.



Geoff Burgess, Dean of Professional Studies & Science

Anna Habib, Coordinator of Academic Support, when discussing the use of online appointments for the Drake Center shared this:

“Just to offer that flexibility for students who either perhaps didn’t feel as comfortable coming in, in person or I know we had some students who were in other countries, we had a student in Chile that was attending appointments, and a student in Ireland. So we were able to link those students with support, even though they were very far away.”

“We had a student in Chile that was attending [DCAS] appointments, and a student in Ireland. So we were able to link those students with support, even though they were very far away” —Anna Habib

Landmark’s modified system of academic delivery has certainly evolved from the desperate (but effective) jump to Microsoft Teams in March, to a more polished, and optimized method of educating its students in the Fall – no doubt the product of a 2020 Summer that was filled with tireless work to ensure everything would work. Clearly the academic arm of administration is proud of this metamorphosis, as they should be.

How did the students take it? That remains to be seen – Dr. Michael Kirkpatrick, Director of Institutional Effectiveness says that this analysis is only in its infancy.

“This analysis will not begin until the semester is over,” he says, “February is our current target date.”

With little other than near-absolute praise for the student body rising to the occasion to complete a successful semester, the hard data from students’ reflection is still being crunched, with the writing of this article mere days before Landmark’s first second online commencement ceremony.

Voices Magazine would like to congratulate all of the students who made it through these last two strange semesters, and will be receiving their AA and BA diplomas on the upcoming December 19th commencement ceremony, which will be held over livestream.

Keeping it Clean: How Facilities has played a pivotal role in the COVID-19 adjustment

By Lucas Sillars

The Facilities department at Landmark College may get less credit than they deserve, perhaps because their jobs go beyond the typical custodial tasks they are often associated with. This was magnified by the sudden changes thrust upon all departments when COVID-19 brought the nation to a grinding halt in March of 2020. Kyle Skrocki, Director of Facilities at Landmark, recounted the challenges and collaborative effort his department made with constituent departments over the better part of the last year.



Kyle Skrocki, Director of Facilities

“Back in March, when students went home for spring break, we knew pretty quickly that nobody was coming back,” said Skrocki, “Once students left, they were going to be gone for just two weeks, and then it turns into the [normal] semester’s over and everything is online.”

With a schedule suddenly devoid of routine cleanings for academic buildings and residential halls in April, Skrocki and his team were hardly idle. The entire upper campus was now full of dormant rooms housing student belongings.

Not typically in the moving business, the Facilities crew was responsible for moving everything out of the rooms and into storage – that is, rooms of students who were not making the trip back to Landmark to pick up their belongings in May. Skrocki made a point to credit the Resident Deans for doing the actual packing of items before his crew moved them to the storage containers – only to move them back into the rooms of students who returned several months later.

Simultaneously, Kyle served on the Residential Program Planning Committee (RPPC) to prepare for

student return along with the Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT), as well as a multitude of individuals from Residential Life, Information Technologies, Library Services, Enrollment, and Campus Safety.

“We were tasked with putting procedures in place to get students back on campus,” Skrocki said.

“We came up with spacing in classrooms, we looked at signage options, and taped areas off so people would know where to go. That of course went up to the CIRT group who put the new rules in place and we started implementing everything to get students back on campus.”

Once everybody was back, a host of new duties befell the Facilities crew, but Skrocki said that that the crew itself had a hand in laying out the rules and how everything would work.

“Once Academics figured out what the schedule would look like, we all sat down and figured out how we would clean things,” Skrocki said about the new schedule being laid out in a way more conducive to regular cleaning and sanitation, with ample time to clean all of the rooms necessary between uses.

To achieve this, on top of their regular duties, Facilities was given an additional position to bring in a crew member with the dedicated purpose of cleaning classrooms during the day. As of early December, this position had yet to be filled.

To mitigate the strain on staffing, Facilities opted to pull workers who typically clean the dorms to periodically clean classrooms between uses. From 9:00 AM to noon, the facilities day shift personnel who normally cleaned dorms came down the hill to sanitize the classrooms, and for the 2:30 and 3:30 PM cleaning time

slots, Skrocki himself and his Associate Director of Facilities, Wade Kemp, carried out the final two cleanings of the day in different buildings.

