In an emergency what’s the plan?

Many Mercer students don’t know what the procedure is for a campus crisis

By Svetlana Craft & Tim O’Boyle
Senior Reporters

Colleges have to deal with a variety of emergencies from the rare but deadly school shooting to more common incidents like water main breaks and power outages. So what is Mercer’s emergency plan, and do students know it?

According to a survey conducted by The VOICE, 66 percent of the 37 students polled said they don’t know anything about the college’s emergency plans.

Dean of Students Dr. Diane Campbell loaned The VOICE a copy of Mercer’s 94 page “Emergency Operations Plan” to help find the answers. The plan describes three tiers of emergency from minor incidents to natural disasters.

The majority of 4 year and 2 year institutions advise their students to use an emergency phone, which connects the call directly to security, as the first action in a crisis. Mercer encourages the same and calling security is the advice given in the student handbook. There is also detailed information the the college’s security page online, including a video about what to do in the event of a first person shooter incident.

The VOICE student safety survey found 75 percent of students don’t know where the emergency phones are located throughout campus.

Mercer’s President Dr. Jianping Wang told The VOICE, “There is clearly a conflict between drivers and pedestrians because they are both afraid of each other,” said Brittney Moody, a Mercer freshman studying Business Administration.

New bill would tighten pedestrian responsibilities

By Brien Woolford
Reporter

South Jersey Assemblyman Chris Brown introduced the Driver and Pedestrian Mutual Responsibility Act on Feb. 6, 2017. If passed, it would make it illegal for pedestrians to cross the street without being in the crosswalk zone. The act also looks to introduce a yield for pedestrians at the crosswalk, as opposed to a stop, for drivers.

One of the reasons why Brown wants to repeal the previous 2010 Chapter 319 law, which concerned pedestrian safety and traffic control, is because he believes that it isn’t working.

“If the best efforts by the state to raise pedestrian and motorist awareness, through multiple agencies and public relation campaigns, the 2010 law simply isn’t working,” Brown told The VOICE. “According to available State Police records, in the four years after the law took effect, 2011-2014, pedestrians fatalities increased by nearly 10 percent.”

The key difference between the new Driver and Pedestrian Mutual Responsibility Act and the previous law is that the driver previously had to come to a complete stop at a crosswalk. The new bill requires only that the driver yield.

“If there is clearly a conflict between drivers and pedestrians because they are both afraid of each other,” said Brittney Moody, a Mercer freshman studying Business Administration.

If south Jersey Assemblyman Chris Brown has his way, cars will only have to yield to pedestrians actually crossing in a crosswalk, otherwise distracted or jay-walking pedestrians may be held equally culpable in the event of an accident.
We are in the middle of a chicken craze. Residents of towns across the state have taken to backyard poultry production.

Several factors seem to be contributing to the fowl frenzy. First, there has been an upswing in do-it-yourself (DIY) culture. White collar workers are looking for ways to slow down, feel useful, and find some connection to a time when people followed the rhythms of the seasons.

There are other major motivators as well, such as a growing desire for cleaner eating and increased awareness of the animal cruelty that is common in mass poultry production.

But people wouldn’t be interested if chicken rearing was too complex for an average citizen to master.

Bud Wood, owner of Murray McMurray Hatchery, a poultry supplier based in Webster City, Iowa, told The VOICE, "Chickens can fit into a backyard garden very well."

Murray McMurray has been around for 100 years and for much of that time was a catalog business, but it’s now the Amazon of eggs. The company uses special shipping to send eggs and even chicks right to your home. Their website offers all kinds of informational resources for those starting their first coops.

Matthew O’Boyle from Pennington, became interested in raising chickens when he watched his cousins on their farm, however, he was initially nervous when he thought his home would not be enough space.

“I thought [having enough space] would be a barrier stopping us from getting chickens but as always, I stumbled upon the Internet. There were thousands of articles, videos, tutorials, and blogs about raising backyard chickens...”

According to the Murray McMurray blog, “roost space depends largely on the size of your chicken — how tall, wide and long they are, from beak to tail.” But for people starting out who are looking to keep six small to medium sized birds, each needs about a square foot of space in their roost and the minimum area needed for roosting is about 6’ x 15’. Some city dwellers are able to make this work in narrow spaces behind brownstones or in overgrown alleys. Suburban homes often have a few more options.

According to O’Boyle there are legal requirements for a chicken to be considered “free range,” such as giving them six hours outside to roam free, however, he offers his birds more than what the minimum requires.

“For my flock of three chickens, I have about a 125 square feet for them to free range in. They free range from about 6:45 in the morning until it starts to get dark depending on the season,” O’Boyle said.

Rules and regulations for backyard chicken farming are specific to the town you live in. There are legal requirements for raising and producing chickens if you plan to sell them, but you are not required to have any sort of permit or license to raise your own.

“The chickens must be a certain distance away from any house in my neighborhood. We are also not allowed to have roosters in our flock because of the noise and aggression that they cause,” O’Boyle said.

Another concern for keeping any live animals is ensuring their health.

According to Bud Wood of Murray McMurray, “We are a member of the USDA, National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) so all of our stock has been tested for diseases and have been cleared for sale in that way.”

Beyond the original health of the chicks Murray McMurray blog discusses how to reduce flock stress to maintain productivity, and deal with issues like Marek’s disease and other parasites.

Above all else, O’Boyle wanted to raise his own chickens in order to know that the eggs he ate come from healthy chickens.

“It’s sad to see many of the commercial free range chickens who are loaded with hormones to produce the most amount of eggs possible. They can have as little as a hole just for neck access to the outside which can qualify as their exposure to sunlight,” O’Boyle said.

