

THE COUNTY COLLEGE OF MORRIS' AWARD-WINNING STUDENT NEWSPAPER

YOUNGTOWN EDITION

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In Legacy Project event, Princeton professor Kathryn Edin enlightens listeners with her vast knowledge of poverty in the United States

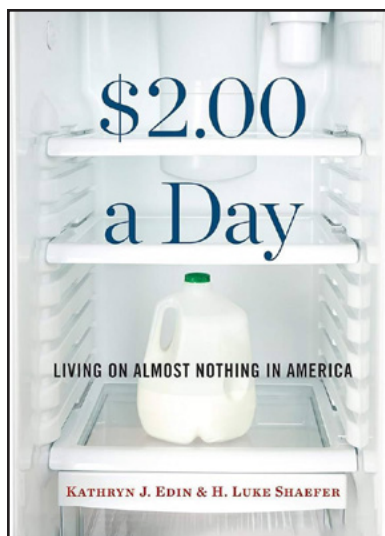
**BY PROFESSOR
KENNETH A. SHOULER**
Moderator for the Youngtown Edition

In her most recent book, *The Injustice of Place: Uncovering the Legacy of Poverty in America*, (2023) Kathryn Edin, and her co-authors H. Luke Shaefer and Timothy Nelson, wrote of the most disadvantaged communities. No, they are not in the largest cities across the land. Not New York, Los Angeles or Chicago. Rather, the locales were invariably rural.

Off they travelled, trekking some five years across Appalachia, the Cotton and Tobacco Belts of the Deep South, and South Texas. They immersed themselves in the communities, learned the local histories, and studied their legacies of deep poverty. Invariably, these communities were used for their resources and left to collapse.

Her writing is experiential. "I am a qualitative social scientist, and Luke is a quantitative social scientist," she says, acknowledging her co-author. Her presentation this day and her most recent books reflect that dual approach.

Consider her *\$2 a Day* book (2016). She writes of Jessica Compton's family of four. Jessica



Dr. Kathryn Edin, from Princeton University, and her book, *\$2 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America*, co-authored with H. Luke Shaefer

would have no income if she didn't donate plasma twice a week at her local donation center in Tennessee. Modonna Harris and her teenage daughter, Brianna, in Chicago, often have no food but spoiled milk on weekends.

After two decades of insightful research on American poverty, Kathryn Edin noticed something she hadn't seen before—households surviving without cash income. She teamed with Luke Shaefer, an expert on calculating



incomes of the poor, to discover that the number of American families living on \$2.00 per person, per day, was one and a half million households, including about three million children. Her research answered the question 'Where do these families live?' It also answered another question: 'How did they get so desperately poor?'

In *The Injustice of Place* she writes of Crystal City, Texas, the "Spinach Capital of the World," the Cotton Belt, central Appala-

chia, and the Pee Dee region of South Carolina, residents "commemorate the very industries that, for a century or more, spelled misery and hardships for thousands if not millions, while profiting only a few. They memorialize the intensive resource extraction and resulting human exploitation that made these places America's internal colonies."

Her message isn't that "geology is destiny." Geology is necessary for what would happen, but was not sufficient to produce the industries built upon them. She explains, "That process required the acquisition of land, capital, technology, and access to national and global markets. Most important, however, was an ample supply of exploitable people to provide cheap labor." Early in her presentation she stated that "the continuity of disadvantage was maintained even after these economies collapsed."

A slide show, lavishly illustrated and peppered with charts and data, aided Professor Edin's stimulating presentation. Evident also was her passion for the subject. Anyone who attended came away knowing much more than they did before.

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COLUMN: The State of our Nation: Not the one described in Trump’s 100-minute speech

BY PROFESSOR
KENNETH A. SHOULER
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“He that Troubleth his Own House Shall Inherit the Wind.”
Proverbs 11:29

There’s precious little on President Trump’s reading list. So, it’s virtually certain that the purveyor of the God Bless the USA Bible (officially endorsed by Lee Greenwood and President Trump, yours for just \$59.95) hasn’t leafed through the Old Testament passage in question, or read the Jerome Lawrence screenplay, or even watched the classic film “Inherit the Wind.” Trump reads about as often as the Jets win. Yet, a fortnight ago, the self-proclaimed “king” posted a likeness of himself with a gold crown on a Time Magazine mockup on the (absurdly titled) platform “Truth Social.” This self-nomination of royalty omitted more than it revealed. After all, since the commander in chief seeks to add a kingly title to his dossier, I was kind of hoping he would enumerate the



