

Meet BC's new provost

Isabella Paxton
Editor in Chief

The president of Bellevue College is Jerry Weber. Although his exact job description might be a little bit blurry to the average student, many students at least know who he is and have a general idea of what he has done. However, a provost is a far more nuanced role involved in the framework of colleges around the world. Bellevue College has recently settled the three-month search for a new provost, which began in late January.

"After conducting a rigorous search that included open campus conversations with each finalist, Dr. Jones' executive experience in both instruction and student affairs, as well as her collaborative approach in working with faculty, staff and students, made her an excellent choice for this new position. We're very excited to have her join our community and apply her considerable knowledge-base to the college's initiatives," said Dr. Weber.

Although Dr. Jones will be the first provost in Bellevue College history, her role has a specific set of rules to follow. In Bellevue College's official press release, it states that "The position [of provost] reports to the president and will be responsible for academic and student affairs, the largest areas of the college. The Provost will collaborate with faculty, staff, students, members of the president's cabinet and external stakeholders to provide leadership, policy direction and management."

The new staff member, Dr. Kristen Jones, earned her Doctorate of Education in Community College Leadership from Oregon State University and, before joining Bellevue College, worked in three different community colleges "including a mid-sized college in Oregon, a rural institution in Montana, and an urban college that is part of a three-college District in Seattle, Washington," according

to her biography. In the various colleges that Jones has worked at previously, she has come up with different plans to both reorganize faculty members and increase productivity. At North Seattle College, where she was the Vice President of Instruction, Jones managed to lower the instructional budget by \$2 million.

"Dr. Jones brings substantive expertise to the role," said Dr. Weber, "She has held executive leadership positions for both large and small community colleges, and her collaborative approach has resulted in significant, successful initiatives in both instruction and student affairs."

Jones herself is quite excited to begin taking on the role as provost for Bellevue College. Her decision to apply for the position extended from the reputation that Bellevue College has as one of the best, and most affordable, schools in the state. When asked what she was most excited about was "Can I say 'everything?' But if I have to choose one thing, it's the chance to work with this campus community. As part of my interview, I presented at an open forum and then answered questions from faculty, staff and students. The room was packed, and I understood why this college has a great reputation – it's because people really care about the students who come here. They want every student to have the best possible chance to succeed. Their commitment to that mission is something I share."

As far as Jones' goals go when mentioning her new position, her main approach begins with working with the people who are already at Bellevue College and know how the ropes work. "My approach is very collaborative. I'm excited to meet with faculty, staff and students to get a better understanding of what we're doing well, and what the needs are. I'll also dig in to what kinds of initiatives are already underway to support student success, and identify where my experience could be an asset. I think it's important to



BC Provost, Dr. Kristen Jones

Photograph provided by Nicole Beattie

listen to as many stakeholders as possible, especially in the first few months, to ensure that my goals match the needs of the college. So don't be surprised if you see

me in the cafeteria asking students about their experience (I also hear the French fries are great)."

The UW TransYouth Project

Patric Williamson
Staff Reporter

A federal grant has been provided to National Science Foundation, Alan. T Waterman award-winning psychologist Kristina Olson, who will use her five year one million dollar grant to expand a study on transgender children. Olson is looking to study transgender children as young as three.

In a mission statement given by the study it is outlined "Our research lab is conducting several studies about gender development in childhood. The TransYouth

Project is our largest project and is the first large-scale, national, longitudinal study of socially-transitioned transgender children to date. We are following a cohort of about 300 children from 45 U.S. states and several Canadian provinces for 20 years."

"In addition to that project, we are recruiting new families for new studies on gender development both in the Seattle region and nationally. Right now we are recruiting children who are gender nonconforming, tomboys, princess boys, intersex, and gender 'typical' children."

The study aims to expand upon previous work looking at the process of

gender transition, with additional resources being allocated to look at the effect of race and inequality within the Trans community.

Notable findings within the previous study include that anxiety and depression rates among transgender children, inside a test group of 73 children, found that the transgender children had numbers "no higher" than the cisgender children. Olson identified family support as one of the key defining features which determines the likelihood of mental health problems.

Opponents and skeptics of the study,

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Peace between the Koreas

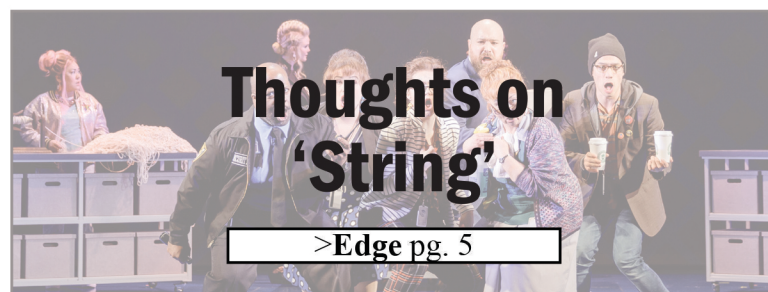
Patric Williamson
Staff Reporter

During recent talks between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, South Korean President Moon Jae-In, and United States President Trump the denuclearization of North Korea has been a key talking point for the world leaders. North Korea, who has been increasing the intensity of their nuclear tests as of late, originally called for the U.S. removal of 28,000 troops from South Korea as a prerequisite for

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Bellevue College holds spring Transfer Fair



Transfer Fair booths in the Cafeteria at BC.

Emmett Jones / The Watchdog



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Sierra O'dell Staff Reporter

Bellevue College hosted admissions representatives from over twenty universities for the Spring Transfer Fair on April 26.

