

What does #1 mean?

Watchdog group says ranking may be misleading

By Tim O'Boyle & Maria Ramos
Senior Reporters

An article in Mercer's December 2016 issue Viking newsletter explained how the college had "been named the number one military-friendly school among all two-year colleges in the nation by Victory Media, a provider of informational resource material to U.S. active duty military personnel, veterans, and spouses." The VOICE wrote about the award, too. But what does that ranking mean? How did we earn it? What standards are used to determine the winner?

In a report written by the independent non-profit group Veterans Education Success (VES) titled "Understanding Misleading Websites and 'Lead Generators': A Case Study: Victory Media's 'Military Friendly Schools'" originally published in August 2016 and

updated in February 2017, VES calls to question the standards and practices used by Victory Media to assign its rankings.

During an interview with The VOICE, Dr. Jianping Wang said that during her candidacy as President for MCCC a group of veterans approached her with a list of complaints, she promised to address them within two years' time.

Dr. Wang said, "That was my pledge and we earned that title in one year, so it's a really really big accomplishment for this college, the hard work and the staff."

But the watchdog group that protects veterans says in their report that "Victory Media is a private, for-profit company that publishes several magazines (most notably GI Jobs), a website (military-friendly.com/schools) and a list

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Tension builds in faculty contract fight

Months of negotiations fail to end stalemate over pay and benefits

By Kaylin Stafford
Reporter

Students have seen signs posted on faculty office doors and in windows saying, "No Contract, but Still Working" but what do they mean?

The full time faculty members, of which there are approximately 100, worked based on a contract that lays out annual wages and salary increases, and clarifies how many classes are to be taught, how many supervisory evaluations given, number of office hours, amount of benefits and other job requirements. A key sticking factor is that without a new contract, faculty do not receive any increase in pay.

The most recent faculty contract expired over a year ago and faculty union officers and college administrators have been deadlocked in negotiations.

Professor of Communication and the President of the

"We expect that the institution will take care of us as we take care of those who we work with."

-Professor of Communication, Alvyn Haywood

faculty union, Alvyn Haywood, says, "We expect that the institution will take care of us as we take care of those who we work with."

After months of stalled negotiations, Professor of English Edward Carmien, who is the current lead negotiator, says the full-time faculty and administration have moved into a "fact finding" stage.

Professor Carmien says, "In fact finding both sides will have the opportunity to share what they see are the facts of the matter at hand." The facts in question have to do with college finances and whether or

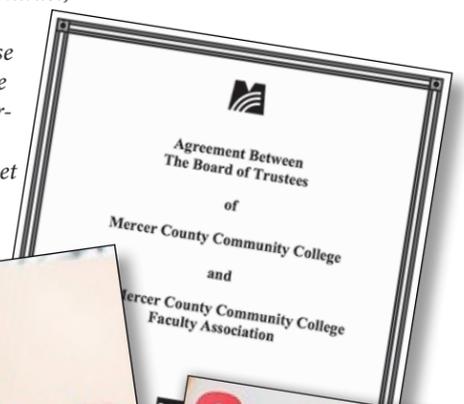
how much pay can be increased based on availability of funds.

According to Professor Carmien, negotiations began in March of 2016. An agreement was not made at that time and the faculty association declared impasse, a legal position meaning no progress is possible. This led to a mediation meeting in September 2016 to try to resolve the conflict. The meeting did not produce a contract, and the mediator recommended both parties go to the "fact finding" stage.

Currently the full time professors have not had a raise

See **CONTRACT FIGHT** page 3

In protest of not having a contract, faculty are putting up posters and wearing pins to raise awareness of their fight. The signs were used in 2013 during a similar contract fight that included a faculty picket of the annual trustees gala.



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Asbury Park, street art and local culture, less than an hour from campus. PG. 6



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Kento Iwasaki, Mercer grad and pro musician



Musician and Mercer alumni, Kento Iwasaki, performing on a traditional Japanese koto. PHOTO | GRIFFIN JONES

By Griffin Jones
Reporter

Musician and Mercer alumni Kento Iwasaki gave a lecture and performed music on the traditional Japanese koto instrument as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series on April 12. Iwasaki was introduced by acting dean of the Honors program, Dr. Bettina Caluori. She told the audience “This is the role reversal teacher’s love. He was my student, but today I’ll sit in my seat and learn from him”.

A former Honors student and member of Phi Theta Kappa, as well as reporter for the VOICE, Iwasaki attributes much of his current success to his start at Mercer, especially the first class he took here, an English 101 class with Dr. Carol Bork.

He said of it, “I will always remember that class...She said that this class informs how to be successful in other classes.

That’s kind of a really big statement, but it was completely true. It has informed how I write music.” Specifically, he says it helps him switch between his “editor side and creative child side” as he applied what he learned brainstorming for English papers into working up new compositions.

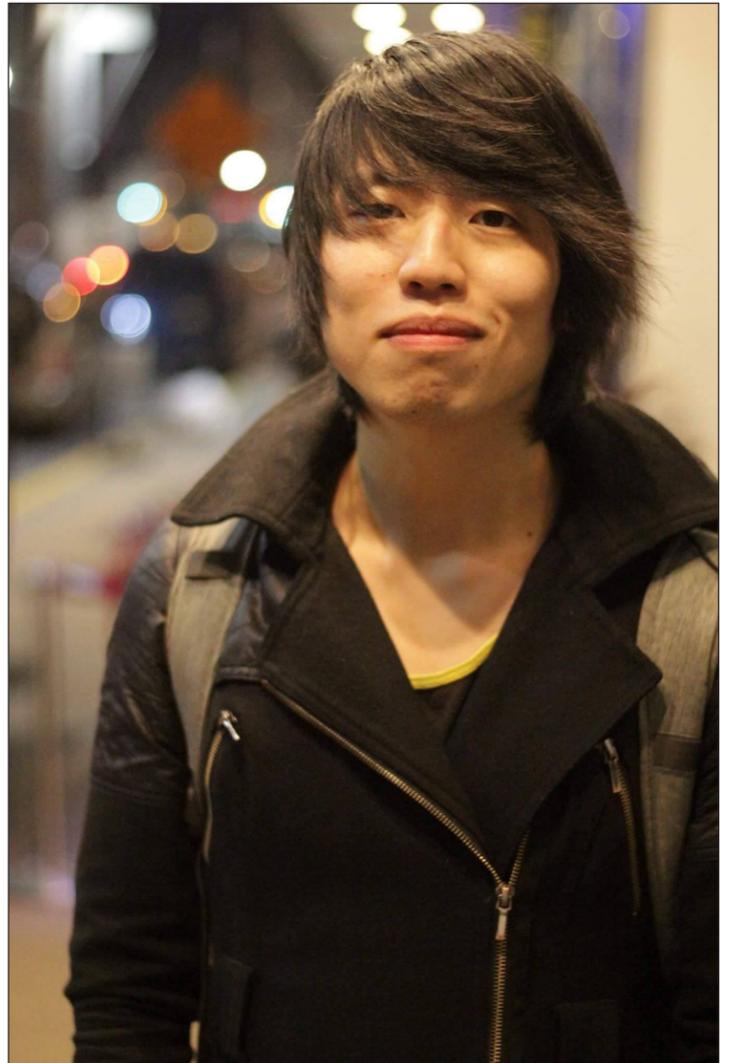
Iwasaki believes the multifaceted liberal arts curriculum here helped him grow, saying “If I didn’t go to Mercer, I probably wouldn’t have become a theater composer. Mercer made me an interdisciplinary composer”.

That interdisciplinary approach has certainly taken hold on his work. As part of the duo Gemini Hasu he plays the koto alongside his partner, who plays the djembe, or African drum. The two are working on infusing their music with modern electronica and trap beats for the club scene. This fusion of music both Asian and African,

modern and traditional, can really only be called interdisciplinary.

But how did Iwasaki get involved with the koto when his time at Mercer was mostly spent focusing on the piano? After he graduated from Mercer with an Associate’s in Composition he got his Bachelor’s degree from Temple University, and then his Master’s from the Manhattan School of Music. He stayed in New York City and was commissioned by Columbia University for a piece.

This led to Iwasaki pursuing the koto at Columbia, sitting in on classes they taught on it and joining the koto ensemble. He also spent a month and a half in Japan studying under a koto master. The training was intensive; he says he spent around twelve hours a day under her tutelage. He ate three meals a day with her and her apprentice, making it a personal as well as professional re-



Kento Iwasaki in New York City. PHOTO USED WITH PERMISSION | KHANG LE

lationship.

The koto has a traditional Japanese sound. It looks like a massive version of the neck of a guitar and is larger than Iwasaki himself. It’s hard to imagine him carrying the massive instrument through the subways of NYC, but he just laughed off this idea saying “Believe me, I’ve seen stranger.”

Aside from his work as part of Gemini Hasu, Iwasaki has also founded The Travel-

ling Opera Company, which performed “Innocent Prey” here at Mercer last semester, a work Iwasaki composed the music for. He is also the musical director of Opera-Tunity, which works to bring opera to children. He can be often found alongside his djembe playing partner in subway stations of NYC, or playing in locations like Central Park, filling the air with music mixing different cultures and times, much like the city itself.

Student radio station works to build community

By Trevion Anglin
Reporter

The dominance of radio, particularly college radio which for decades helped promote obscure bands to stardom, has been steadily declining. This has become a huge problem that impacts community colleges as much as four year schools. While many may know of the popular classical station WWFM that plays on campus, the student station, Viking 89, which offers up a variety of musical genres music, from rap to jazz is struggling to maintain and grow their listening base.

This lack of interest in radio is occurring because of the many alternative ways in which students can listen to music. Communications Professor Mitch Canter, who teaches explains the problem saying: “Listeners in their 20s have more alternatives than ever for audio entertainment. Forget WPST or HOT 97, how about playlists on iPods, smartphones and laptop computers? Streaming Spotify or Pandora off an iPhone or Android device?”

There isn’t much infor-

mation about the student radio station online making and a VOICE survey of 50 students found that almost half (22) had no idea there was a radio station, while the other half (22) were aware but disinterested and didn’t listen to it. There were only six students who said they listened to the station regularly even though its primary broadcast range is the bustling cafeteria.

The VOICE conducted the same survey at Bucks County Community College to see if students were more interested in their student station, Radio BUX, but the results were even worse. Eighteen students didn’t know it existed and 31 students who knew about it never listened. Only one student who said that they had listened to it on occasion.

Shawn Slaughter, the General Manager for Viking 89 since 2013 says “We are the spice of life, because you can hear James Brown, Conway Twitty, Method Man, Beethoven. We’ve even had talk shows.” This means that the radio station is created for just about anyone, with any kind



Shawn Slaughter and fellow radio students broadcasting live from Viking 89. PHOTO | MARIA RAMOS

of musical taste. Slaughter emphasizes that the station plays an important role in helping to establish a sense of community on a commuter campus.

But to make a station work requires a dedicated staff. Slaughter told The VOICE: “When I first came [the station] was really small, not a lot

of members... kind of like right now.”

Slaughter thinks there is a way for the station to reach more people. Professor Canter, as faculty adviser of the station says “I don’t think that the station can do this on its own, but I think it can be a tremendous contributor to the campus com-

munity.”

Professor Canter says this can be accomplished “If Viking 89 can find the right mix of music programming and public affairs programs that are relevant to students’ everyday experiences here on campus, it can be a powerful combination.”

No campus daycare leaves gap for parents

By Maria Ramos
Senior Reporter

Every semester it becomes more important for students to complete their degrees and graduate in the time frame they planned. The difficulty of being a part time student and working full time in order to pay off school is already stressful, and now add the expense of paying for childcare services for those who are both parents and students.

Of the 18 community colleges in New Jersey, 13 have a daycare on campus that serves students, faculty, staff, and the community.

Bergen County Community College is one of the 13 schools that have a childcare center on campus. The students receive a higher discount for the childcare center tuition than the staff, faculty and open public in order to help out students.