Oligarchs “R” Us: Elon Musk runs ahead of Vladimir Putin as Trump’s favorite authoritarian

rest of his resume items. Since he didn’t, I will: a convicted felon (he racked up 34 felonies last May),

twice impeached, a teller of 30,510 lies (that Washington Post tally doesn’t even include the four-plus years since the 2020 election), an ally of a murderous dictator, Vladimir Putin. Oh, and that Employment History portion of his resume? A reality television star. That being so, add one more dubious distinction to the resume: DEI president.

Owning Language

Yes, DEI president. Irony of ironies, no?

For when used by his MAGA cronies, the DEI label is invariably wielded as a sword against under-represented groups, assumed to be less qualified. On his first day in office Trump signed an executive order “Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferring.” The order claimed that “the Biden Administration forced illegal and immoral discrimination programs, going by the name “diversity, equity, and inclusion” (DEI), into virtually all aspects of the Federal Government, in areas ranging from airline safety to the military.” By this reckoning Kamala Harris was a DEI candidate they say. One says it and the others repeat it dutifully, like a gaggle of geese honking.

Yet her brand of diversity—namely, the number of impressive posts she held—made her inclusion inevitable and deserved. After all, her 21 years of service included posts as district attorney, attorney general, senator, and vice president. Compare this to Kennedy, who had 13 years in the senate and the house; Reagan, eight years as governor; and Obama 11 years in the senate.

Still the thrust of the DEI label is almost always racist.

Orwell and Language

Language is the dress of a thought, said English author Samuel Johnson. But beware the misuse of terms. In his 1946 essay, *Politics and the English Language* George Orwell wrote: “Political language ... is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable.” His essay came out three years before his novel *1984*. In that novel “The Party,” the entity in charge of the country, created the slogans war is peace, freedom is slavery, and ignorance is strength. And where were these slogans written? The words were inscribed, in enormous letters, in the white pyramid on the Ministry of Truth.

SEE UNION, PAGE 3

THE YOUNGTOWN EDITION

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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.

UNION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

It's odd that the Ministry of Truth would display such obvious contradictions. The author implies that these statements are true for the dystopian society he has constructed. These are just the first in a series of contradictions. Orwell introduces the reader to the concept of Doublethink, which is what allows the people of Oceania to live with contradictions in their lives. Doublethink is the ability to hold two opposing ideas simultaneously.

