



OPIOID RELATED DEATHS INCREASE IN NJ. CHECK OUT OUR PROFILE PIECE ON THE STRUGGLES TO OVERCOME ADDICTION. | PG 6-7

MCCC hosts post-election conversation



PHOTO | SAVANNAH DZIEPAK

Faculty Speakers Elizabeth Bondurant (left) and Professor Haywood (right).



PHOTO | SAVANNAH DZIEPAK

Faculty speaker M. Nichole Pollard-Alford (left) and student speaker Peira Wood (right)

By Savannah Dziejak
Photography Editor

On Monday, November 21, 2016 Mercer faculty held the discussion “America, What Now? An After Election Conversation” in response to student reactions following the recent Presidential election. The event was the first of its kind at Mercer.

Around 20 students and 15 faculty members, including the speakers, attended the forum. Diane Campbell, Executive Dean for Student Affairs ran the event. Campbell said that to the best of her knowledge, a post-election forum has not been held before at MCCC.

In response to why it was held two weeks after election, Campbell stated, “That’s how long it took for the information to come back to us that students were being affected.” Campbell said after the election results, an MCCC student shared with a faculty member their concern of getting bombed.

“When faculty are hearing these kinds of things in their classroom and share it with others, we invite students to come and have a conversation so that we can monitor if a student needs

help, and also so that we can be involved,” said Campbell.

In regards to the discussion, student Blessing Cummings, who attended and participated in the event, responded, “If it had been earlier, a lot of people would have had a lot of things to say.” Cummings stated that he participated in the forum because he was “shocked” at the election results and wanted to see what other students had to say.

When asked by faculty what students want from MCCC as an institution, student speaker Peira Wood replied, “I wish more people were open to having these uncomfortable conversations,” and that more students should have been at the discussion. Wood encouraged other students to speak up and that “silence is violence.”

The second student speaker, Koran Green, said he would like to see Mercer make students more aware of what they are losing and gaining by voting or not voting.

“Only those who are willing to do the work are those who will have an impact on determining the answer to ‘What now?’ or ‘What next?’” said faculty speaker and Professor of Communications Alvyn

Haywood. “We can no longer continue to practice the religion of ignorance.”

“I think the turnout was low, but I was happy that the students were reflective and they were discussing,” said Campbell. “I much preferred that kind of environment.”

At the discussion, multiple speakers expressed concerns of racist acts and crimes sparked by the election, as well as their own experiences with racism.

“Being muslim, being Arab is not the thing to be,” said faculty speaker and Financial Aid Advisor M. Nichole Pollard-Alford. “All of this evokes fear.”

The faculty speakers shared the website southernwatchpoverty.com which is a watchdog for racism, allowing concerned students and faculty to keep up on current events.

As a follow up event to the discussion, Professor Haywood is going to be holding a movie screening for students of the film “Hidden Colors” where pizza will be provided. The movie is about the marginalization of African Americans in America and the world. The date has yet to be announced.

For students who are

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Adjunct instructors versus full-time professors

By Alyssa Flodmand
Managing Editor

Adjunct professors and full-time, tenure-track professors are classified differently in higher education. Tenured or tenure-track professors are full-time employees of a college or university whereas adjunct professors work part-time. A recent survey of Mercer students found 50 percent are ignorant of the differences between the two classifications, which, according to recent studies, could undermine student success. Similarities between

adjuncts and full-time faculty exist. Professors and adjuncts are members of different unions but both unions are currently working without a contract because they are in negotiations with Mercer administration. The VOICE’s research for this article found professorial education levels are often comparable regardless of classification. It is possible this is why half of Mercer students surveyed made it this far unaware of the differences between the two types of educators. Full-time professors are salaried employees and at Mercer specifically, salaries average between \$78,000 and \$80,000 annually.

According to Fall 2015 rates of the adjunct contract, pay rates range from \$2,274 and \$2,496 per course. Mercer’s contract negotiations are the meetings where professors and/or adjuncts can negotiate contract terms with their superiors. Salary is discussed among other things like benefits, terms of promotion, evaluations and even a professor’s class/work load can be negotiated. Three sessions take place in order to come to a happy medium for both parties. Adjunct professors are educators with the same credentials of a full-time

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PHOTO | ALYSSA FLODMAND

Adjunct professor David Schraeger teaching his Spanish 101 class.



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MCCC supports veterans and the Madison Holleran Act becomes law | PG. 2



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Campus Events

MCCC is nations most military-friendly two-year college



PHOTO | MCCC

Chris Molnar, a veteran of the United States Marines, spoke at the event.

By Tim O'Boyle
Junior Reporter

On Wednesday November 11 MCCC held its Veterans Day ceremony. During the observance it was revealed to students, faculty and staff that MCCC had received the honor of being named the number one military-friendly school among all two-year colleges in the nation. The recognition was presented by Victory Media, a keeper of informational resource material that works with United States active duty military personnel, veterans and their families.

This is the second award

that MCCC has received since being honored as a Purple Heart Community College by the New Jersey Military Order of the Purple Heart during the annual 9/11 ceremony held two months earlier. MCCC has become the first two-year College in New Jersey to receive the award.

The bestowing of these two awards in such quick succession of each other is a testament to the Veterans Services office and the new Veterans Resource Center. The Center, which was opened on Veterans Day of 2015, aims to help the 153 student veterans at Mercer through helpful resources like a study area.

