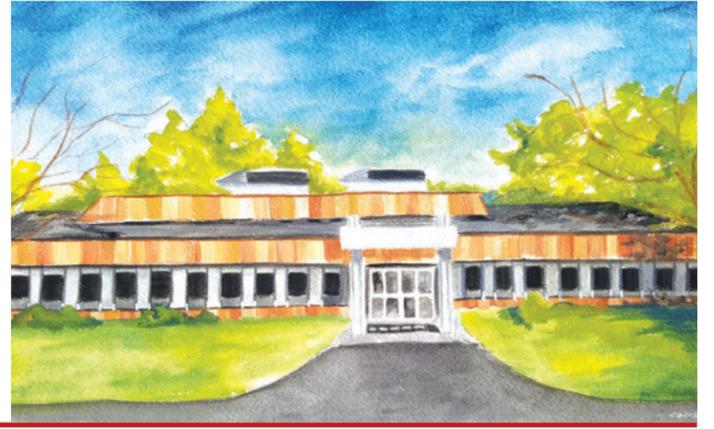


THE COUNTY COLLEGE OF MORRIS' AWARD-WINNING STUDENT NEWSPAPER

# YOUNGTOWN EDITION

VOL. 109, NO. 1  
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 8, 2023  
RANDOLPH, N.J.



## CCM students prepared for the future

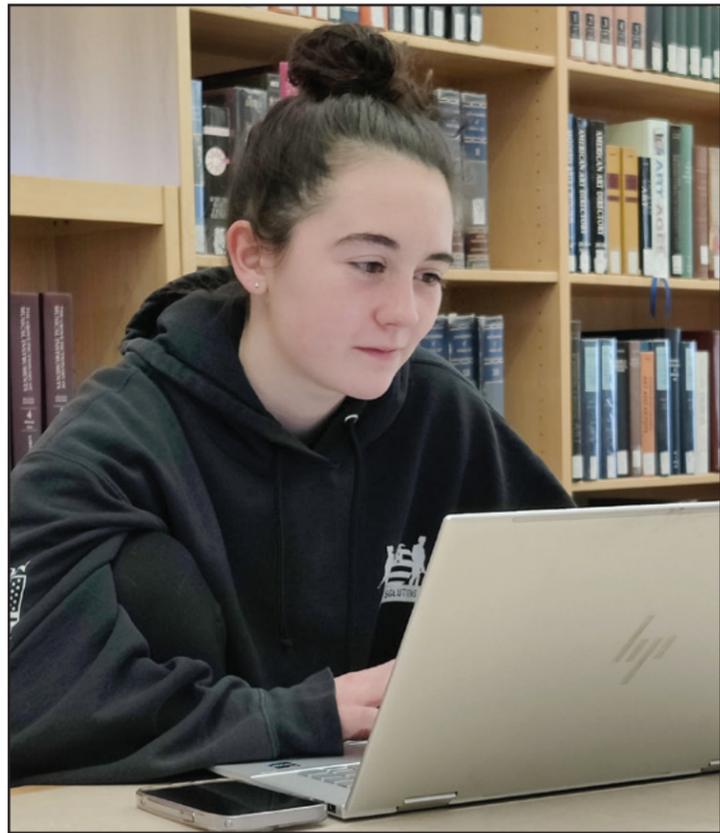


PHOTO BY GARRETT JAMISON

CCM student Danielle DeLuca working hard on her English studies in the Learning Resource Center.

**BY GARRETT JAMISON**  
*News Editor*

Students find it incredibly complicated to break into the modern job market. Even with a college degree, it's common for graduates from big, expensive universities to complain about the difficulty of finding a job. However, County College of Morris (CCM) students are well prepared for their futures, and, in some cases, have opportunities waiting for them after achieving graduation, with the added bonus of having a fraction of the student debt.

The unemployment rate for people with a bachelor's degree is 2%. Those with an associate degree are in the middle at 3%, and people with little to no college experience have an unemployment rate of 4%, according to the Pew Research Center. The same study shows that the median annual wage for a person with a bachelor's degree is \$52,000, while those

with no college degree have a median annual wage of \$30,000. Therefore, not only are students saving money by going to CCM, but they're also exponentially raising the probability that they'll find a job once they graduate, and they'll be paid a higher wage.

