Ch...ch...changes
New VP Eun-Woo Chang brings new goals

By Joe Biocco

On August 14, 2014, former Dean of Science, Engineering and Mathematics of Montgomery College, Dr. Eun-Woo Chang replaced Dr. Donald “Guy” Generals as the new Vice President for Academic Affairs at Mercer.

In an interview with The VOICE, Dr. Chang said he began his career studying chemistry. He explained that one of his first chemistry teachers was “scary.” He went on to say that the teacher “wanted to show the students that he was a tough teacher and that chemistry is not easy. I was not really comfortable about it.”

He thought about going to medical school or becoming a pilot, but decided in the end that he did want to pursue chemistry. “So someday I would come back to that high school and tell that teacher I’m better than you at chemistry.” Dr. Chang said, laughing.

Dr. Chang grew up in South Korea and attended Yeungnam University. In his junior year, he moved to America to continue his studies at the advice of his brother.

Lacking confidence in his English, Dr. Chang decided to get his master’s degree in chemistry at what he described as a remote location: Minnesota State University.

After that he continued his studies and received his Ph.D. at the University of California, Los Angeles, choosing it over U.C. Berkeley and University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, which are top schools, because, as he says: “I thought I could get married to Koreans, because there is a huge Korean community there. But in the end, I married a Chinese from Hong Kong.” He and his wife have now been married for 26 years.

Prior to his administrative position at Montgomery College, Dr. Chang was program director in the Division of Undergraduate Education for the National Science Foundation. He was also a professor of chemistry at Truckee Meadows Community College, in Reno, Nevada for 17 years.

Dr. Chang eventually kickstarted his administrative career by taking a leadership position at Truckee Meadows, which led him on to the Faculty Senate. There he led a faculty group for four years.

After a one year fellowship for the American Council on Educa-tion (ACE) at the College of Southern Nevada, Dr. Chang was asked by the

Transgender panel succeeds despite vandalism

By Staff of The College VOICE & Maia Seals

Including panelists, 20 people attended a transgender issues panel held at Mercer in SC 104 on April 16, 2015 despite the fact that fliers announcing it were torn down and found in trash cans.

According to the event’s coordinator Dr. Leonard Winogora, Mercer’s Advisor and On-Site Coordinator for William Paterson University, he received permission from SGA to post the fliers and put up as many as 50 on Monday, April 13 only to arrive the following morning and discover that most had been torn down.

“When I came back next morning, around 9am, they were gone. Later I found some of them in the trash can outside the LA building,” Winogora told The VOICE.

He says he responded by notifying college administra-tors and SGA and quickly work ing to print more of the green flyers and post them.

However, he says, “The day of the event some of the new flyers we had distributed for the second time had been covered by other flyers.”

When asked if he knew the reason behind the vandal-ism, Winogora said “Someone doesn’t have sense of commu-nity.”

See TRANS page 4
English Professor Fran Davidson retires

By Ashlea Frampton
Reporter

English Professor Fran Davidson is retiring at the end of this semester after 30 years of service to Mercer. She began as a part-time adjunct instructor back in 1985, and went on to work in Developmental Education. She was then hired as a full-time English professor, and was well known for teaching the poetry seminars. Prior to coming to Mercer she had taught in both private and public high schools.

Immediately after graduating from Douglass Women's College, which is now a part of Rutgers University, Professor Davidson moved with her husband to New Orleans, where she taught her first class: Modern American Poetry. In an interview with The VOICE, she described going to the Tulane University Library to learn about modern poets.

“Poetry was really exploding into new areas—this would have been in the 70s. Not too long ago, I came across my notes from those early years and it was interesting to read through them. That’s sort of my first love—poetry. I’m glad I was able to end my career at Mercer doing the same thing,” Davidson told The VOICE.

Her current project—her last one before she officially retired—is adapting the Honors Poetry class so it can also be offered an online course. Rachel Levitt, a second-year Women’s and Gender Studies major at Mercer, says she was “biggest fan of poetry” before taking Prof. Davidson’s class, but the class shifted her perspective.

“[Prof. Davidson] will be missed. No one else could teach poetry the way she does,” Levitt says.

For second-year Liberal Arts major, Axel Ortiz, what stood out about Davidson’s poetry class was: “the way she encouraged her students—and I’m only speaking from our poetry class—to ‘listen’ to the text. We all come with different experiences so we’re all gonna have varied reactions to different poems, so it was all about what words spoke to us, and why.” Prof. Davidson says it took her time to grow to truly love teaching, but now, having been out of the classroom and moved to her new home in South Carolina, she says: “I was also losing a piece of my identity when I stopped [teaching].”

Prof. Davidson explains that her connection to students has been one of the most meaningful aspects of career.

“I’ve enjoyed developing friendships with students over the years... It’s hard because you naturally lose touch after they leave.” However, she says she has kept in touch with some students over the years, including several of her international students—one in Germany, one in Brazil. Students like Axel Ortiz have gone on to share some of their own poetry with her since taking her class.

Prof. Davidson’s colleagues have warm memories of her time at Mercer.

Marge Archer, the Student Advocate for Liberal Arts and an adjunct in the English department who has substituted for Prof. Davidson in the past, and says that she loved working with international students in English Composition classes. She loved helping students in any way possible, and now loves being a grandmother for the first time.

Prof. Jack Tabor, a fellow English Department faculty member, remembers that Prof. Davidson was on his hiring committee eight years ago, and says she was “such a wonderful colleague who did really good work. She was smart, kind, and generous with her students. Of all the faculty members, she had a sensitivity to the world around her—and such graciousness. When she announced her retirement, I was like, ‘No! You can’t leave!’”

In considering the changes at Mercer in the last 30 years, Prof. Davidson says she sees great potential in the new crop of professors, including the part-time instructors who teach the majority of classes in the English and Foreign Languages department.

“We have got a really fine adjunct faculty here, many of whom I’ve gotten to know personally,” Davidson says.

Prof. Davidson and her husband Don, a retired lawyer, moved to South Carolina to be closer to one of their two sons and his family, including their first grandchild, Wesley, who was born in December. With her new free time she says she plans to travel more—her other son lives in Prague—go hiking, and perhaps take some classes in Art History.