"It's a tremendous



PHOTO | MCCC

Ely Gonzalez, a spouse of a veteran, spoke at the event.

honor," said Dean of Liberal Arts Dr. Bob Kleinschmidt, "I think on a number of different fronts it's really important for us as an institution because it acknowledges the work we've done. And it acknowledges the significance that we've placed on dealing with veterans and the special needs that they might and could have."

Kleinschmidt is a Marine Corps veteran and spent the 4 years between 1994 and 1998 as a saxophone and clarinet player in a field band for the Corps.

"I enjoyed my time. I spent a lot of time travelling across the United States supporting different events, retirements, public service. Pretty much anywhere we were asked to go."

Mercer prides itself on having such classroom oriented Student Veterans. "These are people who are committed, and organized, and dedicated, and they're willing to show up to class, on time, with their work done," Kleinschmidt said.

"I remember when I first got off active duty, and I was

in Graduate school, it was an adjustment and it would have been good to have somebody to talk to who understood because it's different, especially on a college campus," said Kleinschmidt, speaking from his own personal experience. "That's for me the biggest piece of why it's necessary and valuable to have a Veterans Services department. To make that contact, and to help some of us adjust."

Victory Media started the rating of both workplaces and schools in 2003. According to their website, Victorymedia.com, "By participating in the Military Friendly® survey, schools and employers are able to incorporate the latest, unique data about their institutions not captured elsewhere, giving service members and their families a well-rounded look at education and employment opportunities."

Mercer will be sharing the honor of being deemed by Victory Media as a Military Friendly Institution with schools like Brown University, Columbia University and New York University.

"I think for the rest of our community, and the Veterans who are out there, it strongly signals to them that this is a place that is welcoming," said Kleinschmidt, "and we value your service, we value your time and we're here to continue to serve you."

The honor is one that must go through careful scrutiny by Victory Media, where they look for qualities such as a nationwide presence, strong reputation within the military community, and whether your staff speaks military language/understands military transitioners.

Looking ahead, Mercer has a bright future in attracting more student veterans to the school and being able to use their experience and different view on the world for the benefit of the classroom.

"I think we take serving and acknowledging that population of students in our community very seriously," Kleinschmidt said, "I see a lot of evidence that we're very cognizant of helping, being there, and providing access to different services."

MCCC works to comply with the Madison Holleran Act

By Allison Ballesterio
Junior Reporter

The Madison Holleran Act, recently passed in New Jersey, enforces that institutions of higher education work with faculty and staff to help them recognize signs of stress in students, providing hotlines, and twenty-four hour on-campus help.

As declared in the State of New Jersey 217th Legislature, "The bill requires an institution of higher education to have individuals with training and experience in mental health issues who focus on reducing student suicides and attempted

suicides available on campus or remotely by telephone or other means for students 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

Kassandra Pinerio, a Visual Arts Major at Mercer County Community College, says, "Going to school and working is a lot, and if I'm focusing on my creative work, I'm failing classes."

This is the case for many students in college. According to the article "Academic Stress of College Students," (students and faculty members were 21 years and 42 years respectively), results indicated a considerable mismatch between faculty and students in their perceptions of student stressors and reactions to stress.

Maria Rodriguez, Professor and Counselor at Mercer County Community College, commented on what should be done in the event a student shows signs of stress. "Listening to the student very carefully, if they need a little more help I'd send them to a counselor."

New Jersey Youth Suicide Report states, "Suicide remains the third leading cause of death in New Jersey youth between the ages of 10 to 24."

The Student Life Leadership Department sponsors free Yoga and Zumba classes for students to relieve stress. MCCC's website also includes a suicide prevention tab, listings of counselors and their business hours

for students thinking about suicide.

Mercer County Community College provides hotlines and numbers for students as well, for after hours students can contact the security office at, (609)570-3503. There is also the New Jersey Hopeline, (1-855-654-6735) and the Mercer County Helpline, (609-396-4357).



PHOTO | WIKIPEDIA

Governor Christie signed the Madison Holleran Suicide Prevention Act into law in August of this year.

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EVENTS IN OUR
AREA?
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Photography department receives endowment

By Carl Fedorko
Editor in Chief

Mercer Department Photo Coordinator, Professor Michael Dalton, received an endowment of no less than \$700,000 from the estate of Charles David Walker and Drucella Anna Walker in mid-November.

The endowment honors Mercer alumna Drucella Anne "Dee" Walker, daughter of Drucella Anna and Charles David Walker. "Dee" Walker was a lifelong photography enthusiast and attended college at night before earning a Psychology degree in 1982

according to her obituary. While at MCCC, she was a student of Professor Bill Barksdale, who founded the Photography Department. She died in 2014.

The philanthropic Walker estate sponsors two scholarships at Mercer in addition to this new endowment. The interest on the \$700,000 gift will be used at the discretion of Professor Dalton.

"This money isn't a gift you get all at once. That's the difference between a grant and an endowment. With an endowment, you leave the principal money alone and only spend the interest," Dalton said in a recent interview with

The VOICE. "But that interest alone will allow us to refurbish the photo lab and purchase necessities like supplies and equipment," he said.

Asked how the updates will help the students, Professor Dalton said "Students will have more hands-on experiences and perhaps more travel opportunities within the Visual Arts Program."

One specific update is a plan for a new Photo-specific computer lab. "We're giving them (students) the tools they need in order to be successful."

Since he began running the Photo Department, Dalton has seen his students win State and National awards before transferring to schools like



PHOTO | MCCC

Photo Department Coordinator, Professor Michael Dalton.

Pratt, School of Visual Arts, VCU and Rutgers-Mason Gross.

"Overall this is great news for Photo," Dalton said in his office before meeting with one of his students.