Gracia Zeferino is a biology major at CCM.

"I work at a lab, so I've had other labs reach out to me and say when I get my associate [degree], I can go there," Zeferino said.

Zeferino said she plans to finish her associate degree in the fall 2024 semester.

"I can transfer to a four year school, but financially it's not looking great, so I'm not really sure," Zeferino said about potential alternate plans.

John Hankin is an adjunct professor of information security and computer networking.

"What I see is students are enthusiastic about it," Hankin said about his students' attitude toward his class. "That motivation is going to drive them

to be successful."

Hankin said when he sees a student lacking motivation, he approaches them openly and makes sure they feel comfortable to talk.

"In a lot of cases it's usually external stuff," Hankin said. "It helps a lot just to communicate and let people know there's someone looking out."

Roshawn John is a student in the Game Development program at CCM.

"I have one more semester," John said enthusiastically.

John said as soon as he graduates, he's ready to start making games and publishing them while he looks for a job in the gaming industry.

"After CCM I'm trying to become a game designer," John said. "I'll make games and use that as a portfolio to get a job."

John said that if he does well enough on his own, he won't need to go to a big gaming company and instead would continue to make indie games for the future.

## REVIEW: Soccer Mommy's Sometimes, Forever - A refreshing take on indie-pop

**BY ROY BERKOWITZ**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

Soccer Mommy is a stage name almost too ridiculous to take seriously. Sure, some might find it playfully charming, but no amount of solid songwriting can make up for such a tacky moniker—at least that's what I thought, until I heard her hit "Circle the Drain" blast through some high quality car speakers. Driving around and watching the sunset while sweet, despondent vocals drifted over a catchy guitar hook made the goofiness of the name all seem worth it. And as I've come to learn, this single isn't just a fluke—Soccer Mommy, or Sophia Regina Allison, has been releasing consistently captivating yet moody ballads since back in 2018. While still maintaining the mellow 90s pop-rock essence of her usual

sound, she has evolved her style into something new in her 2021 record *Sometimes, Forever*.

For her third studio album, Allison teamed up with experimental electronic producer Daniel Lopatin. An unlikely pair, the two worked together to fuse her indie-pop sound with elements of electronic music and dream pop. The result is a thrilling dreamland of hazy, psychedelic pop tunes. Even the more standard tracks here are slathered in a shimmering shoegaze sheen that elevates Allison's compositions to new heights. At the core of everything, though, her songwriting holds its own. There are some seriously left-field, earwormy chord progressions on the record, namely in songs like "newdemo" and "Don't Ask Me."

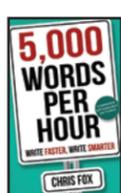
Lyricaly, the album touches on themes of romantic love, mental

illness, and, oddly enough, horror stories. That's right—beneath the electro-shoegaze soundscape of *Sometimes, Forever* lurks a monster who pokes its snout up above the surface when you least expect it. The fantasy becomes a nightmare in songs like "Darkness Forever" and "Following Eyes," where sweet hooks ripen into dreadful, eerie melodies. Strangely enough, this marriage of heaven and hell feels cohesive, thanks in part to the otherworldly production of Lopatin. Allison's storytelling reads like a Halloween book unfolding against atmospheric instrumental passages. "Beneath the half-moon / The witching hour had me bound / An apparition / Called to me without a sound" she sings over a ghostly backdrop,

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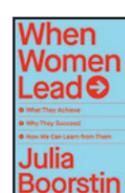


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# How to Write Faster by using a ‘Writing Sprint’

## A useful skill for your coursework and all sorts of writing

**BY PROFESSOR KENNETH A. SHOULER**  
*Moderator of the Youngtown Edition*

Chris Fox has written a series of books about writing quickly and effectively. One is titled 5,000 Words Per Hour: Write Faster, Write Smarter. He calls his five-minute writing exercises a “Writing sprint.” “A writing sprint is a predefined length of time where you will do nothing but write,” Fox explains. “It has a clearly defined start and end time, and while you are writing you will do nothing else. No web surfing. No answering the phone. No checking email. No going to the bathroom.”

