



# Mercer welcomes new president

## Dr. Jianping Wang has fresh vision for Mercer's direction

By Ousman Joof  
Senior Reporter

On July 1st, 2015 Dr. Jianping Wang began her journey as the sixth president of Mercer County Community College. Dr. Wang was selected over two other possible candidates by MCCC Board of Trustees after a five month nationwide search and selection process.

Before becoming the new president, Wang was the Vice President of Academic Affairs at Ocean County College in Toms River New Jersey. Some of her duties as the VP consisted of providing oversight and leadership for the overall operation of more than 50 academic programs.

During her time at Ocean County College (OC), Dr. Wang received honorable mention by Middle States Commission on Higher Education during the college's evaluation in April of 2014. At Ocean County, she also established a Center for Students Success. Before Ocean County, Wang was the Division Dean of Arts and Humanities at SUNY Westchester Community College, Valhalla, NY from February 1998 until her start at OC in August, 2012.

Wang started her pursuit for higher education when her mentor, Mr. Wu, encouraged her to attend college. However, in order to get into college, her mentor had her work the night



PHOTO | IVANA AIRO

President Jianping Wang at her office located on the second floor of the Administration Building.

shift at the factory he owned, so that he would be able to teach her without her parents finding out. The two prepared for exams in two subjects, English and Journalism.

Dr. Wang did not pass the English portion because in the excitement she forgot to put her name on the exam. After failing her exam, Wang went back to work in her mentor's factor. Again, Mr. Wu encouraged her to retake the tests, even forging her parents' signature

so that she would have the opportunity to pass, which she did the following year.

Because of her mentor's initial support, Wang graduated from Hangzhou University located in the People's Republic of China in 1982 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Afterward, she pursued a Master's degree from Beijing University in 1986. Following this, Dr. Wang came to America and attended Harvard Graduate School of Education

for her second Master's degree. She then received a Doctorate in Education from Fielding Graduate School located in Santa Barbara, CA.

In a recent interview with *The VOICE*, Dr. Wang said her central focus during the two months since she started was to increase enrollment at the college. In her opinion, President Wang views MCCC as a "Gold Mine" because it has such great potential that has yet to be fully explored. She also went on to say that the school's diversity and its geographic location in relation to New York and Philadelphia makes MCCC an ideal location for students to attend.

Dr. Wang would like to focus some of her energy on building a stronger brand for MCCC. Once she was appointed by the Board of Trustees, they assigned her with a task to increase enrollment at the college. According to Dr. Wang enrollment is up, by 4 to 5 percent. She gives a lot of credit to faculty members, the Administration office, Enrollment Services, and Custodial workers who keep the college clean.

Dr. Eun-Woo Chang, the Vice President for Academic Affairs, added his thoughts on the new president, saying "I believe [Dr. Wang] is ready to make great changes to the college and that Mercer

is excited to have her here."

When asked about her thoughts on the new president, Kathryn Paluscio, Associate Professor of Communication told *The VOICE*: "I have noticed a change in the atmosphere ever since the first speech [Dr. Wang] gave at the college and I'm very hopeful for the future."

"I find her energetic and enthusiastic, I'm confident and excited that she will lead us in the right direction" said Bryon Marshall, Director of Facilities & Safety.

The new President of Student Government Association Executive Board, Richard Ward, a Liberal Arts major said, "I think it's the greatest decision so far we made at Mercer. To bring in someone so cultured and inspiring in relation to her life story and share it with students; she is God's gift to Mercer"

When asked what advice she had to offer to anyone pursuing a career in education, Wang said "first you are embarking on a very very noble and challenging, but enormously rewarding journey if you put your whole heart into it."

More information about President Jianping Wang and her accomplishments can be found at:

<http://www.mccc.edu/pdf/ps2015/WangJianping.pdf>

## New shuttle service to Quaker Bridge Mall

By Ousman Joof  
Senior Reporter

Mercer County Community College has a new shuttle bus service that will take students from the West Windsor Campus to Quaker Bridge Mall at various times throughout the day.

John Simone, Assistant Dean of Student Services and Director of Athletics, is the driving force behind this new shuttle route. Others that were involved in getting this project together include Susan Bowen, Vice President of Finances, President Dr. Jianping Wang, the Purchasing Department,

Marketing Department, and the Board of Trustees.

According to Simone, this service became available because the route from Princeton to Mercer's West Windsor campus took too long. The route was initially on schedule to depart from downtown Trenton, then get onto the shuttle to get to the West Windsor campus. The average time it took students to reach the campus was about 70 minutes. Now students are able to cut their commute in half because they no longer need to travel downtown to Trenton to catch the bus.

After more research was done, the staff discovered that most students worked at Quaker Bridge Mall and would benefit from the new service that is currently being provided.

The driver of the shuttle is Greg Green, who has been with the bus company for 10 years.

Mr. G, as the students call him, said that "the kids been great without any problems."

Kevin Lassiter, a Graphic Design major said, "It's a great idea to have the Shuttle Bus going to Quaker Bridge Mall and back because it saves students a lot of time and money."



PHOTO | IVANA AIRO

Driver of Mercer's new bus to the Quakerbridge Mall, Greg Green, standing in front of the shuttle parked outside of the Fine Arts building.



**LOCAL EVENTS:**  
5th Annual Irish Festival  
Celebrated at Mercer Park | PG. 2



**GAMES & CARTOONS:**  
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# Local Events

## Irish Fest enjoyed success despite unlucky weather

By Lisa Tarr  
Reporter

The Trenton Irish Heritage Association brought its 5th annual Irish Festival to Mercer County Park this weekend despite the weather. The festival took place at the park's newly renovated festival grounds and featured fun for all age groups, including food and beer vendors, inflatable jump houses, face painting, a 50/50 raffle and several bands that played on the festival stage throughout the weekend, as well as a 9/11 memorial service on its opening night.

Dennis Keenan, retired Trenton Fire Department Chief and chairman of the Trenton Irish Heritage Association, has been an instrumental member in keeping Mercer County's rich Irish culture alive since the 1980's. Keenan formed the new Trenton Irish Heritage Association when the old committee decided that they did not want to hold the Saint Patrick's Day Parade in Trenton any longer.

"We're trying to keep the tradition going here in



PHOTO | LISA TARR

Attendees of the festival enjoy traditional Irish and Celtic songs performed by one of the many bands that played on Sunday.