Skrocki said that in addition to the multiple sanitations each classroom underwent daily, a night crew would clean each and every lower campus building again overnight, Monday through Friday, which is a continuation of pre-pandemic routines.

“Custodial is the biggest part of Facilities,” Skrocki said. “That’s probably half my crew.”

As it turns out, the Wednesday break that students and faculty enjoyed last fall served a double purpose – while everyone got a break from meetings, and took some time to catch up on accelerated coursework, the Facilities crew was busy doing an additional deep clean of the lower campus.

“It gave us the chance to deep clean everything in one go,”

Skrocki said. He reiterated the importance of the Wednesday time slot for academic coaches to meet with students, exhibiting further evidence of his presence in the conversations that took place in regards to how the semester ought to be laid out for the benefit of faculty, staff, and students alike on campus.

“At the end of the day, we were essentially being asked to do the things we were already doing, [and] it was more about figuring out how to do everything with the resources we had available,” Skrocki said, when asked whether the new changes produced additional hardship on him or his crew.

“It did put a little more stress on my custodial staff during the day for sure, because they still had their regular jobs and then they had to come down and clean classrooms every two to three hours,” Skrocki said. “We wanted to make sure that one group of students could go into a clean room, but



when classes changed, the next group would also come into a clean room.”

With a national daily infection rate well over a quarter-million per day, speculations of a return to fully remote learning are hardly unique to Landmark. When presented with the possibility, Skrocki was firm in articulating his expectation of a continuation of in-person learning.

“I think the administration has really been a great advocate for the students, because the students really need to be here and they need to be face to face,”

Skrocki said. “For the majority, it’s very good for them to be in front of their teachers in a classroom ... and they respond much better, and it’s easier for them to be face to face instead of online, and I think the administration really understands that. It would take an act of congress to prevent us from working in that direction.”

When asked if there was anything from a procedural standpoint that could be changed for the benefit of Kyle and his Facilities crew, he offered one small suggestion.

“The only thing that I would suggest that would be easier for us – and this is a purely selfish reason – but it is much easier for us to clean buildings at night, to do that deep cleaning that needs to happen, if the buildings could be closed a little bit sooner,” Skrocki said. “We actually worked it out, when we thought that buildings were supposed to be closing at 11 o’clock, but it turns out most of them were staying open until about 1 AM just like a regular semester. That was kind of hard for my staff to do what they needed to do, when students were still going in and out of spaces.”

Skrocki wanted to reiterate how happy he was with how his entire staff handled the whole situation.

“There was a lot of extra responsibility and a lot of extra work for the custodial staff especially, and they did a stand-up job, showing up to work every day and worked really hard for the college and the students,” he said. “And I’m just really proud of them.”

Kyle Skrocki poses for a photo using lower campus as his backdrop—it’s fitting in a way; Skrocki and his crew are responsible for the upkeep and cleanliness of all 28 buildings on Landmark’s campus.

Marketing a College Amidst a Pandemic

Vice President of Enrollment Management Kevin Mayne fields questions from Voices Staff Writer **Jaser Crespo-Camacho**

In the time of the pandemic, it felt like the world has been falling upon people. The world of education was no exception. Colleges all over the country have been tasked with enrolling students, and many have been forced to go online. As Landmark College is a small one the pressure on the admissions department must be heavy. Voices reporter Jaser Crespo-Camacho interviewed Kevin Mayne, the Vice President in charge of enrollment management, to talk about the challenges his department has faced since the pandemic struck, and what he sees looking ahead. This interview has been edited for clarity and length.

Jaser Crespo-Camacho: How did the open house go?

Kevin Mayne: *Well, we, we had a good group of families, it seemed like they were pretty engaged. And we had some great questions from both students and from parents. We always really enjoyed doing them, whether it's in person, or virtually. I think we're all getting a little more used to doing the virtual ones. But it's not quite the same as having them here and being able to connect with them, one on one in person.*

Q: Well, how many students are we expecting in the spring, both in-person and online?

A: *So for new students, we're expecting around 40 new students. And then we also have another 10, or 12, re-enrolls, those are students who left us for a year or so and then decide to come back. So we work with that group of students as well. Altogether, we're looking, at 40 to 50. And it will be a mix of both first-year students and transfers.*

Q: What happens if there's, for example, a sudden lockdown during February, like Vermont just goes hot or something? No, like, shut everything down?