Upside-down Logic in Ukraine

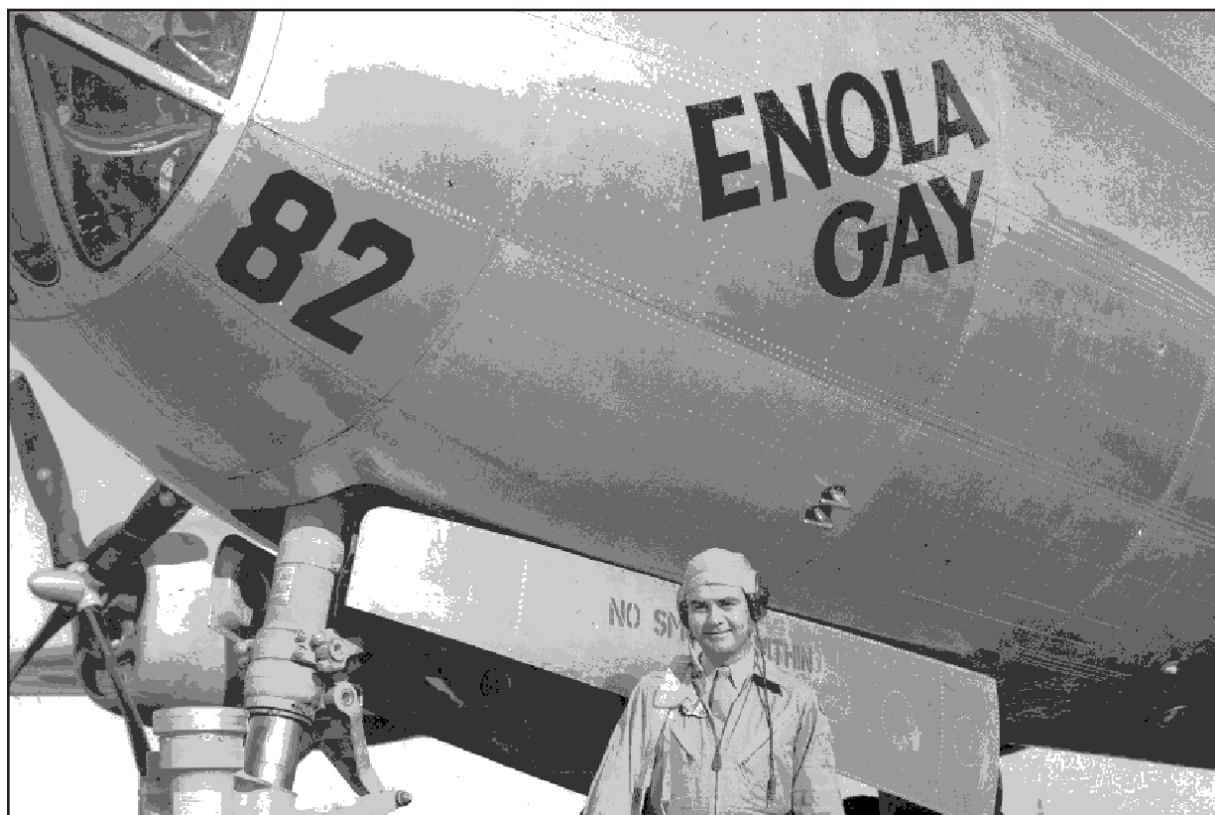
The image of Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky sitting upright against the attacks of an American President and Vice President will remain with me. He sat there not giving an inch, facing off against a pair who, lost in their self-imposed ignorance, did not grasp, or care, that they were giving away 80 years of our foreign policy. The fix was in, as Trump and Vance set out to cause a skirmish and make it look like it was his fault. A person off to the side mindlessly chided Zelensky for not wearing a suit. Evidently, he missed Elon Musk's get-up with a baseball cap and thrift shop attire that very week.

Orwellian logic continues apace. In the world according to Trump, Ukraine's freely elected president is a "dictator." Has he ever used that term to describe Vladimir Putin, who has ruled Russia this whole century? He also blames Ukraine for Russia's invasion. The illogic of that statement is beyond indecipherable. This tortured logic also flies smack in the fact of the empirical evidence: a Quinnipiac Poll on February 19 showed that 81 percent don't trust Vladimir Putin.

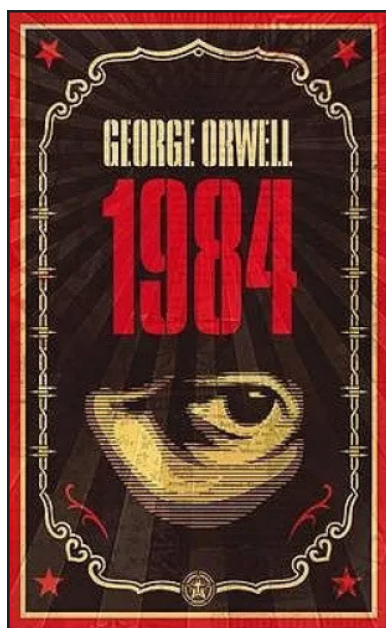
Measles Outbreak

The measles outbreak in the American southwest has killed a second person, an unvaccinated adult. This death came a week after measles took the life of an unvaccinated child in nearby Texas, the first US death from the disease since 2015.

A highly preventable disease, measles was also considered "eliminated" in the US in 2000. But it is spreading quickly in Texas, with the state identifying 198 cases as of Fri-



The Enola Gay, the Boeing B-29 bomber that dropped the first atom bomb in 1945, was named after Enola Gay Tibbets, the mother of the pilot, Colonel Paul Tibbets. It's one of 26,000 images flagged for removal in Trump's DEI purge. The purge could delete up to 100,000 images.



Our 2025 world of Doublethink is explained in its pages.

day, March 7, nearly 30 more since the state's last report three days earlier. In the same span the number of cases in neighboring New Mexico tripled, to 30.