Mercer," says Keenan, who is now the driving force behind several Irish heritage events in the county, including the festival at Mercer County Park, the Saint Patrick's Day Parade in Trenton (tentatively scheduled this year for March

12th), a Mardi Gras celebration at McManimon's Pub on Liberty Street in Trenton and a tricky-tray auction event at Notre Dame High School. The Festival accepted five dollar donations at the admission gate, which, in

addition to the other events that Keenan's Irish Heritage Associate hosts, benefits the association and contributes to the general scholarship fund of Notre Dame High School, including a scholarship that sends students to Ireland to

study in the summer, and the Gael Schoil, an Irish-medium school in Ireland. Despite the dreary skies, the festival had a fantastic turnout, being the first year ever the event ran for all Friday, Saturday and Sunday.



### Monthly News of the Nation

#### Anti Gay Clerk

America's most famous anti-gay marriage clerk, Kim Davis, returns to work after a stint in jail for failing to carry out her duties. She has refused to provide gays marriage liscences on the grounds that it violates her religious beliefs.

#### Pope to Visit

The Pope sets out on his first visit to North America with first stop in Cuba. He will be coming to our area at the end of September with a stop in Philadelphia.

#### New Ancestor

A group of six female scientists uncovered the fossilized remains of a previously unknown human ancestor, in a cave in South Africa. They faced what one called "some of the most difficult and dangerous conditions ever encountered in the search for human origins"

#### More Star Wars Ahead

Disney Pictures is preparing for a blockbuster this holiday season when the new Star Wars movie, titled "The Force Awakens" hits theaters on December 18. The film is set 30 years after Return of the Jedi and will feature some new and some favorite old characters.

#### No Slam for Serena

Tennis super star Serena Williams was upset in the semi-final round of the US Open by Italian Roberta Vinci, putting Williams out of contention to be only the fourth woman to win all four Grand Slam titles in one year.

#### Bernie Sanders 2016

According to The Washington Post, Jersey Governor Chris Christie's 2016 presidential hopes are shrinking as he has fallen from second to fifth in rankings in four months.

#### Refugee Crisis

According to a count by the United Nations, more than 3 million Syrian refugees have had to flee the Civil War in their country. European countries are struggling to absorb them all and meet their needs.

#### Bridgegate Continues

Gov. Christie's so called Bridgegate Scandal continues to have ripple effects, now causing resignations of top leaders at United Airlines who opened up flights to placate politcos.

PHOTOS COURTESY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



## New art in Perlman Collection in Princeton

By Ivana  
Senior Reporter

The Princeton University Art Museum, will be exhibiting "Cézanne and the Modern" from September 19th to January 3rd. The Exhibit holds masterpieces of European Art from the Pearlman Collection.

Works by artists such as Vincent van Gogh, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, Édouard Manet, Amedeo Modigliani, Chaïm Soutine and Paul Cézanne will be featured in the upcoming exhibit. Keith Mcrae, an officer for the Museum stated that the Museum can roughly average from six or seven hundred visitors per weekend.

"Visitors come from all over, most students from the University who come here are art majors or have art projects they need to do, but the majority of our visitors are from all over."

Mcrae stated that due to the exhibits record breaking attendance after being on an international tour, the Museum has gone to great lengths to advertise the exhibit.

"I have never seen them put a sign outside across the building for an exhibit like they did for this one that is coming."

Works from the Pearlman Collection are being returned to Princeton, where they have been on loan since 1976.

Aside from special exhibitions, the Museum holds numerous amounts of works from different artists and eras. The Museums galleries vary from Photography, European Art from the 13th to 19th



Martine Elefson, the museum's Docent, provides insight on a art piece

PHOTO | IVANA AIRO

century, American Art and more. Martine Elefson, a Docent for the Museum, stated that the previous exhibit held at the museum was American Watercolors at Princeton. Martine also stated that the gallery is open Tuesday through Sunday, with a late closing on Thursdays.

"Thursday evenings there are certainly a lot of students, it's a long Thursday, the museum is open until 10pm, therefore there are a ton of students who come in."

Next month, the Museum plans to hold two additional presentations: "Animal, Mineral, Vegetable: Nature in the Arto of the Ancient Americas" and "Artful Adventures" which involve tours and student performances.

The Museum is located in the heart of Princeton University. Admission to the Museum is always free.



PHOTO | IVANA AIRO

Modern and Contemporary Art.

## Special Olympics sports program coming to Mercer this fall

By Max Leavitt-Shaffer  
Senior Reporter

We live in a world that is ever changing, and one that is ever on the move. It can be easy to get pulled into the undertow of life, and dragged out into a seemingly endless sea. This life is stressful no matter who you are.

However, for many, there is solace in the participation of team sports. The comradery that comes from competing as a team can act as an anchor, or maybe more of a lifeboat in this case, that keeps us afloat as we go through our day to day activities.

But what if you were born with a disability? For those who have intellectual disabilities, it is not realistic to play on a team with those who don't. Getting dragged into the sea of life would be that much more stressful, that much harder to escape from.

Those with intellectual disabilities should still have the opportunity to participate in the joy of competition. Team sports can be a very rewarding, fulfilling activity. This fall, Mercer plans to do just that. Mercer County Community College is going

to be participating in a Unified Athletics program, in partnership with the Special Olympics.

John Simone, the Athletic Director at Mercer says "The concept in the US [United States] now, is to have unified teams of both Special Olympians, and athletes from other teams compete together."

This means that intellectually challenged students, many from the DREAM program, will partner with student athletes to participate in a series of sports. The DREAM program (Developing Real Expectations of Achieving Mastery) is a student centered program for those with intellectual disabilities, run on campus.

Mercer's website says the program was "developed for students with intellectual disabilities who are looking for an inclusive, challenging educational opportunity with supports and services to help them achieve success."

So far the sports these students will participate in are basketball, soccer, and volleyball. However, the athletes are going to have a direct say in what sports are played, so this is subject to change.

There is going to be a

preliminary period for this program, that Simone says will be about one semester.

"We are going to craft our own method of doing this" says Simone "before we go out and play other competitions."

They want to feel comfortable that they have commitment from the students and that there is a solid plan of action. During that time the athletes will play amongst themselves. After the semester is over the MCCC unified athletics team will compete with other teams from schools like Rutgers, TCNJ, and Montclair.