Sally Dionisio, Director of the Child Development Center of Bergen Community College says, "We do our best to assist students and their children in order for them to complete their degrees, it's a good opportunity for students to be able to drop off their kids here at campus while they are taking classes."

Mercer has realized that child care is a problem for students, staff, and faculty members. Dean of Students Dr. Diane Campbell told The VOICE, "We had a meeting and our faculty said that child care it was an issue with students, that lots of time we had stu-



PHOTO | MARIA RAMOS

JoJo Wills and Mia Mastoianni came to college and spent the day with their grandmother, an employee at Mercer, for Take Your Child to Work day, but they would not be able to come on a regular basis as no daycare is provided on campus.

dents who bring their children to school and it seems that they need a way to have somebody to watch their children."

In fact, in the late 1970's there was a co-op childcare center on Mercer's main campus. However, the college only provided the space, the mothers were in charge of the shifts. Professor of Visual Arts

Lucas Kelly's mother was able to finish her high school and Associate Degrees at Mercer County Community College because of this service.

Kelly says, "She and a number of students created a co-op. This cooperative daycare that she participated in was basically a bunch of students who were mothers who needed

childcare and couldn't afford childcare but also needed to go to school and couldn't afford not to go to school. So they essentially traded their time to watch children for time to go to class, so my mother would watch a group of kids while the number of the mothers whose kids were under the watch of my mom were taking class."

In a survey conducted by The VOICE, 72 percent of students said Mercer should have a daycare on campus, and 60 percent said that if Mercer had a childcare center on campus they thought more people would enroll. But the student were less enthusiastic about the idea if it would result in a tuition

See DAYCARE page 9

Battle over faculty contract continues as sides are drawn over pay

Continued from page 1

in 2 years. According to union members, as cost of living goes up the expectation is that salaries should go up as well.

A bitter contract negotiation in 2013, which was covered in detail in The VOICE, found that the central disagreement was over a 1.5 percent raise in salary. At that point some community colleges in NJ were getting as much as a 2-2.5 percent raise.

Art Schwartz, Professor of Mathematics and the previous lead negotiator told The VOICE, explains why these seemingly incremental raises matter saying, "For example, if I get a two percent raise and you get a one percent raise, you'd said 'Oh, what the hell, it's only one percent.' No, I'm getting twice as much as you. And that will make a difference in 10-15 years."

Dr. Jianping Wang, President of MCCC, says that the college simply does not have the proper funds to give professors such a raise. State funding, which is supposed to pay for one-third of community college fees, actually only accounts for less than 10 percent. Students currently pay over 50 percent of

all community college fees. That is why tuition prices are rising each year.

Dr. Wang told The VOICE, "I believe we have incredibly hard working faculty, dedicated faculty...and they really deserve to get a raise. I want to give them a raise. But the truth is, as the president of the college, you cannot do things just because you want to, you have to do things that are responsible and that sustain the college. So if you choose just to settle the contract, don't care how you're gonna pay for it, then it will do the damage to the future of this college"

During the current negotiation period Dr. Wang has noted that the college has a \$500,000 surplus. She has proposed a "success sharing" option as a means to increase faculty pay. Under such a plan, faculty would get bonuses if more of their student completed and passed their classes.

One faculty member who spoke on the condition of anonymity for fear of job reprisals said, "The idea of 'success sharing' is unethical. It puts pressure on faculty to lower standards so they can make more students pass. It also di-

vides pits faculty against one another based on those who won't inflate grades and those who will."

The same professor continued, "I think the president's argument would be that the team benefits from overall increased graduation and retention rates so there is no pressure, but the team doesn't assign grades, individual professors do. Even if they try to ignore the pressure, in the back of their minds they know the more students they push along, the more money they might get. From the student's perspective that means you can't count on your diploma to reflect real learning or mean anything."

A similarly contentious contract fight occurred in 1986. The college administration did not want to give faculty a raise, but it was shown that the college could afford it. Eventually, professors went on strike for three days. Classes were canceled and the school activities came to a halt. With contract negotiations lasting longer than it did in 1986, is there a risk that the faculty will go on strike again?

Professor Schwartz says, at this point "I don't think the faculty would support a

strike."

However faculty have indicated that they may hold a vote of no confidence in the president's leadership. While such an action does not have any direct impact, it would signal to the college's board of trustees that protests or even another strike might be the next step.

In a survey of 30 students conducted by The VOICE, 63 percent said they believed that professors not having a contract affects students, but on a scale of one to ten, half of those students rated how much they would be affected at the mid point, a five.

Although there is a low likelihood that the faculty will go on strike, this does affect students in other ways. Contracts require professors teach a minimum of 4 classes a semester, but many professors teach 5 or 6 classes to make more money.

English Professor Jack Tabor says, "What that means for you guys is that we are more tired. We would love to get your papers back faster, but because we are sort of having to run at 125 percent because we have to do this extra amount of work just to literally makes ends meat,

it does wear us out. We're less patient. We have less energy to come up with new things to teach."

Dr. Diane Campbell, Executive Dean of Student Affairs says, "If you are doing what you came here to do, the signs in the windows should raise a flag in your intellect for you to question what is going on. And if you talk to a faculty member about what that sign means, hopefully as you leave Mercer and go into the workforce, you will understand what that means a lot better in terms of 'still working.' We don't have a contract, but we're still working."

Although this process has already been over a year long, professors agree that it will continue to be a long and drawn out process like it has been in the past. The "No Contract, but Still Working" sign are not new. They have been several times in the past when a contract agreement was not made in time.

Prof. Tabor says, "I think after the contract negotiations, these signs will probably get slid back behind everyone's desk for next time, because this seems to be the nature of labor, especially here at Mercer."

Student art exhibit opens at Mercer's Gallery



ABOVE: Student artists discussed their work with locals, professors and peers at the Visual Arts Student Exposition at the college gallery on April 12. TOP RIGHT: The layout of work allowed event goes to inspect pieces up close.

By Jasmine Santalla
Reporter

On Apr. 12, The Gallery at Mercer County Community College held its third and final reception, the Visual Arts Student Exhibition showcasing dozens of piece across many fields of visual art such as photography, graphic design, sculptures and more.

Laura Callejo Jimenez, a Communication: New Media student, had one of her photographs selected. Jimenez told The VOICE that her one goal was to find something different and goes beyond the surface. This was the first time she's had any form of visual art chosen for public display.

Jimenez said, "Photographing an old car makes me think of everything that car has seen through many years. For some, this car was a dream years ago, today it is just sitting in at a random warehouse area in Trenton."

Another photography student Lizzie Mayer has had pieces chosen for exhibitions in the past. Her most recent submission is titled [insert title here]. Mayer will be attending TCNJ in the fall studying art history. She works and has interned at The Gallery where she, along with other interns, have been able to create and curate their own shows.

Mayer told The VOICE, "[I]t's only for a week [but] we get to pick what we want. It can be a show about anything, we just need to find the artists and a theme and do it all ourselves without the help of the director."

The interns' most recent exhibit was their first.

Mayer says it will be possible to host one more show by the interns if they take what they learned from the first one and plan accordingly. There are already discussions about the next theme.

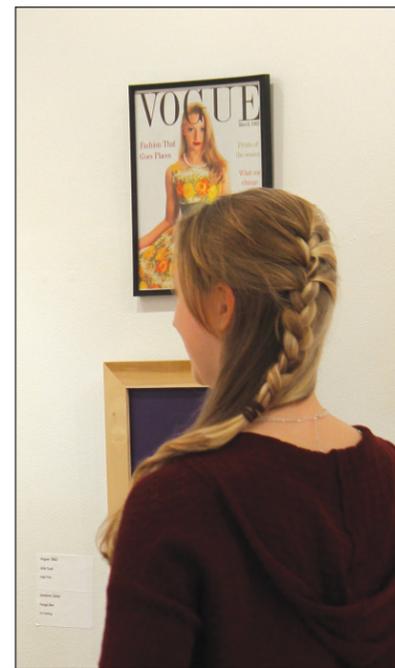
Mayer says, "[The first exhibit] was just our persona so we just put in random work that we did to see how it would work together. Again, that was just our first show. The next show we were thinking about doing street art, graffiti art, street photography, have a city theme."

Graphic Design and Advertising major Julia Cook's piece, Vogue 1963, features a self-portrait as a Vogue Model on a 60's themed cover. Looking beyond Mercer, Cook is interested in Art and Design schools in Philadelphia, and says her confidence has increased while working on this semester's capstone project rebranding a company.

"We have to all work together and do separate portions of rebranding a company. Right now it's the Warrior K-9 connection company. So we're working with service dogs that help out warriors, men who have come back from the military," Cook said.

In reflecting on her experience with the show, photo student Jimenez said: "Having the opportunity of publishing some students work is a great idea that motivates professors and students to keep up the hard work seeing some results in a short time."

The Gallery at MCCC is currently seeking volunteers for the fall and spring semester and is always encouraging students to submit their work.



ABOVE: Graphic Design student Julia Cook used an image of herself and transposed it onto a Vogue magazine cover in her piece showcased at this semester's student art exhibit at The Gallery.

PHOTO SPREAD | JASMINE SANTALLA



The opening of the student exhibit at Mercer's Gallery was well attended by a cross section of locals from both on and off campus. Many students who have first had their work on display in the student show have gone on to have pieces selected for Trenton's Art All Night events and some have gone on to professional careers in the arts such as Photography Major CJ Harker whose work was recently showcased in an exhibit on Mercer's Trenton campus.



Softball team rides ten game streak into post season



Sophomore catcher Tatum Marshall runs for home in game against Camden on April 18.

PHOTO | JASMINE SANTALLA

By Jackson Thompson
Reporter

Mercer's Vikings softball team finished up the regular season with a win against Ocean County on Friday April 21. They head into the postseason coming off a 10 game win streak and a total regular season record of 32-6.

Despite the obstacle of having to rebuild the team on two year rotations, the program has managed to maintain an exceptional level of performance on a consistent basis.

Sophomore catcher Tatum Marshall told The VOICE: "It's definitely difficult because you create a bond with one set of girls and then you have to create a new

bond and then you have to get used to everybody. For life, you're learning that people are going to come and go and you have to adapt to others and the change."

When asked how the program is able to maintain a talented roster year after year, head coach Ryan Zegarski attributed the program's effectiveness to the scouting the athletic department does in the offseason.

"When you do your work in the offseason it makes your in season very very easy," Zegarski said, adding, "If you recruit and do your due diligence and bring in these student athletes then you should have an easy in season."

The Vikings begin postseason play on Saturday April 29 against Del Tech in the region 19 playoffs.

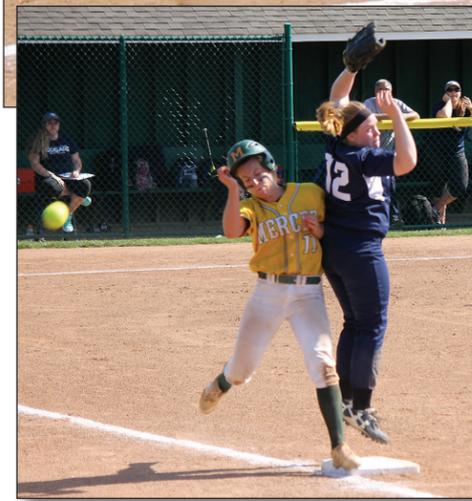


PHOTO | JASMINE SANTALLA

Vikings baseball team offers season ending excitement

By Jackson Thompson
Reporter

In a semester that's been plagued by sex offenders, rising tuition, and questionable awards, Mercer students may find a bit of solace in a baseball team that has brought real acclaim to the college.

The Vikings split a two game series against third ranked Lackawanna on Sunday April 23, bringing their record to 35-11 and another day closer to the junior college world series.

Freshman Erik Bowren, team captain says, "We're 45 games in right now, it's been a long season but we're starting to hit our stride. [There's] definitely a lot of energy in the dugout and we saw that yesterday for sure."

Behind an offensive explosion, and a solid outing by sophomore pitcher Dennis Brady the Vikings were able to take care of Lackawanna in game one of the series by a score of 11-2. However they fell short of a sweep

with a 5-2 loss later that afternoon.

