

Puerto Rican parade held in Trenton

DACA and immigration on many minds at cultural celebration



By Maria Ramos
Senior Reporter

After seven years without any parade, Puerto Ricans celebrated their heritage and culture with their traditional parade and Boricua Festival in Trenton on September 8. Mill Hill Park was full of live music and all kinds of different foods from Latin America.

This year the idea of celebrating the Puerto Rican parade wasn't just about to throw a party and celebrate their cultural heritage. They wanted to show support to their people and all of those minority groups who had been attacked by the current administration. To emphasize in the importance of staying together and strong as a community in these days.

The VOICE talked to the current Puerto Rican Grand Marshall Paul Perez, who is involved in the Trenton community and lost a runoff election with the current mayor, Eric

Jackson, who was also present at the parade.

Perez said, "We need to participate in these kind of events with the purpose of keeping our community together and letting the people know that we are here for help each other no matter their race, skin color or political views."

This year marked the fortieth celebration for the Trenton Boricuas, but organizers say it was a challenge to collect the money needed to pay all the expenses to run the parade. The costs were almost 12,000 dollars according to Jorge Tapia, this year's event coordinator.

"This year we had to pay all this money to make this happen, when other years this was all on the house. But thanks to all the sponsors, the Jeep clubs, the Partnership for Trenton, and some other who contributed, this was possible." Tapia said.

As the parade was be-

ing celebrated, one woman was holding a sign, "Support DACA" referring to Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, the policy established by the Obama Administration in June 2012 which allows people who entered to the country illegally as minors to avoid deportation and be eligible for a work permit. President Trump announced his intent to end the program, a move that has drawn sharp criticism from many people, especially Latinos.

The VOICE asked people around the parade about their thoughts on DACA and the current administration.

Jorge Tapia said, "I don't want to go too political, but as soon as he got to office he started eliminating a lot of programs that were helping undocumented people...it looks like he wants to take all of us out, those who don't have blond hair, blue eyes, and white skin in

See PARADE page 3

PHOTO | MARIA RAMOS
After several years of absence, local residents celebrated the fortieth anniversary of Trenton's Puerto Rican parade and Boricua Festival.

Faculty union votes to approve contract

Fifteen month negotiation ends, but new round starts next month

By Drew Mumich & Tim O'Boyle
Reporters

After 15 months without a new contract, Mercer's full-time faculty members have voted to approve contract terms proposed by the administration. With approximately 80 percent of faculty voting, the vote taken during the first week of September was 81-2 in favor of accepting the terms which will give a 1.65 percent raise for last year--while the negotiation was taking place and salaries were not increased--and a 1.75 percent raise for the current academic year.

Many Mercer students have remained unaware of the conflict, despite the "No Contract But Still Working" signs faculty have posted across campus. The disagreement over a contract may not seem to have any overall effects on students but it can result in a focusing of

resources on matters outside the classroom, and create a tension between faculty and administration.

According to faculty union president and Mathematics Professor Art Schwartz, there are 110 full time faculty members and they all a part of the K-12 NJEA Teachers Union. The NJEA is one of the largest unions in the state.

Nearby community colleges have faced similar situations with some resulting in much worse outcomes, like Essex County College where after years of negotiations and tension between their faculty and Administration the president of the college and 21 faculty were fired.

Professor Schwarz told The VOICE: "What's different here is there's only been two, possibly three, times where we had a contract that has expired. There have been some

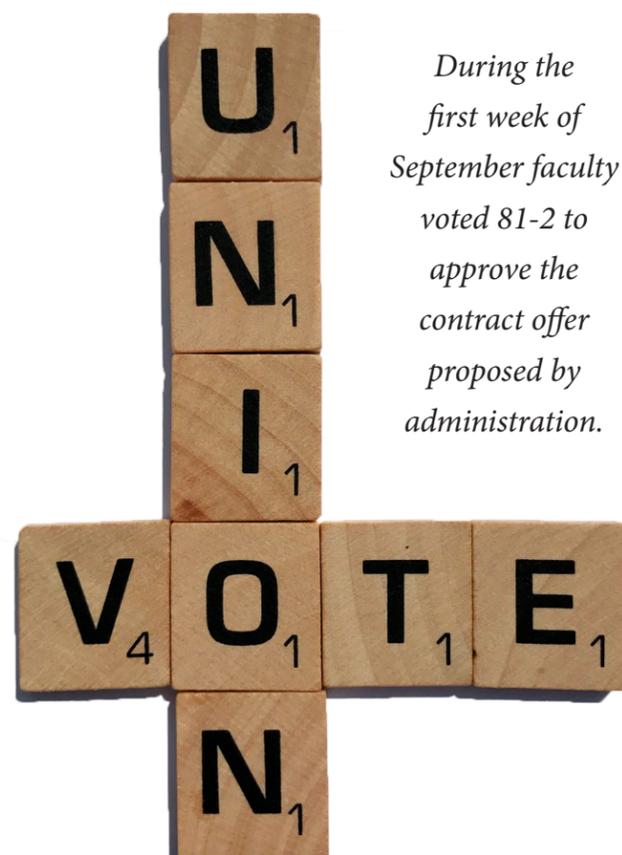
times where we have not had a contract for a time. Once it was seven or eight months, the other time for about four or five months, but in this case it has been almost 15 months."

The VOICE covered the last difficult negotiation, which occurred in 2013. The seven month stand off included faculty taking the "No Contract but Still Working" signs and picketing an annual gala hosted by the college primarily for local business people and the board of trustees.

The current contract fight included no such protests and the administrators, including the College President and Chief Business and Financial Officer are new and not the same ones involved in the previous dispute.

When a contract expires the old contract contin-

See UNION CONTRACT page 9



During the first week of September faculty voted 81-2 to approve the contract offer proposed by administration.



DAY OUT:
Lambertville, restaurants, galleries and a river walk a half hour from campus. PG. 6



FACULTY EXHIBIT
The Gallery at the West Windsor campus displays faculty work. PG. 2

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Trenton Thunder roll to Eastern League Championship...again

Thunder records historic feats in opening round playoff series against Binghamton



PHOTO | JACKSON THOMPSON

By Jackson Thompson
& Dan Moffler

After tallying an Eastern League best 92 wins, the Trenton Thunder are headed back to the Eastern League Championship series with a three games to one ELDS victory over the Binghamton Rumble Ponies on Saturday Sept. 9.

This marks the seventh time in the past eleven years the Yankees minor league affiliate has made the Eastern League Championship, but the Thunder did not run through the ELDS in 2017 without making some runs at Eastern League playoff history.

The Thunder put together three straight wins after dropping the first game of the series in Binghamton 4-1 on Wednesday Sept. 6. Against Eastern League pitcher of the year Corey Oswalt, the Thunder's only run of the game came off a wild pitch in the first inning.

But was a different story for the Thunder offense the following night. Two the Thunder put up nine runs off of eighteen hits for a 9-6 victory and even up the series at a game a piece.

Trenton Thunder Manager Bobby Mitchell told The VOICE, "If we would have lost [that game] we would have been in trouble."

At the center of the Thunder's offensive efficiency in game two was 21 year old Venezuelan infielder Thairo Estrada, who became the third player in Thunder history to hit for the cycle and the first to do so in the postseason. Estrada accounted for five of Trenton's nine runs with three RBIs and two runs scored.