This program is going to be in direct correlation with the DREAM program at Mercer, in hopes that it will benefit the students. "The DREAM students are looking for extra activity. They can't participate on our athletic teams, for a variety of reasons, but there is some place for them to compete." The next step is to start to get the word out. That means getting the DREAM students prepared, and getting help from students who wish to involve themselves in this program. The first practice is scheduled for Friday, September 25th.

## The Celebrity Scoop



### CANDACE SWANEPOEL

South African model, Candace Swanepoel, known for Victoria's Secret, took a nasty fall on the runway at the Givenchy show at New York's Fashion Week. The culprit? A poorly made shoe that fell apart.



### SUSAN SARANDON

At Burning Man, Susan Sarandon celebrated the life of the late pro LSD psychologist Tim Leary (who died in 1996). Most of his ashes were jetisoned into outer space, but he left her a few that she parted with in an elaborate ceremony inside the "Totem of Confessions" a sanctuary she helped build in the desert. Far out.



### ROBERTA VINCI

Even among die hard women's tennis fans, Roberta Vinci may not have been a household name, but she is now, having beaten Serena Williams in a semi-final match at the US Open against 300 to 1 odds. In an unguarded interview with ESPN on court after the game she seemed as surprised as anyone by the outcome.



### MICHAEL MOORE

Sneaky filmmaker Michael Moore managed to shoot an entire film without anyone being the wiser. The film called "Where to Invade Next" premiered to strong reviews at the Toronto International Film Festival.



# The curtain rises at the Kelsey Theatre



By Savannah Dziepak  
Reporter

Marine Kanarek, Heather Corson, Susan Blair, Samantha Sharpe, & Jessica Turk in a scene from *Little Women*.

PHOTO | SAVANNAH DZIEPAK

The red, velvet curtains are closed and cast members take their places. The audience scurries in and the lights begin to dim. The hearts of each attendee pounds with excitement, anxiously waiting for the show to start. Plays are a once in a lifetime experience. If you have ever been to a live performance, the thrill is probably a familiar feeling. If not, fret no more—a solution has been found.

Finding the perfect production is not as hard or time consuming as you may think. The Kelsey Theatre is located on the West Windsor Campus of MCCC. It can be found across from the gymnasium as part of the Communications building. This summer, the theatre accumulated 16 NJACT (New Jersey Association of Community Theatres) Perry Award nominations with the winners to be announced on September 20. Last year, Kelsey accumulated four NJACT Perry awards out of sixteen nominations. In 2012, the Kelsey Theatre collected eight awards out of a whopping twenty-seven nominations.

Every year the Kelsey Theatre organizes productions running from September until June. For the 2015-2016 season, 19 full-length dramas and musical

productions, as well as eight shows from the Kelsey Kids Series are scheduled. The theme for this season's productions is "The Adventure Diaries." Every show will take us through different time periods and homelands.

"Each one will be a diary entry from each of the main characters," said Kitty Getlik, the Kelsey Theatre's Artistic Director and Manager. *Little Women* is the first "entry" in the diaries and sets the stage for what is to come. Expect nothing but talent, professionalism, and creativity from the cast and crew. Each member works together to make the play come to life. That unionization is the Kelsey Theatre's key to success and why you will leave impressed.

During the *Little Women* dress rehearsal, the highest of notes were hit and no details were neglected, from the lighting, to the thoroughly researched costumes designed by Kate Pinner, Kelsey's Technical Theatre Coordinator. Expect a wardrobe that will literally be tailored to each time period. The work put into making each production will make your experience unforgettable.

Aside from brilliant performance and hard work, the third most impressive attribute to Kelsey Theatre is affordable pricing. "That's really important

to me . . . to keep the price down . . . I think that theatre should not just be for the rich," said Getlik.

Depending on the production, tickets will range from \$18 - \$20 for adults and \$16 - \$18 for seniors. Students receive a discounted rate of an affordable \$9 for the purchase of up to four tickets per show. Therefore, any additional tickets would be full price. Kelsey Theatre conveniently has tickets available online for purchase as well.

Kelsey works with Mercer's modern dance ensemble, a symphonic band, a student company, and twelve resident theater community and semi-professional theater companies. This season, MCCC's theatre students will appear in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* while students of Mercer's Modern Dance Ensemble will perform in *Dancer Diaries*.

Casting calls are completely open, meaning both MCCC students and non-students can audition. Auditions are posted monthly at the following link: [kelseyatmccc.org/auditions](http://kelseyatmccc.org/auditions). Students can also sign up to receive notifications on auditions via e-mail.

As an audience, we "have an effect on the actors," said Getlik.

Her hope is to see a younger audience get a live



PHOTO | SAVANNAH DZIEPAK

From left to right: Samantha Sharpe, Marine Kanarek, & Heather Corson



PHOTO | SAVANNAH DZIEPAK

Marine & Jarrett Smith.

theatre experience, unlike what is found on mobile devices such as an iPad. Movie theaters, iPads, or any other entertainment

alternative will not compare to that once in a lifetime, heart pounding experience offered from a live play. Lucky for us, we have the Kelsey Theatre.



# Vikings men's soccer currently undefeated



PHOTO | KWAEME COLECRAFT

Obi Iloka celebrates after scoring another goal.

By Kwame Colecraft  
Reporter

The 2015 Mercer County Vikings men's soccer team has started the season undefeated. In every game of the season so far, they have scored four or more goals and have combined offense with even stronger defense.

Last weekend, the Vikings continued their winning streak with two 6-0 shutout wins Saturday and Sunday at the West Windsor Campus Soccer Complex due to the performances of the nation's top goal-scorer, Obinna "Obi" Iloka, and 2014 All-Conference goalkeeper, Kellen Groover.

When asked about the team's success, coach Widmarc Dalce said, "It is like- I can't even explain it myself. Naturally the team works together, they work to get better with unselfish play. They just move the ball so well, they use each other, they play as a team, and that is the result of that."

Groover made a couple of key saves at the beginning

of the game to keep the score 0-0, while Iloka broke the deadlock by scoring the first goal. The coaches and players have taken note of the rate at which Iloka has been scoring, considering the fact that he comes off the bench.

"Some players are just like that," Dalce said. "When he comes on the field, the players know something good is going to happen."

Team manager Aaron Vacciana said, "If you see him training, he is giving 200%, because 100% is not good enough for him. He will play in a game that we are winning by a lot and he will still take it seriously."

However, both Iloka and Groover credited their success to their team.