Don Davidson told The VOICE, “Fran misses her old life and friends at Mercer, but is loving being only 15 minutes from baby Wesley. She is also working daily on her sabattical project and can’t wait to teach her poetry course on line.”

She also looks forward to “reading again—just picking up novels!” As she puts it: “It was my friends who weren’t teachers [who] would ask, ‘have you read this really great book?’ and I’d say ‘no I haven’t gotten to it yet’.”

Coach Kerins helps baseball team continue to thrive

By Dan O’Mara
Reporter

Since moving from assistant to head baseball coach in 2012, Kerins Kerins has had a powerful effect on the team. Over the past four years, Mercer’s season records have steadily increased from 29 wins in 2012, to last season’s record-setting 40 and 8, which included a trip to the Division Two World Series.

“Over the past two seasons, we’ve had a 97 percent academic retention rate in our baseball program,” Kerins added.

But Kerins’ hard work on and off the baseball diamond has not only had a positive effect on the team’s overall success, it has also earned him some hardware.

Following Mercer’s 2014 season, Kerins took home the Region 19 Coach of the Year award, as well as the Northeast Coach of the Year award.

Kerins’ success as coach has garnered the attention both from his current players and from his own home athletics department.

“[Coach Kerins] has a good vision of how he wants the program to be viewed and maintained, and works hard and pays attention to detail,” John Simone, Director of Athletics, said.

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Mercer’s President, Dr. Patricia Donohue, is retiring at the end of this year after eight and a half years leading the college and its students. After 49 years as an educator, she says she has earned the right to retire. ‘I know she plans to use this time to enjoy her retirement and I wish her the very best. ’ John Simone, Assistant Dean of Student Services and Director of Athletics for The VOICE. “Dr. Donohue is going to have some time to enjoy her retirement and do some things I’m sorry to see her go, she really was an excellent President, she has been an excellent leader, she had great vision, and she supported the college nationally and locally.”

The person who has perhaps worked most closely with Dr. Donohue these past eight years is Diane Badessa, her Executive Assistant. She said that of experience, “I enjoyed working with Dr. Donohue...she is very involved in activities and the community for the betterment of the College and its students. After 49 years of working in education she has, as she says ‘earned the right to retire’. I know she plans on traveling and enjoying time with her family and grandchil- dren, and I wish her the very best.”

As for who will be selected to be the next president of the college, the selection process is longer and more elaborate than hiring a regular staff or faculty member. The search committee included 24 people, including representatives from the faculty and faculty union, the staff, the board of trustees, the Foundation Board and community leaders and two students. The chair of the committee is the former chair of the board of trustees, Mark Matzen. All of the members gave suggestions on the qualifications they would like the next president to have. Once that search committee and consultant went through the applications of the candidates and had interviews with eight possible future presidents. After conducting the interviews the group was narrowed down to three candidates who were announced on April 8, 2015.

The VOICE described Dr. Donohue’s legacy. “My reward every year is a graduation and shaking hands with all of those smiling students all of ages, who are thrilled to be achieving this part of their dream.”

At a speech on April 14, 2015 given in Spring into Student Success at Mercer Oaks Gina Migliaccio, an education advocate for the college, to the community, and she mentioned many people within the college as well. We will miss her leadership.”

When asked to describe Dr. Donohue’s legacy, John Simone, Assistant Dean of Athletics for The VOICE. “Dr. Donohue is going to have some time to enjoy her retirement and do some things I’m sorry to see her go, she really was an excellent President, she has been an excellent leader, she had great vision, and she supported the college nationally and locally.”

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The three presidential finalists are: Dr. Louis T. Manzione, Dean of the College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture at the University of Hartford in West Hartford, Conn.; Dr. Matthew Reed, Vice President for Academic Affairs at Holyoke Community College in Holyoke, Mass.; and Dr. Jianping Wang, Vice President of Academic Affairs at Ocean County Community College in Toms River, N.J. The three finalists will come to campus to meet and interact with students, faculty and staff. According to Paul Groupp’s information on the MCCC website, once the last of the candidates has had a chance to see the campus and interact with everyone at Mercer, the committee will convene and conduct the final selection and negotiation with the successful candidate. The goal time for that to occur was this week, but since Dr. Reed won’t be coming to campus until next week, the timeline has clearly shifted.

More details about the Presidential Search and how the process work of picking the new president can be found at mccc.edu/welcome/jobs_pres.shtml

When asked what advice she has for the next president of Mercer, Dr. Donohue said she would advise him or her to: “really engage with the people who are here, learn what is going on at the school, the strength and capacity of the institution. Then set the vision for the future.”

### Presidential Search Finalists:

**Dr. Louis T. Manzione**

**FAST FACT:** The only candidate coming from a four rather than two-year college background, Manzione, came to higher education after decades working in the private sector, most recently as President of Albertus Magnus College in Connecticut. He holds a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from Princeton.

**Dr. Jianping Wang**

**FAST FACT:** With a Masters from Harvard's School of Ed and a Ph.D from UC Santa Barbara, Wang has worked at three community colleges, most recently as at Ocean County Community College in NJ. She began her education in China and has a focus on STEM.

**Dr. Matthew Reed**

**FAST FACT:** Passed over for president at several other colleges in the past few years, Reed, a cum laude graduate of Williams College (’90) and Political Science Ph.D from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, is a finalist in two other community college presidential searches this year.

### Finalists’ campus visit schedule

**Dr. Louis T. Manzione**

was on the West Windsor Campus on Tuesday April 21st from 10:30 until 4pm and on the Trenton Campus on Monday April 20th from 3pm until 4pm.

**Dr. Jianping Wang**

will be on the West Windsor Campus on Tuesday April 28th from 10:30 until 4pm and on the Trenton Campus on Monday April 29th from 3pm until 4pm.

**Dr. Matthew Reed**

will be on the West Windsor Campus on Tuesday May 5th from 10:30 until 4pm and on the Trenton Campus on Monday May 4th from 3pm until 4pm.
Continued from page 1

program’s president to serve as Dean of Math and Sciences. It was then that Dr. Chang decided to move towards education administration.