The Celebrity Scoop



LeBron James

Sports Illustrated has selected LeBron James, basketball player for the Cleveland Cavaliers, as this year's Sportsperson of the Year. Citing his ability to lead the Cavaliers to ending a 52-year title drought, LeBron joins Tiger Woods as the only two-time winner.



Rogue One: A Star Wars Story

The next film to be included within the *Star Wars* Anthology series will premiere on December 16. Focused on Jyn Erso, a Rebellion soldier and criminal, the movie will explore her mission to steal plans for the Death Star. As a prequel, the events occur before *Star Wars: A New Hope*.



Inauguration Day

By winning the Electoral College on Tuesday, November 8 by 306 votes, Donald Trump has become the President-Elect of the United States of America. He will be sworn into office on Friday, January 20, 2017 during the United States Presidential Inauguration.

College awarded a \$2.25 million Title III federal grant

By Svetlana Craft
Reporter

In September, Mercer County Community College was awarded a Title III Federal Grant of \$2.25 million to improve student-centered services and upgrade equipment from the US Department of Education.

In a recent VOICE interview, Mark Harris, Vice President for Finance and Administration, explained how grant money will be invested in e-advising, additional student success coaches, summer tutoring programs, a new waitlist system, upgraded computers and labs.

Jennifer Smith, one of three Student Success Coaches at Mercer, added online accommodations to the list of changes the grant money will induce.

According to Dr. Jianping Wang, President of the college, this grant was not just handed

over. "It was a lengthy process in which a team of faculty and staff worked on for four years. With the particular guidelines that needed to be followed, the administration team just recently was able to get their hands on the grant in November," Dr. Wang said.

This grant will be provided to Mercer over the next five years, allowing the school to spend \$450,000 annually, according to Dr. Harris.

One of the changes this grant enabled is hiring additional Student Success Coaches. "They advise students, they reach out to the students, they monitor their progress, they provide guidelines and counseling to those students to make sure they make adequate progress towards completion," Dr. Wang said.

Before this grant Mercer had just one part-time student success coach. Now, it has two full time student success coaches and one part time. They are available on

e-advising and in school or they are available to get in contact with them via email and phone calls.

Jennifer Smith, who started working for Mercer in 1997 as an English Instructor, became a Student Success Coach in 2013. Smith primarily stays on the West Windsor Campus, although the Coaches do go to the James Kerney Campus as well. Smith noted that she is currently working with about 800 student this Fall semester alone. "Students come in here and have a sigh of relief," Smith said.

In addition to Success Coaches, Mercer instituted "Student Planning," an online self-tracker that enables students to search for courses, make schedules for multiple semesters, print unofficial transcripts, keep in contact with your advisor or student success coach and, in the future, pay for transcript requests.

Students are able to learn about Student Planning

through their announcements in Blackboard. The hope is that increased access will help inform students on their next steps towards graduation.

"It tells you how far you are towards your completion, it tells you what courses you yet have to take, and tells you how far you are away you are away from your graduation," Dr. Wang stated.

Future goals to bolster student success include more tutors available during the summer to reduce the need for students to take developmental classes.

The new Waitlist System is another new process this fall in which students are able to sign up for classes that are filled and be notified via e-mail if a spot has opened up for them. "Once the e-mail is sent to the student, they must reply within 24 hours to save their spot in that class," according to Dr. Harris.

"We're trying to do the basic things students must have," Dr. Wang said.

Get into the holiday mood with these movies over break

Miracle on 34th Street (1947): 3.5/5



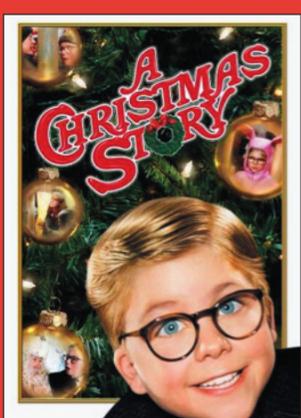
Possibly the cutest, sassiest little girl to ever grace the silver screen, Natalie Wood, plays Susan Walker, a girl who isn't in the least convinced of Santa's existence. A beautiful, classic holiday movie for the whole family.

It's a Wonderful Life (1946): 5/5



This is just one of those ageless movies that can make even the toughest person tear up. The cheesy, but heartfelt storyline and love that withstands even the most repressed of times all contribute to this film's lasting holiday sentiment.

A Christmas Story (1983): 4/5



Universally hilarious, this movie relives the Christmases of childhood through the eyes of Ralphie, a kid who only wants a Red Ryder B.B. gun this year. The response he usually gets? "You'll shoot yer eye out, kid!"

Home Alone (1990): 4/5



With the absolutely adorable and unforgettable Kevin McAllister, this movie is an all-time favorite and never gets old! I mean, an 8-year-old hero single-handedly outsmarts two house burglars by booby-trapping the house. Who wouldn't like that?!

The S... is being custom... of the Galaxy

Celebrating 20 years of success with Simone

By Svetlana Craft
Reporter

John Simone is a prominent figure at Mercer County Community College. Having served as Mercer's Athletic Director for 20 years, he has seen drastic changes in the athletic program and how it has also impacted students' lives and futures.

In his time at MCCC, he has renovated the gymnasium, the swimming pool, added turf to the soccer field and has sent 200+ athletes to the next level where they continued their athletic goals.

Before joining MCCC, Simone worked at Notre Dame High School for 22 years where he coached basketball and baseball while serving as Athletic Director. According to the Notre Dame website he had over 400 victories including two Men's Basketball CVC championships, 17 Women's Basketball CVC titles, County and State Sectional Championships and 5 Parochial State Baseball Championships.