"Our success is throughout the whole team, it's not just one person," Groover stated. "I command the defense and when the defense does their job, I do my job."

Iloka agreed by stating that "Everyone has to be focused, practice hard in training, and pay

attention to the coaches."

The team has been successful on the field, but Dalce has asserted that each and every one of his players must also show the same dedication off the field as well. This is his fourth season as coach and each year the team has improved. Last season, they had a 14-5 record, but they fell short of the national tournament. This year, he expects to be in the national tournament.

"We've been building to that since I took over," he said.

Better yet, he thinks this team is even capable of winning it all.

"This team is really promising. I have full faith in them and they really have full belief that they can go all the way."

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## Men's Cross Country starts first season with seven man squad

By Pablo Araya-Chacon  
Reporter

This year becomes a first for Mercer County Community College as the school offers a men's cross country team for the Fall Sport Season.

Michael DeAngelis, coach of men's cross country, has decided to coach the team alongside with the women's cross country team. In an interview with The VOICE, DeAngelis gave his thoughts and hopes about the new incoming team for this season. DeAngelis stated that when he was offered to coach the men's cross country team, he immediately knew what his decision would be.

DeAngelis offered his thoughts about the team and discussed their current status: "The progress is encouraging, seeing that I have five guys in the roster and seeing how all of them have been working hard is great. Some of those guys have really good running experience, while others haven't ran in a while, they just push themselves and start moving again."

DeAngelis told The VOICE that the sport

has been in the talks for a course of three years. During that time people were pushing for a team, and it was a desire from previous College President Dr. Donohue to have a men's cross country team. DeAngelis believes that with the introduction of a new team it will bring more students to the college and says "women's cross country has brought new female students wanting to play the sport and we hope the same happens for the Men's Cross Country."

During DeAngelis' interview, The VOICE was also able to get a few thoughts from the Athletic Director, John Simone. Simone says that the addition of the men's cross country program has everyone excited. He mentioned that although the program is starting a bit slow that he hopes the program moves smoothly like the women's team has had over the past five years. During their interviews both DeAngelis and Simone mentioned that they faced financial challenges when it came down to transportation, uniforms and medical needs for the athletes.

At the end DeAngelis seemed really excited



PHOTO | WENDY HUMPHREY

From left to right: Zak Kiddel, Ousman Joof, Tre Foster, Russell Budd, Aaron Patton, Ryan Prendergast, & Corey Moser

for the remaining of the season. Although the team lost its first meet, DeAngelis knows that in order to beat his rival, which include Essex County Community College and Brookdale Community College, his team has to be the best of the best. In the near future DeAngelis hopes to recruit more students and to also have international students participate in the sport as well.

Want to weigh in on the debate? You can! Make comments to these articles and others by logging in to [mcccvoice.org](http://mcccvoice.org)!



MERCER'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1969



# What it takes to grad

By Ivana Airo  
Senior Reporter

Attempting to manage school work, a job, and nutty professors and still be up to date with the latest Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook feeds, can become stressful, especially when your goal is to graduate from Mercer or to transfer to a 4-year school.

As a Mercer student, you are faced with a 4.9% chance of graduating within two years, a 12.5% chance of graduating in 3 years, not to lower odds for most minority students.

According to Laurene Jones, the Director of Transfer and Career Services, part of the reason for this is related to students' skills at the time of entry.

Jones told The VOICE: "Many students come into Mercer needing developmental courses which add extra time on to finishing a degree. For some students, this can take an extra semester or two. Many students take 12 credits a semester. Most degrees are between 62-65 credits so earning 12 credits a semester automatically extends the time it takes to finish a degree."

Jones added that students often change their program of study which adds even more time to their work at MCCC.

Balancing work and family responsibilities can limit the amount of credits many students are able to take each semester, and delay their intended graduation date.

Jones said: "For some students, 12 credits a semester makes a lot of sense because of outside responsibilities like work and family. For others, just adding on one extra course a semester can speed up their degree completion. Most of all, students should stay informed and be in charge of their own education. Learn about what's needed in your degree and what your transfer institution is requiring."

Sebastian Kozikowski, a second year Physical Therapy major at Mercer says he didn't know of the 4.9% two year graduation rate at Mercer.

"You come into Mercer thinking you'll be out of here in two-years, but it gets hard. I would not have made it through last year without help from the people in my life," Kozikowski said.

Jennifer Eng, a first semester Business Administration major at Mercer, told The VOICE she hopes to graduate within two years.

When asked how she would achieve her goal Eng responded: "When you have your major picked out, it's best to talk to your advisor. This way you can see what requisites you need and plan

your two years accordingly, they will help you and know what will work best for you."

Eng says she is currently not working a job outside of school, however, she says if she does begin working she will only be able to do it part time.

"Course work can be so much with readings, homework and making sure things are up to speed, having a job can add an extra layer of difficulty," Eng believes she will get ahead by communicating with professors and using office hours and keep up with her work.

One former Mercer student who achieved what Eng is aiming for, is Kellie Rendina, who graduated spring of 2012 after completing her associate's degree in just two years.

Rendina says that the key to her success was to pack on the course load each semester. "I always took at least five courses. One semester I even took six."

Rendina says online and summer classes also helped her get done on schedule.

"I know it's not fun to have to think about school when you're supposed to be on vacation, but if you want to move forward quickly, it's best to utilize the online courses that Mercer offers," Rendina said.

Another student, Stephen Harrison, a 2014 Mercer graduate, confirms that making connections with faculty was the key for him.

"The secret to success in graduating and moving forward is to find a teacher or adviser that you like and trust, and let them work with you on teaching you how to transfer and what your best transfer options are. That can be invaluable because it can be a daunting process to try and do on your own."

Harrison was a non-traditional student, coming to Mercer in his late 20s after working for years to pay the bills.

"I never lost my ambition in moving forward. I could have given up on school a long time ago but I didn't. I completely messed up my GPA in the past, but I didn't give up, I retook the courses I needed to to fix my GPA to help my chances of being accepted. That's the biggest thing I think for most community college students, it's easy to give up when things look difficult or daunting, but perseverance is key."

Two Year  
Graduation Rate\*  
**4.9%**

## Tips from past grads



**Tim Hester**

**TIP 1** - Bring your own food! Take it from someone who has eaten more than his fair share of "caf food," if what you crave are stomach pains, nausea and vomiting, then by all means give the food a try. Otherwise, bring your own, or go to the Wawa that is within walking distance from campus.

