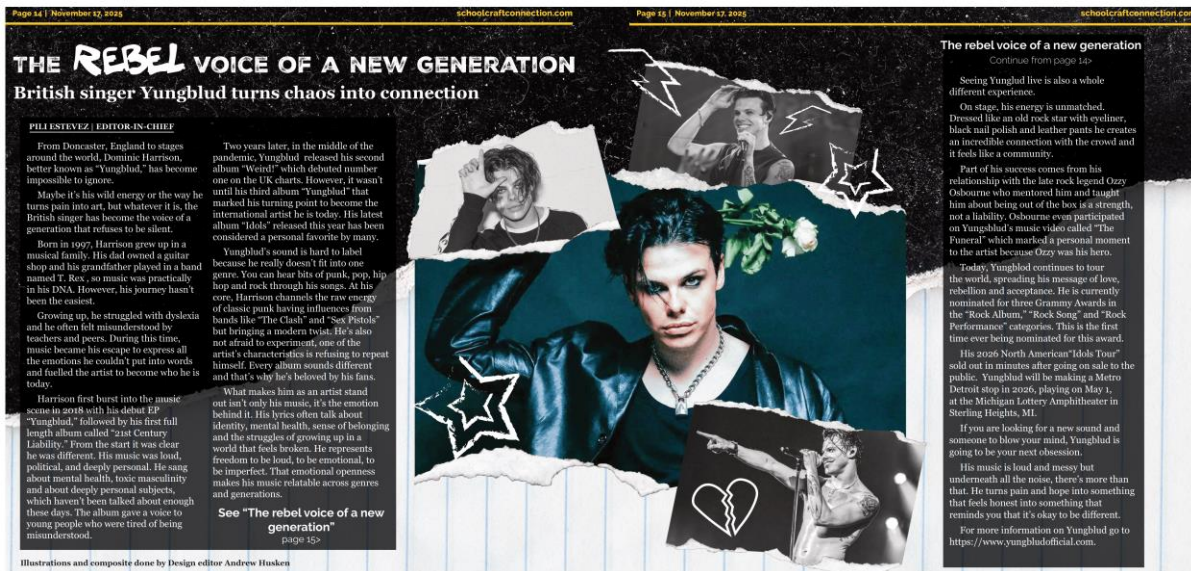


TIE: “The Rebel Voice of a New Generation” HuskenA, Schoolcraft College

“HFC Women in STEM” Olivia Draus, Henry Ford College

“A Rebel Voice of a New Generation”

By: HuskenA, Schoolcraft College



Judge’s comments: “This two-page spread on Yungblud is one of the most visually and emotionally cohesive layouts in the batch. It successfully mirrors the artist’s chaotic, rebellious energy through both design and editorial tone. The torn paper edges, star motifs, and broken heart icon aren’t just decorative—they reinforce the themes of vulnerability, punk defiance, and emotional rawness that define Yungblud’s persona. This layout is a standout example of how design can amplify editorial voice. It’s not just a profile—it’s a visual experience that echoes the subject’s identity. With minor tweaks to text hierarchy (like pull quotes or subheads), it could be even more immersive.

A useful next step for improving this spread is tightening the visual hierarchy so the design feels as intentional and expressive as the subject. The imagery and torn-paper graphics already capture Yungblud’s chaotic, punk-influenced aesthetic, but the pages would benefit from a clearer focal point—either by enlarging one dominant portrait or anchoring the main image closer to the headline. Adding a pull quote or two would break up the long text blocks and highlight emotionally strong lines such as his music being “a mirror to the world” or his belief in

embracing imperfection. Page 14, in particular, could use a small visual element or accent to balance the heavier imagery on page 15 and create a more unified spread. Strengthening alignment between images and text—so visuals sit closer to the sections they relate to—would also help guide the reader’s eye more naturally.”

“HFC Women in Stem”
 By: Olivia Draus, Henry Ford College

Breaking Barriers // Building Futures:

HFC Women in Stem

The fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) have historically been male-dominated, but the landscape is gradually changing. Women are increasingly making significant contributions to STEM, driving innovation, and offering new perspectives.

Henry Ford College mathematics professor and incoming Associate Dean of the School of STEM, Naha Hadjar, observes, “I’m seeing more women involved in this field. Definitely, there are still some challenges, especially when it’s a field where it is not common for women to be in there. There’s still work to be done.”

Hadjar spoke about being the only young woman at the University of Dakar in Senegal. This was intimidating and scary considering she was only 17 at the time. Her parents were reluctant to agree with her decision to pursue a degree in mathematics, but remained supportive. For her, failure was not an option. She had to lead the way to show them that her decision was right and that she could do it. There were times when she had wanted to quit and was unsure if she was doing the right thing because of all the pressure, but ultimately Hadjar prevailed and is now one of the leading women in STEM at HFC.

Numerous women in STEM, like Hadjar have faced similar challenges and have excelled after facing these problems. It is stories like Hadjar’s that provide powerful anecdotes of resilience and success, showcasing the achievements of women who have broken through glass ceilings. These stories serve not only as motivation but also as evidence of the value that diverse voices bring to scientific and technological advancements.