Simone has been nominated by his peers for "Man of the Year" award in both 2007 and 2011.

Simone does not just work with athletics, he is also involved in the school's academia dealing with budgets, various committees

and mentoring students.

On his busy schedule, Simone says, "trying to make the time to go to every scheduled game can be difficult. It's hard having time away from family. I work during the summer and do not get long holidays."

Vinny Vaccone, a shortstop on the Viking baseball team said "Whenever I've needed help, Mr. Simone was there for assistance. He is around most of our games. If it's [a home game] he will be there. He even flew out to Oklahoma for the World Series last season!"

Ryan Zegarski, a 2000 Mercer graduate and Viking baseball veteran said in a recent interview with The VOICE "Simone has always been a caring person and made the effort to come to all of their games."

Mr. Simone has always had a passion for sports. By age 9 he already knew that he wanted to play sports and work for something sports related. As a kid, he played basketball and baseball.

Simone's record and accomplishments are irrefutable. But according to the man himself, the real difference makers are in the small gestures. "I don't just do my job and go home at the end of the day. I try to know the athletes by their first name and get to know where they would like to go after MCCC."



Athletic Director John Simone busy in his office helping students.

PHOTO | SVETLANA CRAFT

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

Mondays @ 12:30 in ET 127

Thursdays @ noon in ET 127

Women's cross country wins regionals



PHOTO | ZAYVION THOMPSON

On October 30, 54 athletes represented their colleges at the cross-country regionals held at Branch Brook park.

By Zayvion Thompsom
Reporter

not half ass your training. For every minute of every day you are getting stronger and have the confidence to cross that finish line."

Staying focused is another crucial element needed in order to do well in cross country. Andrea Foster, a member of Essex County College Women's Cross Country team, said about her running philosophy, "I focus on achieving my goal." Santini said, "I stay focused by thinking ahead and predicting things."

For a sport that requires so much strength and endurance, Coach Michael DeAngelis says "It doesn't get much shine."

Lack of shine contrasts with the Mercer Women's Cross Country team's accomplishments this season. By winning regionals the team earned the right to compete in the National Finals where the ladies hope to stay a step ahead of their competition.

On Sunday, October 30th, at Branch Brook Park Mercer defeated rivals Essex County College and Del Tech at the Regional Cross Country meet with a total score of 39. Essex finished with a score of 48, while Del Tech finished with a score of 43 at regionals. In cross country, the lower the score the better it is for the team.

Breanna Santini, a runner for the Mercer squad, offers this advice to women willing to give the sport a shot, "You have to do cross country for the love of the sport. If you love the sport, each and every practice should be a practice to where you work your tail off and do

“Twas the Night Before Christmas” at the Kelsey

By Oscar Trigueros
Junior Reporter

Attending a Christmas play is a tradition for many families during the holidays. Fortunately for Mercer students and local families, Kelsey Theatre, the Radio City Music Hall of Mercer County Community College is playing the timeless classic “Twas the Night Before Christmas.” You won’t be disappointed.

There were technical difficulties with the sound quality but what performance doesn’t have its issues? Some members of the cast sang louder than the others, which was conflicting and noticeable. Occasional static coming from the speaker was distracting. Despite a couple snags the cast remained in character.

Vibrant lighting and creative scenery made up for those minor issues, making “Twas the Night Before” unforgettable. Changing from red, white and blue, the lights suited the mood of each scene. A variety of props, such as warm, glowing street lanterns and Christmas wreaths, added life to an already energetic show. The fake snow flurrying

from above the stage and audience helped seal my five star rating.

A detailed and varied wardrobe was first to catch my eye. Any similar outfits among the cast had minor differences in shoes or hats, to make each one unique to its character. The wardrobe was colorful and bright, and the costumes also had great features, like antlers or heels on the shoes for those playing a deer.

While at some plays, the audience and cast are separate entities, “Twas the Night Before Christmas” proved otherwise. In addition to the fake snow, by interacting with the crowd and asking questions, the cast kept the audience engaged. Most of the actors kept a lively face while they sang and danced, but some did not seem to be as engaged as the others.

The Director, Diane Wargo, was a fellow Mercer County Community College graduate in 1983, having once served as an Entertainment Editor on the College VOICE. Diane Wargo has been behind production for this play for the last ten years, having worked on “Twas The Night Before Christmas” many times before.

“I think each [play] brings its own unique feel to



PHOTO | SAVANNAH DZIEPAK

Eliza Moore (Director Diane Wargo) and son Christopher Moore (Nicholas Benedetti).

it. I don’t necessarily have any favorites. I live in the moment and I love the people I work with at that moment. I love this cast. This cast has been fast to learn this show,” said Wargo. The cast auditioned for the role and the majority of the children come from all around Mercer County and Bucks County, PA. Many of them found out about auditions for the play on the Kelsey Theater website and seized the opportunity.

“I did three school plays before. Since I am being home schooled this year, I can’t do drama. So I decided I would look on the internet for another play, and I found this one and it seemed really fun,” said Sophia Phelan, who had multiple roles in the play including narrator, snowdancer, and reindeer.

The play has something that it can offer to both children and adults. For the children it will be a fun sing-along and for the adults it

will encourage them “to be a child sometimes,” as the play describes it.

“I feel like everyone is gonna enjoy it. I feel it is going to be a great play,” said Bridget Godfrey, who plays Henrietta.

Opening night is Friday, December 4th at 7 PM. You can buy tickets at the box office or get them online at <http://www.kelseyatmccc.org/>. Tickets are 12 dollars for adults and 10 dollars for students, children and seniors.