With Mercer currently the second seed in the state rankings and Lackawanna currently ranked third, there was a greater emphasis on these two games, particularly for the Vikings after already getting swept by top ranked Morris last weekend. Regardless, both teams acknowledged the importance of these two games, as there is a high likelihood that these two teams will meet again in May.

Head coach for Lackawanna, Bruce Thompson, told The VOICE, "We know Mercer is a really good program, they have a history of success, we know that every time we come to [this] campus we're gonna be in for a dogfight."

The Vikings will now get to finish off the regular season with five of their last seven games at home, an advantage much appreciated by Mercer's players as it gives them ample time to

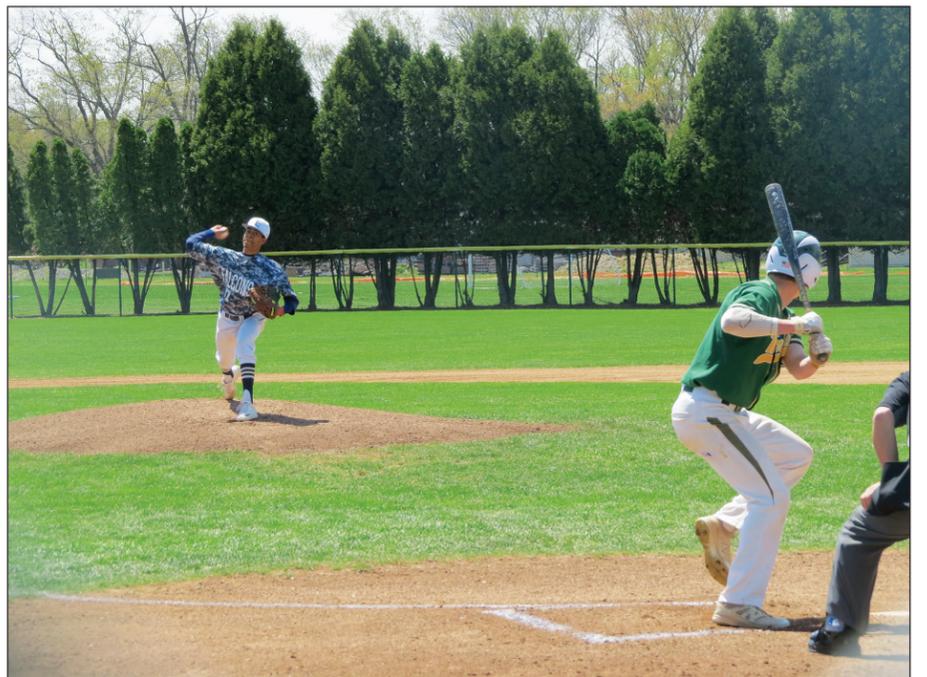
rest, and the student body an opportunity to catch a game as the weather improves.

According to sophomore starting pitcher, Andrew DiPiazza, "A lot of games away to start off the season because we like to finish up towards the end of the season at home so we get a lot of rest."

The Vikings will welcome any advantage they can get for this final stretch of games. With playoff seeding on the line the weight of each win is magnified with every passing game. "Every game matters, our goal is to win a national championship. The NJCAA now seeds the world series record, strength of schedule and momentum all factor into those rankings.

Head coach Kevin Kerins says, "It is very important to be healthy, rest and playing well for regional weekend."

As the semester comes to a close as well, the coming weeks are likely to bring some



Lackawanna starting pitcher Daniel Behlke pitches to Mercer freshman outfielder Sean McGeehan on Sunday April 23.

PHOTO | JACKSON THOMPSON

excitement to Mercer's campus, and in the wake of several undesirable circumstances that Mercer has endured this spring, Vikings baseball may serve as a welcome distraction.

Coach Kerins says: "As an alumni and former player at mercer I can tell you that mercer

is a special place. I myself have used my experiences here to springboard to opportunities that were not available to me out of high school. We are building something unique and special with our baseball program here. Though the playoffs are entirely on the road this season we are hopeful we can continue

to bring positive attention and national recognition to the college and our student athletes."

The team will be wrapping up the regular season on May 4 for their final home game against Anne Arundel, and post season play will begin Friday May 12 at a venue that has yet to be determined.

Revival of arts and economy at the shore



TOP LEFT & BOTTOM RIGHT: Artists have been invited to paint murals on both permanent and semi-permanent surfaces throughout Asbury Park. RIGHT & TOP RIGHT: Venues such as the Paramount and Wonder Bar have attracted audiences and propelled numerous local musicians to fame. BELOW: Diana Wolf and her dog of 2 years, Buddy Boy Bob Dylan enjoy their daily rounds of bubble blowing on the boardwalk.



PHOTO SPREAD | JASMINE SANTALLA

By Jasmine Santalla
Reporter

What do Abbott & Costello, Danny Devito, and Wendy Williams all have in common? They all hail from the shore town of Asbury Park, NJ just 45 minutes from Mercer's campus. It's where Bruce Springsteen got his start and Jack Nicholson grew up next door in Neptune.

Since its founding in 1871 it the architecturally and culturally impressive resort town has experienced wide fluctuations in its fortunes. Now, after a decades of struggling AP, as it is commonly known, is in the midst of yet another renaissance. Street art, affordable live music venues, hip restaurants and of course the broad boardwalk are drawing visitors and reviving a struggling economy.

In the 1970s, Asbury Park went through a steep economic decline. Buildings stopped being built while half way up. Crime rates soared. Shops were shuttered.

The VOICE spoke to Mayor John Moor and a number of locals in order to find out more about the fall and rise of the city.

Mayor Moor, who grew up in AP attributes the decline of Asbury Park in the 70s one major problem was the construction of a new school district in Ocean Township in the mid 60s. Asbury Park high school was over filled students from eight districts, so families who could afford to move out, did so.

"It was so crowded,

it went on split sessions... Ocean grove [school] was state of the art, it was modern, [the parental mindset was] 'I want my children to go to a potentially better high school.'" Moor said.

Gale Swan, who's been a resident her entire life, told The VOICE, "It used to be awesome, in the 50s-60s. In fact when I was seeing my husband, this is where we used to come for dates. There's Belmontes, Pascal & Sabines. They're usually really packed on a breezy summer night," Swan said.

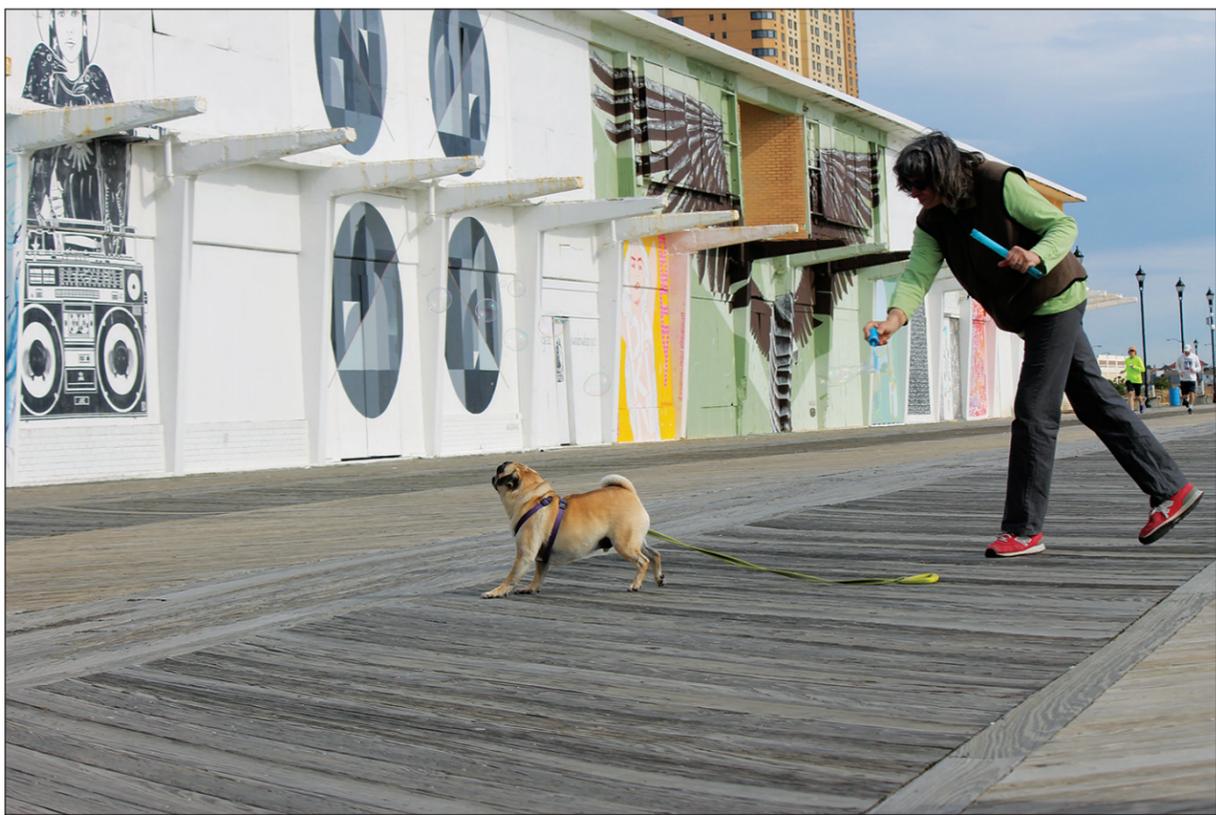
Pam Galatro, a resident of 44 years, enjoyed the Paramount Theatre in its early years seeing movies such as the original Snow White in 1950. But she told The VOICE the beach has always been the main draw.

Tom and Terry Mayer have lived in Asbury Park for six years now partly because it's affordable but also because of the culture.

"In 2011, there was some risk in living here but we liked the idea that Asbury has a lot of different types of people. It is very multicultural. You name it, Asbury has it. Too much of the same thing gets boring, Tom Mayer said.

Along with a variety of restaurants, Asbury Park's vibrant music scene maintains its reputation for attracting young people as it has for decades. Kicking off the careers of Jon Bon Jovi and Bruce Springsteen, Asbury Park's The Stone Pony still sees names like Seether, Dark Star Orchestra, Screaming Females and the Pixies.

Mayor Moor also testifies to the depth of the music scene. As a kid, he says, he "saw every band



except the Beatles, and you know why I didn't see them? It's because they never came to Asbury Park. We're talking The Temptations, Ray Charles, The Who. You name them and they were playing at convention hall."

Moor explains that Asbury is doing better financially now. He believes that this year will be the last year they request any sort of government aid. They've come a long way from thirteen million dollars worth of state aid to a low 850k this past year.

"Every year we just keep getting better...We just want to give back to the city. Nobody is looking to use this as a stepping stone," Moor said.



REVIEW: Mochi: a dessert you don't want to sink your teeth into

Staff of The College VOICE

Whole Foods of Princeton is one of five of the stores in the nation to feature a mochi ice cream bar, so The VOICE staff set about figuring out exactly what we think of the confections. Although there were dissenting opinions, the overall response can be summed up as “no way, no thanks,” though the staff acknowledges a certain distrust for the pricey Whole Foods brand and a general lack of fondness for cold foods and/or ice cream.

News Editor Tim O’Boyle explained he is not the sort of person who “will bite into a popsicle. I’ve got to savor and taste. I don’t bite.” This perhaps presaged his response to the round, rice flour paste wrapped ice cream balls that come in Easter egg colors and are usually eaten in three to four bites in the same manner as a filled puff pastry.

O’Boyle’s first response: “I think basically, they are gentrified munchkins.” Indeed, the orbs are just slightly larger in size, but identical in shape, to doughnut munchkins.

His second response: “Honestly, when I ate the first bite I knew this would be the

first and last time I ever put one of these in my mouth.”

VOICE Opinions Editor, Oscar Trigueros was similarly unenthused. He said, “I like anything I put into my mouth to be warm. I’m not a cold foods fan.”