Restaurant owners are shying away from such practices. Local restaurants like Agriola in Princeton and Eno Terra in Kingston purchase their eggs and other produce from local farms like Terhune’s and Cherry Grove in Lawrenceville.

If all this is starting to make you think of getting a few hens, be aware that certain types of birds are available during certain seasons. This month is a fine time to get a Feather Footed Fancy, a Cornish Roaster, or even a Chukar Redleg Partridge (although watch out for those partridges if you live in Maine, because you’ll need a special permit from Fish and Wildlife before you can “import” the birds through the mail).

Why would you ever buy a Feather Footed Fancy? Bud Wood says chicken fanciers enroll their birds in events such as the Midwest Poultry Federation or The Master’s Cup, held in Murray McMurray’s hometown of Webster City, Iowa, open to breeders and non-breeders alike.

O’Boyle says “I had used the argument of fresh, free range eggs as the original justification to get them but they have now become a huge interest and hobby of mine.”

Local 4-H clubs which teach children leadership skills through hands-on programs, many of which involve raising and caring for animals, also have competitions for chickens.

If you want to see some fancy chickens, Sussex County Poultry Fanciers spring show is May 20.
By Jackson Thompson

Mercer County Community College's baseball team got to play on home turf for the first time on Thursday, March 23. The Vikings kicked off their homestand with a 10-1 victory over the ASA Avengers. They returned from their week-long road trip to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina to cold, wet weather that caused a postponement of their first two home games against Rockland Community College and Brookdale Community College.

However, head coach Kevin Kerins, The VOICE, he believes that the weather has worked to the team's advantage as it gave them the opportunity to rest after the energy sucking time spent playing in Myrtle Beach, where the team went 5-3.

"It has been cold unfortunately, but we play through it, this recent snow storm hit at a good time to where we were able to fly back from Myrtle Beach and it also gave us nice break upon return to recover. We only lost 2 games, which have been re-scheduled," Kerins said.

Kerins also thinks the additional obstacle of playing in unusual conditions will build up his team's mental toughness and endurance.

"In January and early February it can be tough because we have a [long season] and we put [a lot of time, practicing indoors, on turf, field, outside in cold weather] we can do guys, but I also think it makes our guys mentally strong. Our players know we are working toward something special each season and being flexible with practice plans, game locations, and times is part of process," Kerins said.

Sophomore infielder Gabe Castille got the Vikings on the board early with his first homerun of the season in the bottom of the first inning. Castille said, "We were just all trying to do something for the team, came back ready, got a couple of days off, came back and put some hits together."

Sophomore infielder Erik Bowren contributed a home run of a different fashion by hitting an inside the park, two run homerun in the bottom of the sixth, which put the Vikings ahead of ASA by eight. Bowren told The VOICE, "It was good to have one today. It gets your adrenalin line going for sure. Off the bat I had a feeling it was probably gonna be three, but then I was coming around second and I saw the coach just kinda keep waving me and I thought. I was gonna keep waving then I'm just gonna go. It was a bang-bang play, but lucky for us I was safe."

Another noteworthy performance of the game was that of freshman starting pitcher Nick Snyder. Snyder improved to a perfect 4-0 on the season by throwing a shutout five inning performance featuring ten strikeouts, only one short of his season high. Snyder told The VOICE he thought it was his strongest outing of the year, though he gave up seven hits and three walks, as well as pitching in a first and second no-out jam in the top of the second inning. Still, Snyder was ultimately able to keep the Avengers off the board for five innings.

Snyder told The VOICE, "When I get into jams like that it almost seems like the game slows down a bit, my intensity and focus goes up, and I think that really helped me get out of those jams. Just slowing it down and really figuring out how to get out of those jams."

ASA's only run of the game came in the seventh inning with the Vikings already up by nine.

With the team's longest trip of the season now behind them they were able to open up a seven game homestand, with what Bowren saw as a crucial win: "Being the home opener and stuff in the cold weather, we wanted to come out here and get a win. They're a great team with a lot of talent, so we just wanted to get out there as a team and play some good team baseball and we did that today."

The Vikings have improved to 13-4 on the season, which puts them one step further on their goal of a return trip to the NJCAA World Series.

By Jasmine Santalla

As the 2016 presidential election drew near, The VOICE surveyed Mercer students and found most weren't very interested in politics, didn't like the candidates, or were just pessimistic in general.

For example, Galahbeere Gordon said, "I think Hillary is going to win, but me personally, I'm not voting. I don't think either one of them are good candidates. This is the first election I've been able to vote in, I was so excited to vote turning 18 years old and it's like 'I've gotta pick between them? I can wait another four years. I'll be ok. I'm expecting things to get worse but I'm praying for better.'"

More recent reporting suggests that following the election, some portion of the student body has been motivated to participate more in politics.

The VOICE interviewed Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman, who represents the college's districts, to ask her her views on the current political climate and how it relates to college students.

VOICE: What role do you see young people playing in our current political climate? What can students do to advocate for themselves?

Watson Coleman: I think students that are eligible to vote should be very involved in the voting and educate on issues can be very important. You need to be voting. You belong to a critical group...You are a big factor, it's not about just talking. You are a part of the majority at the expense of the minority?

VOICE: What should students be focusing on with the new leadership in the White House?

Watson Coleman: I think this is an unprecedented time where your attention is required on so many levels, there are things that are happening...There are issues that are very important that are happening out of the department of health, the women's right to choose. There are things that are going to be happening in the Department of Labor that have to do with things like equal pay. There are things coming out of the Department of Justice, like your voting rights. This requires people like me to not just focus on one thing, but stay alert on a number of issues and stay as involved as I can. Same goes for all of you.

VOICE: How do you plan to best represent the interests of college students from our district?