Third baseman Dante Bichette Jr. said, "I knew the way that we were swinging the bats we were gonna put up a lot of runs so I wasn't really worried about yesterday."

The Thunder left Binghamton with a split and brought the series back to Arm & Hammer Park. Left handed pitcher and top Yankees prospect Justus Sheffield took the mound for the Thunder in game three in only his third start since coming off the disabled list with an oblique strain.

The only other pitcher the Thunder used that night was reliever Taylor Widener who made his debut for the Thunder in unusual circumstances. Widener, who had spent the entire 2017 season in Tampa Bay with the Yankees single A affiliate, came up with the rest of the Tampa players after being forced to evacuate due to Hurricane Irma.

"It was pretty hectic just leaving kind of last minute. There weren't any flights out of Tampa so I had to drive to Atlanta." Widener told The VOICE, continuing: "After a nine and a half hour drive with traffic, I got two hours of sleep and flew up here the next day."

Sheffield and Widener went on to throw a combined no hitter, only the third in Eastern League playoff history.

"Obviously the pitching was unbelievable," manager Mitchell said. He added: "Widener who we'd never seen before, where's he been?... It's kind of crazy that he can do so well his first time out."

But the historical prominence of the no hitter did not come without controversy. A hit was officially ruled for Binghamton when catcher Tomas Nido hit a ground ball to shortstop Thairo Estrada.

It was not until the seventh inning that the ruling was officially changed to an error, allowing both teams to play under the impression that a no hitter was not at stake for the majority of the game. Sheffield who was originally credited with giving up the hit to Nido, doesn't believe that the ruling had any effect on his or the team's performance.

"I was locked in the whole game because this is playoffs. No hitter or one hitter, I mean, you know, I'm still locked in cheering on my team out there." Sheffield said.

Widener, relieving Sheffield, was not even aware that he was part of a no hitter until after the game was over. After recording the final out of the game he was confusingly mobbed on the mound by his teammates ignorant to



PHOTO | JACKSON THOMPSON



PHOTO | JACKSON THOMPSON

Relief pitcher, Taylor Widener, debuted for the Trenton Thunder team during game four of the series. He and Justus Sheffield, accomplished a historic feat by pitching a no hitter.

TOP LEFT: Trenton Thunder players celebrating their 9-6 victory over the Binghamton Rumble Ponies in game four of the Eastern League Championship series.

TOP RIGHT: In the dugout, Trenton Thunder players excitedly finish the fifth inning with nine runs.

You don't expect to have back to back games where someone hits the cycle, and then we throw a no hitter... It's a testament to what each person on this team is capable of."

- Yankees rookie Clint Frazier

his feat.

"After the game, honestly I had no clue what was going on, or why everyone was so excited." Widener said.

The Thunder scored in the first inning of each game of the series and their first inning run in game three made the difference. That came off the bat of Yankees rookie and top 30 prospect in baseball Clint Frazier, whose double in the first inning scored center fielder Jeff Hendrix, giving the Thunder all the offense they needed for the win.

Frazier, on a rehab stint with the Thunder after a left oblique strain, was playing his first game in Trenton as a member of the Thunder. According to Frazier, taking part in the historic series was comparable to his experience in the majors as part of the Yankees earlier in the season.

"You don't expect to have back to back games where someone hits the cycle, and then we throw a no hitter so it's really cool. It's a testament to what each person on this team is capable of." Frazier said.

He went on to say: "I think that last at bat I had where guys were on first and second, it felt like I was in the big leagues for a second. The crowd was getting into it, the pitcher was giving me everything he had...It was fun for me tonight. I'm not hitting the way that I want, but that's

not the reason why I'm here. I'm just here to try to get my feet back under me, and I'm slowly starting to feel like myself again, so it's fun to be a part of the team with these guys right now."

Now with a two games to one advantage in the series the Thunder parlayed the momentum of their historic wins into their fourth and final game of the series on Saturday Sept. 9. The Thunder won game five 9-1 and clinched the ELDS

Against Binghamton's 29 year old knuckleballer Mickey Jannis, the Thunder scored their five runs in the first three innings. They tallied just two hits before Jannis was pulled from the game.

Third baseman Dante Bichette Jr. told The VOICE: "Drawing the first blood is very important I think, and that's what our team can do...If our offense hits we will win games."

The Thunder scored their nine runs in the first five innings, aided by a sequence of errors, wild pitches, and passed balls by the Binghamton defense. Trenton right hander Will Carter pitched through six and a third innings giving up three hits, one run and striking out five.

"In a playoff game you always need a little more, but every time I go out there I'm gonna give it everything I have," Carter said.

Clinching the series in game four gave the Thunder the added benefit of an extra day of rest before battling the Altoona Curve for the start of the Eastern League Championship series. Altoona will be heading into the series on a three game win streak of their own after sweeping the Bowie Baysox three games to none.

The Thunder seek their fourth championship title against Altoona in a best of five series spanning from Tuesday Sept. 12 to Saturday Sept. 16.

Faculty art exhibit opens at Mercer's Gallery



PHOTO | JASMINE SANTALLA

TOP: While attending the 2017 Visual Arts Faculty Exhibit, students were given the opportunity to view "Catcalls" by Prof. Kerri O'Neill. BELOW: Untitled stoneware piece by Prof. Michael Welliver.



PHOTO | JASMINE SANTALLA

"Wonder Woman" by Prof. Ingrid Jordan attracts curious onlookers.

By Jasmine Santalla
Senior Reporter

Students had the opportunity to view their professors artwork at The 2017 Visual Arts Faculty Exhibition at The Gallery starting on Aug. 30.

Photography and Digital Imaging Coordinator, Professor Michael Chovan-Dalton's work is on display for the fourth time in the faculty art exhibit. The piece he chose to exhibit is called "Passaic River." Like the majority of his work, he says the piece is inspired by a deep interest in infrastructure and how towns--which hold different socioeconomic statuses--have developed around things like canals and railroads.

"You have this one thing, like the Morris Canal, like the Passaic River, and yet it's very different to very different communities, and it gets treated very differently...Sometimes [it's used] out of necessity, sometimes out of recreation, sometimes they don't notice it at all," Professor Dalton told The VOICE.

Art Director at The Gallery and full-time Visual Arts Professor Lucas Kelly titled his piece "French Belts." Kelly says that his art revolves around memory and how the loss of his father inspired him to dig for those memories that will eventually fade. French Belts connects very dearly to the narrative specific to that memory.

"What I try to do is make them ambiguous enough in form so that they are abstracted enough so that you can relate to them and piece together some sort of narrative of your own," Kelly said.

Professor of Fine Art Kyle Stevenson says he felt it was important to take time out of class to allow his students to enjoy the exhibit and become engaged with artists they share the same hallways with. He says



PHOTO | JASMINE SANTALLA

this can be less intimidated than going to a commercial art gallery.

"I think it's helpful for students [in order] to get some experience attending an art reception, and to embrace an opportunity to see the artwork of the faculty that they might only know from the classroom," Stevenson said.

One of Prof. Stevenson's students, 3D Animation major Beatriz Gordillo says her favorite piece in the exhibit is Gate VII by Prof. Mircea Popescu.

"I just like the different strokes of paint layered on top of each other. You can tell they took their time and just went with it. It was very refreshing," Gordillo said.