The event included multiple universities from Washington State, such as the University of Washington and Seattle Pacific University. It also included multiple universities from out of state, like Northern Arizona University and Portland State University. The fair was held in the L building lobby from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Students were in attendance because while Bellevue College does offer some four-year degrees, an abundance of students are looking for a more traditional university experience or a broader range of program options.

These students will often turn to the prospect of a transfer. Thanks to the Direct Transfer Agreement an agreement between Bellevue College and most of the four-year universities located in the state of Washington, BC students have the advantage of being able to complete an Associate Transfer Degree. This assures that all of the credits received as part of the Associate's degree will transfer over to a student's university of choice. That is important because many universities have different criteria for which credits will transfer and which ones will not.

Erin, a Running Start student at Bellevue College, stated, "My time at BC has been fantastic, but I am really looking forward to the traditional university experience. It's cool to be getting my Associate's degree, so I can finish my Bachelor's in two years. It saves a ton of money!"

BC regularly hosts individual University Admissions representatives on campus who are available for appointment. If you missed the transfer fair and have unanswered questions, it is highly recommended that you make an

appointment with a representative from the school you are interested in. This way you can be as informed as possible before transferring.

Those who haven't completed the Associate's degree will especially want to check with prospective schools on how their current credits will transfer. Talking with college representatives is also an excellent way to get a feel for what type of students a school is looking for, what clubs and added activities are available and what the general vibe is at the school.

Anna, a Bellevue College student transferring to Western Washington University, said, "I think that these fairs are really helpful to students looking to transfer [...] Bellevue College does a really good job of encouraging students to peruse their education; even if it is at a different school."

And Transfer Fairs aren't necessarily just for transfer students. Even for students participating in the Running Start program at Bellevue College, transfer fairs are a great place to gather information and insight on what they may be looking for in a university. The admissions representatives are there to answer questions and give you as much information as they can.

David, a Running Start student at Bellevue College, noted that, "The people here [the admissions representatives] are really helpful and willing to go out of their way to answer questions [...] When they don't know the answer they can usually put you in contact with someone who does."

Ultimately, the more information one has, the easier it will be to not only decide where they want to go to school, but to also determine the best way to achieve their goals. Transfer fairs are held at the beginning of each quarter and are open to all students on campus.

More information about upcoming transfer fairs can always be found on Bellevue College's website and events calendar.

Village Theatre performs “String”

Isabella Paxton
Editor-in-Chief

On April 22, Village Theater and its various employees performed their final performance of “String: A New Musical.” The performance at the Village Theater was the world debut, meaning that it was the first time the show was performed publicly, and initially I didn’t know what to think about it. The basic idea of the show is that the three Fates from Greek mythology accidentally killed one of Zeus’ mortal girlfriends, and when they refused to bring her back to life, he cursed them to live in the mortal world so they could appreciate the value of life.

I went into the show having no context, and hadn’t even read the summary of the show that was in the programs that had been handed to us at the front door, so I was pleasantly surprised to find how the creators of the show had put such a modern and fun spin on a story that is literally thousands of years old. The main characters, Clotho, played by Sara Porkalob, Lachesis, played by Lauren Du Pree and Atropos, played by Jessica Skerritt, balanced each other out so well that it felt as though they were actually sisters. Porkalob’s voice was so authentic it encouraged birds on the other side of the world to start singing with her. Not only did she sound good while she was singing, but she also sounded genuine, placing the perfect amount of emphasis on each and every word she sang and I found myself wanting to hear more from her. Du Pree’s acting was almost as forceful as her character’s anger, demanding the



The cast of “String.”

Mark Kitaoka / Village Theatre

attention of the crowd and always perfectly balancing between bold but not so much that the crowd became disconnected with the character. Each of the three women performed their parts to perfection but Skerritt stole the show. Her depiction of a first love – and subsequent first heartbreak – smacked every person in the audience in a very personal, private part of their hearts and even had me in tears by the end of the show.

The ensemble for this performance in particular was electric. Each of the side characters had such depth and interesting personalities that it was almost impossible

not to watch them. Every character on the stage was so captivating that I found myself struggling to decide who to watch. Although, my attention almost always gravitated towards Mickey, who was played by Eric Ankrum and was the adorable dork that everyone fell in love with the second he walked on stage.

At first, I expected the music to be rocky but was pleasantly surprised when it was anything but. As I was leaving the theater, many people were expressing their disdain that the cast album was nowhere on the internet and I wholeheartedly agreed with them. The greatest song, however,

was easily Porkalob’s vending machine song, which was mostly just adorable, but I had chills running up my arms by the time the mother appeared above all of her children.

I can get a pretty good idea of how a good a show was by listening to people as we leave the theater. In the shows I have seen in the past, there have certainly been a couple of shows where the audience has walked out in confusion, sadness, or even depression, but this show was none of those. The whole crowd was practically bouncing up and down as we left the theater, everyone talking about their favorite scenes and about how incredible the ending was.

The show shined a light on every aspect of life. The beginning, the end, and everything in between. I found myself walking away from it with a greater appreciation for the life and the people around me and I felt as though that was exactly what the show was aiming for. In the past, the Village Theater has done a couple of World Premieres. Some of them ending with their final performances, and others touring until they eventually made their way to Broadway, the best example of this being the “Million Dollar Quartet” which debuted has gone on to win various Tony awards. Before the show had even ended, and when the lights went up for intermission, I leaned over to my mother and the first thing she said to me was “this is going to Broadway,” and I couldn’t have agreed faster. This show is going to high places and I cannot wait to be able to say that I saw it first.



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