Watson Coleman: I have been engaged in higher education, so I'm very much in tune to affordability in the state of NJ. I'll be paying attention student debt, expanding Pell grants. I have always tried to support students who are going to school part time with subsidies. Accessibility, diversity, education. I try to stay close to college community.

VOICE: How does a member of a minority party in the House maximize his or her influence when the House rules (unlike the Senate) are designed to maximize the power of the majority at the expense of the minority?

Watson Coleman: You are speaking to the frustration we are all feeling right now. There are a number of things we are committed to right now, [like] seeking attention on resolutions, and [continuing] to highlight the role of Russia in the current presidency. We are committed, although we recognize that we don't control the agenda and we don't have the number of votes. What we do have is relationships and we try to energize people. Even perhaps with Republicans—if they were so doggone scared of what the right wing would do to them—when they do exercise their heartfelt response to something, they're not alone.

Q&A With our congressional representative

Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman, who represents the NJ 12th District, which includes the area surrounding Mercer County College, has recently made herself available to her constituents through a series of town hall meetings. She accepted a request for interview with The VOICE to discuss issues concerning college students.
the college 

VOICE 3 - 27 - 17

-4-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-

-1-
Who are the faces of student success?

By Tim O’Boyle
Senior Reporter

When entering MCCC, you can’t miss the life-sized images of students hanging from the lamp posts lining the perimeter campus drive. The “Faces of Mercer” campaign has put these faces on the MCCC website, in brochures, and all around campus. But who are they?

Turns out, these students are selected by Wendy Humphrey and Jim Gardner in the Public Relations office. The student models are usually chosen through a recommendation from faculty members at Mercer and based on their commitment to Mercer and their involvement in things like clubs, sports, or band.

The use of student models is, in part, a reaction to a debate that began in 2014 when the winter course catalog used a stock photo image of young people—who didn’t appear to be going to college—one of whom had a black man’s head photoshopped poorly onto a white man’s body and was positioned lurking behind three white girls.

The photo may have been intended to display campus diversity, but instead the existing image was posted to “photograph-battles” on Reddit, the popular online discussion website. The Internet lost no time in responding. As the image spread, thousands of views, people downloading and photoshopping in all kinds of other images before re-uploading.

Now interviews included other types of diversity including a man in a wheelchair, actor Leonardo DiCaprio, a child in a raincoat, and a duck. Students from other schools posted similar PR gaffes.

Jim Gardner said The VOICE, “In the past there was a period of time where a lot of the students that were portrayed were from a photo library, and we quickly realized it’s more impactful to have actual students.”

Both Humphrey and Gardner remarked that the use of non-student models was due to financial difficulties, but still should not have been done. “You can’t replace actual people, which is a lesson that we learned,” Humphrey stated.

The student models are not only used to show their involvement in school activities, but also to show diversity among the MCCC campus. Dr. Jianping Wang who is the President of Mercer believes that “Faces of Mercer” should identify the real population among the students that attend the school. “We want to have a mixed representation. That’s the only instruction I give the students that attend the school.” “We want to have a mixed representation. That’s the only instruction I give the students that attend the school.”

Mangi Kissling was approached by Humphrey after being photographed playing for Mercer’s soccer team. She was asked to attend a golf benefit held by Mercer, and after her photo was posted onto Mercer’s facebook page she was approached by Humphrey to do a photoshoot as part of “Faces of Mercer.” Kissling completed 5 semesters at Mercer then transferred to Monmouth University.

“Faces of Mercer” should identify the real population among the students that attend the school. “We want to have a mixed representation. That’s the only instruction I give the students that attend the school.”

Mangi Kissling is a 23 year old senior at Mercer, and after her photo was posted onto Mercer’s facebook page she was approached by Humphrey to do a photoshoot as part of “Faces of Mercer.” Kissling completed 5 semesters at Mercer then transferred to Monmouth University.

Kissling noted that Humphrey reached out to her to be one of her models and next thing she knew, her face was everywhere. “I was very thankful for all the opportunities that had been given to me, and I think she [Humphrey] recognized that,” Kissling said.

While at Mercer, Kissling was involved in soccer, basketball, and cross country. Along with that she worked hard to keep her grades up in the classroom. When The VOICE asked Kissling if she had considered herself “Student Success,” Kissling replied “Yes, I do...I would consider myself ‘Student Success’ because I worked for it, I worked really hard for it.”

Another student model used as a “Face of Mercer” is Ousman Joof. His accomplishments at Mercer included being part of the International Student Organization, being part of the Graphic Design Club, involvement in Student Government Association, partaking in Cross Country, and serving as Editor in Chief of the College VOICE. After 5 semesters at Mercer, he transferred to Drexel University.

“During the Spring into Success function in 2015 I was approached by Francis Paixao I guess I got lucky because other student[s] could have been picked.” For being considered an example of “Student Success” Joof said, “Yeah I would say I was a good representation of Mercer, but you’ll have to ask around to see if that’s true.” Joof said with a smile.

The controversy around the proposed bill concerns the difference between stopping and yielding.

According to Cyndi Steiner, the executive director of the New Jersey Bike and Walk Coalition, “It should be a stop, stop and stay stopped...The [previous law] was meant to clarify that, because yield is such a vague word.”

Steiner’s main concern, she says, is about pedestrian rates of survival during an accident. She told The VOICE, “If a car going 25 miles per hour hits someone, they have an 85 percent chance of surviving. If the car is going 40 miles per hour, the pedestrian only has a 15 percent chance of surviving.”

Many pedestrians have a different perspective. Through a survey of 30 people conducted in downtown Trenton and downtown Lambertville, 86 percent of people disagreed with Assemblyman Brown’s proposal.

According to Benjamin Cole, a 65 year old crossing guard for Trenton Public School System, “New Jersey drivers are almost worst than drivers in New York. They will hit someone and keep driving.” He added, “I’ve been on this corner [Parkside and Stuyvesant] for 3 years and I’ve seen plenty of accidents, the impatient drivers in Trenton are always speeding to beat the light.”