Mercer County locals attended The Gallery as well. Maryanne Palmieri and Tim Lawrence whose children attended Mercer 30 years ago, receive brochures in the mail every semester. While they have attended countless student exhibits, they said this is their first faculty show. Palmieri told The VOICE, her favorite piece an untitled photograph by Jared Kramer.

"This one is absolutely gorgeous. And I really couldn't tell if it was a photograph or if it was drawn because there are little details that look like paint," Palmieri said.

Lawrence said his favorite piece is Professor Dalton's aforementioned Passaic River.

"I like the Passaic River photo because it reminds me of, if you have ever been to Grover's Mill where they have the monument for the War of the World's, the little pond there. It's neat," Lawrence said.

Professor Kelly became the director of the Gallery last semester.

"Having different people steer the gallery at different times allows for there to be different viewpoints, allows for us to have the gallery touch upon different elements that one director for a long time, wouldn't do," Kelly said.

Prof. Kelly has introduced is the Side Space gallery which allows student volunteers to gain hands-on experience curating their own shows in about a third of a space of the current gallery. The volunteers also have the opportunity to earn an internship at The Gallery in marketing and design positions.

Chris Dubois, currently studying Graphic Design at the School of Visual Arts in New York, was the first to receive that internship in 2014. Dubois is the designer of The Gallery logo hung in multiple colors in the hallway outside the exhibits.

Dubois told The VOICE: "I did not know I was the first intern. I assumed there were more...[It was] fun and challenging. I got to learn everything from hanging stuff to the publications."

The 2017 Visual Arts Faculty Exhibit will be on display until Sept. 29.

Puerto Rican parade in Trenton draws diverse crowd

Continued from page 1

this country he wants to ship us to the countries he feels we should be at. This is a country that is composed of all of us, we all make it America."

Another parade attendee, Moraima Santos, a Puerto Rican who has been in Trenton for more than 32 years also responded to the current immigration issues saying, "No es justo! It's not

fair! We deserve all to be treated equal and especially all those kids who are studying and helping the economy of this country."

Not only Puerto Ricans but other Latinos attended the event and also had the President's immigration policies on their minds. One of them, Jose Ruiz, a Guatemalan man raised in Trenton since he was 12 years old, told The VOICE, "You know, I have a friend who is now worried because of this thing going on with

DACA. He told me he is afraid since his kids are DREAMers and the government has all of his information."

The Boricuas encouraged other minority groups to celebrate their heritage and to be proud of their cultures. "Trenton is a great place to live and what makes Trenton a great city is our people, our mix of traditions, this is our home and we are going to take care of it." Grand Marshall Paul Perez said.

RIGHT: A family of Boricuas, a term of cultural prides that is used to refer to Puerto Ricans, wave flags at the edge of the parade route for the Puerto Rican Parade held in Trenton on Sept. 8.

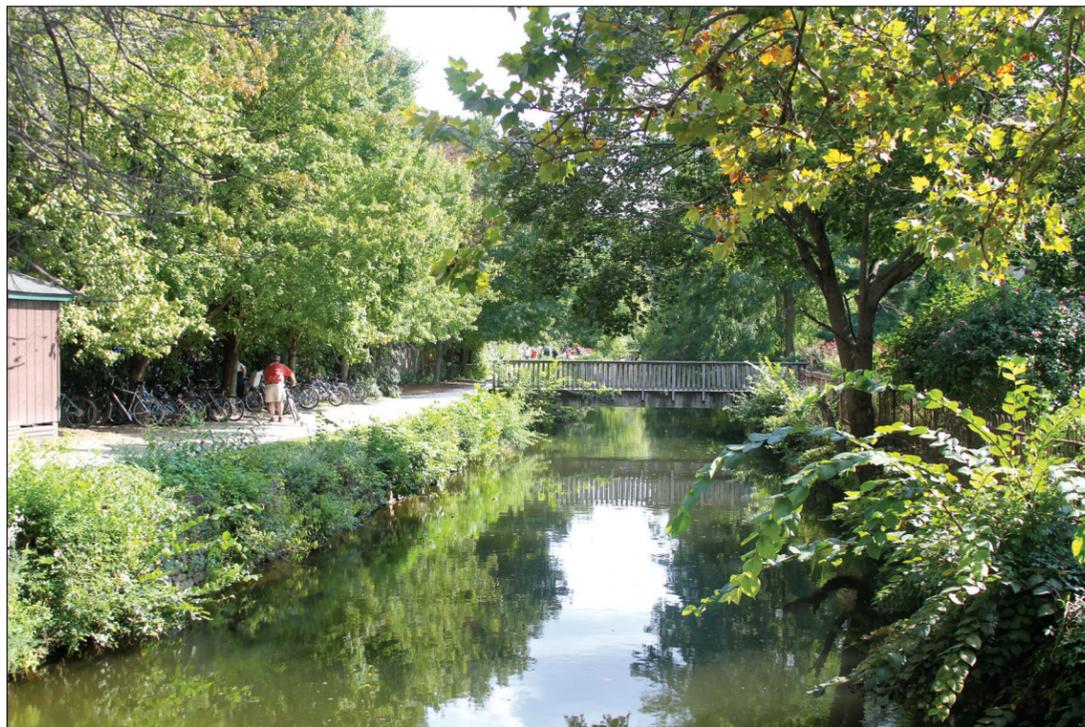


PHOTO | MARIA RAMOS

Lively river town offers nature and culture



TOP: Saxophone player entertaining local residents. TOP LEFT: Local coffee shop on Bridge Street. . RIGHT: Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park Trail, known to locals as the "towpath." BELOW: The Lambertville-New Hope Bridge where pedestrians can easily cross state lines.



By Jasmine Santalla
& Drew Mumich
Reporters

PHOTOS | JASMINE SANTALLA

Just 30 minutes from Mercer's main campus, the last exit on Route 202 before you travel into Pennsylvania, is the town of Lambertville, New Jersey. Lambertville sits alongside the Delaware river and allows easy access to its sister city of New Hope, PA on the walking bridge at the heart of town. Lambertville is a cultural hub of art, food, and a diverse group of people.

Street musicians perform on benches in front of Lambertville Trading Co. Coffee Bar or Full Moon Restaurant in Lambertville's downtown area located on Bridge Street. Visitors hear the music as they go in and out of art galleries like Robin's Egg and Highlands Art.

Restaurants like Lilly's on The Canal and the Lambertville Station play on the D&R canal advantages and offer outdoor seating where guests can look out at the water and watch bikers and walkers on the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park Trail, known to locals as "the towpath," which runs the

length of the town.

Walking on the towpath is free, and starting from Marhaba Restaurant at the southern end of town, it's a flat mile along the water to the Owowcow Creamery at the north end of town. This walk is a useful way to get a sense of the town.

Turning off the path onto the residential streets during the holiday seasons gives view to the abundant porch decorations that are a signature feature of Lambertville life along with year round symbols of equality and acceptance.

A barista at Lambertville Trading Co. told The VOICE: "Lambertville is very liberal, very non-threatening." You will notice the Gay Pride flags and "Hate Has No Home Here" signs on display in front yards and porches.

A resident of Lambertville, Patrick Lambe says the town has a laidback atmosphere. Everyone seems to know each other and there is an emphasis on acceptance. With

day walking, biking, and a multiplicity of shops Lambe told The VOICE, "Lambertville is a good date town."