It’s of the utmost importance, Fox urges, that once you begin a sprint, “your fingers fly across the keyboard until you are finished. You do not stop. You do not go back and edit.” The idea is for the writer to get into a state of mind equivalent to an athlete being in a “zone.” Here’s how he puts it: “The goal of this is to get you into the flow state where your brain will naturally focus on an activity you are good at to the exclusion of all else.”

He says, “Writing sprints will help you get into the flow state on command. It will allow you to crank out far more words

than you ever thought possible. More importantly, those words will be among the best you’ve ever written. Not only will you get faster, but you will also get better.”



**PROFESSOR KENNETH SHOULER**

### Your First Micro Sprint

Your “micro” sprint will last for exactly five minutes. That’s a nice bite-size chunk of time, and it should let you focus on just one scene. More importantly, it’s manageable for your brain. Writing stamina is built like a muscle. You wouldn’t start off running a marathon, or bench pressing 315 pounds. Nor would you ever sit down for an hour and just write if you’ve never done it before.

Here are a few steps Chris Fox advises before you get started:

1. Open your computer to a blank document.
2. Turn-off wifi and / or internet on your computer.
3. Put on mood music appropriate to the scene you’re about to write/

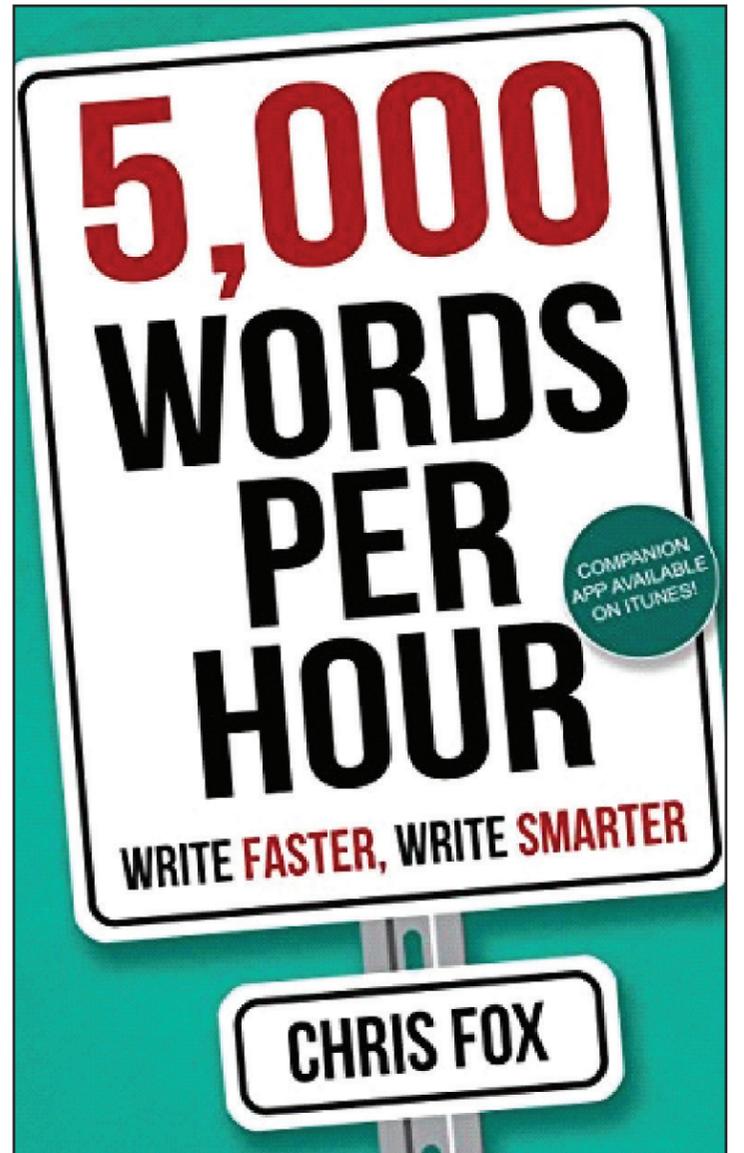
4. Jot down a quick paragraph describing the scene or topic you’re about to write about.
5. Do not stop.