**TIP 2** - Mercer is what you make it. I saw too many peers come to campus with the thought that because Mercer is a community college, the classes were a joke and there's no point in trying. What a cop out! If you go to class and actually TRY to learn, then you will succeed. It really is that simple.

*Tim Hester graduated from MCCC in 2011, transferred to Rider and graduated Magna Cum Laude in 2012.*



**Mariana Braz**

**TIP 1** - Observe what other people are doing and learn how to do it better than all of them. By doing that, you will make yourself so busy, you will forget you are actually going to Mercer.

**TIP 2** - Talk to your professors. Don't go beg them to extend a deadline because of some lame excuse. Go to their office, and tell them your aspirations. Professors can give you great insights into things that seem completely unachievable to you. Most of Mercer's faculty are actually enjoyable to talk to.

*Mariana Braz graduated MCCC with high honors and two associate degrees in 2012 and 2013. She is now getting a masters degree at CUNY Baruch College.*



**Kevin Cox**

**TIP 1** - Remember who told you: "you can't." Mercer students have faced more adversity on their path to college than most. At some point someone told you "you can't." You can't afford to go to college, you can't handle the curriculum, you can't manage a job and school simultaneously, you can't become something special, you're too old to go back to school now. Remember these moments you were doubted and use it to fuel your fire. Mercer is a vehicle to get you to the next stage; it doesn't define you, but you may realize your time here was the turning point in your life. It was for me.

*Kevin Cox graduated from MCCC in 2014. He transferred to Rutgers where he is studying Communication and writing for The Targum.*



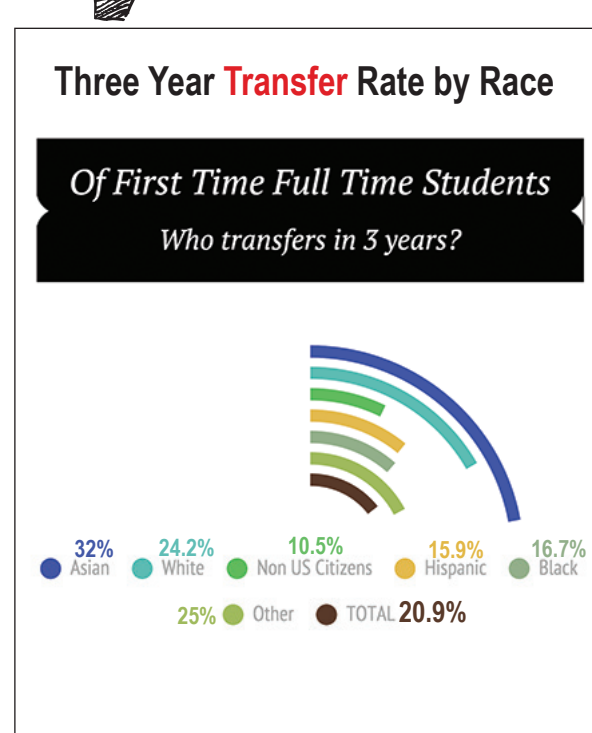
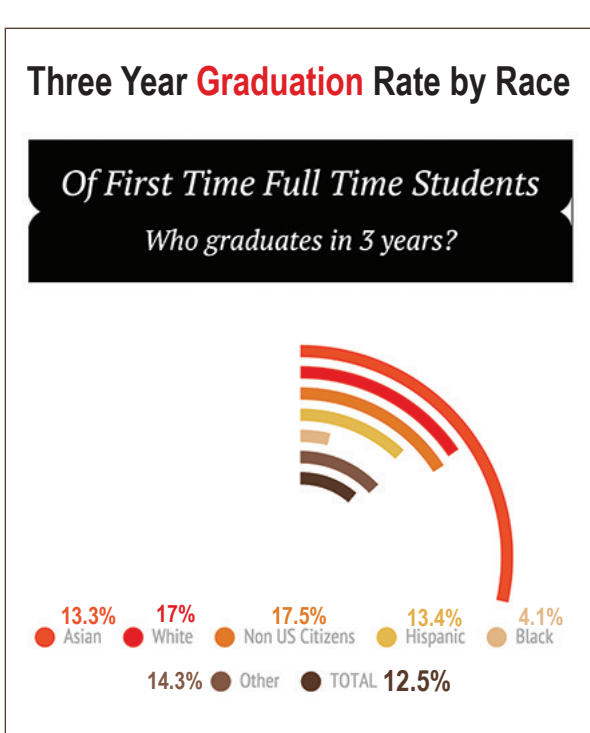
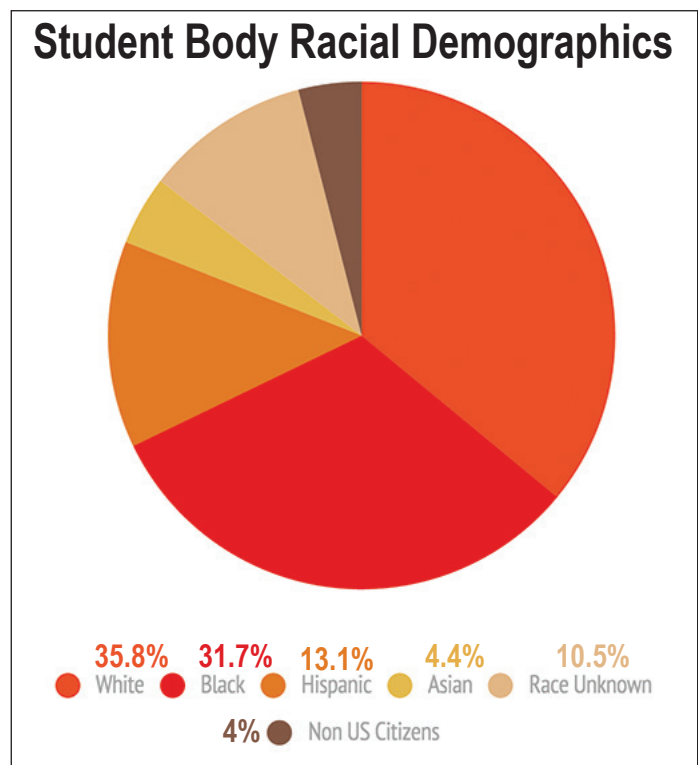
**James Reslier-Wells**

**TIP** - Take the time to figure out what you need to get from Mercer. Community college is more than just a place to get credits, it's an opportunity to explore your interests. Are you here to make friends? Good, join a club or talk to people outside of class; you are not the only lonely one. Are you here for a fresh start? Fine, keep your head down and look for opportunities to prove yourself. Are you here to get some requirements out of the way on the cheap? No problem, do your work and move on. Mercer is a place where you can position yourself to do just about anything, but none of those possibilities matter if you don't figure out why you're here.