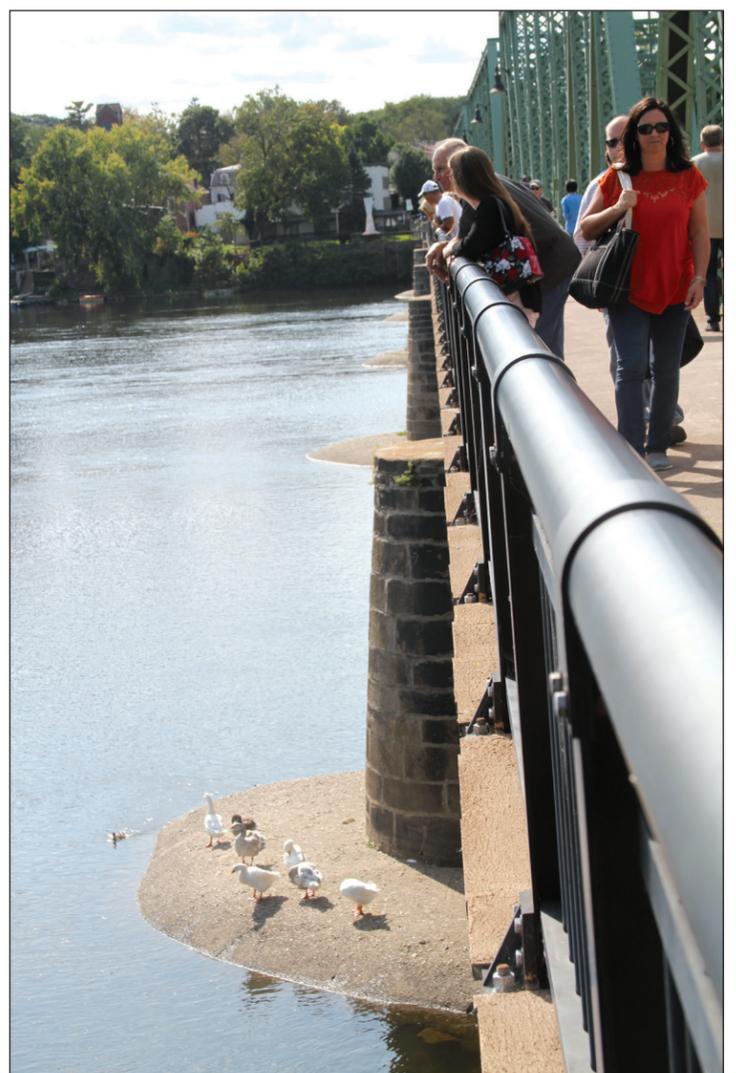
Don Muller is a bartender at Bells Tavern, _____, who says he appreciates the sense of community Lambertville emits. During an interview with The VOICE, three different people walked by, he said hi to all of them, knowing their names.

"Lambertville is the town America wants to be," Muller said.

Lauren Derico, barista at Cafe Galleria said that the community is very welcoming. During this interview a younger girl, was working on her homework well the other wait staff of Cafe Galleria, sat down and enjoyed their meal, as was custom.

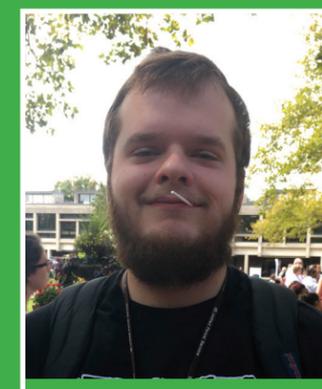
"The community has gotten me in touch with what I deserve," Derico said.

Lambertville's 35th Annual House Tour will be held Sunday Oct. 15th, 2017.

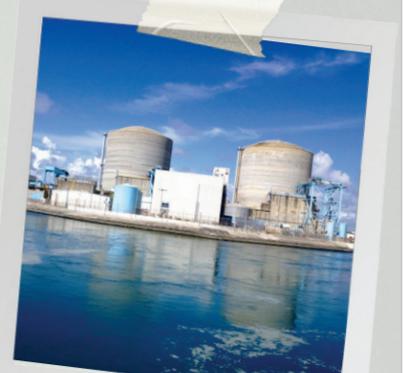
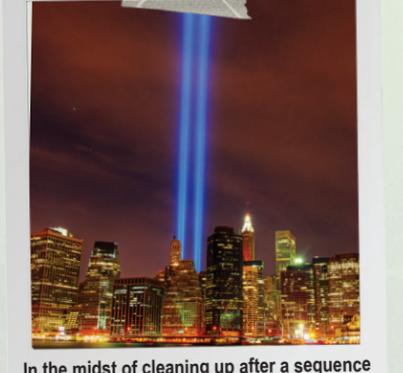


STUDENT VOICES: WE ASK, YOU ANSWER

HOW WAS START OF YOUR SEMESTER?

				
<p>JACQUELINE RUFFIN</p>	<p>WARREN SPENCER-SCARR</p>	<p>MARK MANOLO</p>	<p>MONIQUE PETTIT</p>	<p>TYLER MAYNARD</p>
<p>Studying: Funeral Service</p> <p><i>"The first weeks have been challenging but exciting. Challenging because I've been out of school for so long, and exciting because I'm starting a new career."</i></p>	<p>International student from Australia</p> <p><i>"It's my first year and I'm still making friends but being on the soccer team gives me a starting ground."</i></p>	<p>Major: Criminal Justice</p> <p><i>"There are some really nice people...I joined the criminal justice club so it's been great because I feel like the purpose of a club is to meet more people with similar interests and help each other out."</i></p>	<p>Major: Communication</p> <p><i>"It's been a lot easier than I'd thought. I was nervous about setting up classes but I had a lot of people around to help."</i></p>	<p>Studying: Biology</p> <p><i>"I cracked up after my first professor said 'fuck' for the first time in his lecture."</i></p>

NATIONAL NEWS

<p>IRMA WRECKS VIRGIN ISLANDS</p>  <p>St. Thomas and St. John were the two U.S. Virgin Islands hardest hit by Hurricane Irma, while St. Croix sustained less damage and is now a FEMA staging ground for relief efforts to the other two islands.</p>	<p>TRUMP MEETS RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR</p>  <p>The White House made no mention of the president's meeting with new Russian Ambassador Anatoly Antonov. The press learned of it only when Russian officials posted about it on Twitter.</p>	<p>TWO RUSSIA INSIDERS, ONE LAWYER</p>  <p>Two white house insiders, former Chief of Staff Reince Priebus and current Communications Director Hope Hicks have secured the same legal council, even though their testimony in the Russia investigation may be contradictory.</p>	<p>IRMA PREP MEANT NUCLEAR SHUT DOWN</p>  <p>Preparation for Hurricane Irma required the careful shut down of two Florida nuclear power plants, including St. Lucie which was cracked during Hurricane Andrew despite being built to withstand much higher winds.</p>
<p>U.N. APPROVES RUSSIA SANCTIONS</p>  <p>The United Nations voted to approve strict sanctions on North Korea in response to their demonstration of nuclear muscle. Only China and Russia rejected the measures.</p>	<p>9/11 REMEMBERED</p>  <p>In the midst of cleaning up after a sequence of devastating national disasters, including Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma the nation paused to remember the 9/11 attacks.</p>	<p>TRUMP MEETS MALAYSIAN PM</p>  <p>The president met with authoritarian Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak, who is under investigation by US Justice Department for abusing his power to form a kleptocracy.</p>	<p>DIANA'S LIFE REMEMBERED</p>  <p>People tired of natural disasters and political upheaval turned their attention to the life and work of Diana Princess of Wales, commemorating the 20th anniversary of her death.</p>

PHOTOS COURTESY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Mercer community rock

Many students and their families face uncertainty as President



PHOTO | GRIFFIN JONES



The crowd gathered in front of President's announcement to end the DACA program for DREAMers, young undocumented citizens, on Saturday Sept. 9. The program, which requires an elaborate application and payment of substantial fees, provides a chance to work and apply for student loans without fear of deportation.