There are many other factors that could cause fatalities on the road that do not involve crosswalks, the main one being cell phone use. According to the National Safety Council report from 2011, 52 percent of car crashes involved a cell phone.

But cell phones can be as much of a distraction for pedestrians as they can be for drivers. “If you are using a cell phone in a crosswalk while walking there should be a fine,” said Brignone Merlo.

“Unlike the frog in the arcade game who gets many chances, people only get one chance to cross the street safely,” Assemblyman Brown said, adding, “I would rather adhere to the proverb and follow the common sense of a grandmother, than accept the misguided advice from Trenton politicians.”

According to the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) the most effective ways for pedestrians to prevent injuries and deaths are to increase visibility at night by wearing reflective clothes and carrying a flashlight, walking on the sidewalk, and “Whenever possible, cross the street at a designated crosswalk or intersection.”

The last suggestion has been found to be even more effective: the installation of “complete streets.” Like those found in major metropolitan areas such as New York and Philadelphia, a “complete street” is designed to enable access for pedestrians, bikers, and automobile drivers in the safest way possible by putting in accessible bike lanes, crosswalks, and wide intersections for cars.

The proposed bill has received mixed reactions from both New Jersey residents and those from out of state who take advantage of local tourist attractions. These mixed reactions make it unknown whether the proposed legislation will be passed or not. But with last year having 185 traffic deaths in New Jersey that involved pedestrians and cyclists, places like Seattle with its low rate of pedestrian deaths, begin to look much more appealing.
Getting off the subway at 110th street and Broadway and winding along the sidewalks of Morningside Heights, the apartment buildings make it feel as if you are wearing horse blinders as you turn the corner of 111th onto Amsterdam Ave and suddenly see the enormity of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine looming ahead.

It is the fourth largest cathedral in the world, and isn’t not even finished. One of its front towers is a partly-built stump, the other is missing altogether, but the incompleteness suggests progress more than despair, a theme that is echoed by the art and space within.

The dimly lit warmth upon first entering the church was a sharp contrast to the car horns blasting, bright morning sunshine, and cold wind that roared outside the 100-year old stone walls. A choir practicing before the 11 o’clock service echoed off the blue stained glass windows that surrounded the 121,000 square ft. nave making the scene that much more divine.

Usher, tour guide, and member of the congregation Ruth Mueller-Maerski, originally from Switzerland, told The VOICE the Protestant Episcopal Church, the church of the Cathedral, was founded in England by King Charles II. The church had a fire on December 18, 2001. “It burned down our bookstore. The fire and smoke also damaged the great organ and the sculpture and art within,” she said.

The informational plaque describing the exhibit says that Episcopalianism sits on a three-legged stool of teachings: tradition, scripture, and reason. All three of these pillars help make Episcopalianism unique from those of other denominations such as Catholicism and Protestantism.

Mueller-Maerski says she was drawn to the church’s openness and the way they approached the liturgy. She explains that Episcopalianism sits on a three-legged stool of teachings: tradition, scripture, and reason. All three of these pillars help make Episcopalianism unique from those of other denominations such as Catholicism and Protestantism.

Upon leaving the Cathedral as the Sunday morning eucharist service was beginning the large, gothic, wooden doors sank shut, silencing the organ and choir music that had marked the start of the service. Amsterdam Avenue was silent and cold with no one in sight, even the line of homeless men had disap...
The array of lights, sounds, billboards, smells, the buzzing hive of activity, and all the yellow taxis have made Times Square one of the most visited tourist attractions in the world. But is it worth the bucket list? In a word: yes.

At the junction of Broadway and Seventh Avenue, in the heart of midtown New York, Times Square teems with tourists, bringing people together into a single tangled, blaring, jumbled, flashing intersection of humanity.

It wasn’t always a bustling entertainment hub. According to the Times Square Alliance, a non-profit organization, it says it, “Works to improve and promote Times Square,” the now busy intersection was originally named Longacre Square, and upon its conception only consisted of a few brownstones. Over the course of time, Longacre Square became a prominent red-light district where pickpockets and brothels were widespread. But eventually big time theater producers bought it up and rehabilitated the area into what the Alliance calls: “A symbol of the American spirit.”

A recent visit on a bone-chilling day leading up to snowstorm Stella found disagreement among visitors about whether Square thought it was worth the hype.

On the one hand there was the Guatemalan visitor who like its familiarity, saying, “It is just like in the movies! It is amazing!”

Others were less enthusiastic, criticizing, among other things, the noise, the smell, and cost of visiting Times Square. One Romanian visitor told this reporter: “Times Square is overrated!” She described New York as expensive and dirty.

A Colombian woman standing nearby agreed in part, saying, “Times Square is cool, but it is too noisy.”

While both the Colombian and Romanian said they would not recommend visiting Times Square, from this perspective of this reporter— a native of South Africa— these ladies are missing the point. It is precisely the sounds, expense, and bustle of the city that makes it real. New York City is supposed to overload and ignite all your senses. It is supposed to leave your ears ringing, temporarily bankrupt you, and make you think twice before eating off of the floor. It is precisely this irreducible atmosphere of the intersection that draws people to the heart of the Square.
This year the Philadelphia Flower Show theme was, “Holland Flowering the World” which inspired entrants to come up with new ways to present beds of tulips, windmills, bridges and the traditional Dutch wooden shoes.

The show, hosted by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) and founded in 1829, features the newest plant varieties, garden and design concepts, and organic/sustainable practices.