Number five is the most important, so take it to heart. To repeat, there is no break in the action. You’re not going to stop writing at any point. You aren’t going to go back and fix typos, grammar, or retype paragraphs to make them cleaner. You’re going to write straight through, no interruptions and no stopping.

Ready? Set a timer for five minutes. Go.

No doubt his writing plan raises some skepticism. For one, how many of us can write 5,000 words in an hour? That’s 83 words a minute for 60 minutes. My solution is not to take the title of his book that literally. Just do the sprint as quickly as you can, even if you’re closer to 30 words a minute than you are to 80.

All told, his philosophy of writing is a sound one. If you are a full-time student or have a full-time job, his 5K WPH will help you to maximize your writing time. You will be creating effective writing habits. One of those habits is that your words per minute will increase. The net effect, Fox says, is that you will be able to write more papers, articles, and even books.



# CCM TUTORING CENTER

## WRITING WORKSHOPS

### Spring 2023 Sessions

To attend these sessions, students will need to schedule an appointment on the TutorTrac scheduling system at <https://tutortrac.ccm.edu>; please use your CCM student credentials to sign in. Upon signing in, select “Search Availability” under Student Options on the left-hand side of the screen. Next, select “Writing Center” and then select the course and date range. Please note the title of the session may not appear when scheduling an appointment, please make sure you select the appropriate date and time for the session you would like to attend. Appointments can be made up to 6 days in advance. **Please make your appointment no later than 24 hours before the day of session.** Students that have scheduled an appointment will receive an email on the morning of the session with information on how to join the Zoom session.

DATE/TIME	TIME	PRESENTER	TITLE	ROOM
Tuesday, February 7	12:30 p.m.	Dr. Maryam Alikhani	Building Body Paragraphs Like Body Building	ZOOM
Tuesday, February 14	12:30 p.m.	Dr. Ann Patten	Good and Bad Thesis Statements	CH 260
Wednesday, February 15	7:00 p.m.	Professor Kevin Moore	Sentence Construction: Types and Errors	ZOOM
Tuesday, February 21	12:30 p.m.	Dr. Maryam Alikhani	Dealing with Writer’s Block	ZOOM
Thursday, February 23	12:30 p.m.	Dr. Yoonha Shin	Introductions and Conclusions	ZOOM
Tuesday, February 28	12:30 p.m.	Dr. Evelyn Emma	Why Not Just EasyBib? MLA Citations, Works Cited, Sources, and Format	CH 260
Tuesday, March 7	7:00 p.m.	Professor Laura Driver	Don’t Get Caught: Integrating Sources and Avoiding Plagiarism	ZOOM
Tuesday, March 21	12:30 p.m.	Dr. Ann Patten	Using Literary Terms	CH260
Wednesday March 22	7:00 p.m.	Professor Kevin Moore	Grammar and Writing Basics: Punctuation, Shifts, Agreement, and Essay Structure	ZOOM
Wednesday April 5	7:00 p.m.	Professor Kevin Moore	The Nuts and Bolts of Writing an Essay	ZOOM
Tuesday, April 11	12:30 p.m.	Dr. Yoonha Shin	Crafting Compelling Resumes and Cover Letters	ZOOM

If you have any questions or need assistance, contact the Tutoring Center via email at [tutorcenter@ccm.edu](mailto:tutorcenter@ccm.edu), call 973-328-5367, or stop by in-person DH156. If you need to make a one-on-one writing tutoring appointment visit [www.ccm.edu/tutoring-center](http://www.ccm.edu/tutoring-center).

## REVIEW

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

showcasing her narrative chops.

Not every lyric is so creative, though; lines like “white little pills take it all away” and “nothing else matters when I’m with you” elicit an eyeroll, even if they sound authentic coming from Allison. For better or worse, this kind of writing reminds you of Soccer Mommy’s mainstream pop biases. Still, lyrical clichés aside, there remains a fair share of fresh ideas on this album: the breakneck drum

fill in the chorus of “Shotgun,” the industrial undertones of “Unholy Affliction,” the strange, jangly guitar voicings Allison employs throughout—these little quirks point to something more special than a mere run-of-the-mill indie-pop album.