Disclosure statement: Reporter is a DACA recipient.

By Zolzaya Ganbold
Reporter

Bumba Bat is a recent Rutgers graduate who lives in Ewing Township. His family brought him to the United States from Mongolia in 2003, when he was just 9, and then they overstayed their visa making him one of a group now known as DREAMers, undocumented citizens who were brought to the U.S. as children and know no other home.

There are an estimated 200,000 DREAMers in the country with approximately 22,000 of them in New Jersey and until 2012, when President Obama introduced a program called DACA, they faced limited prospects and significant uncertainty. DACA, which stands for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals offered DREAMers a chance to avoid deportation and be eligible for a work permit. Almost 800,000 people are protected by DACA according to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. The program requires DREAMers to fill out a lengthy application and pay \$465 every two years to maintain their status.

Bat told The VOICE, "Life before DACA was just a big mystery, it was difficult to tell what was going to happen after I graduated high school. It made things like driving, and the chance of going to college very difficult. With DACA, it gave me a sense of security and hope that I could accomplish things just like every oth-

er kid in the school."

But on September 5, President Trump announced that he plans to "rescind" DACA, as part of one of his many promises to close borders, reduce immigration, and increase deportations. Now the president has given Congress until March to come up with something else in place of it, if they decide to.

The VOICE asked Bat how he felt after the announcement, he says he was: "Not surprised, but a bit confused because [President Trump] said before that he was going to tend to this matter with 'heart.'"

With his work permit expiring this October, Bat is not eligible to apply for an extension. What does this mean for his future? Bat is unsure, but says he wants to talk to a lawyer to review his options. He says those may include, "Going to grad school if it allows me to stay here, then that might be the route I take."

Aside from DREAMers like Bat who already had their work permit, there are those soon-to-be DREAMers who now see their options disappearing. Bat's cousin, A.G., who asked to be anonymous out of fear for his safety, is in his senior year at Lawrence High School. He passed his Driver's Ed class during his sophomore year and says he was excited to apply for DACA, and be able to drive and work like any other teen. He filled out the complex DACA application and paid the \$465 fee in

2016, however he still has not received an approval.

A.G. came to the United States with his father, mother and older sister in 2004, when he was 4 years old. He says he feels that "it is not fair" that President Trump plans to rescind DACA and says he hopes that "Congress will pull a miracle and really think about us kids, coming here without having a say in the process." Indeed, there have been recent signals by congressional Democrats that they may have struck a deal with the President to protect DREAMers from deportation, but it is not clear that this would mean extending any version of DACA.

A.G.'s mother, Munkh-jargal says she is terrified for the future for her children. When she first came here with her husband, A.G., and their daughter, she says they did not plan to overstay their B2 visitor visa but at the last minute they decided to take the risk and stay in order to give their children the best possible education. "We could have gone the right way about it and got the green card to come live here legally but it was all very last minute decisions that now brought us here" she added.

When asked if he ever blames his parents for his situation, A.G. says "No, I understand that my parents were just thinking of me and my sister, and I am forever grateful for them. Being undocumented does not define them, or me."



PHOTO | GRIFFIN JONES

Protests took place in cities nationwide, from Washington D.C. to Oakland, Calif., responding to the President's announcement that he planned to end the DACA program for DREAMers, young undocumented citizens, on Saturday Sept. 9. The program, which requires an elaborate application and payment of substantial fees, provides a chance to work and apply for student loans without fear of deportation.

ed by DACA dilemma

nt signals intent to dismantle immigration program for youth



PHOTO | GRIFFIN JONES

Trump International Hotel and Tower in New York City to protest the and the DACA program for those undocumented citizens brought to they were children.

What does the future hold for him and his family? His mother said “we don’t know what to do, what to think, where to go, and are just very upset. I brought my son when he was 4 years old, he grew up here, he learned the language, he is accustomed to the culture...Do I take him back to a country he barely remembers and a language he barely speaks?”

Here at Mercer there are posters around the campus offering counseling services for DACA students. The counselors are Fred Weiner and Martha Gunning who told The VOICE they have open hours in their offices in SC 226 for students looking for emotional help.

Wiener told The VOICE, “I think some of them, if not all, might be afraid of being singled out, and here at Mercer we welcome everyone and want them to succeed. That’s why we are here for the students.”

Not only counselors but also professors are reaching out to help DACA students.

Professor Linda Bolis, A Libyan-American professor who teaches international sections of ENG 101 and 102 says, “My opinion is that DACA recipients are not like other undocumented immigrants. They were brought to the U.S. by their parents as children and have grown up here. Compassion and common sense tell me that these young people are part

of American society, having known no other reality, and so the U.S. government should acknowledge this reality and give them a pathway to citizenship.”

Although Bolis says she does not ask her students if they are DACA recipients, she assumes that some of her students are under this program.

Bolis says, “President Trump has greatly added to the burden of DACA students who are now very unsure about their future in this country. This is simply cruel. There was no need to rescind this policy. Adding to the anxiety, this President has come out with mixed messages about his supposed ‘love’ of DACA recipients. Once again, unnecessary, irresponsible, and cruel.”

Bumba Bat says, “I am no different than 90 percent of the kids that I went to school with. I think if you are a good citizen and hope to do something well for the economy, the country, your family, and for yourself, you should be given a fair chance at being a DREAMer.”

Since the President’s announcement, many groups have lead large scale rallies to protest his decision, including highly visible ones outside of Trump Tower in New York City.

Bat says, “I am happy to see so many Americans fighting for DACA kids like me, with multiple protests and several different states now suing him for his decision.”