Meanwhile, Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. Kennedy, appearing only slightly uncomfortable sitting in his alternate universe, addressed the outbreak with his usual vaccine denial. He claimed that Texas doctors were giving steroids and cod liver oil to their measles patients and

"getting very, very, good results." He didn't quantify what "good results" meant, and the available evidence on the number of those infected thwarts his claim.

One doctor dismissed Kennedy's claims at once. "Mentions of cod liver oil and vitamins [are] just distracting people away from what the single message should be, which is to increase the vaccination rate," said Dr. Amesh Adalja, an infectious disease physician and senior scholar with the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security.

The DEI Purge Includes Rewriting History by Deleting Photos at the Pentagon

Do you still need to ask if we are getting dumber?

The US defense department works to purge diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) content, according to a database obtained by the Associated Press. Those images include but are not limited to the Enola Gay aircraft that dropped an atomic bomb on Japan, and the first women to pass US marine infantry training. These are among the tens of thousands of photos and online posts marked for deletion at the Pentagon.

The US defense secretary, Pete Hegseth, zealously following the executive order of Donald Trump,

has allowed the military until Wednesday, March 12th to remove content that highlights diversity efforts in its ranks. Pentagon spokesman John Ulliyot issued a statement: "We are pleased by the rapid compliance across the department with the directive removing DEI content from all platforms. In the rare cases that content is removed that is out of the clearly outlined scope of the directive, we instruct components accordingly."

Hegseth declared triumphantly that "DEI is dead." The administration claims that efforts to put one group ahead of another through DEI programs erodes camaraderie and threatens mission execution. Sure, it threatens mission execution to remove photos flagged for removal simply because their file included the word "gay," including service members with that last name, and an image of the historic B-29 aircraft Enola Gay.

Rewriting History

"It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking 13." Time is out of joint. That's the opening sentence of the novel *1984*. History will be changed into whatever the ruling party wants it to be. The purging of the Enola Gay image proves that we are what the novel describes.



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Hackettstown's The Inquisition makes debut with show March 15

SARA LIM

Managing Editor

On March 1st, *The Magi of Kent-Act 1: The Turn of the Tide*, the debut album from Hackettstown's nascent art-rock ensemble, The Inquisition, was unveiled to the world. This ambitious work, a sonic tapestry woven with threads of Pink Floyd's psychedelia and early Genesis' theatrical flair, unfurls as a classic rock opera of epic proportions, an epic adventure tale full of drama, pageantry and great live music, captivating audiences across generational divides.

The story and origin of The Inquisition is one of ambition, unbridled creativity, and heart. Brainchild of singer, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist Tobias Stearns, the group explores the classic art rock space that characterized the late 1960s-mid 1970s. Drawing his creative well-spring from an eclectic confluence of influences, from the primal rhythms of drum circles to the lilting melodies of Irish sessions, from the fantastical realms of Renaissance Faires to the sacred echoes of church percussion, Stearns' artistic palette is as diverse as it is profound, adding a certain theatrical flair and spirit of creative liberty to everything he touches. The result is a musical odyssey that transcends mere entertainment, offering a poignant exploration of the human condition through the ages. A fresh and lively artistic exploration of the human experience, both in terms of past, present and future, The Inquisition presents their listeners with a genuine depth of storytelling sorely needed in this ever-changing musical landscape.

The Inquisition's debut full-length work *The Magi of Kent*, a major work exceeding two hours in length, is, at its core, a classic rock concept album, a work that harkens back to the golden age of progressive rock while firmly planting its feet in



contemporary relevance. The narrative, a labyrinthine adventure tale, serves as an allegorical lens through which the band scrutinizes the pervasive influence of corporate behemoths, in particular the pharmaceutical industry, on our modern zeitgeist. As CCM Professor Bill Briggs wrote, "This project is a long-form rock opera/epic adventure story communicated through bold, and dynamic music that can be enjoyed by all audiences." Through intricately performed and produced compositions, the album takes the listener on an exciting adventure that poises essential questions regarding truth and power and the complexities of defining both. The album's overture unfurls with a mes-

merizing interplay of strings, evoking the exotic timbre of George Harrison's sitar work, before yielding to the full ensemble's entrance. A Greek chorus {several members of which are CCM students}, reminiscent of ancient tragedies, guides the listener through the sonic landscape with enigmatic verse:

"Speak, memory, of the innocent soul who falls heir to torture,

As kin-cry revolt rises tempestuously with his every blood-pulse..."