This year, Mercer’s Horticulture and Plant Science students worked with peers from the Fine Arts, Advertising & Graphic Design, Illustration and Television programs to craft an exhibit called “Postcards from Holland,” that included a park, a farm area, a windmill, a bike, rows of corn, tomatoes and, of course, tulips.

The team was awarded the Gold Medal in the Education category for their effort, and also earned the Alfred M. Campbell Memorial Trophy for their work.

Megan Jean, an Advertising and Design major who helped build the structure told The VOICE: “I am really happy that we won two awards! All of the clubs worked really hard to make everything perfect.”

Getting things perfect required obsessive attention to detail. For example, the flowering park section included yellow and brown witch hazel flowers, pink and red roses, and green tall trees.

Professor Amy Ricco who runs the Horticulture program at Mercer told The VOICE: “We used 50 different species, our display had close to 700 plants.”

Besides the number of plants there were other considerations.

“Trying to force our plants to bloom in the greenhouse when they normally wouldn’t be blooming,” was a considerable obstacle according to Professor Ricco.

Megan Jean says “the best part was that we had the freedom to come up with a design as long as it fit the theme.”

Before finishing the entire display, different parts had to come together. For example, the Art Club helped out by painting the windmill.

“Above all else, the hardest thing was probably having to wait for things to dry and for paint to come in. We couldn’t continue on to the next step until the paint was dry, and the cold probably didn’t help.” said Amanda Tonkery, Illustration major and part of the Art Club at Mercer.

The Graphic Design and Illustration students created postcards and posters for Flower Show visitors. The pamphlets included facts about Holland and Holland’s unique use of space resources that promote an eco-friendly culture. All this was cemented by a short video, produced by a Television student, focusing on “Sustainability In Holland” which was played in Mercer’s barn exhibit.

This year many new features were added to the Flower Show.

Photos and Story By Maria Ramos
Senior Reporter

A pastoral indoor river scene evoked the Dutch canals at the 2017 Flower Show.

An entire display dedicated to hardy flowering shrubs lined a main concourse at the 2017 Philadelphia Flower Show.

Windmills provided a consistent theme across displays as this year’s Flower Show theme was “Holland Flowering the World.”

Convention goers admired many displays including the one prepared by Mercer’s Horticulture students that took the Gold Medal in the Education category at the Philadelphia Flower Show, 2017.

Convention goers admired many displays including the one prepared by Mercer’s Horticulture students that took the Gold Medal in the Education category at the Philadelphia Flower Show, 2017.
Professor Amy Ricco who runs the Horticulture program at Mercer told The VOICE: “We used 50 different species, our display had close to 700 plants. Besides the number of plants there were other considerations. "Trying to force our plants to bloom in the greenhouse when they normally wouldn’t be blooming," was a considerable obstacle according to Professor Ricco.

Megan Jean says "the best part was that we had the freedom to come up with a design as long as it fit the theme."

Before finishing the exhibit, many different parts had to come together outside the Horticulture program itself. For example, the Art Club helped out by painting the windmill. "The hardest thing was probably having to wait for things to dry and for paint to come in. We couldn’t continue on to the next step until the paint was dry, and the cold probably didn’t help," said Amanda Tonkery, Illustration major and part of the Art Club at Mercer.

The Graphic Design and Illustration students created postcards and posters for Flower Show visitors. The pamphlets included facts about Holland and Holland’s unique use of space resources that promote an eco-friendly culture. All this was cemented by a short video, produced by a Television student, focusing on “Sustainability In Holland” which was played in Mercer’s barn exhibit.

This year many new features were added to the show, such as a light show that was presented in the middle of the convention center. It included music and heavy light concentration on the windmills and bridge. "This is amazing, the music, the lights and the decorations. It feel[s] like I am in Holland," said Joe Kasper from New Hope, Pennsylvania.

The PHS displayed 1,240 exhibits this year, which included everything from plants, trees, flowers, to butterflies and dutch landscapes.

There was also a "Wine and Spirits Tasting Room" with a large selection of wine from around the world. And for those who didn’t want to leave their puppies at home there was a "Yappy Hour" where dogs were invited to attend the show and get treats.

"Hey if I can bring my puppy, have a beer and smell flowers, [I am] def...coming back next year," said Martin Fichter, from Philadelphia.

Oak Troise, from Philadelphia said: “I love it, this is my fifth year coming and it’s always great, puts me in the mood for spring.”

The show ran from March 11-19 and attracted around 250,000 visitors.

Professor Ricco told The VOICE: “Mercer has one of the few horticulture programs in the state. We have a great program that offers students many opportunities to gain valuable experience and knowledge so they are prepared to either transfer or enter the workforce.”

The Mercer team will defend their title in next year’s Flower Show.
TRANSFERRING TO DELVAL WAS THE BEST DECISION OF MY LIFE

- Francis Arnold '16
  Business Administration

TRANSFER TUESDAY -
April 18 & May 23
delval.edu/transfer
to apply, plan a visit or request information

DELAWARE VALLEY UNIVERSITY
700 E. Butler Ave. | Doylestown, PA 18901

You Taste, We Pay!

Firmenich, a leading flavoring supplier to food and beverage companies, is looking for kids, teens and adults to taste test at our Flavor Headquarters in Plainsboro, NJ.

Fast  Usually 20 minutes during workdays & lunch hours
Flexible  Attend panels that fit your interests and schedule
Fun  Your opinions count!

No experience necessary!

To register and for further information
www.flavorsensory.com
You’ve begun your college experience. 
Now enhance your journey towards a valuable career.

Transfer to a university ranked by NPR as a top 50 school in the nation for emphasizing upward mobility.*

At Holy Family University, 40% of new full-time students began their college experience at another institution. Like them, you’ll find more than 40 programs to choose from, one of the lowest net cost options among private universities in the region, and a truly supportive learning environment.