All in all, Sometimes Forever is a progression in sound for Soccer Mommy and for the indie-pop scene as a whole. It’s refreshing to see a pop artist break new ground in the way that she has so successfully. So, give Sometimes, Forever a listen—even if you hate the stage name.

## THE YOUNGTOWN EDITION

The Student Newspaper of the County College of Morris

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Faculty Adviser..... Dr. Kenneth Shouler

Staff: Roy Berkowitz, Garrett Jamison

All students are welcome to contribute articles to The Youngtown Edition either in person or via e-mail. However, students cannot receive a byline if they belong to the organization on which they are reporting. The deadline for articles is the Monday prior to a production.

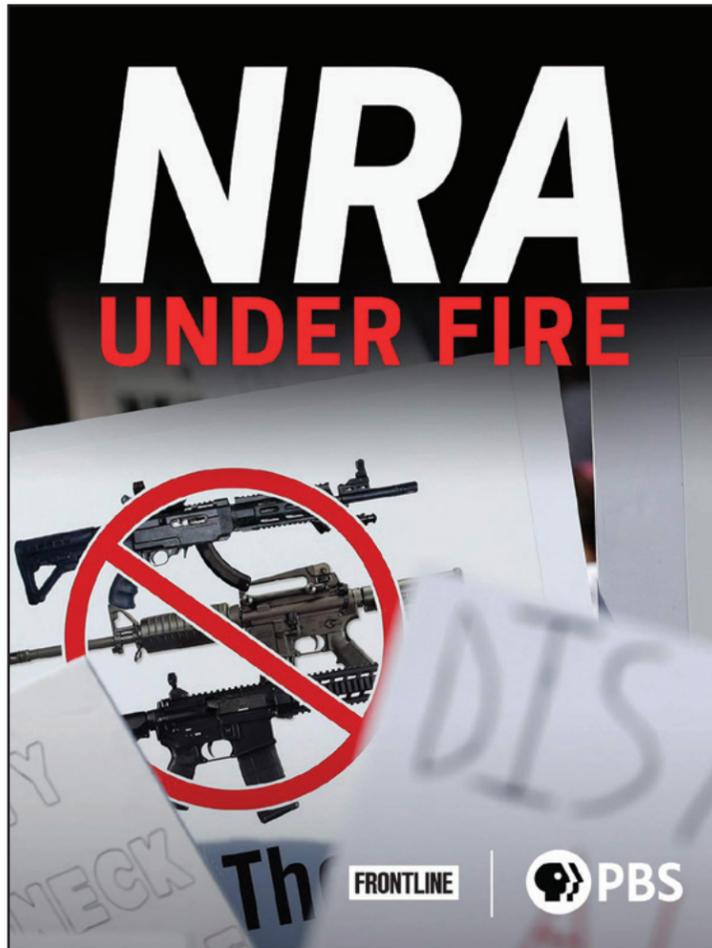
# PBS documentary 'NRA under Fire' - More relevant than ever in 2023

BY PROFESSOR  
**KENNETH A. SHOULER**  
*Moderator for the Youngtown Edition*

"Documentaries for Free" is the sixth in a series of articles for the Youngtown Edition about the more than 1,200 streaming PBS documentaries that can be seen online by everyone at the college, whether on-campus or off. Accessing the videos is simple. Those interested in reviewing the collection and picking a video to stream can go to [www.ccm.edu/library](http://www.ccm.edu/library). From there, you can click on "Articles and Databases." Then, scroll down and click on PBS videos. Enter your CCM login credentials when prompted (if off-campus). Once in the database, click on "Filter Your Results." Under the "Subject" listing, click on the topic that interests you. <https://skynet.ccm.edu:2635/watch/nra-under-fire?context=channel:pbs>

At the end of 2022, the United States witnessed 13 mass shootings in one week, between November 20 and November 27. The Gun Violence Archive (GVA), a non-profit research group, defines a mass shooting as an incident in which four or more people are shot or killed, not including the shooter. There were 647 mass shootings in the U.S. in 2022, the second most in a year, with 2021 being first. This makes 2022 the second worst year for gun violence in the eight years since the GVA, the nation's most comprehensive tracker of mass shootings, began recording data. More than 44,000 people died from gun violence overall in 2022. <https://www.insider.com/number-of-mass-shootings-in-america-this-year-2022-5> In the new year there have been 40 mass shootings tallied through January 24.