According to her Nov. 7, 2012 obituary in the Los Angeles Times, Mochi ice cream was invented by Frances Hashimoto, a businesswoman and community activist who lived in the Little Tokyo district of the city. The treat has roots in Japanese Daifuku. Hashimoto’s husband is credited with suggesting filling traditional Japanese mochi with ice cream. The idea took hold and became mass produced as a Japanese American restaurant staple starting in 1993.

Notably, the one Asian American on the VOICE staff, Jackson Thompson, expressed more affection for the confections. Moreover he was able to explain the pronunciation for the non-ice cream version of mochi is closer to *moo-chee*.

VOICE co-adviser, Prof. Matt Kochis, likened the dessert balls to his most familiar starting point as an American of Slovak descent, pierogis, but not in a comple-

mentary way. He eyed the cornstarch dusted exteriors—used to keep the items from sticking in their case—with suspicion. Each mouthful required lengthy, concentrated chewing to get down and brought discussion to a halt. His response, “You just want to follow it with a glass of water.”

All present noted that the colors of the mochi exteriors did not always correspond to the actual flavors, which were revealed by co-advisor, Prof. Holly Johnson, after they had been tested. Yes, pink was strawberry and white vanilla, but the green ones? Wasabi? Pesto? Lawn clippings? No, it was matcha green tea. This was one of the few flavors the group generally agreed was worth eating.

“If the only thing you brought me was a tub of the green ones, I might consider eating them again,” said Trigueros.

Mango also received slightly less hatred than the other flavors. Whereas the black sesame was described by O’Boyle saying, “I imagine it’s similar to what vape water would taste like.”

Trigueros added, “It finishes by dripping down the throat like mucus. It’s like



PHOTO | THE COLLEGE VOICE

Whole Foods of Princeton’s self serve mochi bar offers exotic flavors such as red bean and standards like vanilla.

clearing your throat.”

When asked to guess the price of a single mochi ball staffers, adamant that Whole Foods overcharges for everything, guessed from \$3 to \$5. The actual price is \$1.50 for one and \$12 for a box of

10. You can select the flavors yourself, so a box of only matcha green tea mochi is easy to come by, however, staffers indicated the price point did not fit a typical community college student’s budget.

In short: mochi = NO-chi.

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Social justice efforts that stick

In new era of activism, some efforts doomed to fail

By Jasmine Santalla
Reporter

Since the election of Donald Trump, our nation has been seeing a resurgence of social justice activism similar to the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's. Looking back at the lessons learned from the civil rights movement, we see some efforts which have produced lasting change while others have had less staying power. The VOICE spoke to social justice leaders from the 1960's and today and found a common pattern for what works and what doesn't where effecting lasting change is concerned.

In separate interviews with The VOICE, Nell Braxton Gibson, a prominent civil rights activist of the '60s and Dr. Janice Johnson Dias, current Sociology Professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and the president at GrassROOTS Community Foundation, offered their perspectives on what makes some social justice efforts stick and others doomed to fail.

Gibson grew up in the south, living in Texas, Florida and Mississippi as a child. Her parents were professors, activists and members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Gibson and her sister developed strong mentor relationships with leaders like Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune and Medgar Evers who worked to abolish segregation at the University of Mississippi before being killed by Klansman.

In the early 1960's Gibson became inspired to join the Student Movement, which pushed for the rights of African American college students. Living just 60 miles away from where the lynching of Emmett Till occurred solidified her commitment to fight the discrimination and injustice she saw around her. In specific she participated in organized, nonviolent political activism. She and her friends attended mass demonstrations, walked in picket lines, and protested segregation at the Georgia State Capitol during which she was arrested.

Gibson was attending Spellman College in Atlanta when she began seriously pursuing social justice activism. She told The VOICE, "What we did was we had people who came to the movement who took an oath to nonviolence. There were [twelve] points of things they agreed to do and/or not do and one of them was [pledging] real discipline."

Reflecting on recent demonstrations like the Women's March on Washington, the March for Science and the airport protests against President Trump's muslim ban, Gibson sees weaknesses on the methods being applied.

"What I think is not working is the fact that the demonstrations are more reactive than proactive. People are reacting to what they hear rather than what the problem really is. I think it's harder to maintain a movement that way," Gibson said.

Gibson told The VOICE that mass demonstration is only effective when there is order and accountability. Just as there were people who stepped up to lead back in '62 outside Atlanta University (pictured above at top).

She explained, "[Mass demonstrations] need to be continuous. [In the 60's] they wouldn't wait for something to happen and then take to the streets.

ACTIVISM THEN: DEMONSTRATION AT ATLANTA UNIVERSITY, 1962



PHOTO COURTESY OF NELL BRAXTON GIBSON

ACTIVISM NOW: TRENTON MARCH FOR SCIENCE, 2017



PHOTO | SAVANNAH DZIEPAK

There would be a plan to keep demonstrations going everyday. That way people would have to deal with the fact that you are out there every day. It would not let people turn away from it, to have that kind of sustained action each day and each week so that at some point the public will have to deal with it."

In terms of how individual activists were most effective Gibson said, "What we did was we had people who came to the movement who took an oath to nonviolence. There were [twelve] points of things they agreed to do and/or

not do and one of them was [pledging] real discipline," Gibson said.

Though Gibson does not discount the potential usefulness of social media to aid in social justice efforts, she has reservations about its ability to promote the sustained effort and leadership she considers vital to any effective movement.

"I think [social media is] a double edged sword when it comes to work and bringing pressure to bear politically. Say you have people who show up with a gun, or other means of violence; you

don't know who shows up and you don't care because it's all about making sure as many people show up as possible," Gibson said.

Some efforts that have been driven by social media have to have short lived effectiveness, such as Occupy Wall Street and even the overthrow of governments during the Arab Spring. Once the initial goals were met progress was not fully sustained as there were few plans for next steps nor obvious leaders to organize them.

Gibson points to coordination

Two civil rights activists from different eras share similar perspective

Continued from page 8



ABOVE: Professor Janice Johnson Dias addressing young women as part of her work as founder of GrassROOTS Community Foundation.

ABOVE: Nell Braxton Gibson during recent interview on TBS's political commentary show Full Frontal with Samantha Bee. TOP RIGHT: Gibson during her youth activist days.

and leadership as crucial in any fight for justice saying, "To those people who are saying nothing will come of it, they are not necessarily wrong, demonstrations are not the only way to go there are number of routes to take. They need to somehow be coordinated, someone needs to take responsibility." Current social activism leader, Dr. Johnson Dias, a professor of Sociology and president of the GrassROOTS Community Foundation which advocates for the healthy of low income black women and girls in New Jersey says she relies on many of the types of tools Gibson says sustained the civil rights activism of the 1960's. Dias told The VOICE, "Parts of the [Civil Rights] Movement that relied on collaboration and

coalitions across both gender and race were likely more lasting than those that were too specific and were too singularly built around charismatic leadership which is much more fleeting even though they're more attractive." Beyond leadership and sustained effort what makes social activism work? Johnson Dias says there are levels to what the word "work" may mean. She says that the first step is reaching legislators who have the power to change laws and pass legislation that yields results. This mirrors the goals of leaders like Gibson of pushed for specific legal changes to end segregation and Jim Crow laws. "If it means taking direct action to change policy, I think we're struggling because people don't

know how our political systems work. We're stuck at consciousness and while I think this is the first and most important step, I don't think we've gotten to that place of more legislation," Johnson Dias said. While the average college student may not yet be able to name specific leaders of current social justice movements, clearly people like Johnson Dias are stepping up. GrassROOTS has had success in supporting the election of political candidates like Raz Baraka in Newark who have pledged their commitment to social justice. And although some recent large scale marches have been designed mainly to raise awareness of a particular issues like science and environmentalism (see photo ___), others

have focussed on specific legal actions like striking down the muslim ban. Gibson might see the latter as an example of reactionary activism, but other efforts involve greater long term vision. For example the group Swing Left is working to replace legislators who do not support social justice with those who do, and New Voices USA is working state by state to get legislation passed to protect student press freedom (a matter of great import to The VOICE). Additionally students and young protestors do seem to be getting the idea that leadership and sustained organization are key. Groups like Emily's List are seeing a surge in young women signing up to learn how to run for office and push for social justice legislation.

Hayley Branstrom, a freshman at Monmouth University says, "I think that rallies are important, but I think that the most effective form of activism is direct contact with one's representatives. I believe that it is important for people to write to or call their representatives in Congress because that kind of direct contact is hard for a politician to ignore." Beyond all the other criteria for success Johnson Dias stresses the need for emotion at the core of social justice activism. She says, "Start with your frustration and your passion, take the things that frustrate the hell out of you, find the things you're passionate about and try to see if you can stop [them]."

On-campus daycare unavailable, students must look elsewhere

Continued from page 3

increase. One respondent wrote on the survey: "If it doesn't affect my tuition then I don't care." The opening of a daycare on campus might affect tuition costs, according to Dean Campbell. She says, "There are so many regulations that go with childcare that makes it very expensive to run...To renovate the toilets that are the little size, for examples. So as we look into it, it takes more and more money to even to begin to set it up." What would be the direction that Mercer would take if they decided to open a daycare? According to Professor Theresa Capra, who runs the college's Education program, "We don't want to open a babysitting place, like in the supermarket where you can drop off your kids while you shop. If we are going in the direction of opening a child care center it must be a high quality facility with trained and qualified professionals, and it would be a wonderful opportunity for students in the EDU courses and psychology courses to get hands on learning and observa-

tion time, and I also think there is some room to have Mercer students to work there part time." In a survey conducted by Dean Campbell's office of faculty and staff, of the 160 respondents, 36 percent indicated a need for childcare. Having such a facility on campus would not only benefit faculty and students who are parents, but also students majoring in early childhood education. Keighley Webb, an education major says, "I think it would be extremely beneficial for education majors to have a daycare on campus. For EDU 109, an intro to education course, it is required to observe 25 hours of teaching. It would be useful to have a daycare on campus for students to be able to conduct their hours there." Dean Campbell has made an effort to survey students about their needs and most recently held an informative session for students, staff and faculty members by Child Care Connection. This agency, based in Trenton, assists families with their child care needs by helping them find facilities in the area. This sounds like a good option for parents, since they

also offer connections with summer camps, but according to student Aronya Downing, a mother of two, there is a problem. "The problem with Child Care Connection is that your income can disqualify you, and most of the places they offer do not have late evening babysitting, so it's a trouble with evening classes for me," said Downing. Although the cost of establishing a center are high, community colleges in New Jersey that have lower tuition than Mercer have managed to accomplish it. Passaic, Middlesex, Gloucester, Camden, Atlantic Cape and Burlington county colleges all have lower in-county per credit tuition than Mercer, and all of them have daycare centers. Three of them--Middlesex, Gloucester, and Burlington--have health centers, another important student service, too. "It's kind of a shame that it hasn't happened here at Mercer. I hope that the new administration thinks of this as a service for the community... Opportunities for women are not looking like they are getting better, and childcare doesn't look like it is going to get cheaper," says Professor Kelly.

Social Services Support for Students		
NJ Community College	Has a Health Center?	Has a Daycare?
1 Raritan Valley Community College	NO	YES
2 Mercer County Community College	NO	NO
3 County College of Morris	YES	Women's Center
4 Ocean County College	NO	YES
5 Brookdale Community College	YES	YES
6 Passaic County Community College	NO	YES
7 Middlesex County College	YES	YES
8 Gloucester County, Rowan College	YES	YES
9 Sussex County Community College	NO	YES
10 Camden County College	NO	YES
11 Atlantic Cape Community College	YES	YES
12 Rowan College at Burlington County	NO	YES
13 Union County College	NO	NO
14 Salem Community College	YES	NO
15 Bergen Community College	YES	YES
16 Cumberland County College	NO	NO
17 Essex County College	NO	YES
18 Hudson County Community College	NO	NO

Support services for students and employees at New Jersey's community colleges differ from campus to campus. Mercer is one of four community colleges in the state that offers neither a health center nor a daycare on campus.