Generous scholarship opportunities are available, and on-the-spot credit evaluations are offered every day.

Register online at holyfamily.edu/MercerTransfer

* National Public Radio, September 2015

Complete your bachelor’s degree from

WILLIAM PATERSO宁 UNIVERSITY
right on the Mercer County Community College Campus!

Attend Our Spring Open House!
Wednesday, April 5, 2017 • 5:00-7:30 p.m.
MCCC Conference Center, West Windsor Campus

Apply now for Fall 2017

To RSVP: mercer@wpunj.edu • 609.570.3358
ATTEND A DREW TRANSFER EXPLORATION DAY.

Monday–Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Drew University, Madison, NJ

WHY DREW IS GOOD FOR MERCER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS:

- Generous merit and need-based scholarships just for you—up to $25,000
- Additional awards for PTK students with associate degrees.
- Seamless transfer of credits.
- 2016 Forbes College of Tomorrow.
- 50+ fields of study.
- 10:1 student-faculty ratio.
- Undergraduate research opportunities.
- NYC semesters on Wall Street, at the United Nations, and in contemporary art, communications/media, theatre, and social entrepreneurship.
- International opportunities spanning the globe.

Take a tour, start a preliminary application, get a credit evaluation and find out which scholarship could be yours.

Register Now: drew.edu/mcctransfer
Food Reviews

Asbury Biergarten: A taste of the Old World at the shore

By Alyssa Flodmand
Senior Reporter

Resembling an old, weathered factory with its red brick walls and charcoal color stairs, the Asbury Biergarten in Asbury Park, NJ is hard to miss. Upon entrance customers are given two menus where they are able to choose their drink from an array of 80 percent imported, and 20 percent American craft beers, and an authentic Austro-Hungarian food menu that will make customers feel like they are vacationing in Europe.

Asbury Biergarten was opened on Feb. 7, 2015 by three friends and business partners. The each say they had a different reason for doing so.

For Andre Ivanov this is not his first Biergarten; he also owns Radegast Hall & Biergarten and Pilsener Haus & Biergarten which are both in Brooklyn. The idea of a biergarten is not unfamiliar to him. For Jennifer Lampert, her involvement was by chance and opportunity, and for Jaro Marcin, his involvement hits closer to home. He was born and raised in Slovakia, and later moved to Brooklyn. The idea of a biergarten is not unfamiliar to him. For Jennifer Lampert, her involvement was by chance and opportunity.

First-time customer, Brian Hugn and wife Alisa, from Barnegat NJ, said, "We love trying new places together, and the Asbury Biergarten certainly transforms the feel of the restaurant your first time. They only had good things to say.

Another customer, Barbara, California in 1969, and now has a mental vacation imagining herself in Germany and taking the first sip of beer brought me right back to that trip." Another customer,

Bartender Ryan Cornell from Asbury Park, NJ, says if a customer comes in wanting a certain type of beer "the staff is cool and the service is great. "

The Asbury Biergarten has communal seating, imported beers, and authentic European food, which keeps customers coming back. It's not the cheapest spot for college students, but it's a lot to offer. Find it at 527 Lake Ave, Asbury Park, NJ weekdays from 4pm-2am and weekends from 12pm-2am.

Habit Burger: A habit that may become an addiction

By Caitlin Kevett
Senior Reporter

Habit Burger located on Rt 1 in Lawrenceville, has given Central Jersey a touch of sunny Southern California—where the franchise began—in only three months of it being opened.

It is the perfect combination of cheap, but good quality, food, excellent customer service, and an overall friendly environment, which makes visits to this restaurant your first good habit.

On a recent visit, the majority of customers were there for the first or second time. They only had good things to say.

"It's a great place," said Habit Burger customer Vinicio, adding, "It's our second time coming here."

Though it’s new to central New Jersey, ‘The first Habit Burger was opened in Santa Barbara, California in 1969, and can now be found nation wide. Habit focuses on freshness and visitors compliment the availability of fresh food on the menu.

"I got the cobb salad, she got the double burger, and the kids got chicken nuggets," said Habit Burger customer Paul, while out for a bite with his family. "We don’t go to too many fast food places, but everything was pretty good." Habit Burger tries to differentiate themselves from other fast food chains, despite sharing similar qualities.

Khala Bagwell of Hamilton said, "This place kind of reminds me of a fast paced Red Robin."

One of the best items on the menu is the teriyaki charburger, which is packed with an almost overwhelming number of flavors. This burger is topped with ingredients such as grilled pineapple, teriyaki sauce, as well as classic burger toppings like fresh lettuce, onions, juicy tomatoes, mayo and a pickle. Ordering the sweet potato fries adds an even bigger punch to the meal.

The total cost of a burger and fries is around $7 which, when compared to McDonald’s prices of a regular cheeseburger meal being $8, makes the options at Habit Burger a steal!

When asked about the freshness of the food, General Manager, Brian Berry said, “The food is never frozen. We have a special meat packing plant in New York, and all of the toppings are fresh.”

The freshness of the meat can be easily tasted in the juiciness of their burgers. Habit Burger also has a dedication to the freshness of their vegetables. According to the kitchen manager Brian Pierce, “In the morning there is no prep besides lettuce, tomato, and salad. At around 2 pm we send employees to the back to prep some more so that it’s not cut and open all day long.”

The Habit Burger staff are friendly and welcoming, and will offer help with any questions on the food. After placing the order, you can either wait and watch, since it is prepared right in front of you, or you can sit back at a table and have a mental vacation imagining you are in Southern California where Habit burger began.
MCCC has lots of community if you look

Yes, students come and go, but there are ways to make friends

A common complaint heard on campus is that people come to class and then immediately leave for home or to work. That’s true. This is a commuter school and not everyone has time for socializing after classes. But there is community here if you bother to look for it.