Jazz band prepares for end of the year concert

By Tim O’Boyle
Junior Reporter

On Wednesday December 14, starting at 7:30 p.m., Mercer County Community College’s Music department will be holding its bi-annual concert at Kelsey Theater for the school’s Jazz Band.

The multi piece Jazz Band enjoys a wide variety of sound from the three horn brass section, three guitarists, and two bassists to two pianists, a drummer and even a vibes player. The group will also be accompanied by an ex Broadway singer and three professional brass players for four out of their nine song set list.

The new Music Coordinator, and Director of Mercer’s Jazz Band, Professor Scot Hornick is a product of the Music Department at Mercer, and has found success by playing with Jazz legends like John Scofield and the Blues-Rock legend Chuck Hammer, who is known for his textural guitar work with Lou Reed and David Bowie.

“You name it, I’ve played it,” said Hornick. “I’ve done records with Orchestras, I’ve done Death Metal records, I’ve done Country records, I’ve done Jazz, Big band, Small band, and Avant-Garde, you name it.”



PHOTO | ELIZABETH RZASA

MCCC’s Jazz Band at Princeton Market Fair on November 30th.

Hornick first came to Mercer’s music program at the age of 16 after dropping out of school at Hamilton West. “This place helped me out when I was a teenager trying to get my stuff together.”

Hornick went on to finish an undergraduate degree at Berklee College of Music in Boston Massachusetts.

There is lots of excitement for Hornick’s new position as Jazz Band Director, and some of the songs on the set list

seem to reflect that excitement. Pieces such as “September” by Earth, Wind, and Fire and a Ballad version of “Sweet Child O’ Mine” will be featured during the performance, and Hornick claims, “It will be hard to sit there and not tap your foot.”

Speaking of the upcoming performance, one of the pianists of the group Matt Tucci said, “I particularly am fond of “The In Crowd.” I also like playing the Christmas

tunes, especially those in the Charlie Brown collection.”

This is Tucci’s final semester playing with the Jazz Band and he is very happy with the changes that Hornick has brought. “He has us playing extra gigs and we learn a large amount of songs.” Tucci said, “In semesters past we’ve only learned the songs we were going to play, but this semester we’ve been given about 20 or so songs that we’ve practiced.”

The performance on the

14 will not be the first time this group has performed in front of a live audience. On November 28 the group performed for the residents at Bear Creek Assisted Living in West Windsor Township.

The group also performed for shoppers at Princeton Market Fair on November 30, playing holiday themed music. “The Jazz Band needs to be playing to get experience,” said Hornick, “So next semester we are hoping to do 6 or 7 shows including Kelsey.”

The concert at Kelsey is free and will also include independent student projects. Hornick sees the concert as an opportunity for MCCC students who may not be versed in Jazz to support their fellow students as well as local art.

“Music’s an art, and we need to support live art to begin with,” said Hornick, “It’s 12 people, we’re adding 4, so we’re going to have 16 people playing at times, that are going to be playing together. They’ve worked hard. It’s really musical, it’s a fun event. I think it’s just a really good experience.”

The performance will be taped and broadcasted by 89.1 WWFM, MCCC’s radio station and a student from the TV department will videotape it as well. However, according to Hornick, “You don’t want to be the one to say you weren’t there.”

By Joe Landolfi
Reporter

Matt Carvin describes himself as a carefree, happy go lucky person before addiction entered his life. He became addicted to Percocet at age 18 everything changed. Matt's story is only one of many stories of people from New Jersey who have also had to battle opioid addiction.

Matt, now a 24 year old Hamilton resident and former patient at the Seabrook House in Bridgeton, NJ, points the blame at the doctors who he says made him and his entire graduating class dependent on prescription opioids. "The doctors were giving them [Percocet] out like they were lollipops," Carvin said. Matt said it was his addiction to Percocet when he was a senior in high school is what led to him using heroin by the time he turned 20 years old.

Matt credits his strong religious beliefs for helping him overcome his addiction and says it keeps him clean and sober today. "I pray every day and every night to God to keep the temptation to use away from me and help me stay strong," said Carvin.

His sister Gabriella detailed the physical and emotional toll her brother's addiction had on her, him and their family. "He would have panic attacks and outbursts of anger when he was going through withdrawal. In a way the withdrawals were as bad as the addiction. Seeing him go through that was not just horrible for him, but also for me and my parents."

While many, including Matt have pointed blame at the doctors for making opioids so accessible, not all heroin addicts in New Jersey turn to heroin due to a pre-existing painkiller addiction. Jason Covijo, a 21 year old recovering addict and Hightstown resident, turned to heroin at 16 years old in order to relieve the stress of life. "A heroin high makes you feel numb so you don't worry or stress about anything," he said.

Matt has been sober for over a year now and is pursuing a career in electrical work. Also, Jason was recently released from rehab facility that he chose not to name and faces the beginning of his sober life. However, some individuals who have battled heroin addiction got second chances.

Data from the N.J. Department of Criminal Justice shows that the number of heroin related deaths in New Jersey from 2005-2014 has ranged from 362 in 2005, all the way to 741 in 2014. Heroin related deaths more than doubled in that nine year span.

According to Roseanne Scotti, New Jersey's State Director of the Drug Policy Alliance, there has been some progress legislating harm reduction strategies in the form of The Good Samaritan Emergency Response Act. A bill that gives people immunity from arrest if they call 911 to report an overdose, allowing first responders to prioritize lifesaving above drug arrests.