MARKETING

Campus vets like services, but questions sur



Continued from page 1

promoting what it calls 'Military Friendly Schools.' These lead veterans and military members to believe that the colleges promoted by Victory Media are good for service members. Unfortunately the opposite is too often true."

The report also states, "The only schools to have more than 100 complaints in the GI Bill Feedback System are University of Phoenix, ITT Tech, DeVry, and Colorado Technical Institute. All are designated 'Military Friendly' by Victory Media and promoted by Victory Media's survey, search engine, and e-mail blasts."

In fact, Mercer, too, has had three formal complaints lodged against it by student veterans that are currently noted on the VA's website, vets.gov GI Bill comparison tool, which helps veterans seeking higher education options. Two complaints are regarding financial issues (Tuition/Fee Charges), and an additional complaint related to a change in degree plan/requirements.

Mercer student veteran Chris Molnar dismisses the complaints saying, "There is a lot of paperwork and back and forth between the VA and the school that has to happen for Veterans to get their benefits for school every semester and it gets really annoying. But Colonel Becker [Mercer's Veterans Services director] and Tammy [his executive assistant] help a lot with whatever they can, and any time I have come to them pissed off or annoyed because something isn't working or stuff is taking longer than it should, they help me out right away."

Nevertheless, many community colleges that have veterans services programs have no formal complaints lodged against them with the VA and offer a broader variety of services on campus, such as health centers and daycare services as four other commu-

nity colleges in New Jersey do. This raises the question of what Victory Media's criteria are for determining who goes on their Military Friendly list and in what order.

Victory Media's website describes their current methodology saying, "we collect vast amounts of public and proprietary information; process this data using our methodology and weightings, which are established with the guidance of our Military Friendly® Advisory Council, and audited by EY (Ernst & Young); and rate institutions and organizations on how Military Friendly® they are."

It does not specify what public and proprietary information they evaluate, but it seems unlikely that formal complaints with the VA are included.

One central aspect the assessment of military friendliness is a free survey that schools can allow veterans to complete so the data can then be sent to Victory Media.

Mercer's president, Dr. Jianping Wang, when asked how the college qualified for its ranking said: "Well it's really the hard work of our staff. So [there] is a survey you need to fill out to do this. We got such a great response and that earn[ed] us the highest school [ranking]. That's how we earned [it]. So it's not like any secret or anything; it is just by a very simple survey."

But of Mercer's roughly 145 student veterans and active duty military personnel it's not clear what percent actually took or were aware of the survey.

Marine Corps veteran and former Editor in Chief of The VOICE Carl Fedorko says that he did not take a survey and was unaware of anyone else who had taken it, as he never heard any fellow veterans talking about it.

Likewise, Fire Science

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"Nope I didn't...I

"Well it's really the staff. So [there] is to fill out to do the great response and the highest school [rank earned [it]. So it's or anything; it is ju

surv

- Mercer President

know what Victory Adombire he heard about M ber 1 ranking on Friendly list "My in was just like, ya kn ly I was like 'What nation? That's pre then again I'm lik did they achieve t a lot of colleges. [N number one? That have to have reall stuff that I don't about."

That's not Mercer's veteran VOICE was able did not have a pos the college's servie actions were univ tive, especially to

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ceived other acco veterans services, New Jersey Milita the Purple Heart g cer during a cerem September 11. The first Purple Heart

College in New Jer Adombire and the Veterans has made a poin a comfortable lou

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Cost-effective advertising solutions to recruit military and veteran students.

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Web Offerings*	✓	✓	✓	✓
School Name/Address		✓	✓	✓
Contact Telephone & Veteran/ Admissions Links		✓	✓	✓
Meet a Student Profile		✓	✓	✓
Electronic Reader Response		✓	✓	✓
School Logo Shown			✓	✓
Only School Advertising on Your Page			✓	✓
Appears in 1st Tier of Search Results			✓	✓
Appears in 2nd Tier of Search Results				
Appears in 3rd Tier of Search Results	✓			

Cost: \$990 each per year (\$83 each per month) for School Profile, School Profile Ad and Preferred Search Results.
* Term for all web offerings is one year.

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1/16 Page	1.626"	2.196"	\$990

DEADLINE 8/12/11

Ad space reservation deadline: August 12, 2011
Creative due: August 17, 2011
Distribution dates: Sep 2011, Jan 2012, May 2012

* Submit print ad creative no later than August 17, 2011 to production@militaryfriendlyschools.com.
* Send artwork at 300 dpi in Adobe PDF format. Call production at (412) 260-1663 x137 with any questions.
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* All rates are net.



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Surround source of military friendly ranking

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Dr. Jianping Wang

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says Becker
Affairs office
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student Veterans on campus,
adding, "Knowing the people
behind it, I can understand how
they got [the ranking]."

But outside of improve-
ments made to the of-
fice itself, Adombire
was unable to name
any significant chang-
es to the services in the
time since President
Wang says she was ap-
proached by veterans
with complaints before
she took her position.

When The
VOICE reached out
to Sean Marvin, legal
director of Veterans
Success, the watchdog
group, he responded
to emailed questions
about what Mercer's
number 1 ranking mean
saying: "If your school's
'military friendly' designa-
tion is from Victory Media,
the next question is whether
your school paid Victory Media
for that designation."

As a first step in that
process The VOICE
combed through each
month's official Board of
Trustees Updates for the
past year as these include
financial updates and au-
thorized payments to vendors.
We also reviewed the school's
financial audits, but in both
cases we were unable to find
any listing of Victory Media
under that name or any
alternatives, such as "VMI"
which is the designation
they use on their email.

Marvin went on to say,
"You would have to ask
your school administration
if they paid Victory Media/
GI Jobs Magazine any money."

To that end, The VOICE
did file an Open Public
Records (OPRA) request
to find out if the college
had, in fact, paid Victory
Media for the ranking or
for any other marketing
services, but the request
went unanswered.

According to the report
done by Veterans Success,
"Victory Media also makes
money a

second way: it operates a
'pay-for-play' scheme that
promotes the colleges that
pay Victory Media the most."

With this information
The VOICE was able to
obtain rate cards from
Victory Media from 2012
and 2015 that provide a
fee structure. These do
not indicate any pay-to-
play information for how
high on any list a school
might pay to be ranked.

They do, however
provide information en-
titled "Packages Offer
Greatest Reach and Value",
which explains a star
ranking system going
from 1-5, where more
stars offer better perks.
The 2012 prices ranged
from 1 star being offered
at \$9,900 and a 5 star
rating being sold for
\$49,000. By 2015 the
rates had increased to
\$14,900 for 1 star up to
\$59,900 for 5 star.

The ratings correspond
to the marketing services
provided such as "Preferred
Search Results on military-
friendly-schools.com,"
print ads and "Enhanced
Print Listing" in the
Military Friendly Schools
publication, and "Run of
Website Ads" and "Sug-
gested Schools" listing
also on the military-
friendly-schools.com
website.

When asked by The
VOICE how MCCC reaches
out to veterans to let them
know about programs
offered, President Wang
said, "Oh yes, we are
trying to publicise as
much as we can and we
also have our current
satisfied veterans market-
ing for us."

Without the public
records requests infor-
mation it is impossible
to know the extent of
Mercer's relationship
with Victory Media.
Has the paid for market-
ing and advertising to
veterans? If so, has that
influenced the college's
ranking on the Military
Friendly list? Or was the
extent of the college's
interaction with the
company simply the
administration a free
survey to veterans that
showed our college was
the best? ■

The screenshot shows the VA Vets.gov website interface. At the top, there are navigation links for "Explore benefits", "Manage your health & benefits", and "Find VA locations". Below this, a breadcrumb trail reads: "Home > Education Benefits > GI Bill > GI Bill® Comparison Tool > Search Results > MERCER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE".

The main content area features a highlighted box for "MERCER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE". Below this, there are details about the school: "174 GI Bill students (Learn more)", "TRENTON, NJ", "http://www.mccc.edu", and "2 year program". It also lists characteristics: "Public institution", "Rural locale", and "Medium size".

There is a section titled "Estimate your benefits" with buttons for "Edit eligibility details" and "Hide calculator fields". Below this, a question asks "Are you an in-state student?" with "Yes" selected. A text box shows "Tuition and fees per year (Learn more)" as "\$4,644".

To the right, a "Your estimated benefits" table shows:

GI Bill pays to school:	\$4,644/yr
Tuition and fees charged:	\$4,644
Out of pocket tuition:	\$0
Housing allowance:	\$2,250/mo
Book stipend:	\$1,000/yr
Total paid to you:	\$21,250

Below the table is a section for "Estimated benefits per term" with a link for "Tuition and fees (Learn more)".

A "Cautionary information" box highlights "3 student complaints (Source)". Below this is a table of complaint statistics:

	This campus	All campuses
All student complaints	3	3
Complaints by type (Each complaint can have multiple types)		
Financial Issues (e.g., Tuition/Fee charges)	2	2
Refund Issues	1	1
Change in degree plan/requirements	1	1

A note at the bottom states: "*Each complaint can have multiple types".

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Meet a Student Profile on www.militaryfriendlyschools.com	2 Profiles	3 Profiles	4 Profiles	5 Profiles	6 Profiles
School Profile Ad on www.militaryfriendlyschools.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Run of Site Web Ads on www.militaryfriendlyschools.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Suggested Schools on www.militaryfriendlyschools.com	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Military Friendly Schools® Poster Listing			Eligible	✓	✓
Enhanced Print Listing in Guide to Military Friendly Schools®	✓	✓	Eligible	✓	✓
Print Ad in Guide to Military Friendly Schools®	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Print Ad in G.I. Jobs, Military Spouse or Vetpreneur magazine	1/4 pg	1/2 pg	full pg	full pg	full pg
Featured Schools video on www.militaryfriendlyschools.com	3 ads 1/3 pg	3 ads 1/2 pg	6 ads 1/2 pg	12 ads 1/2 pg	12 ads full pg
Pre-Discounted Package Price	\$16,196	\$22,561	\$38,122	\$61,444	\$86,716
Final Package Price	\$9,900	\$13,900	\$24,000	\$35,000	\$49,000

* 3-star package may opt for 3x full pg ads in G.I. Jobs, Military Spouse or Vetpreneur magazine in lieu of 6x 1/2 pg ads.
* 4-star package may opt for 6x full pg ads in G.I. Jobs, Military Spouse or Vetpreneur magazine in lieu of 12x 1/2 pg ads.
* Only 4-star and 5-star packages can purchase suggested schools and run of site web ads.
* Both are sold at a \$39 CPM impression rate and are not included in final package price.
* Terms for all web items are one year (Sept 2011 - Aug 2012).
* All print ads are full color (4C). Full and half page G.I. Jobs, Military Spouse or Vetpreneur magazine ads are bleed. All rates are net.

Dear Uncle
 By Zayvion R. Thompson

My Body is my body and my skin is my skin
 Zayvion will win for those that believed in him
 And saw past the exterior you thought was superior
 I am my own breed of man not your football star
 Im 6'3 and me and it's sad you can't see that
 I love you but i'm not falling for your trap
 When I make it to the top I'll still treat you the same
 But I'll only share a true bond with those who saw past my frame

WANT TO SEE YOUR WORK HERE?
 We do, too!

The College VOICE considers for publication creative works by students at MCCC. Send a maximum of five visual art submissions (art and/or photography) and five literary submissions (poetry and/or prose) per author/artist, per issue.

Email submissions to Professor Kochis (kochism@mccc.edu). If you have any questions, contact Editor-in-Chief Maria Ramos (maria.ramosp94@gmail.com)

Deadline for submissions for the next issue: 1 Sept 2017



Untitled
 By Kelly Minguet

All Ye Faithful
 By Casey Genevieve

"You haven't seen Sal, have you?" Sal's younger brother Rick was standing dutifully in the cold. Spending his last day of Christmas break looking for his brother. I said I hadn't. That was half true.

"I haven't seen Sal since I left for school," Rick said.

I processed that there had been 4 months of no communication. I hadn't been in touch with Sal for a few months, but I had an idea.

"I'm pretty sure I know where he is."