“It really has to do with getting involved,” says Mani Kissling, adding, “Nobody is going to know who you are if you just kind of hide in the shadows of class.”

Before transferring to Monmouth University Kissling was on the soccer, basketball, and cross country teams at Mercer. “Doing athletics really, really helped in getting involved in the community,” Kissling says.

In a survey of 37 students on the West Windsor campus, just over a third said they do not feel they are a part of a community, but most of those students also said they go to their classes and leave campus immediately afterward. Thirty-five percent of those surveyed said they were not in any organization or club at Mercer, which is the simplest and most practical way to get involved.

“Attendance at a part of The VOICE has given us the ability to meet, work, and socialize with fellow students many of whom we have never had a class with. It also gives us the chance to interview faculty and administrators for articles and build a relationship with them. Before The VOICE we had only ever seen President Wang in pictures, now we have built a relationship and she knows us when we come to interview her for articles. Sure there may be days when we have to stay late to work on the paper, but that keeps us away from the go to work, home: ‘inherently (within the community college) it is hard to find community unless you are involved with a student group.’ ”

He tries to address this at Mercer by having an active dynamic in the classroom to help students collaborate.

“When students don’t speak or are disconnected from him or one another, he has them ‘turn their wagons’ to create small groups. “What the group work tells me” said Dr. Tabor, “is that there is a very strong sense of community. The staff directory icon could be of use, but the app’s directory does not provide the office phones for professors. This information can be easily found on Mercer’s website.”

The good news is, it could be of use, but the app’s directory does not provide the office phones for professors. This information can be easily found on Mercer’s website.

The bottom line

The way it is

Ellucian NO! App falls short of promise

Two second year student majoring in Game Design and Digital Media Arts says: “I had a lot of problems logging in at certain times, and sometimes the schedule was a little messed up compared to what I actually had to take.”

Joe Suarez, a freshman studying Music has had a similar experience. He told The VOICE, “I use it a lot for my schedule to time what I can do between classes, that only the thing is the app is buggy sometimes. On the first day of the semester after getting my first schedule wrong and said my first 10 am was now at 2 pm and so on, and I had a mini heart attack.”

Murphy gets to the heart of the matter: “It could be useful but at its current state it’s not that functional.”

The staff directory icon could be of use, but the app’s directory does not provide the office phones for professors. This information can be easily found on Mercer’s website.

One bright light in the darkness is the map, which, as long as you’re using the hybrid or satellite option, can provide a bird’s-eye view of the campus. I imagine this can be useful for new students arriving to campus.

The good news is, it sounds like other schools have better versions. So hopefully Mercer will keep improving the mediocres app until it is worth your money. The phone memory space it takes up.

Contact them on the app before they even had the opportunity to use. Brandon Murphy, a second year student majoring in Game Design and Digital Media Arts says: “I had a lot of problems logging in at certain times, and sometimes the schedule was a little messed up compared to what I actually had to take.”

Joe Suarez, a freshman studying Music has had a similar experience. He told The VOICE, “I use it a lot for my schedule to time what I can do between classes, that only the thing is the app is buggy sometimes. On the first day of the semester after getting my first schedule wrong and said my first 10 am was now at 2 pm and so on, and I had a mini heart attack.”

Murphy gets to the heart of the matter: “It could be useful but at its current state it’s not that functional.”

The staff directory icon could be of use, but the app’s directory does not provide the office phones for professors. This information can be easily found on Mercer’s website.

One bright light in the darkness is the map, which, as long as you’re using the hybrid or satellite option, can provide a bird’s-eye view of the campus. I imagine this can be useful for new students arriving to campus.

The good news is, it sounds like other schools have better versions. So hopefully Mercer will keep improving the mediocres app until it is worth your money. The phone memory space it takes up.

Contact them on the app before they even had the opportunity to use. Brandon Murphy, a second year student majoring in Game Design and Digital Media Arts says: “I had a lot of problems logging in at certain times, and sometimes the schedule was a little messed up compared to what I actually had to take.”

Joe Suarez, a freshman studying Music has had a similar experience. He told The VOICE, “I use it a lot for my schedule to time what I can do between classes, that only the thing is the app is buggy sometimes. On the first day of the semester after getting my first schedule wrong and said my first 10 am was now at 2 pm and so on, and I had a mini heart attack.”

Murphy gets to the heart of the matter: “It could be useful but at its current state it’s not that functional.”

The staff directory icon could be of use, but the app’s directory does not provide the office phones for professors. This information can be easily found on Mercer’s website.

One bright light in the darkness is the map, which, as long as you’re using the hybrid or satellite option, can provide a bird’s-eye view of the campus. I imagine this can be useful for new students arriving to campus.

The good news is, it sounds like other schools have better versions. So hopefully Mercer will keep improving the mediocres app until it is worth your money. The phone memory space it takes up.

Contact them on the app before they even had the opportunity to use. Brandon Murphy, a second year student majoring in Game Design and Digital Media Arts says: “I had a lot of problems logging in at certain times, and sometimes the schedule was a little messed up compared to what I actually had to take.”

Joe Suarez, a freshman studying Music has had a similar experience. He told The VOICE, “I use it a lot for my schedule to time what I can do between classes, that only the thing is the app is buggy sometimes. On the first day of the semester after getting my first schedule wrong and said my first 10 am was now at 2 pm and so on, and I had a mini heart attack.”

Murphy gets to the heart of the matter: “It could be useful but at its current state it’s not that functional.”

The staff directory icon could be of use, but the app’s directory does not provide the office phones for professors. This information can be easily found on Mercer’s website.

One bright light in the darkness is the map, which, as long as you’re using the hybrid or satellite option, can provide a bird’s-eye view of the campus. I imagine this can be useful for new students arriving to campus.

