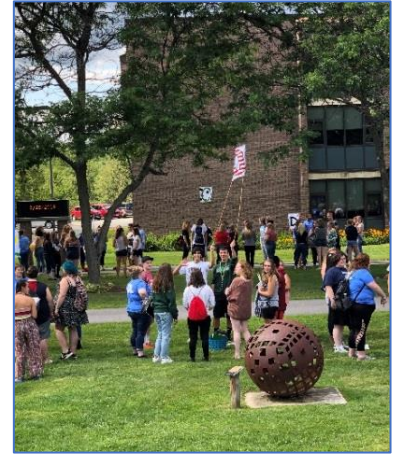




Parent Newsletter – October 2019

Greetings from the Office of First-Year Experience! It's hard to believe that New Student Orientation was seven weeks ago. The academic year is now in full swing on our campus! This is the time when your student is encountering new ideas, new opportunities, and new challenges. Balancing all of these is hard work! We know that you care deeply about your student's college experience. Here at NVU-Johnson we value the family connection. I hope that you will find the information in this newsletter to be both interesting and informative. It is my privilege to serve you and your student during this academic year. I invite your feedback and comments as we continue moving through this important first year. Please feel free to call me at (802) 635-1256 or email Margaret.Warden@northernvermont.edu.

Respectfully, Margo Warden, Director of First-Year Experience (FYE)



Filling in the Gaps

During our Opening Convocation for the NVU-Johnson Class of 2023, Dr. Greg Petrics, Associate Professor of Mathematics spoke to the incoming class and greater NVU-Johnson community on *Filling in the Gaps: Don't Get Hacked*.

After welcoming the incoming class, Dr. Petrics noted how with limited information our brain is a "profound tool for filling in the gaps." He attributed this to our evolutionary need to react quickly and because information can be scarce. He then offered evidence as to how our brains can be hacked by showing examples such as optical illusions, political examples (propaganda), and in math. "Don't blame your brain. It's working hard and relentlessly fills in the gaps."

Dr. Petrics offered three rules to use to protect your brain from being hacked:

1. Zoom out. Work to see more.
2. Shift perspective. Work to see another's view.
3. Never stop pursuing truth. Work to illuminate facts.

He then ended with encouragement to the class and a bonus fourth rule.

4. Study more math!

To view Dr. Petric's full speech, please visit

<https://www.facebook.com/NVUJohnson/videos/2374487039533924/?t=2>.

Common Reading Initiative

During New Student Orientation, your student had an opportunity to meet with fellow students, faculty, and staff members and share impressions and ideas about *Long Way Down*, our Common Read for the Class of 2023. On September 10, author Jason Reynolds came to NVU-Johnson and spoke powerfully to an enthusiastic and packed house. Students had the following to say:



- "Jason Reynolds spoke humanely, yet also with extreme power. He was able to connect to the audience on such a deep level by expressing his personal life experiences. We were immediately engaged and hooked."
- "I find it incredibly inspiring that Jason Reynolds decided to use his passion and talent to help start to bridge the gap in representation in literature."
- "He works to capture the little intricacies and unknown moments to build authentic characters who are really just humans."
- "I loved it! A lot of stuff he was saying I can relate to. Hearing him speak brought back memories. He does not show his hurt about the past he lived. All the bad stuff that happened to him did not stop him."

Student Issues

If you feel that your student could use a little extra help while on campus, know there are many places for them to seek out supports. Please encourage your student to reach out to any of the following:

The **Advising Center** is where First-Year Academic Advising staff can be found. All new freshman have been assigned Cait Wilkins or Russ Weis as their advisor. They work with each incoming first year student to support integration with the campus community, connection with important resources (faculty, staff, and student resources), assist with degree planning & class registration, and engage in goal-setting discussions and activities. Transfer and Early College (EC) students work with Lizi Lyon (EC) or Brady Rainville (transfer/study away). The Advising and Registration Center is located in Dewey Hall, Room 158 or call (802) 635-1257.

The **Wellness Center** offers check-in consults, individual counseling, support groups, biofeedback, and light therapy. The Wellness Center is located on the lower level of Senators Hall, accessible by separate entrance on the outside perimeter of the building facing the road and parking lot.

The **Office of First-Year Experience** is a resource for students in their first year and well beyond. In addition to programming to help transition students to NVU-Johnson, FYE has a physical office on campus. Located in Dewey Hall, Room 164, students are encouraged to seek out this office as a first stop if there is ever uncertainty about where to turn with an issue or concern. This is also a great place for students that need a quick unofficial check-in, a snack, and/or a friendly face! FYE can be reached at (802) 635-1474.

Parent & Family Resources-Information for New Families

New Badger Families – if you haven't already, bookmark this page - <https://bit.ly/2Owu11O> and use it as a valuable resource to find important information, as well as answers to any questions that arise.

We know that sometimes parents need some of their own support and don't know where to turn. Our hope is that the information found within the Information for New Families section of NVU's website will guide and inform you. Make sure to check out the Parent Handbook – designed to be a resource

throughout your student's first year and beyond. For questions about the Parent Handbook, please contact the NVU-Johnson Student Life Office at (802) 635-1200.

After reviewing the site, if you don't find an answer to your question, call us at (802) 635-1474. Also, please feel free to share suggestions about any information you find lacking.

Important Dates for Fall Semester

Spring 2020 Registration Begins:

The week of November 11

Thanksgiving Break: November 23-December 1

Final Exams: December 16-19

Winter Recess: December 21-January 19

MLK Day: (no class) January 20

Classes resume: January 21

A Snapshot of What's Going On Around Campus

Black Violin

October 13, 8 pm

Career & Internship Fair:

October 17, 11 am-2 pm, Varsity Gym

Badger Soccer – Senior Day

October 26 vs. University of Maine Farmington

Men at 1 pm

Women at 3:30 pm

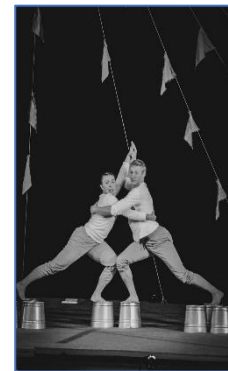
Gaelynn Lea,

October 24, 4 pm & 7 pm

RUBBERBAND Dance, November 16, 7 pm

For a full schedule of Creative Audience events, visit

<https://bit.ly/328peRG>.



Open Ring Circus joined us for a performance on 10/1 commemorating the Hartford Circus Fire of 1944. The show honored the contributions and significance of the traditional traveling circus in American culture. Students were mesmerized by a multimedia performance that included live circus-theatre, video projection, audio collage, and original music.