This poetic invocation sets the stage for a journey of mythic proportions, as tracks like 'Adrift pt1' and 'Adrift pt2' build layer upon layer of reverberating guitars and harmonies, culminating in the triumphant 'On the Docks'. The album's thematic core

is distilled in the recurring refrain, "What have I done with myself? I can't keep leaving my whole life upon the shelf," charting the metamorphosis of protagonist Maurice Funk as he navigates a world of mythical magnitude.

This is a band perfectly suited to the stage, a band whose delicate relationship towards performance and storytelling {curated through years of theatrical performances} is best experienced live. The Inquisition's live performances promise to be a tour de force, melding their penchant for theatrics with masterful musical storytelling. Their upcoming album release show on March 15th at the Auditorium of Grace Church in Netcong, NJ, is poised to be a spectacle of epic proportions. With an expanded ensemble featuring a horn section, actors, narrators, percussionists, and an electric violinist, the band will present their debut album in its entirety, followed by a tantalizing preview of their sophomore effort, *The Sons of Abaddon*, slated to be released in late 2025.

As The Inquisition prepares to perform their magnum opus to the world, they stand as a testament to the enduring power of ambitious, conceptual rock in an era of fleeting musical trends. Come support a local rising group of ambitious people as they perform a celebratory concert in honor of the release of their debut album *The Magi of Kent* at Grace Church in Netcong, NJ! Visit their website {<https://theinquisitionband.com/>} to learn more and purchase tickets! All students are free with proof of following on social media. For everyone else, tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. In the words of their enigmatic chorus, we are compelled to "Speak now of the Magi of Kent," and bear witness to the birth of a formidable new force in the realm of art rock.

Adjunct Faculty Showcase Taking Place Now!

An Adjunct Faculty Showcase exhibition is running now through April 3 in the CCM Gallery, which is located in the LRC.

The exhibition of art and design works highlights the contributions of our talented adjunct faculty members in the department of Design & Media Studies and the department of Arts & Humanities.

The Gallery hours for the Spring 2025 semester are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

MARCH NEWSLETTER



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Ready to level up your study game? Join us for an interactive workshop where we'll explore and help you discover your unique learning style. Whether you are cramming for midterms or looking to stay ahead, we've got you covered.

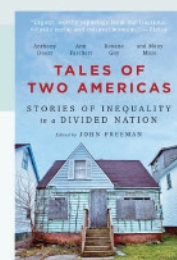
TWLOOA (TO WRITE LOVE ON OUR ARMS)

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26TH
2-3:30PM ON CAMPUS GREEN**

Join us for an event inspired by the project TWLOHA (To Write Love on Her Arms), dedicated to raising awareness about self-injury and promoting self-love and compassion. This event is a safe place to learn, share, and connect with resources. Whether you are here to support yourself or someone you care about, this event is reminder that you are not alone – and your story matters.



ONE BOOK, ONE COLLEGE

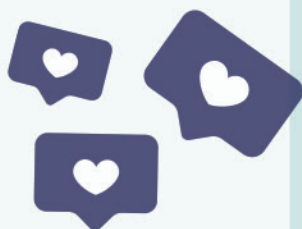


COME TO THE TWLOOA EVENT TO READ ABOUT THE INVISIBLE WOUNDS OF STUDENTS ON CAMPUS, INSPIRED BY A CHAPTER IN "TALES OF TWO AMERICAS"



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COMMUNITY AGENCY VISITS



NAVIGATING HOPE
MARCH 13TH
11-2PM
LRC LOBBY

Mobile outreach designed to provide social services to individuals.

HOPE ONE
MARCH 12TH
10-2PM
SH ALCOVE

Helps individuals dealing with addiction & mental health concerns.

WALK & TALK GROUP



**MEET IN THE
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Need a break from your books? Lace up your sneakers and join our Walk & Talk Group! This is your chance to get outside, stretch your legs, and engage in meaningful conversations with fellow students while strolling around campus. Whether you are here to share ideas, make new friends, or just clear your mind, this group is a perfect way to unwind and recharge!

MEETING TIMES!

TUESDAY, MARCH 4TH (2-3PM)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12TH (1-2PM)

THURSDAY, MARCH 27TH (2-3PM)



TITAN'S TABLE

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Baseball in the spring: The Titans' promising start

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

“Baseball begins in the spring, the season of new life. Football begins in the fall, when everything’s dying.”