*James Reslier-Wells graduated from MCCC with honors in 2013 and transferred to University of Michigan at Ann Arbor where he is currently studying film.*



# graduate in two years



All statistics are taken from MCCC's most recently published institutional data as published on the New Jersey Higher Education Commission website. Find link online at [mcccvoice.org](http://mcccvoice.org)

## Strategies to beat the odds

### STUDY AHEAD

The Accuplacer Test they give you determines if you get to start at college level math and English classes or have to pay for expensive non-college level classes to catch up. Those ones don't count toward your degree. Study for the test to avoid this setback. There are free guides online. See [mcccvoice.org](http://mcccvoice.org) for links

### LOAD UP

Most majors require 60 credits to graduate, so if you are planning to get out in two years you need to take 15 credits (5 classes) per semester. You will have to organize all your requirements and balance your strengths and weaknesses so you don't burn out.

### PLAN PLAN PLAN

If five classes per semester isn't going to work, plan to take one or two classes per summer. Don't take more than that because summer courses go faster so you have to complete more work in less time. The same holds true for online classes. Only take them in subjects you are already strong in.

### MANAGE TIME

If you are really serious about getting out you have to be really serious about developing strong time management skills. You have to build a time line for the two years and for each day, week and month and then force yourself to stick to it. Factor rest and family or personal time into your plans.

### COMMUNICATE

To ensure the plan you've created fits all the requirements and gets you out on time, don't rely on just one person in student services. Check with your actual advisor who knows your program and with a student advocate who can make sure you are on schedule.

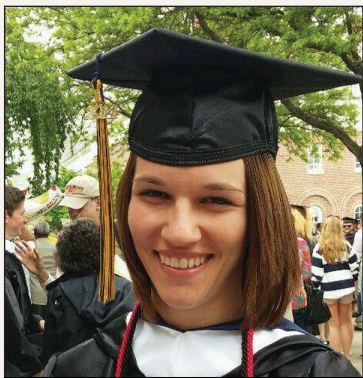


**Laura Pollack**

**TIP 1** - Find a place to go between classes. It doesn't have to be on campus. Maybe there's a place you like to eat lunch nearby or a friend's house you can go hang at after class. The campus isn't ideal, especially in the winter when you're stuck indoors where everything is beige and dusty, but that doesn't mean you can't go somewhere nice to relax.

**TIP 2** - Everyone jokes that Mer is "13th Grade," but Mercer does offer a surprising amount of cool classes. Plus, I found that the higher level classes I took actually helped me more when I went to my four-year university than the basic gen ed ones.

Laura Pollack graduated from MCCC in 2012, transferred to Rowan and graduated with Honors in 2015.



**Kellie Rendina**

**TIP 1** - If you really want to finish in two years, you will have to get strategic. That means summer classes, but try doing them online. I know it's not fun to have to think about school when you're supposed to be on vacation, but it is necessary if you want to move forward quickly. That said, try to only take online courses if you are confident that you will be able to work independently. For example, my associate's degree is in Liberal Arts and I needed a couple of math courses in order to fulfill my requirements. I took a low-level online math course that I expected to do well in. This way it was easy for me to work ahead of schedule and independently

Kellie Rendina graduated from MCCC in 2012, transferred to TCNJ and graduated Magna Cum Laude in 2014.



**Zac Santanello**

**TIP 1** -It can be hard to find the information you need because none of the departments seem to communicate (a problem at all colleges, not just Mercer). It can be a huge hassle, but don't let that stop you from doing the legwork of tracking down advisors, professors, and administrators to make sure you are doing all you need to do for your program and to ensure a smooth transfer process.

**TIP 2** - Be open to joining clubs and meeting different types of people. While at Mercer, I made some amazing friends while on the newspaper. Having this network is key to helping with class material and relieving stress.

Zac Santanello graduated from MCCC in 2014, transferred to the School of Visual Arts.



**Stephen Harrison**

**TIP** - Find a professor you trust and work with them to navigate the graduation and transfer process. It will be intense, but remember to leave a little room for fun or you'll lose your mind. Also don't lose faith that you can make it to a four year school from Mercer. Of course you can.

Stephen Harrison came to Mercer in his late 20's after years working in food service. He was a non-traditional student who graduated from MCCC with honors in 2014. He then took a gap year to pursue his interests in journalism and multimedia. He is now continuing his studies in Communication at Rowan University.



# Mercer can change your life; it changed mine

## I succeeded after failing out of a four year because of drug addiction

### MY EXPERIENCE



**TIM HESTER**

Mercer grad and former VOICE News Editor Tim Hester transferred to Rider University where he graduated magna cum laude in 2013 with a degree in Communication. He has been working steadily since graduation.

When I started at Mercer I was 23 years old. I was one of the dreaded “reverse transfer” students. Meaning I started at a four year school, and had to come back to community college. Traditionally, students who make the transfer this direction have an even lower chance of graduating than students who start at com-

munity college, odds that are already depressingly low.

Mentally, I was miserable. I had bombed out after 3 years at Quinnipiac University. I had recently become sober after a massive drug addiction and it was a miracle that my parents even agreed to let me move back home to finish school.

I was trying to climb out of the figurative and potentially literal grave I had dug myself.

During my first semester at Mercer, in the Fall of 2010, I was taking a philosophy class. During the second week of the semester, I decided I wanted to attempt to study because it was something I rarely did during my time at Quinnipiac. I remember being asked to give my opinion on the “utilitarian point of view” and at the end of a long rant, the professor praised me for my attention to detail.

That’s when I started to think, “I can do this,” in a global sense.

I realized that when I showed my professors that

I wanted to learn they were more than willing to help me. There are other students at Mercer who also want to succeed but are probably too scared to be the weird one who actually gives a shit. But I learned that there’s no shame in asking for help.

Around this same time I decided I’d try taking some journalism classes and started writing for the student newspaper.

For the first time since I got to Mercer, I started to feel a sense of camaraderie. I had support from the advisers and was carefully allowing myself to start making new friends.