Wanting to be out of the house that was beginning to stifle, I grabbed my coat and walked out into the winter wind.

It was dark out and snowing heavily. The headlights of Rick's SUV made the snow seem to whip by even faster. Rick fumbled with the radio changing the station constantly. He wasn't a good driver. He was just unable to get comfortable being in control. We turned onto a back road towards Fishers Landing, and Sal. There were no cars headlights to be seen anywhere.

Extreme weather conditions had always excited me. There was a small hurricane of sorts when I was a kid and I spent the whole day in the backyard playing house with some food and rain gear. I just sat experiencing the storm outside raging. I pictured myself as a lighthouse keeper stationed on the rocky coast of Maine. A pack of cigarettes would be the only change in a present re-experience.

"Dad turned his phone service off because of Valeria's nagging. My Mom hasn't heard from him either." said Rick. It had been two years since his dad re-married and Rick refused to refer to

Valeria as anything other than her first name, "I just want to say bye to Sal before I leave. Talk to him about what's going on."

I understood, but also couldn't understand. Sal had dropped off the face of my world this past summer. I would see him working on his car in the driveway when I was coming home from work pretty consistently. I was up everyday before sunrise to unload the supermarket trucks. Sal would just be starting his day as I was getting home to sleep. I was always envious of that. It was warm then, he seemed happy and excited about the future. But, all us youths were happy. We were young and making money, away from our parents, and not attending school. Nobody addressed the thought of an end at the time. But the end had come.

School started, work ended, new things tried to happen. And Sal was not accepting it. Which was normal, but not to the extreme he had gone to now. I didn't know all the details, but assumed it was bad if Rick was the only one on both sides of his family making an effort to know where he was. I felt bad for both of them.

As we continued down the abandoned snowy roads in darkness and relative silence, I informed Rick where I was taking him and hoping Sal might be. "I should have guessed Jerry's house. Who do you think will be there?"

I replied that I had no idea. Again I told half the truth. I knew exactly who was gonna be there. It was one of the few things guaranteed to not change. These kids weren't gonna be going anywhere unless Jer's parents started charging rent. Never gonna be going anywhere. I had been a bit jealous of that too.

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT ISSUE....



CONGRATULATIONS Graduating VOICE Staffers!



CAITLIN KEVETT

POSITION AT THE VOICE:
Copy Editor

GOING TO:
Montclair University

MAJORING IN:
Communications

BEST EXPERIENCE AT THE VOICE:
Attending the College Media Association conference in New York in March 2017.

BEST KNOWN FOR:
Consistency and ability to take feedback and apply it immediately.



SAVANNAH DZIEPAK

POSITION AT THE VOICE:
Photo Editor

GOING TO:
William Paterson University

DUAL MAJORING IN:
Biology with an Ecology Concentration, as well as K-12 education

AWARDS WON AT THE VOICE:
Society of Professional Journalists' Mark of Excellence Finalist for "'Twas the Night Before Christmas" photo.

HONORS RECEIVED AT MCCC:
Robert Noyce Scholarship which is specifically for people who want to teach in the STEM field in NJ. Covers \$10,000 per year of tuition.

BEST EXPERIENCE AT THE VOICE:
Writing Breast Cancer Awareness column on how much money goes towards awareness vs research/support programs for patients.

BEST KNOWN FOR:
Supporting everyone else while excelling individually.

Top 10 Transfer Colleges for 2017

Below is a list of the colleges and universities that MCCC graduates transferred to the most this past year. To learn more about the specific requirements for each school, follow this link:

www.mccc.edu/student_services_transfer_out.shtml

1. RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

To transfer you need a cumulative GPA of 3.2



6. FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON UNIVERSITY



2. WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY

To transfer you need a cumulative GPA of 2.0



7. NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECH.

To transfer you need a cumulative GPA of 2.0



3. RIDER UNIVERSITY

To transfer you need a cumulative GPA of 2.5



8. MONTCLAIR UNIVERSITY

To transfer you need a cumulative GPA of 2.5



4. THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

To transfer you need a cumulative GPA of 3.2



9. THOMAS EDISON STATE UNIVERSITY



5. ROWAN UNIVERSITY

To transfer you need cumulative GPA of 2.0



10. STOCKTON UNIVERSITY



Graduation fashion explained

HOOD TRIM
Hood trim color tells you the wearer's field of study. (Dr. Campbell's Ed.D. is in Education thus light blue.)

TASSEL
Tassels come in many colors, often reflecting the school's colors, but pure gold tassels are given only to those with a Ph.D.

VELVET ARM BANDS
Velvet bands on the arms means Ph.D.

1 - VELVET TRIM
Tells the field of study of the wearer's highest degree. (Of the two professors pictured, the first one has blue trim for study of English, the second has purple trim for study of law)

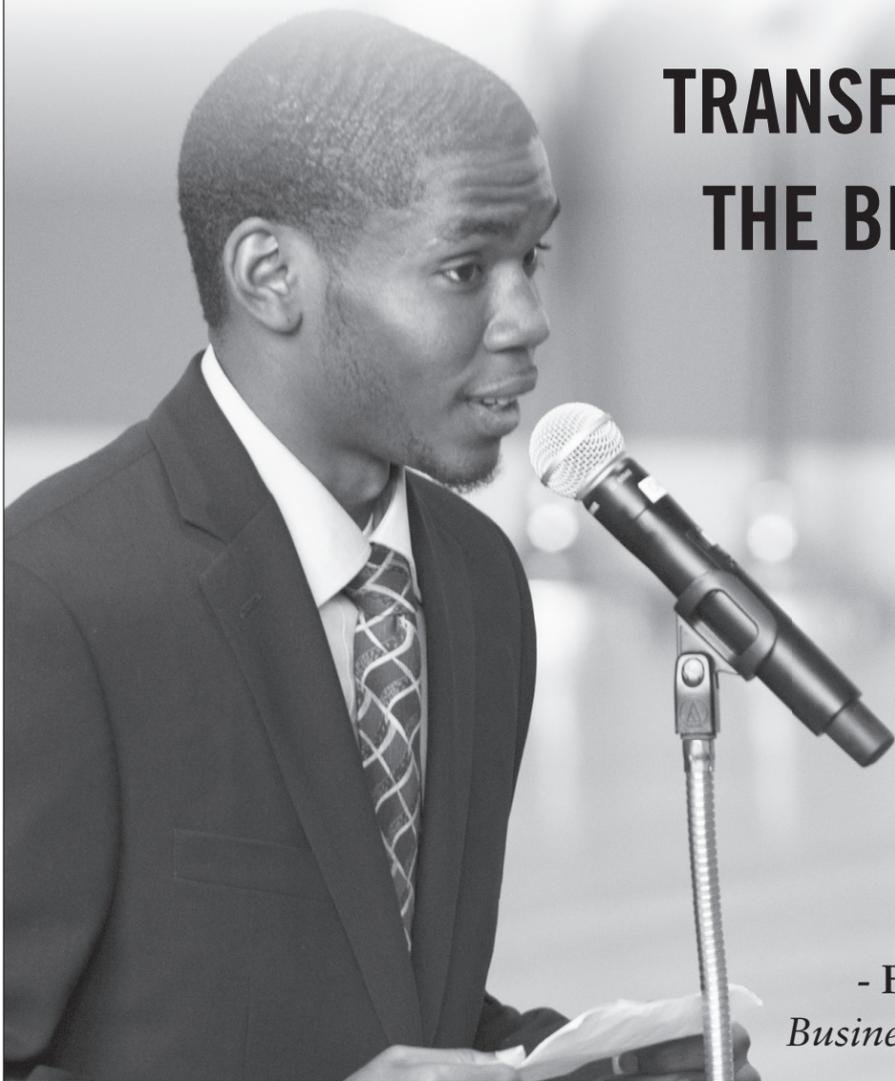
2 - LINING & CHEVRON
Show school colors of the university attended. (Both of these professors attended Rutgers, the color of which is scarlet.)

3 - SHELL
Shells are black and their length tells if the wearer has a Master's or Doctoral level degree.





DELAWARE VALLEY UNIVERSITY



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THE BEST DECISION OF MY LIFE**

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- Francis Arnold '16
Business Administration

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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. Plus, Holy Family University was ranked by NPR as a top 50 school in the nation for emphasizing upward mobility.*

Join our Family. Learn more at HolyFamily.edu/MercerSession

The Value of Family



Holy Family
UNIVERSITY



* National Public Radio, September 2015

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The College VOICE
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FIND YOUR VOICE



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- > **Seamless** transfer of credits.
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DREW

A clean campus is a two way street

If the college prioritizes maintenance and cleanliness students should follow suit

THE OTHER SIDE



Oscar Trigueros

Mercer has a beautiful campus that reflects our vibrant community of students and staff, which is why it frustrates me to see some parts of our campus poorly maintained.

By contrast, when walking the Princeton campus I immediately think how well maintained it is. When my friends and I spend an afternoon around the campus, we have yet to come across a single water bottle on the ground or Princeton property being defaced. Questions flicker through my head on how that is. It may be because Princeton has the money to maintain such a clean campus. It may be because of the respect students have for the campus. More important than that, I am left with the question as to why Mercer is not

maintained as well.

The Mercer quad is a beautiful place to eat lunch by with friends. However, going to the bathrooms and reading “Big Dick Bandits” or “Jesus Loves You” in size 36 font on the stall doors is offensive and show some people on this campus do not respect it. That’s got to change.

In an interview with Natalia Lobo, a sophomore studying to be a Physical Therapy Assistant, she said that, “They treat [the place] like they don’t live there...it’s a joke for everyone.”

Natalia Lobo went on to explain how often times she comes into bathrooms to find towels and even hair on the floors of our bathrooms. Natalia said, “Students don’t cooperate that much...I guess some (students) have more concern about trying to keep everything clean.”

However, a dirty bathroom is surprisingly just the beginning of the problem. Some bathrooms themselves seem to call for a higher degree of respect. Some Mercer bathrooms are very rundown whereas the ones in MS and AD buildings are newly renovated and in better shape.

For example, if one

“The Mercer quad is a beautiful place to eat lunch by with friends. However, going to the bathrooms and reading ‘Big Dick Bandits’ or ‘Jesus Loves You’ in size 136 font on the stall doors is offensive and show some people on this campus do not respect it. That’s got to change.”

goes into the men’s bathroom on the third floor of the BS building, you’ll find that one of the stalls does not have a lock. At the same time, one of the urinals is broken and covered. The bathrooms in the Administration building, by contrast, are pristine.

This is where I go back to my story about Princeton. It is possible that because the campus is so maintained, students and pedestrians are more willing to throw away their garbage in a proper garbage can and not the ground.

Joel Cartagena is a Sophomore studying Liberal Arts at Mercer. He said, “It’s

kind of immature. It kind of sends a message as if...it makes the campus not seem as professional. Makes it seem like playhouse or a club.”

Just imagine a group of potential students coming to Mercer for a college tour. They are taken to the ES Building entrance and they look to their side and see a billion cigarette butts sitting on the ground. That sends two messages: students here have no regard for the no smoking policy on campus and are also tossing their cigarette butts on the ground when there’s a trash can right by the entrance. Maybe some of those potential future students will decide they do not want to come to this campus because of that.

Bryon Marshall who is the head of Security and Maintenance at Mercer stated, “I think people have a general low self esteem or disrespect for themselves or property of others.”

When it comes to how students and faculty can help keep the campus better maintained he said, “To maintain a better campus work through peer association...if you see something, let us know right away...”

Maintaining a bet-

ter campus can be as simple as speaking up and reporting something like a broken lock on a stall or when you see something inappropriate written on the stalls. I know for myself I will certainly be reporting these kind of things to maintenance (whose employees, I’m sure, could stand a pay raise).

Another thing that can go a long way is not allowing people to just destroy our campus. Bryon Marshall went on to say “if you see somebody litter...just say ‘come on, man. You know, this is our campus.’”