When Dr. Chang was first introduced to Mercer, President Patricia C. Donahue said, as stated in the MCCC News, that “Dr. Chang brings with him years of experience as a leader in higher education, as well as innovative ideas that will help us expand our mission of creating opportunities for learning and student success.”

Dr. Chang told The VOICE that his approach and goals for Mercer are to make “a few bold moves.”

He has pushed back the starting date for the fall term to August 29, which is a week later than the semester used at the beginning of the semester will begin January 4, 2016 (December 21 for online classes).

The college’s policies. Previously, if a student wished to receive a refund on their tuition, they had to request the day before the term begins. “It did not appeal to me,” Dr. Chang said. He has changed the refund policy so that students can receive a 100 percent refund for the first week of a 15 week course and for shorter courses a full refund after the first two days of the term. Dr. Chang pointed out a common issue, saying: "you don’t know who the instructor is and sometimes you have to have a match between the faculty and student. Even though the faculty is very good, they may not be your style.” The new plan gives students the opportunity to switch between available professors if they need to.

Work conflicts are another reason for the shift. Dr. Chang says: “so many students have come to the deans saying they cannot take a class because their work schedules have changed and so on. They lose 50 percent of their money. This is not good for the students.”

Chang hopes to eliminate refund problems by creating more financial strains that the previous policy has caused students.

Dr. Chang is also introducing a free, two week refresher course for lower level mathematics courses called the Math Summer Bridge Program. Many students have learned the information that the full courses teach previously and only need to be reintroduced to the concepts that are taught. This program’s goal is to save students time and money.

Dr. Chang states that “at the end of the summer program, either your instructor signs the student off to the next level or they retake the test. So, a percent of students will stay in a higher level.”

Top priorities for Dr. Chang are improving enrollment trends and the college budget.

“I’m very careful about the enrollment trends,” he says. With an incremental improvement in the American economy, colleges nationwide have seen drops in student enrollment and Mercer has as well. Dr. Chang says addressing this issue is a major priority and that he plans to combat the problem by creating more programs to help students financially.

“Our budget is really tight at the moment,” says Dr. Chang. “We have to have some interesting projects to increase student success. If we do not have resources, we cannot do them.”

Dr. Chang states that he is trying to combat this issue by securing grants from funding agencies, such as the National Science Foundation and the Department of Education.

Faculty reaction to the initiatives and performance is generally positive, though some are still cautious.

In an interview with Jared S. Krouse, an adjunct professor at Mercer and licensed professional engineer, he states that “[Dr. Chang] seemed talented and credible.” He adds that the later start date in the fall is a good change because the start date should be in line with most other community colleges. “It makes sense because people have off for Labor Day.”

Another faculty member, Professor of Mathemat- ics Jamie Fleischner, told The VOICE that “[Dr. Chang] came in with such excitement and a willingness to listen ... he had an eagerness to be open to the faculty.”

Fleischner also says that “the new refund policy is so much better. Students are paying for classes themselves, if they don’t want to waste their money.”

Like many, Fleischner is still cautious though, saying she hopes Dr. Chang “is true to his words” and that “his actions really reflect more so than his predecessor.”

History of trans movement connects to history at MCCC

Continued from page 1

In an interview with The VOICE, sociology Prof. Daniel Schermond, who was one of the panelists at the event and is also an advisor of Mercer’s Lesbian Gay Bisexual Trans and Friends (LGBTF) club, said they still don’t know who did it or why.

During the question and answer portion of the session, panelists were asked if they were surprised to learn they were negative comments by people passing by the club. “Yes, definitely in the hallway,” Schermond said.

A trans gender Mercer student who graduated in 2014 and still lives and works in the area, asked not to have his name used for this article for privacy reasons, but told The VOICE that he frequently felt threatened and struggled during his time Mercer.

When asked if he had joined the LGBT club for support he said, “No, I knew the club had had to deal with a lot of trouble in the past. I didn’t want to draw attention to myself. I just wanted to disappear.”

During the question and answer portion of the panel, a student asked the panelists what allies can do to help reduce the problem of transphobia.

Jamie DiNicola said that more education was key, and that it was necessary for trans students to share their stories and for allies to take time to listen.

This sentiment was echoed by current LGBT club president Eric Peterson who told The VOICE he felt the best way to help reduce incidents of hostility was to hold more events. He said, “the best way to eliminate phobia is education.”

“Sometimes [members of the LGBT community] do get negative comments by people passing by the club [in] the hallway,” Schermond said.

A trans gender Mercer student who graduated in 2014 and still lives and works in the area, asked not to have his name used for this article for privacy reasons, but told The VOICE that he frequently felt threatened and struggled during his time Mercer.

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Show me the honey
Annual beekeeping demo at Howell Living History Farm

By Max Leavitt-Shaffer
Reporter

Standing in the morning sun, a cool breeze blowing, a crowd of about 25 people gathers around three white boxes to watch 30,000 honey bees fly endlessly in and out of small holes. Spring arrived late this year, and the honey bees have a lot of catching up to do.

Bob Hughes, a professional beekeeper, gets out of his blue SUV and proceeds to his hives. He is wearing a blue sweatshirt and jeans and carries an air of compassionate authority, a certain charisma that only comes from age and experience.

He props his arm on a sign post and introduces the event, then takes a hand held bee smoker from the back of his truck and puffs it liberally at one of the bee boxes. The golden brown and white cell panel from one of the hives to pacify the bees. He brings it around the sound of thousands of tiny working bees. He props his arm on a sign post and introduces the event, then takes a hand held bee smoker from the back of his truck and puffs it liberally at one of the bee boxes. The golden brown and white cell panel from one of the hives to pacify the bees.

Next he pulls a large smoker from the back of his truck and puffs it liberally at one of the bee boxes. The golden brown and white cell panel from one of the hives to pacify the bees.

As the visitors stare at the beehives, Bob Hughes, walks towards them to begin his yearly spring beekeeping event. An event Howell living history farm hosts. Hughes does any maintenance needed to his hive, and provides information on bees, and beekeeping.