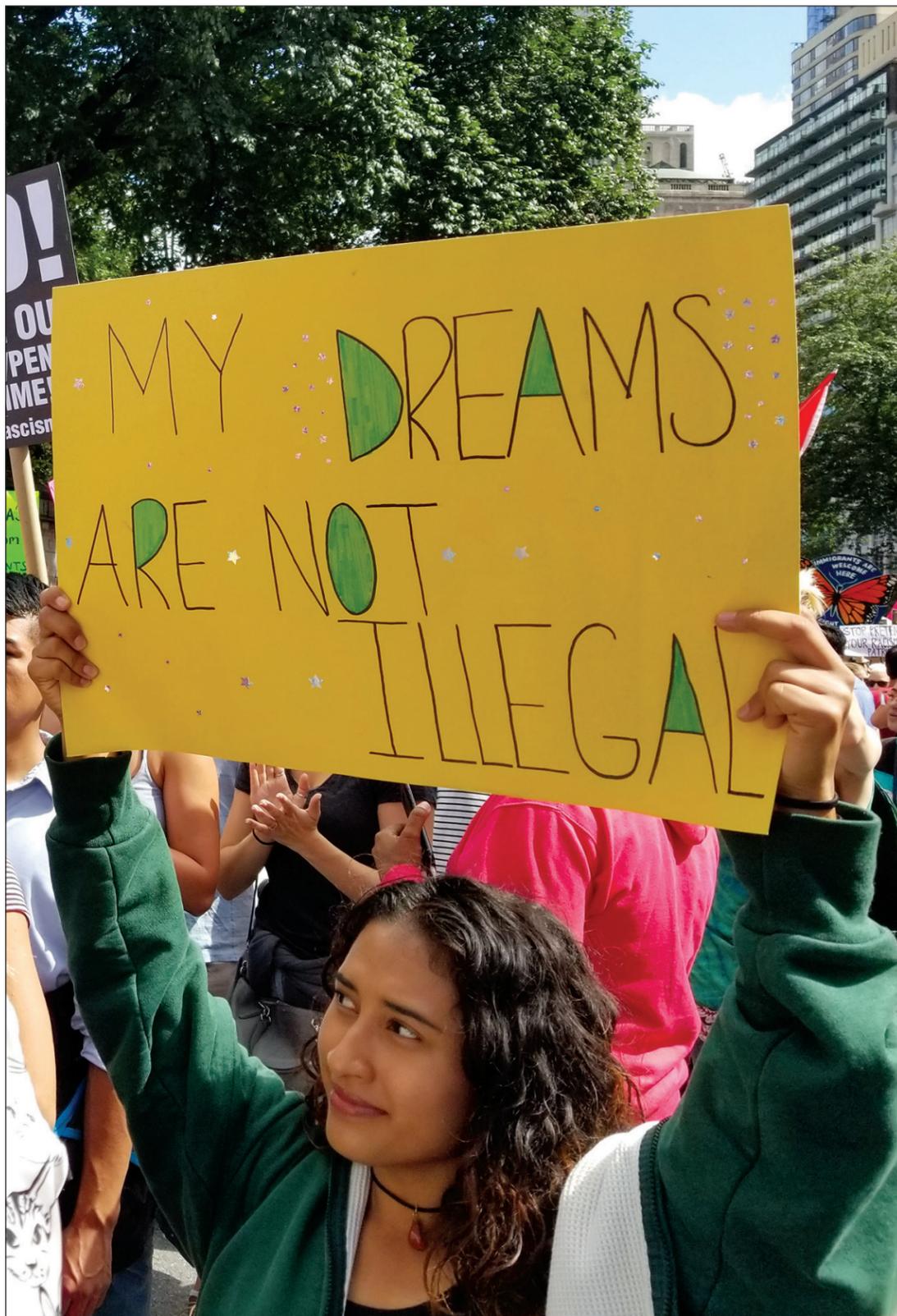


PHOTO | GRIFFIN JONES

Despite concerns over safety, a crowd of thousands, including DACA recipients and undocumented citizens gathered in mid-town Manhattan in front of Trump International Hotel and Tower on Saturday Sept. 9, to protest the President’s DACA decision.

CONTINUING COVERAGE

The VOICE will continue to cover developments in regards to the President’s and Congress’s handling of the DACA program as they unfold.



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* National Public Radio, September 2015

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Where WARRIORS Belong

Faculty accept terms of new union contract

Continued from page 1

ues to be followed, but faculty do not receive raises or adjustments in their salaries.

“Whatever we were getting paid for 2015-2016, is what we are getting paid now” says Schwartz.

Although some New Jersey community colleges have faced similar struggles over contract negotiations, others, like Raritan Valley Community College have been able to achieve faster resolutions. In 2016 faculty there secured a four year contract with two percent raises each year and significant reductions in health care costs in two of the four years.

The primary faculty negotiators included Schwartz and English Professor Ed Carmien. According to Carmien the faculty were ready to negotiate in 2015 but didn’t start until March. The holdup was related to the fact that the union, able to agree on terms offered by administration which was to offer no raise at all. Fact finding by

an outside representative was recommended in order to determine if the college was in a financial position that would make a raise impossible.

Carmien explained that a key reason faculty needed a raise, besides increased cost of living in New Jersey, was because of Chapter 78, a policy passed by Governor Chris Christie which requires public employees to pay into their own healthcare costs. This was previously not the case. The payments have increased each year and can add up to several thousand dollars per person on average.

Reached for comment by email, Mercer’s Communications Director, Jim Gardner told The VOICE: “While the faculty has approved the contract, it’s not final until approved by the Board of Trustees. The Board meets next week. It would be premature to comment on behalf of the College prior to the board vote.”

In the time between when the faculty voted to ap-

prove the contract offer, but before the Board’s vote, a new contractual question was raised according to several faculty members.

“We have been told that the College will follow a different academic calendar next year. The same calendar was proposed by the administration last year and was not endorsed by faculty,” said a faculty member who asked to remain anonymous. The faculty member continued, “The calendar has some benefits because the school year would start after Labor Day. This is better for students in terms of timing, but they get less instructional time in the classroom. And the faculty still have to be here the same amount of time. It seems odd, just as this difficult negotiation seems to be ending, to make a sudden change without any further input from faculty. Honestly, there are some real mixed messages here. We have another negotiation coming up soon and it’s hard to feel confident in the process now.” ■



Mercer women’s soccer hits the skids with four losses in a row

By Jackson Thompson
Reporter

The struggles continue for Mercer’s women’s soccer team. Since opening their 2017 campaign with a victory against Bucks County Community College, the team has lost each of their last four games. The latest of which came against Sussex Community College in a 0-3 home loss on Wednesday Sept. 13 2017.

The shutout loss also marks the third time in four games that the team has been unable to score. Coach Elyse Diamond, who led the women’s soccer team to the Region 19 semi-finals in 2016, says she is still looking for chemistry and leadership among her players.

“There’s no chemistry yet. Were looking for that chemistry, were looking for people to

step up and be leaders on the team, and we have our work cut out for us.” Diamond told The VOICE.

Mercer and Sussex, teams that both played in the region 19 tournament in 2016, and both lost to the eventual champion Harcum, coincidentally both entered the game with identical 1-3 records. Sussex head coach Frank Vernacchio says he was looking to get his team out of a funk of their own with a strong win against Mercer.

“[Mercer] beat us last year 7-3 on our home field, so today was a big day to come out here and prove a point. So I think we did that and they have a quality side. I know they’re struggling but so are we, so it was a good battle between two good teams here in our region.” Vernacchio told The VOICE.

Sussex freshman Bree-land Cusano put Mercer in an early hole with a first half goal

off an assist by sophomore Gabby Sarny.

Mercer sophomore Kellyann Krepp had an opportunity to tie the game later but missed her shot with a ball off the post.

“If I had scored that one it would have been a tie game and the momentum definitely would have changed. It would have been different.” Krepp said

Krepp, a key leader and playmaker for Mercer shares Diamond’s sentiment that the team is still looking for chemistry in the midst of its this losing streak. She told the VOICE that functional communication is the key to getting the offense going in the right direction.

“Maybe we’re all thinking different things. That’s why we should communicate because we don’t know where actually to play the ball.” Krepp said.

But with Mercer’s of-

fensive deficiency in this game, Sussex was took advantage of the lack of communication and put up some goals of their own. In the second half Sussex was able to get two more goals by Sarni, and Maddy Ollington.