Inspiring figures come from various places, some in the very homes of these women. HFC biology instructor Dr. Sarah Piecha recalls, “My mom is probably one of my inspirations. She was a nurse. And she loved science so much that I got that interest in science. And I mean she’s one of many people that have inspired me. But she was probably my first inspiration and why I went into science.”

Dr. Piecha’s own experiences as a student and researcher have fueled her belief that everyone, regardless of background or circumstances, can succeed in STEM. She often shares her story with her students to inspire them to push through challenges and take advantage of every opportunity that comes their way. Just as she was inspired by the people around her, Dr. Piecha now serves as a role model herself, showing her students that resilience and a love for learning are key to overcoming challenges and achieving success in science.

Masruda Abdallah, a Chemistry graduate, shares, “Seeing the widespread support for women in STEM both in the media and in real life truly inspired me to keep going and pursue my dreams in this field. The song ‘What Was I Made For?’ featured in the Barbie movie, was constantly played throughout my senior year and really fueled my passion for what I do.”

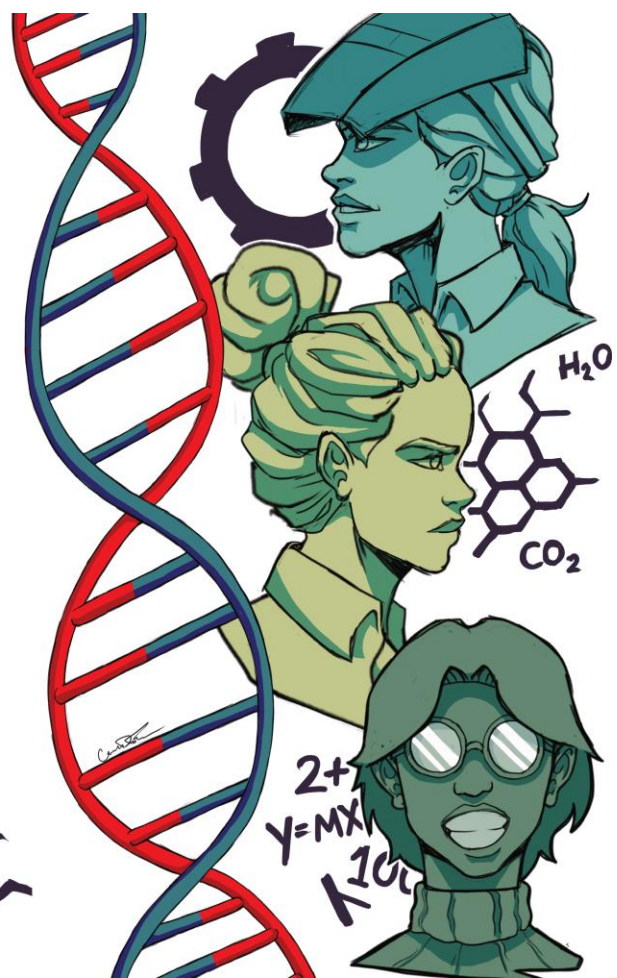
While women are making gains in STEM fields, work still needs to be done. As reported by the Pew Research Center, “Black and Hispanic workers remain underrepresented in the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) workforce compared with their share of all workers.”

According to her article, “How More Equality Can Be Brought to Women in STEM” in Forbes, Sereinity Gibbons reports that while women now make up 45 percent of students pursuing STEM fields in higher education in the U.S.; however, once they graduate, women find difficulty finding jobs, with women representing only 26 percent of STEM professionals.

HFC women of STEM are defying these odds. Rather than having to tiptoe around their male counterparts, HFC women of STEM confidently express themselves freely and take on leadership roles at the college. They demonstrate that women are valuable, capable, and essential contributors to every field and that their perspectives and talents deserve recognition and respect. Through leaders like the HFC women of STEM, the college creates spaces where everyone can fully thrive and be their greatest selves.

$Raneem Aljaber^2 + \sqrt{Briana(Dobson)} =$

4 March 31, 2023 | mirrored@hfc.edu



Judge’s comments: “The concept is powerful: a feature highlighting women in STEM, supported by bold illustrations and scientific motifs. The right page is visually dynamic and immediately communicates the theme, while the left page carries the narrative weight. The challenge is that the two sides feel somewhat disconnected in structure and emphasis, and the

text-heavy left page competes with the highly stylized right page rather than forming a cohesive whole.

You can strengthen this layout by creating a clearer balance between the dense article on the left and the highly visual illustration on the right, which currently feel like two separate pieces rather than a unified spread. The text would benefit from added structure—subheads, a pull quote, or a short intro—to break up the long blocks and give readers natural entry points. Increasing typographic contrast in the headline and incorporating colors or graphic motifs from the illustration into the text area would help tie the two sides together. You could also introduce a small visual element or accent on the left page to offset the heavy artwork on the right, creating a more even distribution of visual weight. Overall, the goal is to let the strong artwork support the story rather than overshadow it, while giving the narrative more breathing room and a clearer hierarchy.”