However, Scotti thinks more effective prevention methods and more access to treatment are needed. "There's a waiting list for treatment providers all across the state" Scotti said. "We need more money for drug treatment, that's something that's just gonna cost money, and the state seems to be in a bad place in terms of budget deficit. So, I'm not sure that more money is going to come for that."

For the past six years, Mercer County Community College has released a crime statistics report in accordance with the Clery Act. A federal law which requires institutes of higher education nationwide to collect and report annually all crimes that occur both on and near campus. Clery reports require inclusion of previous years crime statistics. MCCC's most recent Clery report indicates that one drug related arrest occurred on the West Windsor campus in 2014. It also states that a combined 13 drug related arrests occurred on public property near the Trenton campus during 2013-2014.

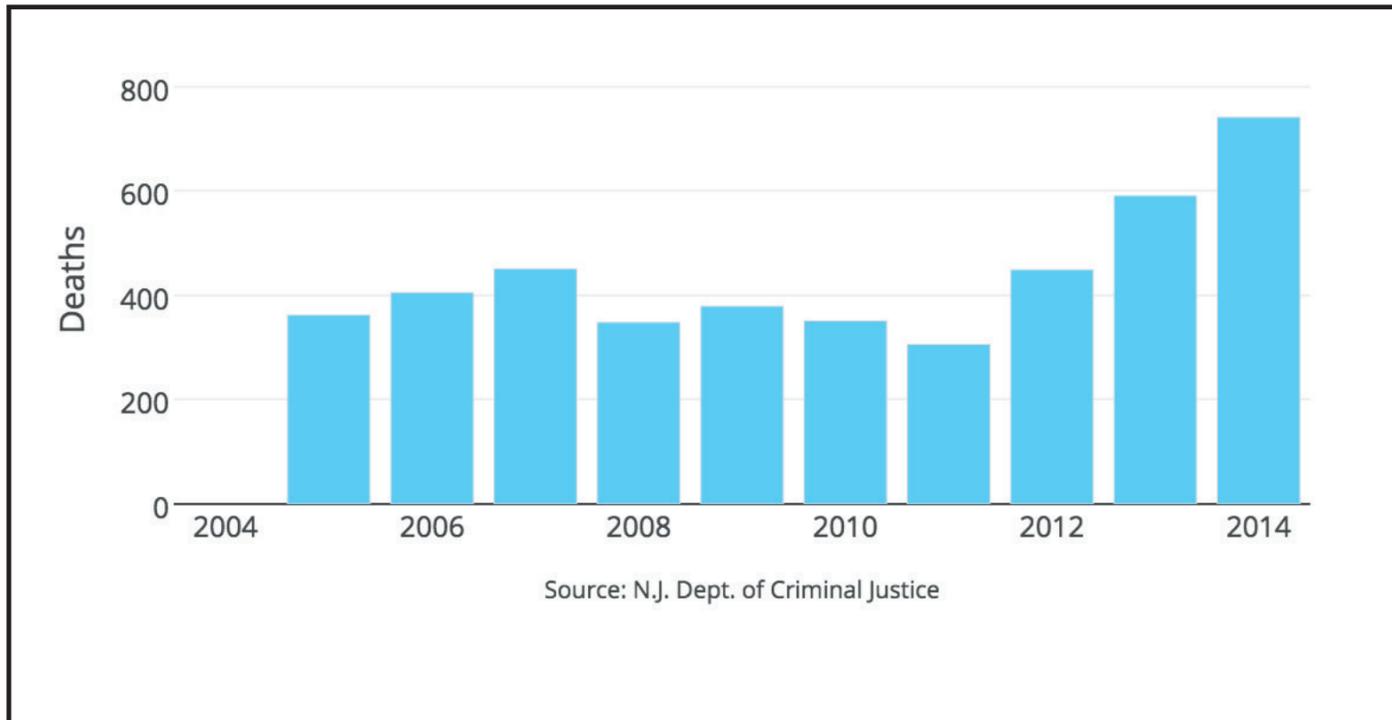
Michael Flaherty, Mercer's Commanding Officer of Security and Title IX Investigator, said "According to Clerial (sic) geography, any drug related incident that happens either on our campuses or on public property near both our campuses has to be reported." Flaherty added the 2014 West Windsor campus arrest was not opioid related, but was an instance of a student caught smoking marijuana on campus.



PHOTO | JOE CEEZER

Matt Carvin's tattoo. He credits religion as helping him overcome his addiction.

DEATHS RELATED TO OPIOID USE



2016 CLERY REPORT AT MCCC

Burglary



ILLUSTRATION | FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS

In 2015, the West Windsor campus saw an increase in reported burglaries (**1 incident**) compared to 2014 (**0 incidents**). The James Kerney Campus remained the same for both years (**0 incidents**).

Weapons



ILLUSTRATION | FLICKR CREATIVE COMMONS

In 2015, the West Windsor campus saw an increase in illegal weapons (**1 incident**) compared to 2014 (**0 incidents**). The James Kerney Campus remained the same for both years (**0 incidents**).

Stalking



ILLUSTRATION | ISTOCK

In 2015, the West Windsor campus saw an increase in reported stalking incidents (**3 incidents**) compared to 2014 (**0 incidents**). The James Kerney Campus remained the same for both years (**0 incidents**).

Domestic Violence



ILLUSTRATION | WIKIMEDIA

In 2015, the West Windsor campus reported **one incident** of domestic violence. This remains unchanged from 2014 (**1 incident**). The James Kerney Campus saw an increase in reported cases of domestic violence (**2 incidents**) compared to 2014 (**0 incidents**).