A: *That depends. There's a group on campus called CIRT that provides all the guidance on what to do during COVID. The group works with a number of individuals from across the campus and makes the determination about safety protocols and so on. But ultimately, it comes down to the administration on whether or not to have in-person instruction, or online. And a lot would depend on guidance that comes from the state and the governor. And I think we're all waiting for a little more guidance at this point.*

Q: Doesn't enrollment judge by area? So for example, if a student is from a hot zone, like a certain area of like, I don't know, New York or California, would they get denied preemptively

A: *No, what we do with the different guidelines for when students come in, they quarantine. And they would be obviously isolated for the period of time this determined on and also then to be tested. So I think testing before they come, testing once they get here. And then after a certain period of time, say seven days, be retested. But we don't prevent a student coming from a particular area.*

We draw students from all across the United States and internationally. We have new students coming to us from India, and from a couple other international locations. So if they're able to get out of their country and into ours, then we hope to see them here at the end of January, beginning of February. And we had a couple of international students that were supposed to join us here this fall, and they weren't able to come and they were very disappointed that they were unable to get out of their country.

Unfortunately, in many other countries, the level of support for learning disabilities is minimal or non-existent. So to be able to come to the United States and come to Landmark and get the support means a lot to them and to their parents.



Kevin Mayne, Vice President for Enrollment Management

Q: Are there any potential legal consequences if a student becomes irresponsible, whether to the campus or to the students themselves?

A: *In relation to COVID? Yes, there are obviously different regulations on campus that the college has determined if a student is not following rules or regulations or protocols for COVID. Then they're sanctioned or dismissed from the college.*

Q: How is the semester different from last fall, in terms of enrollment and stuff?

A: *It is quite a bit different. Typically in the fall, we have a number of admissions counselors that travel. They start early September, and they go through the end of November, sometimes into December, visiting about 28 states, and doing about 700 high school visits and meetings with education consultants, and also meeting with students and their families. Obviously, with the pandemic, we weren't able to travel this year. So we're doing all these visits virtually.*

So they've been setting up individual one on ones with high school guidance counselors, Special Education directors, parents, education consultants, and also meeting with students and families, individually and in groups. We've also all of our open houses and our other events, and we've had to switch all of those to virtual events as well. So everything is kind of a virtual world right now.

And it's great that we have the technology now, so we can talk like we're doing one on one, and you can actually see the other person and you can share information, via sharing your screen, whether it's showing a video or a publication or answering questions, but it's a lot different than being in person. We've done close to 400 visits this fall already. And those have all been virtual.

Q: How do you sell the residential program to the students? Like, can you guarantee that, hey, you're gonna be here, and if you're not here, Money Back Guarantee or something like that? You know what I mean? Like, how can you actually sell that to them? During COVID?

A: *I think most people are sensitive to the fact that these are unprecedented times, and things are changing rapidly. And there are no guarantees. So what we typically do, we talk about the residential experience, what I always tell students and their families is, if you have a learning disability or learning challenge, it doesn't begin and end when you leave a classroom. You have it with you wherever you go. And that can be*

on the playing field or in the gym, or in in the residence hall in the dining hall, it's with you always.

And we're fortunate that at Landmark we provide support in and out of the classroom, whereas most colleges, it's just in the classroom. And so the residential component of the landmark education is as important as the academic side of it—you learn a lot of things about yourself outside the classroom, because you probably spend more time outside than you do inside. And so we talk about all the benefits of being a residential student. So we say that, ideally, you know, you want to be on campus and have that experience.

Most students want to be residential here and be part of the community. The good thing is our online courses also have supports that other schools don't have. But typically what we say is that we are planning on being open on campus for the spring. If life changes, not only nationally, but regionally here and in the state, and we have to adjust, then this is what we'll provide. And we talked about the benefits of the online experience.

Some families will think that's great. And other families will decide that, no, that doesn't work for them, and they may decide to wait until next year. And I think part of the difficulty too is that when a lot of people think about an online experience, they think of what they had in high school. And a lot of high school online experiences have not been that great. Unfortunately, and they think all online experiences are like that. And they're not.