Given this omnipresent reality of gun violence in the United States, the PBS documentary "NRA Under Fire" couldn't be more relevant. The documentary is but one of the school library's trove of more than 1200 documentaries that anyone can stream. The 53-minute Frontline film begins in media res with a chilling voiceover: "In less than six minutes he fired 140 rounds from an AR-15." This



was the Parkland shooting, from the inside, with kids crouching for cover, hearing the repeated pops of a rifle. "We stood in a closet, 19 of us and the teacher," said Ryan Deitsch, a student at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. "I just had to take out my phone and film a lot of what was going on."

After 19-year-old former Parkland student Nikolas Cruz was finished shooting, 17 students were dead and 17 injured, "We didn't want it to end when the cameras went away," Deitsch said. "We wanted to make sure the story was still being told." It was February 14, 2018. "If all our government can do is send thoughts and prayers," said student Emma Gonzalez, using air quotes, "then it's time for victims to be the change we need to see. People in the government telling us nothing could have been done to present this we call BS. To every politician who is taking donations from the NRA, shame on you." Her tough words cut through worn, cliché ridden language. You know the kind. Statements such as "The only thing that stops a bad guy

with a gun is a good guy with a gun." That statement ignores the distinct possibility that the good guy will have a pistol and the bad guy has an AR-15 or AK-47.

The documentary traces crucial changes in the NRA, which was once a safety organization that helped people teach their children and their friends and family to use, store, and keep firearms safely. The assassinations of the 1960s changed the organization. President Kennedy was assassinated with a \$12 mail order rifle. Dr. Martin Luther King was cut down by a 760 Game Master. Robert Fitzgerald Kennedy was murdered up close by a palm-sized pistol called a "Saturday night special." When armed conflict ensued on America's streets, President Johnson's response was bellicose. "Effective crime control remains, in my judgment, effective gun control." Inscrutably, those words were a call to arms for some in the NRA.

The documentary claims the turning point in the NRA philosophy occurred during the following decade. The National Rifle Association meeting in

May 1977 in Cincinnati ended up in a duel between hunters and gun rights activists. After the all-night session, the activists prevailed, taking control of the 400,000 member organization. "They believed it was incumbent on the NRA to become a Second Amendment organization," said Matt Bennett, a gun control advocate. "They cleared the board of people who disagreed with them, and the NRA has essentially been that ever since."

Fast forward to the shooting at Columbine High School in Colorado in April, 1999. In the aftermath of that massacre that left 14 students dead and 21 injured at the hands of two fellow students, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, people started buying up and hoarding guns that they anticipated the government would keep from them. The NRA lobbied and began a grading system, from A to F, for those candidates for office who were either friendly or unfriendly to the NRA. The race between George Bush and Al Gore in 2000 was instructive. The NRA spent \$22 million on the 2000 election, the most aggressive political campaign they had ever undertaken. Ads targeted Al Gore, who had cast the deciding 51-50 vote against the "gun show loophole" that allowed private sellers, like those at gun shows, to sell guns to buyers without conducting a federal background check of the buyer. The NRA targeted Gore. "Al Gore wants government testing, licensing and registration for all firearms owners," Charlton Heston warned in one ad. "He cast the vote that would have shut down every gun show. This year, vote freedom first, because if Al Gore wins, you lose."