The good news is, it sounds like other schools have better versions. So hopefully Mercer will keep improving the mediocres app until it is worth your money. The phone memory space it takes up.

Contact them on the app before they even had the opportunity to use. Brandon Murphy, a second year student majoring in Game Design and Digital Media Arts says: “I had a lot of problems logging in at certain times, and sometimes the schedule was a little messed up compared to what I actually had to take.”

Joe Suarez, a freshman studying Music has had a similar experience. He told The VOICE, “I use it a lot for my schedule to time what I can do between classes, that only the thing is the app is buggy sometimes. On the first day of the semester after getting my first schedule wrong and said my first 10 am was now at 2 pm and so on, and I had a mini heart attack.”

Murphy gets to the heart of the matter: “It could be useful but at its current state it’s not that functional.”

The staff directory icon could be of use, but the app’s directory does not provide the office phones for professors. This information can be easily found on Mercer’s website.

One bright light in the darkness is the map, which, as long as you’re using the hybrid or satellite option, can provide a bird’s-eye view of the campus. I imagine this can be useful for new students arriving to campus.

The good news is, it sounds like other schools have better versions. So hopefully Mercer will keep improving the mediocres app until it is worth your money. The phone memory space it takes up.
LGBT students: it’s time for us to step up

My name is Zayvion Thompson and I am proud openly bisexual male. I am currently a second year Communications and New Media major. I also come from a Jamaican Christian family that heavily frown upon anything that’s not straight or seen as "normal." My path to self acceptance hasn’t been easy. But I’m writing this to encourage other students to take that path, to voice their presence more loudly on campus.

My worry is that since the 2013 Supreme Court rulings that allowed gays to get married and serve opening in the military, a lot of young people have gotten the impression that gay issues are over and done with, nothing more to worry about. In fact, there are plenty of kids like me from conservative families who are terrified to come out. Rates for suicide for LGBT teens is still far higher than for straight youth. We get bullied at far higher rates. Cassidy Wagner another Mercer student had this to say, “To be honest I’m scared of Trump’s supporters increasing the frequency of physical attacks on both the LGBT community and women because of what they see Trump doing and promoting. We went back half a century, man.”

Furthermore, with the new administration in the White House, the LGBT community faces the terror of seeing these hard fought rights disappear again in the blink of an eye. President Trump has stated that gay couples should get to "conversion therapy"—a brutal practice that basi- cally tries to un-gay people. He is openly hateful. Mike Pence is a specter that is keeping gays up at night.

When asked what fears people in the LGBT community at Mercer had in light of Trump’s election student Melissa Civale stated “I personally don’t have any fears. I have hopes that we will overcome any bathroom bills or marriage laws. I have hope that our community can generate a big enough image to the government that we are people too.” Cassidy Wagner another MCCC student had this to say, “To be honest I’m scared of Trump’s supporters increasing the frequency of physical attacks on both the LGBT community and women because of what they see Trump doing and promoting. We went back half a century, man.”

Fortunately pride flows through the LGBT community, and we are banding together to fight the new administration, but we are already losing ground. Just a few weeks ago we lost a major battle for trans kids to be able to use the bathrooms while at school. The Supreme Court wouldn’t even bother with the case, just left it at the lower courts who had ruled against these much needed rights.

If you think these so-called “bathroom bills” are just a small issue facing a tiny handful of people, think again. They represent gender inequality and sexual discrimination issues across the spectrum. When you see the courts making these kinds of rulings, be assured that it’s just the start. Keep your eyes on other kinds of gender discrimination, like laws for equal pay, coverage for contraception on the new healthcare bill. These issues are all connected.

How does all this tie up to students at Mercer? Well, we’re going to have to get our LGBT group motivated, too. There are organizations like HETOPS in Princeton that have been offering a safe space, teaching queer youth about sexual health, and helping teens know they are not alone.

As great as HETOPS is they cannot do it all on their own, so what are we at MCCC doing to help?

In the past, Mercer has had quite an active LGBT club on campus. Back in 2012, the LGBT club held a “kiss in” event where students—queers and allies alike—converted to the lowest Student Center and kissed in same sex pairs as part of a demonstration to raise awareness of LGBT issues.

That event—which only lasted about 10 minutes, and generated one of the rare events at college campuses nationwide—sparked considerable controversy on the Mercer campus. But in the end, it served its purpose. We made it very obvious that we are both here and queer.

More recently, in 2015, there was a transgender panel with several outside speakers that was a success despite vandalism of the flyers that were posted to advertise it.

Today, our campus LGBT group is fairly quiet, but I believe we can get back to our former glory. I get how terrifying coming out can be and I am not asking anyone to come out if it is not safe for them to do so, but our community really needs youth voices.

Trump and Pence are out to silence us but for the sake of our community and for the sake of myself I am not going to let him. And neither should you.

Do you have something to say? The College VOICE accepts letters to the editor. Submissions should be no more than 300 words; longer submissions may be shortened. Submit materials in electronic format, and include your name and status at Mercer (major and year, faculty or staff position or alumnus). All materials submitted become the property of The College VOICE, which reserves the right to reject or edit material based on length, taste or clarity.

To The College VOICE!

Write to The College VOICE!

Do you have something to say? The College VOICE accepts letters to the editor. Submissions should be no more than 300 words; longer submissions may be shortened. Submit materials in electronic format, and include your name and status at Mercer (major and year, faculty or staff position or alumnus). All materials submitted become the property of The College VOICE, which reserves the right to reject or edit material based on length, taste or clarity.

How to contact us:

e-mail: norton@mercury.edu
phone: (609) 586-4800 ext. 3594
write to: The College VOICE
c/0f: Matt Kochis
Mercer County College
1200Edison Rd.
West Windsor, NJ 08506