Pete Watson the director of the farm told The VOICE that he and Hughes were first introduced some 25 years ago, when Hughes was working for the State Department of Agriculture, he also teaches to working for the Department of Agriculture, he also teaches beekeeping. The mission of Howell Living History Farm is to provide the public with interesting and valuable recreational and educational opportunities. Beekeeping, for the most part, has changed little since the 1890s in accordance with this mission, they try to keep with traditional cycles. The spring a farmer would open up the hive, and make sure the bees have survived.

According to Hughes he has been keeping bees for some thirty years now. In addition to working for the Department of Agriculture, he also teaches classes in beekeeping at Rutgers University. During the event this year Hughes slowly explained to the attendees some basics of beekeeping.

For example, he said there are three main types of bees. The queen, the drone, and the worker bee. The drone is the only variety of male bee, and his sole purpose is to mate with a queen bee.

The queen bee, contrary to popular belief, has no authority in the hive. Her only job is to lay eggs, possibly thousands in a day. Worker bees are all female. They do all the tasks necessary for day to day life, gathering pollen, building the hive, feeding the young, and so on.

Although bees may seem fairly unimportant to our everyday lives, in fact bees play a crucial role in the agricultural systems in the U.S. The do the work of pollination that is essential for crops such as corn, which is a cornerstone of American agricultural economy.

Right now bees are facing something called Colony Collapse Disorder, or CCD. According to the American Beekeeping Federation website: "Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) is a serious problem threatening the health of honey bees and the economic stability of commercial beekeeping and pollination operations in the United States."

Though the cause of CCD is not yet clear, the need for more investigation into the problem, and more focus on the relevance of bees to our society is clearly needed.

The practices of beekeeping are still handed down to generation to generation, which is true for Hughes. He says he got into beekeeping through his father, who owned land and kept bees. Howell Living History Farm is working to bring new interest to beekeeping for a generation that may otherwise be removed from these traditions.
What homelessness means in Trenton

By Omaira Sweeney, Ciara Moon and Terrance Gillis
Junior Reporters

Each year an independent group called Monarch Housing Associates, conducts the Point in Time homeless count in New Jersey. In 2014 the number of homeless had increased by 15.8 percent over 2013. In Mercer county the number of homeless counted on the night of January 28, 2014, was 642.

In Trenton the homeless take refuge under highways, near the train station and on the streets. During the day these men and women are more likely to be found in shabby clothes, standing on street corners in the downtown area near the capital buildings that team with lawyers and politicians in crisp suits. The homeless hold out cups and hands, begging for money to get food.

“It’s hard to even get food because no one wants to help or is afraid to give money because they think they’re being used by drugs,” says a short, thick African-American man in his mid 30s who would only give his name as Sarah. “I’ve had to sleep on the streets, I still have to try and find clothes to keep me warm. I still had to find shelter to lay my head down at night. Some nights I had to sleep on the streets, some nights I would sleep on a bench in a park and if I was lucky enough I would find an abandoned house.”

“Being homeless is harder than anything I’ve ever done and I sometimes just cry myself to sleep during the night, but not because of the situation, because I’m so hungry.”

-Rob Gibbons, Trenton, NJ

Mid 20s with long brown hair, who wore wearing leggings and high boots and asked to be indentified only as Sarah says, “Winter time was a hard time because if I would have to try and find clothes to keep me warm. I still had to find shelter to lay my head down at night. Sometimes I had to sleep on the streets, some nights I would sleep on a bench in a park and if I was lucky enough I would find an abandoned house.”

Going back to Tyrone, he said, “Trying to find food and shelter you have to make sure you get to the shelters in time to get a spot before it gets full. Once its full and I try to make it to an other shelter, it will be too late.”

The largest Emergency Shelter in the area is the Trenton Rescue Mission. Their website says that they “can house 54 men and 23 women nightly.” During the winter emergency period (approximately November 15th to April 15th), the bed capacity more than doubles to 135 men and 29 women nightly for a total of 164 individuals.” This represents roughly one sixth of the homeless who need beds in the area.

The Point in Time research for 2014 indicated that 29.5 percent of the homeless counted were under 18 years old. VOICE reporters saw but did not interview homeless children, primarily for ethical reasons. Other particularly vulnerable groups include veterans, the disabled, and lesbian, gay and transgender youth who are more likely to be thrown out of their homes by parents.

But by far the most prevalent problems for homeless individuals, according to the Point in Time report are mental health issues and addiction. A full 53.6 percent of those counted faced these obstacles.

The homeless hold out cups and hands, begging for money to get food. The homeless build up cups and hands, begging for money to get food.

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Have you heard of Mercer County Community College? If so, what comes to mind when you think of it?

MICKEY FRANZ
Office Assistant in Finance and Treasury
"Yea I’ve heard of Mercer. I actually went there for Journalism because Middlesex doesn’t have a TV studio. I transferred to Rutgers in 2002."

ALLIE DIAMOND
Freshman Major: Undecided
"I have not heard of Mercer. I have heard of [Mercer County Community College]."

BRIAN HO
Graduate Student Studying: French
"No, I don’t think I have heard of [Mercer]. No, I haven’t. I’m not from here. I’m Canadian."

AMANDA LEAVELL
Sophomore Major: Public Policy
"Yes. I’m not really sure how, but I have heard of [Mercer]. I think I knew a guy who worked at an ice cream shop who went there."

ANNE KERTH
Graduate Student Studying: History
"Yes. I’ve heard of Princeton. I took a class with a professor who teaches there. An English professor. Diane." [VOICE: “Rizzo?”]
"Yeah. Diane Rizzo."

Have you heard of Princeton University? If so, what comes to mind when you think of it?

GRACIELA VASQUEZ
Studying: Art & Design
"I’ve known of Princeton since I was born. I was born in Princeton. I know it is hard to get into. I hate people there because they are snotty and rude."

PATRICK SHEEHAN
Major: Electronics Engineering
"I see Princeton all the time, but I’ve never been inside. My father-in-law works in the library. I know I’m not going to make it there. I barely made it here."

TIANTE WEBERLEY
Second Year Major: Biology
"I have walked around the Princeton campus. A lot of rich, smart kids go there."

