

# Monroe Community College's Common Read Program

2016/2017



**First Year  
Experience!**



**Student Life &  
Leadership Development**  
MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Joshua Davis **SPARE PARTS**



Four Undocumented Teenagers, One Ugly Robot,  
and the Battle for the American Dream



**Monroe Community College**  
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

In 2004, four Latino teenagers arrived at the Marine Advanced Technology Education Robotics Competition at the University of California, Santa Barbara. They were born in Mexico but raised in Phoenix, Arizona, where they attended an underfunded public high school. No one had ever suggested to Oscar, Cristian, Luis, or Lorenzo that they might amount to much but two inspiring science teachers had convinced these impoverished, undocumented kids from the desert who had never even seen the ocean that they should try to build an underwater robot.

And build a robot they did. Their robot wasn't pretty, especially compared to those of the competition. They were going up against some of the best collegiate engineers in the country, including a team from MIT backed by a \$10,000 grant from ExxonMobil. The Phoenix teenagers had scraped together less than \$1,000 and built their robot out of scavenged parts. This was never a level competition and yet, against all odds . . . they won!

But this is just the beginning for these four, whose story which became a key inspiration to the DREAMers movement will go on to include first-generation college graduations, deportation, bean-picking in Mexico, and service in Afghanistan. Joshua Davis's *Spare Parts* is a story about overcoming insurmountable odds and four young men who proved they were among the most patriotic and talented Americans in this country even as the country tried to kick them out.

**Oscar Vazquez / Wednesday, November 16, 2016**

Brighton Campus	Damon City Campus
7:00 p.m.	12:00 p.m.
Warshof Conference Center, R. Thomas Flynn Campus Center	Room 4151
Monroe A & B	Free to MCC Students, Faculty and Staff
Free to MCC Students, Faculty and Staff	Not Open to Public
Not Open to Public	Tickets Required
Tickets Required	Tickets available at <a href="http://www.monroecctickets.com">www.monroecctickets.com</a>
\$7.00 General Public	
Tickets available at <a href="http://www.monroecctickets.com">www.monroecctickets.com</a>	



Oscar Vazquez

**Oscar Vazquez, Veteran**

A member of the underwater robotics team which was featured in the book and motion picture *Spare Parts: Four Undocumented Teenagers, One Ugly Robot, and The Battle for the American Dream*.

Like many DREAMers, Oscar's family brought him to the United States as a child in search of a better life. From age 12 when he moved from Mexico to Phoenix, Arizona, Oscar excelled in the classroom at Carl Hayden High School where he was a member of the underwater robotics team, which won a national championship in 2004 that pitted them against some of the most prestigious engineering colleges in the country. That opportunity led to a college education in the STEM field, earning a B.S.E in mechanical engineering from Arizona State University in May 2009. But without U.S. citizenship, he couldn't secure a job to provide for his new wife and newborn child. He returned to Mexico to apply for a visa and legalize his status, but was denied twice. With the help from Sen. Dick Durbin, who spoke from the Senate Floor about Oscar's case, he was granted a visa in August 2010. Six months later, Oscar enlisted in the Army to serve the country he loves and calls home. Oscar served one tour in Afghanistan. He now works for Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railways as a business analyst.

**Spare Parts Book Discussion**

Wednesday, October 12, 2016  
12:00 p.m. - 12:50 p.m.  
PRISM Multicultural Center, 1-108  
Book discussion with Professor Diane Clements and the FYE Peer Navigators.  
Refreshments will be served.

**Underwater Dreams Documentary**

Monday, October 24, 2016  
1:00 p.m. - 2:50 p.m.  
R. Thomas Flynn Campus Center  
Forum 3-130  
Screening of Underwater Dreams

**Underwater Dreams Documentary**

Monday, October 31, 2016  
12:00 p.m. - 1:50 p.m.  
Damon City Campus  
Room 4151  
Screening of Underwater Dreams

**Spare Parts Book Discussion**

Wednesday, November 2, 2016  
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
PRISM Multicultural Center, 1-108  
Refreshments will be served.  
Sponsored with the FYE Peer Navigators

**Spare Parts Motion Picture**

Wednesday, November 2, 2016  
5:00 p.m.  
R. Thomas Flynn Campus Center  
Forum 3-130  
Pizza and popcorn available.  
Sponsored with the Engineering Leadership Council



**Joshua Davis, Author of Spare Parts**

Thursday, March 23, 2017

**Damon City Campus**

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Room 4151  
Free to MCC Students, Faculty and Staff  
Tickets required  
Tickets Available at [www.monroecctickets.com](http://www.monroecctickets.com)

**Brighton Campus**

7:00 p.m.  
Warshof Conference Center,  
R. Thomas Flynn Campus Center  
Monroe A & B  
Parking in Lot M  
Free to MCC Students, Faculty and Staff  
\$10.00 General Public  
Tickets available at [www.monroecctickets.com](http://www.monroecctickets.com)

The Common Read Program is sponsored by The Office of Student Life and Leadership Development, Academic Services, and First Year Experience and Title III: Building a Culture of Engagement & Success.