Seeing my writing in print was a rush. I could hold in my hand an actual accomplishment. Professors and students on campus responded to what I wrote. I got feedback. I felt recognized for something other than the disasters that had come before. I travelled with some of the other student reporters to conferences and got to meet peers from other schools. I won some

awards and built a portfolio of work. I was elected a section editor of the paper.

After I graduated from Mercer I transferred to Rider University. I didn’t leave myself time in the middle to slow down. Somewhere during that time period I became a person who other students would seek help from. It’s a great feeling being able to help someone else and I wanted that to keep going.

Here’s what I found out: “The real world,” never goes according to plan, it’s just not going to happen, but what can happen is that you can begin to earn your self esteem.

I graduated from Rider Magna Cum Laude with a degree in Public Relations. But here’s that “real world not going as planned” thing again: since I got my B.A., I have done absolutely nothing in the field of Public Relations, zip.

I was hired by a mortgage subservicing company as a customer service representative. I won’t even begin to talk about

how unglamorous that job is, in fact, it was an experience I wish I scoop out of my brain with a spoon.

There I was again, in a place I did not want to be and I literally know less than nothing about mortgages. So I went back to the Mercer method. I studied and I sought out people who had the knowledge that I wanted.

I may not exactly love where I landed after college but I have gotten pretty good at it now. Since starting at the company two years ago I have been promoted to Client Implementation Liaison.

Maybe it sounds ridiculous, but I know deep in my core that I developed my survival habits at Mercer. I learned to look for the light at the end of the tunnel in what I consider to be unfortunate situations. I learned that if I put the work in and utilize the resources around me I can get what I need.

That is *everything*, and it all started at Mercer.

the college

# VOICE

### This is Russ

Russ was a New Media major at Mercer and pays the bills working at Petro Lube in Bordentown. But as a staff reporter for The College VOICE he covered the arts and entertainment scene, interviewing local bands, covering ComicCon in NY for his blog, even checking out the local ostrich farm looking for stories.

“Joining the VOICE helped me find purpose and direction for my life and career. It also lead me to meet some of the most excellent people in the world.”

-Russ Chizek

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To learn more stop by a training meeting: Mon. at noon in ET 127 or Wed. at noon in ES 131 or email [kochism@mccc.edu](mailto:kochism@mccc.edu).

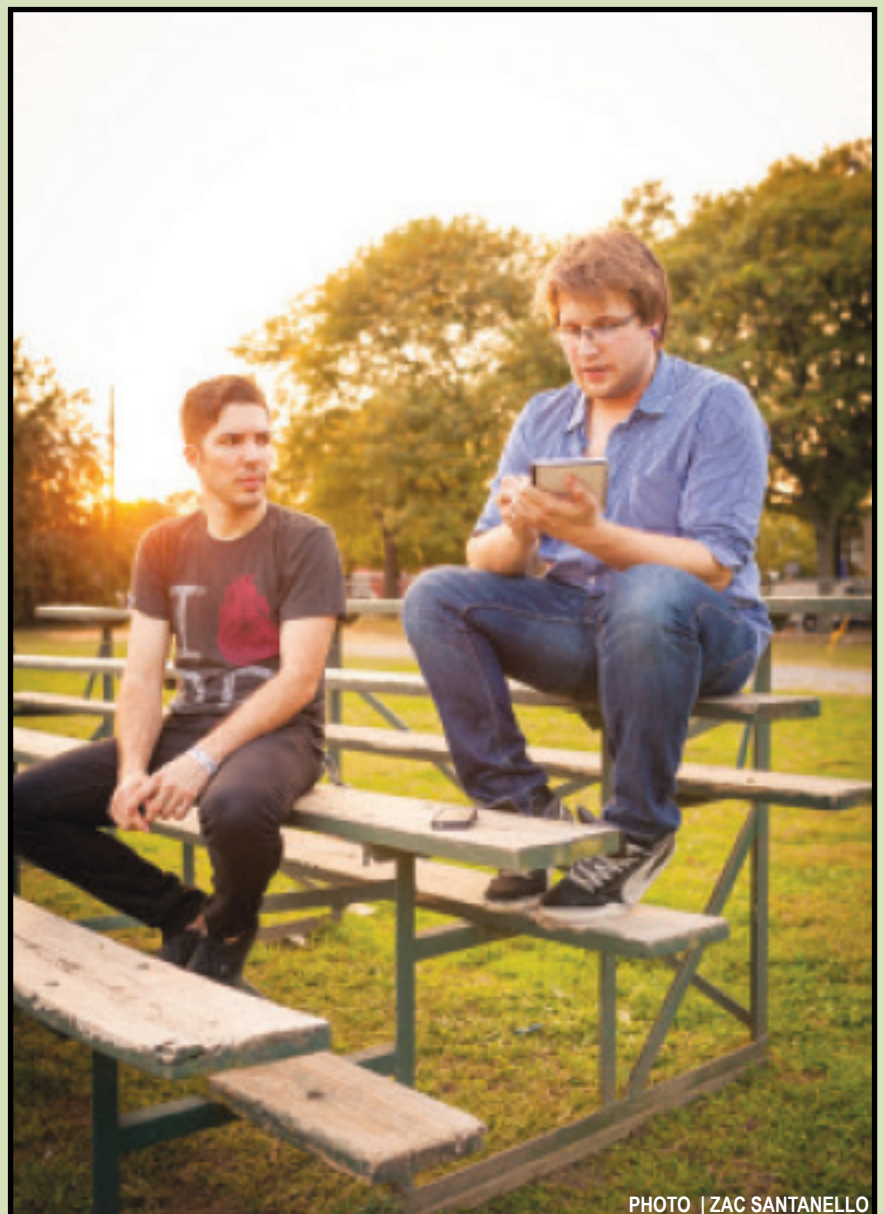


PHOTO | ZAC SANTANELLO



the college  
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# Students need to get out and vote

The issues in this election are too big for students to tune out

**AS I SEE IT**

**PATRICIA RAMIREZ**

Every four years America has the task of choosing a new president, and we are fast approaching the next election.

College students need to turnout the vote in 2016 and learn about candidates' views on issues that are important to them. We must vote for the candidates that mirror our beliefs.

Getting young people to vote early is the key to create a new generation of voters that will later replace older voting age groups. The youth must start deciding what we want for our country, because, our votes matter and can drastically influence the outcomes of the upcoming elections.