For the sake of seeing an improvement on our campus we should be maintaining it more. Seeing graffiti on bathroom doors each day should no longer be an issue. Water fountains that have dirt and rust on them should be cleaned up. There shouldn’t be buckets in the hallways gathering water whenever it rains.

When the effort is made by the college to look after these things better, students will likely follow in the example. Both employees and students will take campus maintenance seriously and by working together we may be able to see a campus as well maintained as Princeton.



The VOICE supports journalism Ethics Week

The student journalists on the staff of The College VOICE, are just that, students learning the craft of journalism, how to conduct effective interviews, find facts and corroborate them, uncover stories that are newsworthy and meaningful to our readership and do so in a way that adheres to the standards of professional journalists.

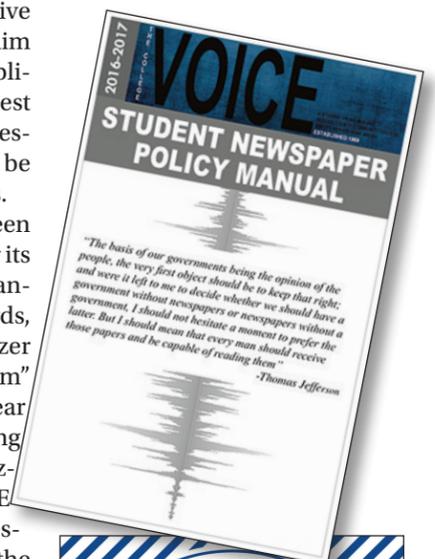
To this end, The VOICE makes every effort to follow the Code of Ethics of the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ). A copy of the code is placed prominently in the VOICE newsroom and the standards and expectations are listed in our policy manual which is available in print form and online at <http://www.mcccvoice.org/about/policy-manual/>. VOICE advisers work to help us think through ethical dilemmas and how they should be handled.

To some extent, as was pointed out by the current president of the SPJ, Lynn Walsh, in a panel entitled “Facts, Alternative Facts, and Journalism in the Age of Trump,” at the College Media Association conference that 9 VOICE staffers attended this past March, there are inherent conflicts within the code itself. A journalist’s first obligation is to the truth, for example, but a journalist should also do no harm. Sometimes telling the truth may cause it’s own form of harm to someone. Neverthe-

less, ethical journalists strive toward a common goal and aim always to balance ethical obligations in the manner that best fulfills the task of the fourth estate to protect the public and be the watchdogs of institutions.

The VOICE has been repeatedly acknowledged for its work by the SPJ through the annual Mark of Excellence awards, seen by many as the “Pulitzer Prize of college journalism” and have been again this year for photography by graduating VOICE staffer, Savannah Diezpak. Further, current VOICE advisers have set a goal to establish a student chapter of the SPJ on our campus within the next two years, something only a handful of other top community college papers in the nation have done. The goal of having such a chapter would be to increase student reporters to exposure to the world of professional journalism by connecting them with active reporters and other resources through the SPJ. Such a chapter would also, of course, reinforce The VOICE’s commitment to ethical journalistic practices.

In the meantime, The VOICE offers this statement in support for the SPJ’s Ethics Week. We strive toward the SPJ’s goals of truth, compassion, independence and transparency.



The human cost of nationalism and fear

Mexican in the age of Trump

PERSPECTIVES



Maria Ramos

My home town is Chihuahua, Mexico just four hours away from the border between Juarez and El Paso, Texas. I will never forget walking over the bridge under the Rio Bravo. I was crossing legally with my visa and all my papers in order. It had taken months to fill out the forms, gather the documents, secure the visas and permits I needed to enter legally, but looking over the bridge and seeing all the border patrols officers with their dogs staring at me and the others who were crossing I felt as if I was guilty of something.

I was coming to the United States through an agency to work taking care of a family's young children, but by the time I had to show my visa to the border patrol officer I was sweating and scared. Why was I so scared if everything was in order? Maybe it was because of the message I had heard for

so long, that I was Mexican and we are coming to steal jobs.

Once the officer let me into the country, I felt relieved, calm at last. I had made it to *el otro lado del charco*, the other side of the river. Now everything was going to be great, I thought. I was here to accomplish the American dream, my American-Mexican dream.

Now I wake up each morning wonder if the president is going to ban people like me from entering to the USA soon. Or maybe he'll cancel all the student visas. And when is that construction of the wall is going to start, a wall that's going to be exactly where I crossed the border to come to New Jersey 4 years ago.

I came here by the big door, with a visa that allowed me to travel back and forth to my beautiful Chihuahua and see my family, but after one year I had to change my status from J-1 (au pair visa) to F-1 (student visa), and this change had a huge cost for me. I am not talking about the \$600 dollars that I had to pay between fees, forms and permissions, I am talking about not being able to see my family for two years. It was the toughest time of my life. At only 19 years old I now felt trapped in this country.

I hope one day I can be in front of a border patrol officer or any police officer and not feel that old sick fear. I hope the picture of those dogs at the border staring at me disappears. I hope to stop feeling guilty, guilty for being Mexican.

The feeling of being legal in a place but not able to travel to your country is indescribable. At night I would pray that nothing would happen to my family because I couldn't travel home if something bad happened.

After two years I was so homesick that I started to look for plane tickets to get back home. Things were changing, the US presidential elections were coming up, and things didn't look good for Mexicans if Trump was to win. So I took the risk and went home and re-applied for a student visa. I told myself if they denied my visa it would be destiny, as sign that America wasn't for me.

But I got approved for my visa for four more years, came back and restarted my education. By then, however, I had to watch the daily political campaign of Donald Trump spewing hate towards Mexicans and saying over and over: "we are going to build a wall, and

Mexico is going to pay for it!"

I remember laughing as I saw all the memes about him, and thinking this man is never going to be the US president, then *ay caramba!* Donald J. Trump is the president of the US. I couldn't believe it. So wait, no more avocados? No more Cinco de Mayo?

My mom kept calling, "*Mjia y ahora qué va pasar? Vas a poder visitarnos otra vez?*" Sweetie, now what's going to happen? Will you be able to visit us again?" Hearing my mom asking me these questions was breaking my heart but I knew now more than ever I had to be strong and show to my family back home, and all the people here that being a Mexican immigrant in this country shouldn't be a barrier to success, that all those insults from Trump about Mexicans are not true, that instead we are part of the culture of this country, all our hard work needs to be recognized.

Now I am a full-time student with a 3.6 GPA. I'm a cross country runner for a team that won the Regionals for the first time and went to the 2016 Nationals. I'm Editor-in-Chief of The College VOICE, an award-winning newspaper of excellence. But even so, I don't

know if my effort is enough to prove to people that what President Trump said is not true.

He told the world: "When Mexico sends it people, they're not sending their best. They're not sending you. They're sending people that have lots of problems, and they're bringing those problems with them. They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists."

My roles at Mercer County Community College have helped me pursue my dream and demonstrate that Mexican immigrants aren't coming to destroy the country, sell drugs or rape people. We are here because we want a better future that for different reasons we couldn't find in our country.

I hope one day I can be in front of a border patrol officer or any police officer and not feel that old sick fear. I hope the picture of those dogs at the border staring at me disappears. I hope to stop feeling guilty, guilty for being Mexican.

I choose to be an immigrant in the US and I will never regret my decision. I am proud and thankful for being Latina and Mexicana. I will not stop until I achieve my Mexican-American dream, or until my visa gets cancelled, even if things get harder in this country, this country that has become *mi nueva casa*, my new home. I will keep doing my best.

Russian-American in the age of Trump

PERSPECTIVES



Svetlana Craft

One night in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia, when I was 5, the police came. This wasn't anything new considering my mom was always belligerent, drunk and in trouble. I thought they were there for her, but they were there for me. I never saw my mother or sister again after that night.

I was put in one orphanage and several months later moved to another, even farther away from home. I stayed there for two years.

Mostly I was in one big room with the smallest beds you can imagine. There were well over 30 children per room. I remember having notebooks with about 10 pages in them to learn how to write. There were

three ladies that watched my age group, but only one really cared about us.

In the orphanage some children were mean, others were quiet, some, like myself, tried to make the best of it. I had one good friend, her name was also Svetlana. Her bed was right next to mine and we would always end up talking at night. We'd get caught and the grown ups would make us stand still at the end of our beds as punishment, making us even more restless for "misbehaving."

It wasn't all bad. The snowy days were my favorite. In Russia, you don't stay inside if it snows you go out and take advantage of it. That is exactly what the other children and I did.

I never thought that I would get adopted; my mom would call every few months and promise to visit and come get me. I believed her, but after years went by I started to get the picture. She was never going to come.

In an orphanage, if you are not an infant, the possibility of you actually getting adopted is very slim. The older kids like myself were always around longer if not until the age of 16 when we were kicked out.

The Craft family from

America came to visit me and later I was told by one of the ladies at the orphanage that I was being adopted. I was eight, and I was more than okay with it because I was sure any place was better than there.

It was a long flight to the US on my own. I remember my American grandma crying--I'm assuming tears of joy--when I finally walked into my new room. I didn't even know people lived in that kind of luxury to have their own room. I was full of excitement. But I woke up the next morning, opened my curtains and it was raining outside. I started to cry. I had imagined America would always be a sunny paradise. I thought: Oh no! This family has brought me somewhere even worse than where I was before!

My adoptive family knew basically no Russian. Between us we had a few simple words like: hi, hungry, and sleep. They would try to get me to understand. I would just point at things a lot. There would be no conversation, yet a lot of laughter and fun.

The inability I had to communicate with my new family made it impossible for me to understand what was going on. When my father first took me

to Grace N. Rogers elementary school, after about 3 months of living in the US, I thought I was being brought back into an orphanage. Once again I started to cry. The same thing happened when I met my babysitter. Were they leaving me with this person? But my father always came back to get me.

I have seen the best of both American and Russian cultures, the people, the food, the differences and the similarities.

I hold a warm place in my heart for my home country despite the circumstances that caused me to leave, but now everyday I encounter endless negativity about Russians. The Russians rigged the election, the Russians are bad, they are coming for us, people say. It's like the Cold War never ended with all the suspicion and animosity still going on. But just like during the actual Cold War it's not the actual Russian people but the government that is to blame, and Americans constantly overlook this difference.

The Russian people are suffering under President Vladimir Putin. Putin does not respect or care for them whatsoever. Everything a person says is censored; there is no right to free speech. In the beginning of the

month of April there were protests in major cities across Russia which ended up being one of the largest mass demonstrations of their kind. The protests were against the abusive and corrupt government. What was the result?

Many Russians were literally arrested and carried away during the protests. Russians are being thrown in jail for the slightest offenses or for simply trying to speak up. How is it, I wonder, that Americans, many of whom are also taking to the streets to protest their government, still not making a clear distinction between Russian government and the Russian citizens?

Most people I encounter do not realize I'm Russian-American. I went to East Windsor public schools, I don't have an accent. I have a Russian name but people don't seem to notice. They badmouth Russians right in front of me. I try to stay calm despite being offended. I remind myself these people do not know what Russians are going through, they are ignorant, they do not know real suffering. I feel bad for them sometimes, because they may be Americans but they don't understand the American dream like I do. Hatred for others is not part of the American dream.

The First Amendment is under attack at Mercer

Editorial Board

Maria Ramos, *Editor in Chief*
Svetlana Craft, *Managing Editor*
Tim O'Boyle, *News Editor*
Oscar Trigueros, *Opinions Editor*
Jasmine Santalla, *Photography Editor*

Staff

Zayvion Thompson, *Senior Reporter*
Trevion Anglin, *Reporter*
Griffin Jones, *Reporter*
Nikki Pellew, *Reporter*
Jackson Thompson, *Reporter*

Faculty Advisers

Professor Matt Kochis, *Co-adviser*
Professor Holly Johnson, *Co-adviser*

Staff of The College VOICE

Mercer's Human Resources department has emailed all college faculty and staff a link to a mandatory online compliance training and has required completion by May 14. The training includes information on Title IX and other important and relevant policies, but one point in the first module, on slide 22 of 84 states that "employees should not talk to the press without explicit consent from the school."