Gore v. Bush was a public allegory, a chilling example to Democrats of the risk of incurring the wrath of the NRA. George W. Bush's inauguration would mark the beginning of a decade where the NRA would get what it wanted. The assault weapons ban expired. But after Bush, the NRA would be challenged by two events: the election of Barack Obama and an epidemic of mass shootings. In December, 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School

in Newtown, Connecticut was the scene of 154 rounds fired from a semi-automatic rifle. Once the carnage had ended in under five minutes, 26 people, including twenty students, had been shot dead. "The majority of those who died today were children," said Obama, wiping away a tear at a press conference. "Beautiful kids between five and ten years old. As a country, we have been through this too many times." The NRA response was drawn from their cliché playbook. The answer was more guns, not less. What if security had been armed that day?

Democrat Joe Manchin once had an A rating from the NRA. But he pushed back and returned to the same idea as Clinton, requiring background checks at gun shows. "I felt that this was something they could embrace. It was truly a time that [CEO and executive vice-president of the NRA] Wayne LaPierre and the NRA, and the leadership could have risen to another level," Manchin said. "Over 91 percent of the American people supported expanding background checks, Eighty percent of the households that had an NRA member supported it," said Vice President Joe Biden. But the bill fell five votes short, since the gun rights people contacted their membership, which had the effect of nixing the dreaded "c" word: compromise. It was then that the Parkland students marched on Washington.

Then it was President Trump's verbiage. "It's not going to be talk like it was in the past. It's been going on too long, too many instances. We're going to be very strong on background checks." He decided to revive Obama's Newtown bill. But LaPierre met with Trump, and Trump retreated. The NRA had spent more than \$30 million supporting the Trump campaign.

Meanwhile, on January 1, 2023 Alabama became the 25th state in the U.S. that doesn't require any permits to carry a gun in public. Some observers have likened American culture in 2023 to a pre-civil state of nature of the kind detailed in Thomas Hobbes' *Leviathan*, in which we live in a society where survival of the fittest obtains.

TUTORING CENTER: SCIENCE BIOLOGY & CHEMISTRY  
SPRING 2023 WORKSHOPS

## Bio & Chem Workshops Spring Workshop 3 – Microscopy

Presented by: Professor Jenifer Martin

Date and Time: Wednesday, February 8, at 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Are you interested in learning more about microscopy? This workshop will focus on the concepts and terminology of microscopy, types and parts of the microscope, magnification, and proper care and technique when utilizing a microscope.

Courses for this Workshop: BIO 101, 102, 121, 122, 215; CHM 105

Format: face-to-face

Room: SH 152

## Morris County Clerk's Passport Outreach

02/08/2023 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Visit [morriscountyclerk.org](http://morriscountyclerk.org) or stop by the SCC Lobby on February 1 for more information.  
Walk-ins welcome!  
Location: SCC Davidson Room  
Sponsored by: Campus Life

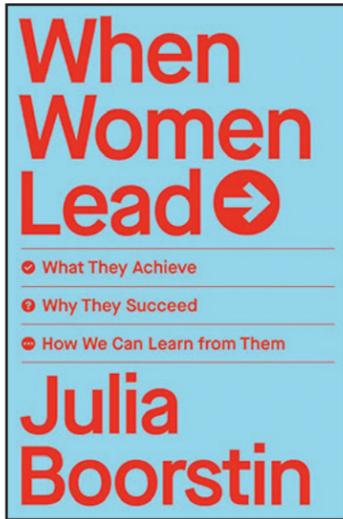
# A book feast: Some of the library's newest holdings

**BY PROFESSOR KENNETH A. SHOULER**  
*Moderator for the Youngtown Edition*

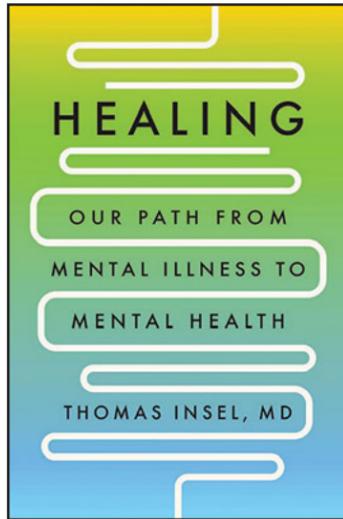
As ever, the library's acquisitions have been arriving at a faster rate than anyone could hope to read them. Dozens of new books are in. This article covers three of them. It is the first in a series on the library's latest books.