DAVID KRASZEWSKI
Major: Criminal Justice
"I know about Princeton, because I am from Lawrenceville. I know it is a good school. It is different from other schools, like Mercer... Because of the buildings."

PEI ZENG
Studying: English
"My sister graduated from Princeton twenty years ago. It is very famous in my country: China. I’m at Mercer to help with English."

Two schools separated by eight miles...
When gambling was legalized in New Jersey in 1976, Atlantic City was touted as an economic dynamo that would be a financial boon to the state. The goal, according to Barbara Kozek, writer for the official Atlantic City website, was for the casinos to “use the glorious resources it has been given by nature, to make it once again a world renowned tourist Mecca.”

But the casinos never brought the revitalization that the state hoped, and when gambling was legalized elsewhere—such as Connecticut, Delaware and Pennsylvania—Atlantic City struggled to keep up.

The VOICE interviewed several local business owners in Atlantic City to get their perspective.

John North, an employee at “Seafood Raw Bar” for 34 years, describes the situation in Atlantic City as “worse than ever.” He says “People don’t want to spend money.”

Sherry Gliksman, who has worked at the Haunted Coffin Ride located on the boardwalk for the past 3 years, says that the closing of the casinos means less foot traffic on the boardwalk and that has a negative impact on all the businesses, including her own.

Four of the twelve major casinos in Atlantic City—Showboat, Revel, the Atlantic Club, and Trump Plaza—closed their doors in 2014.

What many New Jersey residents don’t realize, however, is that the bad news for Atlantic City is bad news for all of us, particularly at the community colleges.

Mercer draws its funding from three primary sources: state support, county support and student tuition. Ideally, a third would come from each segment, but the state is pulling less and less of its weight.

In 2006 Mercer was receiving 19 percent of its funding from each segment, but the state is pulling less and less of its weight.

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In an article on Atlantic City’s decline from The New York Times, by Jon Hurdel, that was published on August 19, 2014, he quoted Paul Steelman, principal of Steelman Partners, a Las Vegas-based architecture firm for the entertainment industry, who said that “Casinos are not great conversions to other uses...They are custom-designed buildings that are very expensive to operate and maintain.”

Since the state collects an 8 percent tax on gambling from the city, each property in distress stresses the overall economic health of the state.

In recent phone interview with The VOICE, Mr. Jacob C. Farbman, Director of Communications at NJ Council of County Colleges said that “when we lose any business in New Jersey it impacts revenues that the state collects in taxes and those revenues go right into the State general fund.”

Farbman continued, “We know right now the student tuition covers most of the cost of a community college education and that’s because the state budget is in bad shape. Higher Education has been underfunded for several years now. So it is almost like a perfect storm where we have all these services that we need that are dependent upon revenues and state resources, yet people have no money to pay more in taxes.”

Mercer’s outgoing president Dr. Patricia Donohue told The VOICE: “Atlantic City is probably connected to some of [the tuition increases] but it is also just a sign of our times.”
Game Over

Atlantic City’s gamble doesn’t pay off for NJ students
The Mercer County Community College rendition of Romeo and Juliet ran from April 10 to 19 and was fantastic. The way this timeless tale was produced stands out from all the rest.

The theater was packed on opening night. People filed into the relatively small theater, murmuring in hushed voices as they waited for the play to begin.

The stage featured a spiral staircase and several arches, a spare but lovely set to indicate the small town of Verona, Italy, that allowed room for the ballet dancing.

Though the version sticks close to the classic story line, it pairs it with ballet and had a twist. The actors and the dancers were different people, but the Mercer theater crew did a very good job in transitioning between “Dancing Romeo” and “Acting Romeo” and at times they both interacted, which was very cool to see.

The costumes were well made and elaborate. Dresses were very elegant and fit the time it was portraying. The male costumes were equally as good.

The Mercer theater crew also had a hit with the humorous side of the play with the character of Mercutio, who, in this writer’s opinion, stole the show.

An audience member Giovanni Perez, 32 of Philadelphia, and a Barnes and Nobel Textbook Manager said “For someone who doesn’t go to plays it was surprisingly very good” Mr. Perez went on to say “I would recommend it yes, because it was fun to watch, it was a new experience for me, and the actors and actresses were really good.”

The Production and Dance coordinator Jody Grazzenheek-Person stated that preparing for the production of Romeo and Juliet “took a little over two months.”
The Big Easy Restaurant is located on 120 South Warren Street, just a five minute walk from Mercer’s Trenton campus. This local favorite is specialized in soul food, and during a recent lunch visit, business was busy. The first thing you notice when walking into the restaurant is the mosaic tile floor that grows off into a cinematic setting. Next there was a large chalk board lit with track lights, that displayed the daily menu and specials. The tables were neatly set for two with fresh flowers on each table.

After I was directed to a table by a charming young server, I asked for an Iced Tea and she promptly suggested a house specialty made with lemon and orange.

Items on the menu are reasonably priced. A typical meal with entrée and beverage costs about $9 per person and they also have a $20 dinner menu for two. Some of their favorites are turkey wings, macaroni & cheese, fried fish, candied yams, and lobster.

I chose the grilled salmon which was delicious. It was cooked to perfection, seasoned properly, and it kind melted in your mouth.

According to Andrea Baxter, a state worker for Taxa-Rental, what eats at Big Easy three to four times a week, “The prices are fair for the amount of portions that you get.” Baxter stated that her favorite dish on the menu is the mac and cheese, salmon and the fried hass. Baxter is not the only one who likes the big easy because of the prices. Alex Bebeha, a Trenton city councilman, was back at the Big Easy for the second time for his lunch special. “You can get a decent amount of food for a reasonable price compared to other competitors in the city.”

The dessert menu includes carrot cake, sweet potato pie, red velvet cake and chocolate cake. I tried a slice of the House special which was a homemade red velvet cake and to be honest it tasted better than some of the cakes you would get from a bakery.

Bartender Olivia Smith says “We have the best pickle backs” Mill Hill Basement Bartender

The owner of Big Easy is Ogubahala Sababu who is a Trenton native. Sababu has been in the food business for the past 37 years and the Big Easy has been open for the past three years. In an interview for THE VOICE, Sababu said that “Business is good but it is a work in progress.” Sababu said that he believes the was asked his business is in the quality of the food. “We have the best product in the Trenton area.” Sababu has several other restaurants that serve soul food in Trenton, including Ilia Mae’s, Hoffards, and Heavily Divine Soul Food. Compared to them the Big Easy is one of the best restaurants in the downtown Trenton area.