“Our gameplan was to get the ball into the channels and exploit them on the wing, which we were trying to do and I think we did a pretty decent job of that today.” Vernacchio said, adding: “We were looking to play quickly through the middle to get our speed up top loose.”

Mercer came into this game off of their highest scoring performance of the year, but in a losing effort as the defense surrendered eight goals to Montgomery College on Saturday Sept. 9 in a 4-8 loss.

Sophomore goalkeeper Shaunice Palms, who recorded 49 saves in the first four games of the season says she is confident in the potential of her

team, so long as they are willing to communicate and upheld the responsibilities of their position.

“Everyone has a strong point on the field and we all have a responsibility and as long as we all carry out that responsibility there shouldn’t be anything that comes between that.” Palms said. “All we can do is talk and communicate with each other and I think communication goes a long way.”

The team will travel to Scranton PA on Saturday Sept. 16 to take on winless Lackawanna. Lackawanna has been outscored by a total combined run differential of 23-0 in only two games this season.

“We gotta get back in the win column in that game.” Diamond said “More so than just the win we have to do the right things at the right times on the field.”



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Life after Mercer

We invited two former VOICE staffers, both of whom are international students and both of whom left to attend graduate school to share their experiences post Mercer. Here are their stories.

Brazil to Mercer to Masters degree to dream job

PERSPECTIVES



Mariana Braz

Mariana Braz joined *The VOICE* staff in 2012 and served as Editor in Chief in 2013. She received a Masters degree from CUNY Baruch and is now working for a major international PR firm.

online version. It was insane at times, but looking at your work in print is priceless. I also was able to go to conferences in Chicago and New York, won awards and made friends for life.

Being part of these two clubs helped me decide what I wanted to do with my life. I was accepted into Baruch College in New York after graduating Mercer. I already had a BA in Journalism from Brazil so I was able to enter their Master's program in Public Relations, which was the area of communications I wanted to pursue for my career.

Before I entered the world of PR I imagined it would be red carpets, cameras, lights and paparazzi. In reality it is usually a room full of people furiously typing press releases, monitoring social media and figuring out way to get clients out of a crisis. Simultaneously you have clients pressuring you to deliver results on deadlines not even George Stephanopoulos would be able to meet.

That's my life now, and I l-o-v-e it!

While attending

Baruch, I worked at an internship which allowed me to meet the greatest of the greats in the PR field. I met executives from Fortune 500 companies, PR Agency CEOs and professors from the most renowned schools in the world. But I struggled to learn how to make meaningful connections.

Networking is one of the most valuable skills in life and I had always been afraid of it. The thought of walking into a room full of highly successful people, ones who did exactly what I wanted to do, made me sick to my stomach. At first when I showed up for networking events I would only talk to people I knew. I wasn't sure how to approach or hold conversations with anybody else.

Over time and with a lot of practice I figured out that successful people are just like any other people and if they are at networking events, it means they are open to talk to anybody that approaches them with good conversation. And that's really how I went from being a student-journalist to a Jr. Account Executive at one of the largest PR firms in the world.

I would ask the people I connected with for advice on my resume and so on. This showed them my interest and put my name on their radar, so if they ever came across an opportunity that fit my profile, they would remember me.

Another trick I learned was to research who was going to be at the event so that when I got to the event I could show that person my genuine interest in their work and the level of respect I hold for what they do.

I know I was lucky to get an internship where I did, but you but anyone can start learning these skills to move themselves forward. Start with the resources you have at hand. The College VOICE, for example, is a great lab and so is MCTV. The VOICE even takes a group of the hardest working staffers to conferences each year where there are hundreds of industry professionals to meet and workshops to attend.

The bottom line is, use what you have to help you move forward.

Mariana Braz is a Jr. Account Executive at Weber Shandwick Brazil.

This story doesn't end with me being the most popular girl at the party, but it ends with me, the girl who used to stay in the corner the whole time, landing my dream job. I'm also a former Mercer student and that's not a fact I hide. I'm proud of it.

My career trajectory started when I moved to New Jersey from São Paulo, Brazil. I decided to attend Mercer because it was the closest place to where I was living at the time, and the college offered the courses I was looking for. I also thought that attending a community college would be good for me since I was still learning English. And I was right.

During my three years at Mercer, I tried to make the most of my time and the resources that the college had to offer. There are a number of clubs and activities to get involved in. For me, the most interesting things were the TV and the newspaper. Being part of MCTV gave me a taste of how a TV station works and what kinds of skills you need to make it in that environment.

At The College VOICE, which was where I dedicated most of my time, I had the opportunity to experience the very rewarding chaos that it is to make a print newspaper and its

South Africa to Mercer to Ph.D. program

PERSPECTIVES



Nikki Pellew

Nikki Pellew served on *The VOICE* staff during the 2016-2017 school year and is now studying for a Ph.D. in Health Science at Seton Hall University.

accepted to academic programs easily in my home country, I thought "oh this shouldn't be difficult at all," but boy was I wrong!

After two graduate programs turned me down I realized harsh rejection was a reality in U.S and being accepted into a Ph.D. program would be a b***h! My goal is to teach at the college level but as the rejections piled up, it seemed as though my dreams might may be dashed.

With my confidence about as low as it could get, I decided to hang in there and keep applying and applying and applying. In the meantime, to avoid both dying of boredom and getting sent back to my home country if I didn't maintain a student

visa qualification, I enrolled in Mercer. I figured it would be easy for me. I had already completed an undergraduate degree after all. I was totally wrong.

I found out I had to actually put in a massive amount of work and effort to succeed in my classes at Mercer! Life has a funny way of slapping us in the face when we need it. Attending Mercer for two semesters was one of the best decisions of my life.

Mercer took me back to my academic roots, and cliché as it may sound, it broadened my horizons. Mercer gave me the opportunity to become involved, I worked on the student newspaper and engaged with my peers in the classroom.

I was finally accepted into a Ph.D in Health Science at Seton Hall University, where I started this semester.

Looking back at my time at Mercer, I find that the connections I made during my brief time at *The VOICE*, the lessons I learned, the writing and social skills I gained, are all proving invaluable to me. I received faculty support and made valuable friendships that give me a support network I know I can rely on at any time.

Mercer may not be perfect, but few places are. My time there taught me skills that go beyond the classroom, lessons that have made me a stronger person and Ph.D. student.

American Ph.D. programs have rigorous criteria and are not easy to get into. Not only is the application process tedious, but if you are one of the few masochists lucky enough to gain entry into one of the four to eight-year programs, you have to be prepared to pull out those

cobweb filled brain files tucked away since kindergarten.

As an international student from South Africa, coming to the States to study was a BIG deal for me. I mean how many students worldwide really get the opportunity to learn in the "land of opportunity"? Having been

Staying here for a B.A. has pros and cons

Editorial Board

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Jasmine Santalla, *Photography Editor*

Jackson Thompson, *Sports Editor*

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Dan Moffler, *Sports Reporter*

Drew Mumich, *Reporter*

Vanessa Reyes, *Reporter*

Faculty Advisers

Professor Matt Kochis, *Co-adviser*

Professor Holly Johnson, *Co-adviser*

THE WAY IT IS



Oscar Trigueros

We all spend our two years (or however many) at Mercer trying to get out so we can get that next level college experience. Or at least most of us want that, right? Not for me. When I graduated Mercer last semester what I really wanted to do was save as much money as possible and have a smooth transition from the community college experience to the university experience.