Q: What would be the worst case scenario, if things don't work out for in the enrollment area, if for some reason that students aren't able to get here because of the pandemic, or that they choose not to do the online option?

A: *It would be difficult if, for example, we go into immediate lock downs everywhere. That could be difficult. But we're doing well actually. We are ahead of previous years right now, for both spring and for fall. And I think that over the last couple of years, we brought in a stronger and stronger class each year. And a more diverse class in many different ways. I'm an eternal optimist. So I don't really see doom and gloom on the horizon. I think that, actually, that's fine. And we have a real strong niche, being all LD and all.*

I never really look at doom and gloom, or the worst case, the glass is always half full, so on. I'm always upbeat.

“So Pleased We Made it Full Term!”

A Student Affairs reflection on why Fall 2020 ‘worked out’—and what we need to do to continue the momentum going forward

By Conor Malloy

It is hard to overstate the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic has been hard on everyone. One of the biggest reasons for this is that we all had to adapt to the guidelines we now associate as social norms so that no one else could be infected or killed by this deadly virus. However, it is not just businesses and public schools that have been severely affected by this pandemic.

Since the virus has exploded in the United States, there has also been significant problems with colleges throughout the country in trying to educate their young adult students without causing a COVID-19 outbreak on their campuses. Landmark College is no exception, though it would appear that an exceptional location, size, staff, and student body may have helped matters.

*“I think there are a lot of things that went very well ... that’s because of the efforts of everyone. Everyone was really committed to making the semester work” —
Michael Luciani*

The last 12 weeks of having the college open during a global pandemic has obviously seen some ups and downs. However, what exactly were those up and downs? What were some of the things that went well and not so well?

“I think there are a lot of things that went very well” says Michael Luciani, the Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Campus Life. “That’s be-

cause of the efforts of everyone. Everybody was really committed to making the semester work.”

Luciani went on to further explain that he was proud of the students, faculty, and staff who “came into this with a real vision to make this happen.” He also noted that the administration and academic team had “done an amazing job in envisioning how courses would work for this semester.” He added that “they had to create a whole new kind of program and how students could engage in classes face to face while following all the guidelines.”



Michael Luciani, Dean of Student Affairs

Kelly O’ Ryan, Dean of Students at Landmark, also shared that she was impressed by “how willing everybody was to step up and learn about these new expectations.” She also went on to explain that she was “so pleased we made it full term.” She then expressed that Landmark’s handling of both the COVID-19 guidelines and the three COVID-19 cases have been “extra significant.”

*“I was impressed by how willing everybody was to step up and learn about these new expectations” —
Kelly O’Ryan*

Jennifer Core, Assistant Dean and Director of Residential Life stated, like Luciani, that she was proud of the students. She said that this year was “an affirmation of our student’s ability to put community first.” O’Ryan additionally pointed out that Landmark College had received ample praise from the Putney community, which can be wary of students at times, but is currently applauding the students for admirable compliance.

“We’re going into next semester building on the successes of this semester” —Michael Luciani

Although these members of student life initially expressed how well landmark’s staff and students were able to hold up during the pandemic, not everything was perfect. There were some hiccups that would have to be addressed.

Even though the college was very good at keeping the guidelines intact, Luciani and Core have stated that it was hard for new students to engage with others and establish new friendships with those set guidelines, like having to socialize online rather than in person. Jennifer core has even stated “that’s never been part of the Landmark community culture, to feel like socializing is problematic, as opposed to socializing is celebrated.”

When asked what would be done differently next semester each of the people interviewed for this article had varying things to say. Michael Luciani has stated that “we’re going into next semester building on the successes and lessons from this semester.” He continued to say that “the next three weeks are being used to kind of assess what worked well and what were the difficult parts that we can change for next semester that might make it easier for students.”

Kelly O’Ryan said that she and her team were going to have a meeting in early January with new students who are coming to Landmark in the spring. This is so she and her team can “walk them through what the first two weeks of school will be like”. This will be brought up in an email that will be sent but she does believe that they need to offer a Q and A for stu-

dents and their families.

O’Ryan also noted that the administration will continue to look at ways to communicate that are not exclusive to email. So far this includes informative short videos created by student interns that will hopefully convey important messages to new and returning students, keeping them engaged instead of filling their inbox.