Besides the price, another attraction at the Big Easy is the lunch buffet. You can create your own meal or you can choose from a variety of many dishes and desserts.

Overall, Big Easy is a must go. They offer quality of food at reasonable prices, the perfect combination for a student on a budget.

INFO: The Big Easy Restaurant
120 South Warren Street.
Downtown Trenton, NJ 08608
(609) 889-7900
Cuisine: Soul Food; Soul Food
Hours: 8:00am - 7:00pm Mondays - Thursdays, 10:00am - 10:00pm Fridays, 12:00am - 10:00pm Saturdays (Closed Sundays)
Prices: $9 Lunch menu 11:30 - 4pm Approx. $20 Dinner for 2 - After 5:00

Mill Hill Basement is Trenton’s home for underground music

Trenton has a hot underground music scene, and one of the best spots to catch live entertainment is The Mill Hill Basement, a small bar with a similar name. It is located in an historic area of the city and named after the first industrial site in Central New Jersey, a grist mill erected in 1679.

Upstairs The Mill Hill Saloon has a quiet bar and the restaurant fits for your grandma and her knitting circle, but if you go to the side exit and head downstairs, you find a different world.

Stickers from hundreds of bands cover the ceiling and walls, while blood, sweat, and beer stain the floor. Space is minimal, but that doesn’t stop people from packing into the tiny basement like sardines.

The dim lighting, produced mostly by christmass lights, creates an intimate atmosphere as band after band takes to the stage.

According to Anna Stange, a Mill Hill Basement patron of nine years, “They have the best beer list in Trenton.” She also told THE VOICE that they have real music that supports the community’s local artists.

According to Dave Lacome, the manager at Mill Hill, who has been employed here since 2002, “Every night is a great night to be here.” Music from punk rock to hip hop, and metal to acoustic folk are common occurrences. Almost every night, there is something going on at the Mill Hill. Any band that loves to do what they do is welcome.

Bartender Olivia Smith says “We have the best pickles backs around.”

He is also going to be the center of a new podcast sponsored by his legal defense fund. It’s called: The State vs. Adrian Syed

ADNAN SYED

The central figure in the podcast Serial, Adnan Syed, who was sentenced to life for the murder of his ex-girlfriend in 1999, is getting a new trial thanks to the efforts of lawyers who have demonstrated that his previous council was faulty. He is also going to be the center of a new podcast sponsored by his legal defense fund. It’s called: The State vs. Adrian Syed

ALYSSA MILANO

Television actress, Alyssa Milano, best known for her roles on Who’s The Boss, Melrose Place and Mistresses, had 10oz of pumped breast milk confiscated and thrown away by airport security at Heathrow International Airport in London. The mother of an infant and toddler, Milano took to Twitter to say: “Not okay.”

BARRY MANILOW

Fanatics everywhere were surprised to learn that Barry Manilow had married his long-time partner and manager, Garry Kief in a private ceremony last summer at the singer’s house in Palm Springs.
Zinna's Bistro is a family-owned and operated Italian-American bistro that opened in January 2010. At Zinna's, we believe good food is simple food made with the freshest, highest quality ingredients available including a variety of produce that grows in our own on-premise garden.

We are a B.Y.O.B establishment with an eclectic menu full of homemade pastas, classic Italian favorites, homemade desserts, and more.

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- Dinner
- Kid’s Menu
- Catering
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- Live music Thursdays at 6pm
- Online reservations
- BYOB

Zinna’s Bistro
1275 South River Road, Cranbury NJ 08512
Phone: (609) 860-9600

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Mariana Braz

What do James Dean, Eddie Murphy, Tom Hanks, you and I have all have in common? We have all attended community colleges.

Community colleges can be more than just a cheap way into a degree. I am originally from Brazil and English is my second language. I already had finished my Bachelor of Arts in Journalism in Brazil when I decided to come to the USA and go to Mercer.

One of the reasons I chose a community college was to improve my English. At Mercer I improved my writing and verbal skills, creative thinking, project management, and leadership. That got me into graduate school, and it also increased my competitiveness when searching for jobs.

In case you are thinking I am just some kind of Wonder Woman, I can assure you I am not. But I asked a few of my fellow VOICE staffers, who came from local high schools and saw themselves as kind of unmotivated or directionless when they got to Mercer, how their time here changed them. Kyle Kondor, a former VOICE editor who graduated last spring, says: “Upon entering Mercer I was immature and naive to the fact that a good education is mandatory today. As a student aspiring to get my associate’s degree in Communication: New Media, I was exposed to several different career paths.” He also said that working for The College VOICE, where he became Sports Editor after his consistent improvement with writing, helped him in his decision to pursue Journalism.

“I’m now a double major at Indiana University, and I can confidently say that I desperately needed Mercer in order to prepare for everything that I’m currently doing.”

Kondor is now working for the student media at Indiana University of Pennsylvania as a producer on the student-operated sports TV show and is responsible for content and signing jobs to all 40 staff members on each production night. He has produced and edited documentaries, is an analyst on the sports radio show, and the color analyst during the women’s basketball games. In his free time he writes for the town paper, the Indiana Gazette.

Like Kondor, Zac Santanello, a former VOICE Photography Editor started as a Business Administration major and then switched to Communication: New Media. “Over the course of my time at Mercer I began to focus my talents towards and take photography more seriously as my professional aspiration,” said Santanello.

Santanello won several national journalism awards for his photography, always competing against students from four-year schools. He won First Place for breaking news photography and was a finalist for feature photography in the Society of Professional Journalist’s Mark of Excellence Awards 2013-2014. Today, Santanello is attending the School of Visual Arts in Manhattan. He says, “I can safely say that without Mercer, and Photography Coordinator Michael Dalton specifically, my career trajectory would likely be very different.”