College students played an important role in the 2012 presidential election and helped Barack Obama win the White House. As the future of the voting population, we have the chance to frame this country. Once again, we can make a difference.

As of this writing, there are 17 Republicans who have announced they are running for president and 5 Democrats.

Among the leading Republican candidates is Donald Trump, or as many Latinos call him "El Hombre del Peluquin" -- "The Toupee's Man" -- a name that gained popularity after he publicly referred

to Mexicans as "rapists," "drug addicts" and "criminals."

According to CNN/ORC poll, this circus impresario has been rising in the polls up to second place with a 12 percent of vote among Republicans due to his name's recognition and by generating enormous attention to himself.

Meanwhile the same poll placed former Florida Governor Jeb Bush with a 19 percent rating. Also in the runnings are New Jersey's governor, Chris Christie, Ben Carson (a doctor from Maryland), John Kasich, Carly Fiorino, Rand Paul, Marco Rubio and more. Things this very diverse group seem to generally agree on include cutting "government waste," increasing free market trade, pushing back recent healthcare reforms, tightening immigration laws, and limiting reproductive rights.

Trump promises he will be "the greatest job president that God ever created." However, he lacks credibility to be a serious presidential candidate due to an absence of political experience and his unethical positions on immigration, among other things.

In addition, Trump's disorganized ideas such as building a wall along the southern border of the US and have Mexico pay for it as well as blaming international trade for "killing the US economically" might lead him to political ruin for not providing valid solutions to serious issues. But Americas are still entertaining the idea of President Trump.

On the other side, we have Hillary Clinton running for the Democratic Party who has capitalized on her brand

**Survey of MCCC Voter Registration**

**18**

Students registered to vote


**12**

Students not registered to vote



recognition and roles as former First Lady, Senator and Secretary of State to bolster her political campaign.

Since launching her campaign this past April, Hillary has advocating policies based on making educational investments, reducing income inequality and increasing social justice.

Clinton's favorability numbers have dropped slightly in the past months according to the newest poll from NBC and The Wall Street Journal. The new results show Clinton with 37 percent approval.

One factor in these ratings may be questions about her email accounts. For the four years she was Secretary of State, Clinton never used an official state government email address. Instead, she had been using a private email account to conduct government business. This issue caused a major controversy that might slow Clinton's Presidential campaign, but it may become less of a problem in the time remaining before the election.

Another factor in Clinton's polling numbers is the rise of another candidate, Senator Bernie Sanders from Vermont. His is running as a Democrat but is technically an Independent. He has called himself a "democratic socialist" meaning his views

are socially progressive and liberal.

There are some choices to be made.

So, are Mercer students paying attention? In a survey recently conducted by The VOICE, 18 out of 30 students said they were registered to vote. According to most of these students, their votes would go to support Hillary Clinton or Chris Christie for their respective parties in the upcoming 2016 presidential election.

But the number of students registered is not high enough when you consider how many issues in this election affect young people directly. These issues include things like medical care (Trump and most of the Republicans want to get rid of "Obamacare"), tuition breaks for college students, immigration issues, military spending and much much more.

We must educate ourselves about the candidates, so we can make informed decisions.

**FOR INFO ON VOTER REGISTRATION OR TO REGISTER TO VOTE, CHECK OUT:**

**[www.rockthevote.com/register-to-vote/](http://www.rockthevote.com/register-to-vote/)**

Do you see a typo?

Then join the staff and fix it!

Wednesdays 12noon ET 127

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**Editorial Policy:**

The College VOICE is written and edited by students of Mercer County Community College and published every 3 weeks under the advisement of a faculty adviser. 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.

**How to contact us:**

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c/o Prof. Matt Kochis  
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**FACULTY**  
**EXHIBIT** **2015**

**SHOW DATES**  
September 8 - 24

**RECEPTION**  
Wednesday, September 9  
5:30 - 7 p.m.

**GALLERY HOURS**

Monday	11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Tuesday	11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Wednesday	11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Thursday	11 a.m. - 3 p.m.



This exhibit is made possible in part through the support of the Mercer County Cultural & Heritage Commission, with funding from the NJ State Council on the Arts/Department of State.



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9 - 21 - 15

Bistro  
with an accent



*Zinna's Bistro is a family-owned and operated Italian-American bistro that opened in January 2010. At Zinna's, we believe good food is simple food made with the freshest, highest quality ingredients available including a variety of produce that grows in our own on-premise garden.*

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Hours of Operation  
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Friday & Saturday 11:00AM - 10:00PM



# Just 4 FUN

## Classic Peanuts



## HOROSCOPES



**Capricorn**  
Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

Keep an eye on your wallet because a very interesting financial transaction is headed your way.



**Aquarius**  
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

Keep your heart open, because a romantic interest will talk to you. They may be closer than you think.



**Pisces**  
Feb. 19 - Mar. 20

At work, an amazing opportunity will arise if you are willing to seize it. Others see risk, where you see opportunity.



**Aries**  
Mar. 21 - Apr. 19

Pay close attention to your friends and family. You will receive important information that will heal a troubled relationship.



**Taurus**  
Apr. 20 - May 20

Keep your head down and work hard. Much awaited recognition is headed your way this month.



**Gemini**  
May 21 - Jun. 20

Your love life will take an interesting turn this month. Some forgotten feelings will resurface



**Cancer**  
Jun. 21 - Jul. 22

Resist the urge to spend beyond your means. You will be tempted by an intriguing purchase early in the month.



**Leo**  
Jul. 23 - Aug. 22

Plan for the unexpected. An event will catch you unaware, but where some will experience stress, you will take on the thrill of the challenge.



**Virgo**  
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

Feeling overwhelmed or stressed out? Treat yourself and splurge. This will allow you to focus on the problems at hand with an open mind and a lighter heart.




**Libra**  
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

Your usual tactics for handling a confrontation will not work this month. Instead, after you voice your concerns to those around you, let others find a solution.



**Scorpio**  
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Love, patience, and kindness will guide you through this month. A friend or loved one will seek you out for assistance that only you can give.



**Sagittarius**  
Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

Change is in the air. Employment, romance, and finances are all at stake. Seek out these changes. Resistance is futile in the face of opportunity.



the college  
VOICE

Make friends, hone your skills, improve your resume.

E-mail us at  
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SUDOKU

Difficulty: 3 (of 5)

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PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

## Dilbert and Get Fuzzy