The slide does not say "employees should not speak on behalf of the college to the press without consent from the school," it simply states they should not speak to the press, period. The policy requires employees to surrender their First Amendment rights, it chills free speech and is a threat to The VOICE and to the college's journalism and New Media programs.

We shared a picture of the slide with Frank Lomonte, an experienced First Amendment lawyer and the Executive Director of the Student Press Law Center, and asked for his reaction. He said: "I think the answer is it's pretty illegal...that raises very serious First Amendment issues."

The VOICE then reached out to Human Resources at Mercer, the department that had supplied the training materials to faculty, but neither the manager nor the executive director agreed to be interviewed and instead referred The VOICE to Jim Gardner, the college's director Public Relations.

Gardner defended the policy saying, "It's standard operating procedure for any large organization, whether it's for a Fortune 500 company, a community college or a school district."

Obviously private companies and public institutions are not the same. Private companies do not have responsibilities like providing transparency through open public records laws or filing annual crime reports like we do.

As LoMonte pointed out, a complete blanket policy against speaking to the press would "also be illegal at Fortune 500 companies." Private companies can ask employees to sign contracts that preclude them from providing proprietary data to outside entities and so on, and colleges can require that only Public Relations representatives speak to the press on behalf of the college, but

that's not what the material in Mercer's training says.

Because Mercer's policy is so broad-reaching, with zero clarification or exceptions given, and all employees of the college are required to read it and demonstrate their commitment to it by completing the online training, it amounts to censorship where The VOICE is concerned. We will end up writing articles that are filled with "no comments" and anonymous sources. It has the potential to turn The VOICE into a shoddy publication like TMZ.

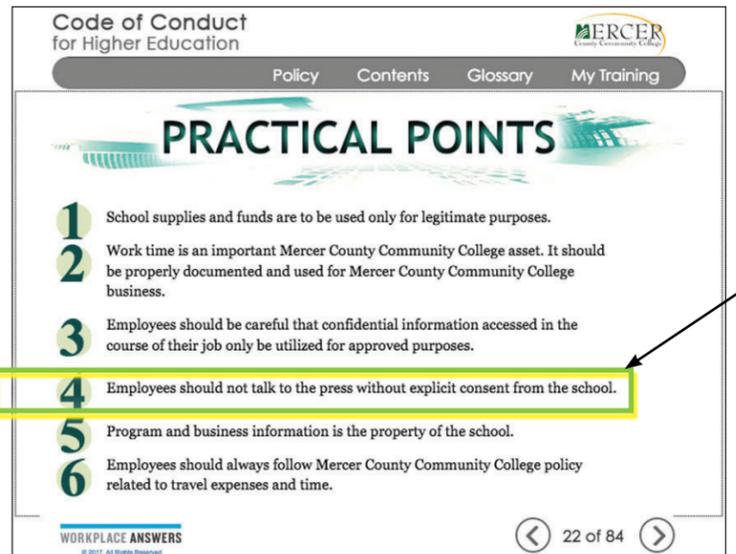
We already have an article in this issue where we had to use an anonymous quote from a faculty member about the contract negotiations because the person was scared to go on the record. It's a troubling experience for us as students interviewing someone who is supposed to educate us and realizing they are too scared to open their mouths. The college's efforts to intimidate employees are already working.

The one administrator we found at Mercer who did seem to see the First Amendment problem with the policy was Dean of Students Dr. Diane Campbell who told The VOICE, "Probably [that point] should be clearer...If I wanted to talk to the press, if there was some reason I needed to, constitutionally the college can't say you that can't talk to the press." She added, "I think the college has a responsibility to know when faculty and staff are talking to the press. But in terms of our constitutional rights, it's not like we can say you can't talk to anybody."

LoMonte agrees it's the lack of clarity that poses the real problem. "I think anybody who sees that training will be taking that as mandatory...if they had used the term 'recommend' or 'advise' then that's different."

The VOICE spoke to two faculty union members to get their reaction to the policy in the compliance training materials.

English Professor Dr. Edward Carmien reacted to the no talking to the press policy saying, "Speaking as a faculty member, I think it's outrageous that this should be an item on this slide and that we're expected to basically agree to this as a part of this training. Nothing that I saw in the description of this training would have led me to believe that these details would be so broad-reaching into what I think are fundamental First Amendment rights." He added, "I cannot imagine completing this training now that



I've been made aware that this is here."

Math Professor Arthur Schwartz was similarly offended. He told The VOICE, "I'll talk to the press anytime I want. It's the freedom of press."

As to why he thinks the college would include such a policy in their training Prof. Schwartz said, "[Administration] would like to have total control before people go to the press. I know that they would like that...and I would like a Lamborghini...but I'm not getting a Lamborghini and they're not going to intimidate people to what they say and what they're not going to say."

Earlier this month The VOICE was invited by the college president to attend the Board of Trustees meeting to be recognized for winning eight New Jersey Collegiate Press Association awards this year. We appreciated the invitation and were sorry that because all of us work at that time no one could attend, but we've since discovered that the faculty training was sent out just two days before we were asked to come be

acknowledged for our work. On one hand the college is publicly supporting us and at the next moment undermining our ability to be reporters. If the college wants to celebrate our victories they must allow us the ability to continue our work, which we cannot do if no one will speak to us.

The college owes faculty an apology and should revise their policy and then revise the training materials before sending them back out to be completed. Meantime The VOICE will carry on trying to keep people informed, we will continue encouraging students to be engaged in the life of our college, and we hope that faculty and staff will acknowledge they can always speak to us, not on behalf of the college, but on behalf of themselves as employees and individuals.

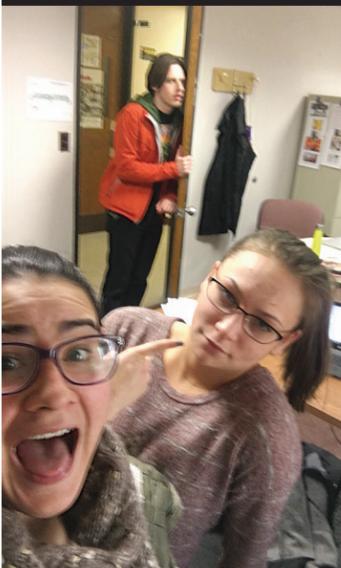
If you are an employee and would like to show your support for the the First Amendment and the press, please feel free to trim out the image below and tape it to your office door.



Do you see a typo?
Then join the staff and fix it!

Mon+Thur 12noon ET 127

BORED? RESTLESS? LONELY? SMART?



JOIN THE VOICE
"Work hard, meet bold people!"



The College VOICE is online at mcccvoice.org Read documents and extra materials to go with all the articles you see here.

WANT YOUR MERCER EVENT PROMOTED LIVE ON MCCC'S STUDENT RADIO STATION VIKING 89.1? CONTACT THEM ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF THE STUDENT CENTER!

Editorial Policy:

The College VOICE is written and edited by students of Mercer County Community College and published every 3-4 weeks under the guidance of faculty advisers. The material printed in The College VOICE, be it articles, advertisements or opinion pieces, does not necessarily represent the views of the editors, the faculty, staff, administration or the board of trustees of Mercer County Community College.

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.

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SUDOKU

Difficulty: 2 (of 5)

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Find last month's Sudoku solution online at mcccvoice.org

THEME CROSSWORD: GOING GREEN

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117												118	119	120					122
123												124							126
127												128							130

ACROSS

- Color of muslin
- Roman goddess of flowers
- Prompts for actors
- Crossbones companion
- Downfall
- Train designation
- Solemn promise
- Eaglets' home
- German export
- Pertaining to the eye
- So-called killer whale
- Rosary
- Green in a bowl
- Spoiler in a story
- spumante
- Behemoth
- Tourist's purchase, perhaps
- Shakespeare's Athenian
- Choices
- Deduce
- "We be -": Genesis
- 13:8
- Florentine family
- Hairdos
- Last longer than others
- Underworld weapon
- Sisters
- Factual
- Bellum lead-in
- Catch sight of
- French count
- Bib attachment
- Air-show events
- Brushy growth
- Shared a boundary
- Bay
- "- Town"
- "Dallas" clan
- Theater guide

- 1.75 pints, more or less
- Miss Fawcett
- Deserve payment
- Spanish diacritic
- As well
- The best
- Car choice
- Offspring
- Three times a day, on prescriptions
- Dies down
- Change in Stockholm
- Knocks off
- Frightful females
- Amphitheater
- Lake Nasser feeder
- "Stop it, sailor!"
- Helps make apple pie
- Bizarre
- Book no.
- Degrade
- Green is how this tastes
- Rule reference
- Kind of antenna
- More competent
- Take the bus
- Throat clearings
- Ron Howard's early role
- Hoosgow
- Energy units
- The pits
- Microsoft product
- Pays attention
- Guilty, e.g.

DOWN

- Cupid
- Coffee request
- Bills in Battambang
- Dark
- Show-biz disappointment
- Trot
- The Dome of the Rock is one
- Grape, in France
- Industrial acronym coined in 1910
- Neutralized
- Nasser-led govt.
- And so forth
- Sea World performer
- TV's "Teenage Witch"
- We're told to avoid the green!
- River to the Caspian Sea
- Venetian isle
- "- we forget"
- A tenth
- Not fulfilled, as a need
- Onassis, to his friends
- They're green, but only skin deep
- Novelist Levin
- Nothing more than
- Baby in Bogota
- Boo-boo
- Awaken
- Jungle squeezer
- Litter's littlest
- Question for Brutus
- Greenery in the California desert
- Center of a folk-dance circle
- Coming along
- Spring purchase
- Govt. publisher
- Typeface charac-

- Green onions
- Having no doubts
- Computer key
- Black-
- generis
- Word from "CSI" script
- Practiced, as a trade
- Pikes, for one
- 1944 Gene Tierney role
- Passion
- Former times
- European deer
- Miss Hathaway
- Dame Myra of the keyboard
- After zwei
- One of Chekhov's "Three Sisters"
- Traffic jam
- Hosp. areas
- Become established
- Rest on top of
- Exist
- OK for farming
- Create a chair, perhaps
- Impart knowledge
- Infection, for short
- Bar employee
- Prod
- Something chewable
- Santa's refrain
- Ogler
- Darn
- Irritates
- Phoenix neighbor
- Wall St. speculation
- Knight's title

Horoscopes



Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

Want to be productive this month? The key will be pacing yourself. No one can go full throttle 100% of the time. Don't burn out. Go slow and steady.



Aquarius

Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

Soon the thunderclouds will part. It may have been a long, difficult time lately, but you have found the strength to shift your path. Go in your new direction!



Pisces

Feb. 19 - Mar. 20

One person's junk is another's treasure. Look for something (or someone!) who has been discarded and snap it up quick. You won't regret it.



Aries

Mar. 21 - Apr. 19

No one can tell you what to do, but around the start of the month someone will give you good advice about school or work. Heed it if you want good results.



Taurus

Apr. 20 - May 20

Your bullish qualities have helped you power through many situations, but this month you are going to have to reach out to others for some help. Don't be shy.



Gemini

May 21 - Jun. 20

Time to get ready for your birthday and take stock of another year. What worked? What didn't? Now is the time to plan for changes.



Cancer

Jun. 21 - Jul. 22

The warmth of spring is what you need right now. It may not be a trip to a Caribbean island, but even a day at the shore will do wonders for your mood.



Leo

Jul. 23 - Aug. 22

You may not realize it, but you have been trying some people's patience lately. If you can, try to be more aware of how you sound so you don't offend the people you care about.



Virgo

Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

The wild ride you have been on will soon slow down and you will have time to spend with family and friends. Don't miss the opportunity.



Libra

Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

As a Libra you are supposed to be the balanced one, but doing everything for others has left you little time for yourself. To put the world back in order you are need some me time.



Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

The exhaustion of April is about to give way to a month of greater productivity and satisfaction. Around the middle of the month, expect good things to arrive.



Sagittarius

Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

How many times can you tell a friend the same thing and not have them take your advice? It's time to move on and not indulge people who just want you to agree with them.

2X THE GET FUZZY AND DILBERT!