I have talked to students who feel ashamed to tell people they go to a community college, but they shouldn’t be. According to the American Association of Community Colleges more than 6 million students in the US are enrolled at a community college.

Community college is good for all kinds of students, including students who aren’t sure of their direction yet, who were bored in high school or didn’t do well and need to catch up, who don’t have much money, or ones like me who came to improve their English.

Community college works if you work for it. Start with the clubs. There is one for practically every interest. If you like adrenalin, making friends, and the gratification of seeing your work in print, The College VOICE is a good start. Jobs and transfer colleges are looking for students with strong communications skills and The VOICE will force you to improve your writing quickly.

Another way to boost your chance of getting the most out of Mercer is to take advantage of professors’ office hours. Find your advisor or just find professors you like and can talk to. When the time comes it will be a lot easier to get registered for the right classes or get rec letters when you are ready to transfer.

Even if you are one of those students who just come to campus and then leave, try to take advantage of what’s here, much of which is free.

Mariana Braz is now a graduate student in the Corporate Communication program at Baruch College—CUNY in NY. She has gotten a variety of internships in her field and interviewed at big companies such as Michael Kors and GlaxosmithKline.
What doesn’t kill you makes you stronger

Years of frustration at Mercer made me ready for the real world

Jamie Strickland

There is no substitute for the kind of experience if you want to succeed in college and in life. There is no substitute for the kind of experience if you want to succeed in college and in life. There is no substitute for the kind of experience if you want to succeed in college and in life.

Mercer grad and former VOICE Editor-in-Chief Sara Gatling transferred to Columbia University where she graduated cum laude in 2015 with majors in English and Comparative Literature and His- panic Studies. Gatling has been working steadily since graduation, and is currently paying her dues as she enters the competitive field of stag- ing and prop design.

It was an amazing experience, to be one of the few Mercer stu- dents to transfer to an Ivy League college and I was honored to attend Columbia University. But my time spent at Mercer was crucial to my success, in large part because of the incredible quantity of bureaucratic bullshit I had to overcome to get out of there. All those irritations and daily struggles you face with the bursar, the registrar, your advis- or – cherish those moments because dealing with Mercer’s wacky antics is just the training you need if you hope to survive in the ‘real world.’ The reality is, the real world looks a lot like Mercer.

Here is a short list of the things that irked me at Mercer, but end- ed up paying off once I left.

MCCC LIBRARY RESEARCH CLASSES

I research a boss thanks to whomever decided to make those inane library skills classes a part of every single intro class I took at Mercer. It’s not that the class isn’t useful, but once is enough and I think I sat through at least six of them. You know the one I’m talking about: you take a field trip to the library to have an attention-starved librarian tell you that TMZ is not a scholarly journal and that research databases contain the secrets of the universe.

The benefit of taking six of the same class was that the monotone oration of the librarian worked as a type of hypnosis, so you better be- lieve me when I say I was fully engrossed in my mem- ory. I probably could recite the full text of The Complete Works of Shakespeare by heart if I wanted me. By the time I got to Columbia I researched effing circles around those kids while blindedfold with my hands tied behind my back. Take enough 101 classes and you’ll leave Mercer the Queen of EBSCO, the Princess of ProQuest, the-Jac- nars.

THE BROKEN AIDING SYSTEM

One encounter with a Mercer academic challenged my view of personal accounts from stu- dents wasting time and money on courses they didn’t want to take due to ill advise- ment and I was convinced I could do a better job on my own. I developed the system in- volving color coding and headings of tabs in an Excel spreadsheet. This level of organization can’t be taught by professors, only through experience.

I hear since graduation students have only gotten markedly worse with advising. Aparent- ily several systems have been implemented to “fix” the prob- lem, from giving students life “coaches” (how very Ophrah of you, Mercer) to making all full- time faculty members advisers, regardless of the fact that the toothless old fart professors couldn’t tell you what you need to graduate in any major unless you want the list from 1973.

THE ALL AROUND

Bureaucracy 101

Little known fact: DMV employ- ees, TSA agents and the staff that works in Mercer adminis- trative offices are all cut from the same cloth. If you are hoping to graduate from Mercer you will just learn how to interact with cranky people. Sure you can resist, but the logistics of your college career are in your hands.

Pass off a flunky on the second floor of SC and they can drag out any process they want for months, passing the buck, draining more paper work, etc. I know several students who missed their Mercer graduation because they had no idea that in December they needed to sub- mit an application to graduate if they expected to walk in their leprechaun tradition.

The application need- ed to be checked over by all the Powerful Marge Archer (or someone else, but Marge was the best). Oh, sure, it’s possible you got a blast email at some point telling you you needed to do it – but as the snow spar- kled down on your back porch Christmas lights, you probably were paying more attention to that tiny paragraph shoehorned into one of the thirty eleven emails you got each week. Just getting off that infernal email list after I graduated took me almost a year.

If it hadn’t been for all Mercer’s bullcrap, however, I’m sure I wouldn’t have been trained to constantly ask people at Columbia about graduation procedures, financial aid dead- lines, secret handshakes that only people raised with a silver spoon in their mouths already know when they get there.

Mercer forced me to learn to look out for my own best interests and to ask for help where I could find it. I can spot someone knowledgeable and helpful at 50 pages.

AND ANOTHER THING

Here’s what you don’t realize; after you leave Mercer, you will never have the same kind of ac- cess to your professors again. At four year schools professors are required to always be work- ing on research and publishing publica- tions; professors are under pres- sure to “publish or perish.” Their whole career literally hinges on how many esoteric articles they can squeeze out. This effect is that a main priority for university professors is not usually their students. Some of them clearly don’t even like students, except for their three or four hand- picked brown-nosing graduating assistant protégées (there were of course exceptions, whom I feel deserve due credit).

A large portion of my courses at Columbia involved the professor coming into class and lecturing, and that was it. No more fun Jeopardy exam re- view classes and Dum-Dums lollipops, guys.

I would try to talk to a Columbia professor after class, but they’d usually be in a rush. Any inquiries and most, if not all, grading was handled by Teaching Assistants, graduate students who help out as part of their indenture to the university. Ills their hearts, there’s noth- ing wrong with TAs as people, but they’re not really getting paid and they have no experi- ence teaching. TAs are not professors.