Jennifer Core answered the question by saying that “I think we’re gonna talk a lot as a team.” She describes that she and her associates will be discussing a lot about the “tone of community and putting community first.”

“Even those who landed in hot water handled their hearings with integrity” —Kelly O’Ryan

O’Ryan pointed out that by and large, the student body responded well to the new restrictions. As the college’s point-person for conduct issues, she offered some unique insight into the handling of protocol breaches. According to O’Ryan, there were around 150 hearings conducted to address protocol breaches, during which she described the students as handling the situations as “exceptional, even those who landed in hot water handled their hearings with integrity.” While Student affairs would not disclose the actual number of dismissals, they did concur that it was “only a handful” of students, many of which continued learning online, or were in an appeal process.

This last semester at Landmark, much like the Pandemic, has been hard on everyone. Especially since there are so many things that seem to be going wrong in our own country. However, it has not always been as bleak as it seemed.

As stated by the people at Student Affairs, there were a number of things that went well this semester which can be credited to everyone -- students and staff alike. Even though there are still some problems that need to be ironed out, such as the experiences for new students attending the college, there seems to be more ups than downs. All we can do now is hope that events will turn out better for the rest of the United States.

OPINION: *Why Superheroes are more Relevant than ever*

By Conor Malloy

We are now living in times of great uncertainty. The 2020 election has been an undeniably confusing event and the whole world is still struggling with the coronavirus. To be honest, it's hard to be optimistic and hopeful for people across the country and the world when there is so much uncertainty about what might happen in the not-too-distant future.

So, it might seem weird that I decide to talk about superheroes and why they are relevant to today when everything that is happening in the country is so out of the ordinary.

However, hot button issues in America today and in the past like immigration, systemic racism, and feminism, are all topics that are not just explored in comics but form the basis of some of the most influential and notable superheroes to ever come out of the medium of comics.

Racism has been a continuous issue for this country ever since the country has been founded.

From slavery, racial injustice and even simple prejudice, racism in America unfortunately is and has become as normal as going to work and having fireworks on the fourth of July. This issue is so ingrained into our culture that numerous fictional media have also been influenced by the racial tensions and injustice shown to any minority.

One of the more prominent examples of this influence is the allegory of race and prejudice to minorities shown in the stories of the X-Men.

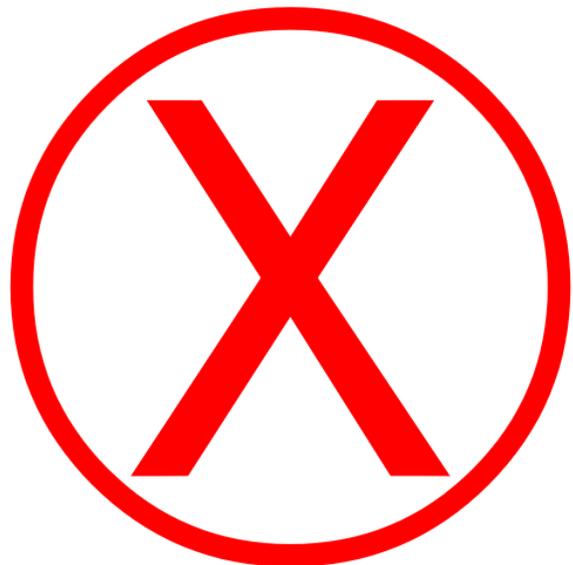
The X-Men live in a world where racial tensions between humans and mutants, which are people that have extraordinary powers and abilities through a genetic mutation, are at an all-time high. Even though most of the world hates them because they are mutants, the X-Men continue to protect humanity and mutants alike so they could work towards a future

where humans and mutants can coexist peacefully.

Racism has been a continuous issue for this country ever since the country has been founded.

It's also no secret that major characters within the X Men universe would represent some of the ideals that major civil right leaders have followed. Charles Xavier, the leader of the X Men represents a Martin Luther King-like viewpoint wanting the peace and co-existence of Mutants and humans while Magneto, a more extremist mutant who believes that mutants are superior to humans, has more of the ideals of Malcom X.

This want and need for equality and coexistence that Xavier and the X Men strive for reflects and would continue to reflect both the civil rights movement and modern-day protests among activists today.