**MCCC HOSTS POST-ELECTION CONVERSATION
CONT'D FROM PAGE 1**

PHOTO | SAVANNAH DZIEPAK

Faculty speaker M. Nichole Pollard-Alford (left) and student speaker Peira Wood (right)

having trouble coping there are counseling services in SC 239 on the second floor of the Student Center. Counselors Dorothy Gasparro (gasparrd@mccc.edu, 609.570.3354), Fred Weiner (weinerf@mccc.edu, 609.570.3470), and Martha Gunning (gunning@mccc.edu, 609.570.3563) can be met with by an appointment call, email, or stopping by

the Counseling Services office. Counseling Services hours are Monday through Thursdays 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Fridays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m..

"I have no doubt that the future will bring something positive if we all put our efforts together," said faculty speaker and Student Success Coach Jehan Mohamed. "Be the change that you want to see in the world."

**ADJUNCT INSTRUCTORS VS FULL-TIME PROFESSORS
CONT'D FROM PAGE 1**

professor, reaping different benefits. Full-time professors are offered health benefits like vision and dental plans, while

adjuncts are only offered life insurance programs and retirement system benefits.

Full time professors have

their own offices available for office hours for students. Mercer adjuncts have an joint office, but close quarters could lead to students feeling a lack of privacy.

Adjuncts are also forced to take on a heavier workload in order to make financial ends meet. Some adjuncts teach classes at other colleges forcing them to divide their time. According to Leonard Winogora, an assistant professor of Liberal Arts, philosophy professor, and on-site coordinator for the William Paterson University, "they [adjuncts] can never take on more than 80% of a full-time faculty member's load. Adjuncts are usually capped out at teaching 9-10 credit hours."

Nancy Byrne, Coordinator of Adjunct and Evening Services for Liberal Arts Division, added that the adjunct "payment scale is based on credentials, starting roughly at \$800 per credit hour [for the liberal arts division]." As a result of the class cap some adjuncts teach classes at multiple schools for the money.

Students are not aware of the fundamental differences between adjunct professor and full-time professor because most professors don't take the time to educate them. "They don't want to make them [adjuncts]

feel less important," says Heather Jennings, Professor of Psychology and Chair of Social Sciences.

According to a study conducted by Insidehighered.com "by having a lot of part-timers, the college becomes less effective. Many adjuncts don't have offices, aren't on campus when they aren't teaching, and don't have the consistent involvement in departments that makes them able to fully help students." Mercer County Community College currently employs 401 adjuncts and 110 full-time faculty.

To ensure the students do not encounter the pitfalls illustrated by the Inside Higher Education website, "Adjuncts must attend training programs at the beginning of each school year," says Diane Campbell, Executive Dean for Student Affairs, "which supply them with more up-to-date knowledge" as well as an annual orientation. Full-time faculty are also required to attend training-like orientations, but for a longer period of time. According to Leonard Winogora, in addition to the orientations, adjunct training programs are in developmental stages, and are set to take action with orientation once they are complete. Administrators are

slowly changing the current model of education into a business model of education. This model approaches the school as the provider and the students as consumers. According to Dean Campbell, "the terms that we use, 'consumer,' we use those terms so that we can sharpen our approach to the way we're interacting with you and the way that we're serving you. As a consumer you have a right to the highest quality."

In a recent interview with The College VOICE, Campbell explains the business model approach to education. She says, "Our greatest mission is to teach you and to also help you to function as a citizen, wherever you may go in the world... the business education model is not set up to be negative, it is setup to run the business [school] better."

When asked if becoming an adjunct professor is a sound career choice today, Dr. Winogora said "No. It's not a sound career choice based on the academic climate and debt load inherent to education these days. We all have to enjoy teaching to spend any period of time doing it. Bright young people have the responsibility to give the world something through teaching."

Catch Up or Get Ahead During 2016-17 WINTER SESSION at Mercer County Community College

For students seeking to complete a course in two weeks on campus or in five weeks online this winter, Mercer County Community College offers accelerated classes during its traditional mid-winter break.

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Registration begins November 14



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www.mccc.edu/winter



the college VOICE

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Stopping Procrasti...wait for it...nation

AS I SEE IT



Savannah Dziepak
Photography Editor

I couldn't put off writing this any longer. This cycle of procrastination, waiting until the last minute to do something, is too common among college students and nothing is being done about it. With finals coming up, it's too late to procrastinate.

I'm not talking about exhaustion due to personal issues or a busy schedule. Those stresses impact everyone, but you always have a choice to make: "Do I take care of this now, or put it off until later?" I see students choose the latter increasingly often,

and I can't be the only one.

Teachers and students probably see the same problems I see, and they probably know Mercer does virtually nothing about it. The first pillar of the Administrative 5 Year Plan is Student Success. In order to facilitate student success Mercer needs to attack procrastination. The first step needs to be increasing the information available to students on why they are procrastinating, and what they can do when it gets overwhelming. If students had help to become more equipped at recognizing and handling procrastination, they would be more successful.

To reduce this problem MCCC could provide procrastination workshops at least three times a semester: one in the beginning, one before midterms and one before finals. Workshops could give students procrastination awareness advice while showing them how to recognize and cope with it, and include hands-on activities for students to learn mental exercises. Studies show it's a problem of motivation.

In workshops, students should be taught about motivation types people tend to develop. Learning how to recognize and alter one's individual type could help reduce this epidemic of procrastination.

Psychologist Eunju Lee suggested in his 2005 study on procrastination that students should identify when, where, and how they are procrastinating. Then they change those factors to increase motivation.