By contrast, at Mercer I spent tons of time talking to pro- fessors. There are exceptional professors at Mercer with whom I generally felt welcome to drop by and talk about my ideas or get help brainstorming for papers. When I was under attack, my Mercer profes- sors cared. They answered my emails in the middle of the night and congratulated me on my Honor’s classes and introduced me to the idea of going to a Uni- versity of New Jersey (CNJ and Rutgers it can be done!). They were the real deal, and if you care about your education, because she was a genius, you only hurt yourself if you don’t. I made the most of my time at Mercer, I worked hard. I joined clubs, became Ed- itor-in-Chief of the newspaper, put myself out there. But I wasn’t someone who would ask questions. It was dif- ferent from you that you can say “Oh, she just got to Columbia because she was a genius, she be- gan with.” No. I came to Mercer because I had no money, got kicked out of one high school just for being in a band, and had to do the same from the second for skipping too much gym. I did what the rest of you do, I worked. I had a dry cleaners, babysat, lived with my needy family. I lived in a near constant state of exhaustion and was always close to a nervous collapse.

There is no substitute for that kind of experience if you want to succeed in college and in life.

CONGRATS:

All Powerful Marge Archer (or someone else, but Marge was the best). Oh, sure, it’s possible you got a blast email at some point telling you you needed to do it – but as the snow spar- kled down on your back porch Christmas lights, you probably were paying more attention to that tiny paragraph shoehorned into one of the thirty eleven emails you got each week. Just getting off that infernal email list after I graduated took me almost a year.

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There is no substitute for that kind of experience if you want to succeed in college and in life.
ASK THE VOICE: GOOD ANSWERS TO TOUGH QUESTIONS

Dear VOICE,
I heard Mercer wants to build dorms for international students. Will they also add another parking lot?
-Low Rent

Dear Low Rent,
More parking? Oh, hell no. Housing students from Namibia gets first priority at community college.
-The VOICE

Dear VOICE,
I’ve noticed that they are tearing up sidewalks around campus. What gives?
-Jack Hammer

Dear Jack,
They are only doing it by AD, so clearly just to spiff things up for the incoming new president.
-The VOICE

Dear VOICE,
Last weekend I went to the Shad Fest in Lambertville. I thought ‘shad’ meant hot girls, but their weren't any. What the hell is a shad?
-Confused

Dear Confused,
A shad is a slippery sport fish you have to reel in carefully. The same is true of the hotties you seek. Just seek them somewhere besides a shad fest.
-The VOICE

NOTE: THIS FEATURE IS FOR ENTERTAINMENT PURPOSES ONLY. ANY RESEMBLANCE TO ACTUAL PROBLEMS IS PURELY COINCIDENTIAL.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22 - Jan. 19
While everyone else is slacking off at the first signs of spring, you are working hard to get ahead. This will pay off when you are at the beach and they are all busy catching up.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18
You thought you had more free time than you really do and so got over extended. The best way to reclaim your sanity is to let everyone know you have big changes in mind for summer.

PIES
Feb. 19 - Mar. 20
What do the stars hold in store for you this month, gentle Pisces? Good news, a minor windfall and contact from an old friend will make this one of your best months of the year.

ARIES
Mar. 21 - Apr. 19
Anxiety may have been plaguing you these past few months, particularly trying to deal with financial woes. Calmer waters lie ahead. You will still have to work, but not quite so hard.

TAURUS
Apr. 20 - May 20
Someone who has been trying to undermine you will be stopped this month, possibly a snarky family member or boss. You don’t have to do a thing, just sit back and watch justice unfold.

GEMINI
May 21 - Jun. 20
For some reason you are handled a tricky situation this month. This could be good or bad, if a stray seeks you out, provide love. If pests get in your house, don’t hesitate to give them the boot.

CANCER
Jun. 21 - Jul. 22
You deserve applause for the way you have handled a tricky situation in the last month. Unfortunately you’ll have to keep putting those skills to the test. More challenges are in store.

LEO
Jul. 23 - Aug. 22
A family member may not be giving you room to breathe this month. To get out from under their thumb you may need to be sneaky about it. Don’t lie but don’t get too down either.

VIRGO
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22
Where was everyone when you needed them? Last month your call for help went unanswered, now people are falling all over themselves to offer lame advice. Time to regroup. Try a trip or change of scene.

LIBRA
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22
Romantic is in store this month; the person you desire most will finally give you the attention you deserve. Now is your chance, so don’t blow it. Be yourself and good things await.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
Although one chapter is ending, unknowingly to you, the events you have experienced lately are setting you up for success in the future. When people give you praise, it is not just flattery. Try to believe it.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22 - Dec. 21
There is no business like show business and drama is in store this month. If things seem to be chaotic, they will come together, and whatever happens, the show must go on! Be sure to keep your wits about you.

Horoscopes

DILBERT AND GET FUZZY

CAN I WORK FROM HOME THERE ARE TOO MANY DISTRACTIONS IN THE OFFICE.

DON'T YOU HAVE JUST AS MANY DISTRACTIONS AT YOUR HOUSE?

I HIR ED MY UNEMPLOYED GOLF BUDDY TO CONSULT.

WHAT ARE HIS QUALIFICATIONS?

HE HAS TWO QUALIFICATIONS HE'S UNEMPLOYED AND HE’S A GOLF BUDDY.

I RECOMMEND FIRING THE WHISTLEBLOWER AND PLAYING NINE BEFORE IT GETS DARK.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

7 3 6 9 1 5 2 4 8
1 5 4 8 6 2 7 3 9
8 2 4 3 7 1 5 6
5 7 8 2 9 6 4 1 3
6 4 1 7 5 3 8 9 2
3 2 9 1 4 6 8 7 5
8 6 5 3 7 1 9 2 4
2 9 7 5 8 4 3 6 1
4 1 3 6 2 9 5 8 7

HOW TO PLAY:
Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

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SUDOKU

Difficulty: 1 of 5

6 4 3 2
9 2 8
5 6
4 1 3
7 2 1
9 7 2
3 1 4 5
8 6 3
7 5 8
B-31-00

JUST 4 FUN