**When Women Lead: What they achieve, Why they succeed, How we can learn from them**  
*by Julia Boorstin (Avid Reader Press: 2022)*

This groundbreaking work from CNBC's Julia Boorstin reveals the characteristics that help top female leaders thrive as they innovate, grow businesses, and navigate crises. Boorstin was all of thirteen years old when her mother told her that when she grew up, women could be just as powerful as men. "Captains



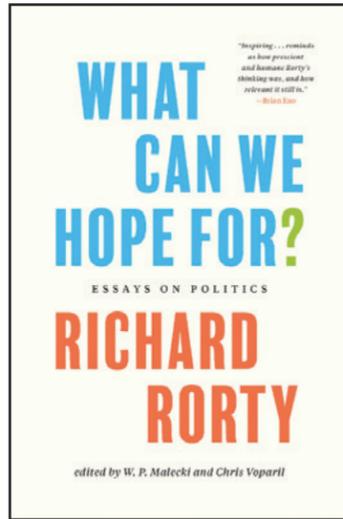
of industry, running the biggest companies!," she explained. A decade later, working at a top business publication and seeing the dearth of women in positions of leadership, Boorstin doubted her mother's optimism. But as a TV reporter and creator of CNBC's Disruptor 50 franchise, Boorstin interviewed and studied thousands of executives.



In *When Women Lead*, Boorstin narrates the stories of over sixty of those female CEOs and leaders, and dozens of new studies.

**Healing: Our Path from Mental Illness to Mental Health**  
*by Thomas Insel, MD (Penguin, 2022)*

A story goes that director



of the National Institute of Mental Health, Dr. Thomas Insel was giving a presentation when the father of a boy with schizophrenia yelled from the back of the room, "Our house is on fire and you're telling me about the chemistry of the paint! What are you doing to put out the fire?" Dr. Insel knew in his heart that the gargantuan

American mental health industry was not healing millions who were desperately in need. He left his post atop the mental health research world to investigate all that was broken. In the United States, we have treatments that work, but our system fails at every stage to deliver care well. Even before COVID, mental illness was claiming a life every eleven minutes by suicide. Quality of care varies widely, and much of the field lacks accountability. We focus on drug therapies for symptom reduction rather than on plans for long-term recovery. Care is often unaffordable and unavailable, particularly for those who need it most and are homeless or incarcerated. In his book Dr. Insel offers a comprehensive plan for our failing system and for families trying to discern the way forward.

**What Can We Hope For? Essays on Politics**

*by Richard Rorty, edited by W.P. Malecki and Chris Voparil (Princeton University Press, 2022)*

Richard Rorty (1931-2007) was an American pragmatist and professor of philosophy at Princeton University. He was also a recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship, or "genius award" in 1981, the first year it was given. Aside from his status as one of the most influential intellectuals of recent decades, he may be best known today as the philosopher who, almost two decades before the 2016 U.S. presidential election, warned of the rise of a Trumpian strongman in America in his 1998 book *Achieving Our Country*. There he forecast, ominously, that the "strongman" president would be buffeted by white, working-class voters disillusioned with globalization and the "political establishment."

*What Can We Hope For?* gathers nineteen of Rorty's essays on American and global politics, including four previously unpublished and other lesser-known and hard-to-find pieces. Here he shows the relationship between politics and philosophy and the "practical superiority of democracy to any other imaginable system." He stresses the importance of reducing economic inequality to ensure the proper functioning of democracy and calls for his fellow intellectuals to offer concrete solutions rather than "detached critiques or self-serving rationalizations of the status quo."

In a volume whose essays are more relevant now, Rorty confronts the threats to democracies home and abroad, including populism, growing economic inequality, overpopulation, and environmental devastation. Driven by Rorty's sense of emergency about our collective future, *What Can We Hope For?* is filled with striking diagnoses of today's political crises and creative proposals for solving them.

ASIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

# ASIAN TRIVIA

THURSDAY  
FEBRUARY 16TH  
2023  
12.30-2.00PM

LOCATION : SCC  
DAVIDSON ROOMS

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JOIN THE ASIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION , HAVE FUN WITH US! TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE ON ASIAN CULTURE