A study by Tuckman and Sexton in 1989 proposed four different categories of self-regulation (motivation) and their degree of self-determination: intrinsic, self-determined extrinsic, non-self determined extrinsic, and amotivation.

Intrinsic is the motivation do something for one's own sake of pleasure and/or satisfaction from completing the task.

Self determined extrinsic is when one participates in an activity because it is "valued and perceived to be of importance" (Lee, 2005). Non-self determined extrinsic motivation is when

one places pressure on themselves to do an activity.

Further studies on this topic are warranted, and it would be useful to compare methods in order to determine effectiveness for each individual personality type.

Students need to be aware of what they are doing and work towards changing bad habits that are hindering their progress. This issue won't get better until colleges and universities start taking it seriously.

MCCC, as well as most colleges, provides counseling, career, transfer and student success services. Mercer's heart is in the right place regarding the services it provides, but solutions require effort focused in the right places.

"If the conditions that increase the use of procrastination can be identified, then perhaps these conditions can be changed," said Lee. There is hope for students who are procrastinators if they do the work, and if they are provided with the necessary information to do so.

Do you see a typo?
Then join the staff and fix it!
Thursdays @ noon ET 127

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!



Letter to the Editor

By John Santosuosso
Professor Emeritus & Advisor
of Enrollment Service

I read with great interest the article in the September 26th edition of the College Voice entitled "Navigating the pitfalls of transfer credits at MCCC."

Perhaps the fundamental difficulty encountered by the student has to do with their major. A change of major when applying to a 4-year school will clearly affect credit transfer. NJ Transfer.org for those wishing to transfer to a NJ college is a good source, and is relatively accurate. As an advisor in Enrollment Services, I often point to the availability of this forum, as well as recommending that students

visit the Transfer/Career office; however, there is nothing more accurate than contacting the appropriate office at the school of your transfer choice.

It would be most useful to have specifics concerning the complaints voiced by Emily Bernstein and Billy McCarthy. What programs were they enrolled in at MCCC? Where do they plan to transfer? What courses would not transfer? What program did he/she wish to pursue at the 4-yr institution? I would be most interested in visiting with both students to discuss these issues.

An article presented in this manner raises questions about the MCCC advisement process. The article requires clarification. Further study could result in a valuable learning experience for us all.

Editorial Response

Thank you for your insightful and thought-provoking letter. Through publishing it, The College VOICE intends to further student, faculty and staff awareness of the resources

you recommend. You raise a good point regarding the lack of situational details that would help frame the article's context and impact. However, your point regarding the fundamental difficulties of

credit transfer from school to school is more important.

Though lacking important information and ultimately incomplete, the article was fact-checked and accurate with the information it did provide. The student's complaints are endemic to Mercer and likely of the transfer process for students nationally, especially those at two-year colleges. Attempts to demystify the transfer process for students are failing.

Mercer is not a destination school for many students; it is a cost-effective, knock-out-my-prerequisites launch pad to a four year institution. Our school serves a population looking for a direction. Graduation and transfer to four-year schools is the most desirable outcome for many Mercer students. Why then is transferring Mercer credits so complicated?

Our faculty and staff diligently work to ensure that the college stays Middle-States Accredited. Clearly accreditation clout alone does not guarantee credit transfer. Is there a higher level of accreditation that would result in a higher credit transfer quotient?

This analysis begs the question "Why is there

no concrete accreditation criteria that would ensure smooth credit transfer nationally, or even just between public colleges?"

Increasing staff and allowing walk-ins at Transfer Services would increase student accessibility to that office. Cross-training Advisement, Enrollment and Transfer Services personnel improves an institution's strength and flexibility, adapting it to meet the changing needs of a uniquely diverse, modern yet ill-informed student body.

Major should only affect credit transfer when the student tries moving math credits into a creative writing program, marine biology into music, etc. A liberal arts major that successfully finds their academic interests while attending community college probably changes their major when they transfer to a four-year school.

Mercer credits not transferring ensures students spend more time and money on education. Most students here don't have a surplus of either. Accessibility, affordability and expedience keep Mercer relevant but when credits aren't accepted elsewhere it devalues a Mercer education.

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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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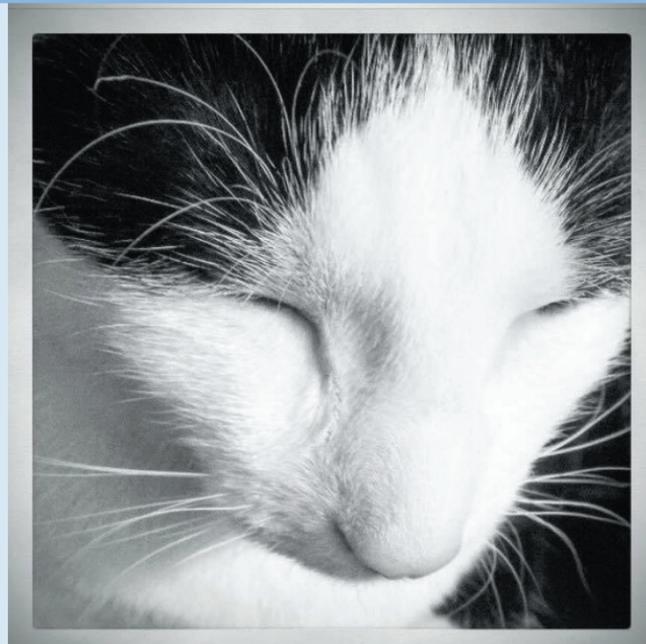
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