Another idea that is explored through comics but much earlier than the X Men was the idea of feminism. The idea that all genders, especially women should be treated equally and with as much dignity as men. No superhero represents this more than Wonder Woman.



The idea that all genders, especially women should be treated equally and with as much dignity as men. No superhero represents this more than Wonder Woman.

Having lived most of her life on an isolated island that is home to the race of warrior women known as the Amazons, Diana, Princess of the Amazon's decided to leave her island and help humanity after a spy named Steve Trevor crash landed on the island and revealed that the world needed her help. She would then later become a leading member of the Justice League working alongside such heavy hitters as Superman and Batman protecting the world and spreading love, peace, justice and sexual equality.

This superhero was revolutionary for women. Not only was there a female superhero that could work alongside other male superheroes but here was also an icon that women could look up to and strive to be like. Most importantly however it also showed women that they could be strong, independent, and not have to

rely on men to accomplish what they feel is right. A perfect allegory for today's feminist movements.

When someone thinks of Superman the last thing that they seem to consider or remember is that his origin story is about immigration. Superman originally came from a planet that was more advanced than earth but was doomed to be destroyed and its people nearly wiped out in one giant explosion. In the planet's final moments Superman's parents put him in a small spaceship and sent him to earth in hopes that he would prosper and have a better life.

When someone thinks of Superman the last thing that they seem to consider or remember is that his origin story is about immigration.

This entire story is the basis of immigration. People coming from another place in hopes of finding a better future somewhere else. And that was what America was built on and that's what helped develop it into the country it is now. Especially since the creators of Superman were the sons of Jewish immigrants that came from another older Europe also known as the "old world" to a "new world" where they thought anything was possible. They saw hope. The very thing that Superman represents both in comics and in the real world.

I know that the movie market and tv market are now over saturated with superheroes but the reason they remain relevant even now is because they give us hope. They give us characters that we can look up to and strive to be like. Characters that inspire us to be good and better people.





Artwork by
Owen Feil



Thank You From a *Voices* Graduate

A letter of gratitude from founding Voices Literary Editor Ellen Chornoboy

Dear readers of *Voices*,

A few years ago, there was no possible way that a publication such as *Voices* would have been a reality. In the fall of 2018, one of my Landmark friends – fellow *Impressions* writer and future fellow *Voices* founding Literary Editor Bill Drake – and I had an idea of creating a website that would display works in the areas of literary (poems and fiction), art (photography, drawings, paintings ect.), and Journalism as well as nonfiction. This idea we had was only a pipe dream that took about a year to get other people involved.

By the fall of 2019, there was a new Leadership & Facilitation class that was offered as course which we took with Professor Gander, this is not that important, but it eventually evolved via Gander's Spring 2020 Leadership Practicum course into a class for those who want to be a part of a publication at Landmark College for students. There is a lot to be said about when so many individuals had contributed their time to creating this amazing outcome that was once only a pipe dream shared by a few students.

Thank yous are the first thing that needs to be said to the faculty, students and especially to the wonderful president and vice presidents that cheered this publication on.

The first thank you is to Professor Gander. Professor Gander has been a wonderful support when it came to the class and guiding us to the right path if we ever had any questions or needed help with something.

The next thank you goes to the faculty and staff who are on and off the Advisory board. These faculty are much deserving of thanks because they are willing to be there for us students when we also had questions for them, but also there to help us move us forward with the right resources.

The third thank you is to President Eden and the

vice presidents. I am not sure how much us students are aware of how supportive you have been for *Voices*, but we should be.

The fourth thank you is for the students who put in their time to create the publication. Every single one of you put in so much time to create something so amazing. This includes the layouts, the journalists to the business side and finally the editors.

The fifth thank you is to those who submitted their work. This is a huge thank you as this publication is specifically for students by students, so that work that you submit is the reason why the publication was created.

I would say a final thank you and that is to myself, but that would be a bit weird. I am also aware that are so many thanks I can send out, but for the last few months, I have been informed that this is a two-way street. I have been told that I have been a huge part the publication of *Voices*.

Everyone who knows me, knows that I am organized, energetic and always want to be a part of things. From the beginning, I have fostered the idea of *Voices*, became an editor, was in charge of the email and lastly a writer who has submitted their work to the publication. I am willing to do anything for the publication no matter what it takes.