— Comedian George Carlin

Talk about mashing right out of the box. For their season opener The Titans caught the bus to Brooklyn—that borough of churches and trolleys--and took care of Kingsborough Community College in grand fashion. The Titans used 13 hits and 14 walks (no misprint) and triumphed 20-5. Center fielder James Turchi laced three hits and first sacker Myles Nova banged out four of his own. Designated hitter Santiago Nunez and shortstop Avery Whitney each plated three runs.

But that's just one clap of thunder, right? Inductive reasoning tells us that a sample size of one tells us nothing about the next contest. Except the boys from Randolph veered off to Yaphank, New York (on Long Island) to take the measure of their

opponents from Suffolk Community College. They won again, 8-4. A casual glance at the box score shows a trio of pitchers--Jordan Ake, Mike Zitola, and Pat Tullo--striking out 15 batters in seven innings. Three hits and a pair of runs scored from second sacker Trevor Wallace helped to seal the deal, 8-4. Just to show their humanity, they dropped the second game of the twinbill 7-6, despite a bomb and three runs batted in from James Turchi.

They swept a pair from Nassau Community College, 7-0 and 7-6. Turchi was at it again, blasting away in game one, belting another homer and a triple to drive in three runs. Hurler Aran Basaran threw shutout ball for four and two-thirds to pick up the win. Ryan Iberer notched a victory in the nightcap, fanning five in five innings for a 7-6 extra-inning win.

After a rainout against Bergen on Wednesday, March 5th they were 4-1. They had earned their .800 record with a combined score of 48-22 through five games. With such dominant hitting and effective pitching, the beginning of a long spring is auspicious.



Titans' Shortstop Avery Whitney

Take a Trip to Mars this Winter at the Longo Planetarium

Visit the Red Planet and Explore Comets, Asteroids and More

The Longo Planetarium at CCM is ready to launch visitors into a new, out-of-this-world experience to Mars now through April 26, 2025. With the power of Digistar 7, the world's most advanced planetarium system now installed at CCM, the community is invited to explore the fascinating red planet Mars in the night sky in this 45-minute show. Discover the many challenges astronauts face on this voyage, the farthest ever made by humans, and how creativity, communication and collaboration are essential for deep space exploration.

“Mars: The Ultimate Voyage” may be seen on select Fridays at 9 p.m. and Saturdays at 3:30 p.m. and is best suited for adults and children ages 8 and up.

Due to the immense popularity, the planetarium's fall semester showings, “Edge of Darkness” and “One Sky,” will continue to be offered this winter. Narrated by Hayley Atwell (Agent Carter from the Marvel Cinematic Universe), “Edge of Darkness” explores comets, asteroids and Pluto. This 45-minute show is offered on select Saturdays at 5 p.m. and is recommended for adults and children ages 8 and up. “One Sky,” a great introduction to the night sky for young children ages 6 and up, is an international collaboration of short films. This 40-minute show is offered on select Fridays at 7:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 2 p.m.

The award-winning visual journey, “Mesmerica,” bringing music by Grammy-nominated composer and percussionist James Hood, continues to be shown for adults on select dates.

For more information, including trailers plus ticketing information, visit the Longo Planetarium website at www.ccm.edu/meet-ccm/longo-planetarium/. Tickets for all shows are \$10 per person. Online reservations are strongly encouraged, as limited tickets will be available for cash purchase at the door. For safety reasons, all shows start promptly at the time indicated. For inclement winter weather closings, call (973) 328-5580.

The Longo Planetarium is located on CCM's campus, 214 Center Grove Road, Randolph. The planetarium is located in Cohen Hall Room 207. The closest parking lot is lot 7. Follow the planetarium signs to Cohen Hall located at the center of campus.

About Longo Planetarium

Since 1973, the state-of-the-art Longo Planetarium at CCM has been inspiring curiosity and bringing the universe to northern New Jersey in an immersive theater experience. The newly upgraded Digistar 7 planetarium system is dedicated to displaying thousands of stars, the planets, the Moon and beyond onto a 33-foot diameter dome. Shows are available for the public to attend; school and scout groups can be scheduled in advance. Questions may be emailed to planetariuminfo@ccm.edu.