The journey has been long, but we pushed through. As a new alumni of Landmark College, I want to say that it was an honor to work with every single one of you.

This is Landmark. This is us.
These are our voices.

Ellen Chornoboy,
Literary Editor



Faithful Stripes and Stars

by Wolf Elkan

Poet's Note: When an American Flag is no longer suitable for use US Flag Etiquette prescribes that it is to be disposed of by burning, but that this is to be done in a respectful manner. This is usually accomplished by reading a speech about the flag. This poem is intended for use as such a speech.

No piece of cloth more value has than faithful Stripes and Stars
For 'tis the symbol of the blessed country we call ours.

And on the battlefield calm, the eve before the fight,
No standard shineth brighter through the cold and starry night.

And when the rage begins wherein my former comrades fell,
I see my faithful flag and surely know that all is well.

For when I fear that soon, like them, I shall to earth be dragged,
I know that there is someone still alive to hold the flag.

And when, by grace, the war is over, I'm to home returned.
The flag reminds me still of all the lessons I have learned.

I see you waving in the breeze, majestic on your pole,
And wonder whether colors such as you can e'er grow old.

How could one so beautiful, so glorious as thee
So weighted down by age and long hard faithful usage be?

Or how could stripes of red and white, so vibrant in their day
Now be faded down to shades of pink and shades of gray.

I know that though your time has come to flame to be retired,
You still live on in the hearts of all of those you have inspired.

And as the glorious symbol of the nation we call ours,
No piece of cloth more value has than faithful Stripes and Stars.



Loving Blizzards Embrace

By Dylan Basora—Kennelly



As I walk through the raging snow clawing at my
coat

I start to wonder when it will end

But once this came to my mind a pale arm put itself
on mine

The arm pulled me in towards it letting me see the
owner

It was a beautiful girl pale and fair with flowing
cloak

She pulled me in and left me in a daze for she was
cold but tender

I did not understand why was pulling me so lovingly

She then embraced me making me feel numb

I felt so comfortable that I could not move

I then felt relieved as she brought me down on my
knees

As she kissed me, I felt that this was it

She then lay me down to my final rest then blew
away with the wind.

Autumn: Part 2

By Ellen Chornoboy

A wave of breeze sweeps through the leaves
Unexpected chill following close behind
Temperature dropping ten below
Unknown certainties

Unexpected chill following close behind
Many months to endure
Unknown certainties
Never ending struggles

Many months to endure
Colors changing
Never ending struggles
Autumn

Colors changing
Unknown certainties
Autumn

A wave of breeze sweeps through the leaves

Basketball

By Spencer Morgan

I remember eating a team meal before,

I remember us excited to ruin the moment,

I remember me grabbing rebounds over him,

I remember us playing our best game all season that night,

I remember getting an and one and celebrating as the crowd
went wild,

I remember the crowd chanting my name,

I remember taking a ten point lead with four minutes left,

I remember them coming back,

I remember them tying the game,

I remember missing two free throws,

I remember sobbing,

I remember hugging my dad and telling him I loved him and vice
versa,

I remember strangers coming up to me saying they loved how I
played that night,

I remember telling my teammates I will go to my grave wishing I
could shoot them again.



Message from Mars

By Conor Malloy

Message from Mars
I feel it in my hands
it jingles as it moves
And it feels strong but also soft
In certain parts I mean
I touch it gently
There are holes connected to it
And little things that have rough edges
That seem and feel identical
There's something here that made of something
soft
But feels mostly solid while at the same time
rough
I push the metal and to my surprise it opens
And the holes come off
So does the soft hard thing
What a strange device





Above: Clouds in August, by Lauren Orser—Putney, VT August 2020

Below: El Laberinto, by Lucas Sillars—San Gerardo De Rivas, Costa Rica, August 2010



This is Landmark.
This is us.
These are our voices.

Do you like what you see? You could be featured in these pages too!

Submit your best works of Journalism, Nonfiction, Creative Writing, Poetry, Art and Photography to the *Voices* staff at Voices@Landmark.edu today!

R.U.S.H. Principles, please.

Thanks for reading!



Happy Holidays from Voices!



Photo by Maria Clark