For all of you who have been planning your next move after Mercer, you know how much it can cost to board at a university, and that's before you add the tuition and the textbook costs.

I knew I didn't want to go very far for college. I knew I wanted to stay close to home, only I didn't know what I wanted to major in or even what school to go. I had

thought about maybe getting another associates degree in New Media, but scheduling classes was difficult and it would be unlikely that I could get another degree in two years.

Then I found out about our university center on campus through the Mercer's website. I had always heard about the Bachelor's programs that Mercer offered, but didn't think much of them. Yet something about the Liberal Studies degree from William Paterson got my attention. I majored in Liberal Arts at Mercer and enjoyed learning a wide variety of topics. So the idea of getting a Bachelor's studying everything from English to Political Science sounded like a perfect fit for me.

I gave a call to Leonard Winogora, the director of the program, and he and I sat down the same day. He gave me a long, but convincing spiel about the program and the benefits. What really caught my eye was the price! I applied immediately, and just a few months later received two grants and plus a scholarship, which ended up covering the majority of my tuition.

The courses I enrolled in consisted of English, History and Political Science. Over the summer I was thrilled, excited and a little nervous about starting my new program. Could I be successful like I was

as a Mercer student? Thankfully, the team at William Paterson got me through everything quickly and efficiently.

Getting help from financial aid was twice as fast and twice as easy than it was at Mercer. Hallelujah! Each student in the William Paterson program is provided with an advisor for classes and an advisor for financial aid.

It's not a completely perfect program. There are some drawbacks and potential deal breakers. The first being that most of the classes you will take from a very limited selection are online. Out of five classes, four of mine are online. The one class I do have on the Mercer campus is a two and a half hour course and is only one night a week. The selection of majors is even more limited. You only have the option of four majors at the Mercer program.

Another problem I have with the program is just how difficult it is to get a hold of the textbooks. In the Mercer bookstore the shelves are mostly empty for the William Paterson courses, having only one of the three textbooks I need. It is difficult enough trying to get a decent deal at the bookstore, but now I'm struggling to even locate the required textbooks I need.

My online classes have proven to be good and my in-

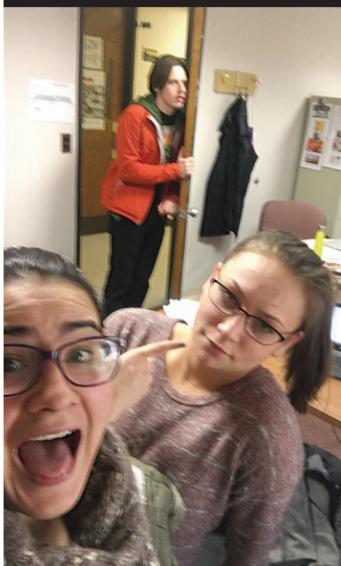
person class is exciting because the people in the class are on this journey with me for the next two years, until I get my Bachelor's. It's exciting to know that the people in the room with you will grow and learn the same information you will, and that if you're struggling they will be able to help you out of a jam.

It's all a tight-knit community for those in the Bachelor's program. Everyone from Leonard Winogora to Dr. Robb, my personal advisor, are a phone call or email away and I've never felt like I was dealing with any problems or discrepancies alone. I've never had to deal with problems I don't know how to solve alone.

The Bachelor's program at Mercer from William Paterson has done a phenomenal job at making me feel like I'm not just repeating the community college experience. When I'm at Mercer now, I feel like a William Paterson student even though I'm not on the William Paterson campus. When I'm talking to my guests at the restaurant where I work, they always ask me where do I go to college and I always respond "William Paterson" with satisfaction.

That shows you know how well Winogora and the William Paterson team have done at making their students feel like they're getting a real college experience.

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Do you see a typo?

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Mon+Thur 12noon ET 127

There are cats on campus and it's not good for them or us

The Bottom Line



Griffin Jones

You may have seen them if you are stuck on campus after dark or arrive for classes early. I'm talking about the cats that live on the Mercer campus.

The cats have been here at least as long as Collin Kuklish, one of Mercer's security officers, can remember. The officer of 13 years said there were a "couple at first, but babies having babies..."

He's right, of course, feral cats often have kittens when they're only a year old, so the number of cats in a colony can rise exponentially.

Kuklish estimates there are now least 15 cats on campus, but notes that it is hard to

be sure. It is hard enough finding a house cat that doesn't want to be found, finding cats in a forest is nearly impossible. Personally, I've been able to find 5, a mother and her four kittens.

If nothing is done, these kittens are likely to die within the year according to statistics provided by the ASPCA. If they survive the winter their life expectancy still isn't much better, only about another year at most.

There is a protocol called "TNR. It stands for trap, neuter, release. It's simple. First cats are lured into trap cages set with food. Then they are brought to a TNR friendly vet, who neuters them, or prevents them from having babies. Kittens that are young enough to be socialized and made into housecats are taken to be fostered and adopted. Finally, any cat too feral to live a domestic life is released back into the wild.

However, the fate of neutered feral cats changes drastically. According to TNR advocate Alley Cat Allies, tom-cats that have been neutered

no longer feel the need to engage in dangerous behavior like fighting to impress lady cats (how similar cats and humans are!). They're also able to gain more weight extending expected lifespan to at least 6 years. While TNR cats are neutered, the vet also vaccinates them against rabies.

Kuklish says that the cats haven't caused any problems yet, but he noted their poor health. "Some are obviously not too healthy. And there's the health of everybody else too, you know?"

One student, Gabrielle Feinstein, says she has taken matters into her own hands. She told The VOICE, "I called animal control, but they [said they] won't do anything. So I'll just trap them myself soon."

Kuklish recalled that Mercer did try something once. "Had somebody a few years ago. Think they took [the cats] to a shelter."

That method might have removed some cats, but didn't address the overall problem. Also it is not as good a strategy as a TNR program because feral cats in shelters are

notoriously difficult to place in "forever homes" and are often euthanized.

Furthermore, with no intervention it is only a matter of time before someone on campus will approach one of these cats and get scratched or bitten. Then Mercer will have a serious problem on its hands.

As a cat lover myself, I welcome the sight of cute kitties, but I know they are doomed without intervention. A trap for TNR costs about 50 dollars, and each neutering is done cheaply by TNR-friendly vets, the price is roughly 50 dollars a cat. If Mercer takes action now the cost will be hundreds of dollars lower than it will be in a few years.

Mercer could be the community college that betters lives of not one but two species. Can Bergen County boast that? When asked if the college had any plans to deal with the feral cats, Kuklish said "I don't know...but I hope so."

I do too. I want those cheerful little kittens I see chasing each other in the mornings to be able to grow into healthy old cats. I think we all do.

Editorial Policy:

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

Write to The College VOICE!

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

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c/o Prof. Matt Kochis
Mercer County College
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West Windsor, NJ 08690

ASK THE VOICE: GOOD ANSWERS TO TOUGH QUESTIONS



Help is here!

Dear Voice, Student Services has threatened to break my legs if I don't pay them. What do I do?
-Need\$Now

Dear Need\$Now, Get crutches.
-The VOICE

Dear Voice, Do any of the printers on campus work? If so, where?
-TonerIssues

Dear TonerIssues, No; none of the printers work! We are in the process of developing a program to train students as monastic scribes who will be available for student printing needs, at a moderate fee.
-The VOICE

Dear Voice, You see stray cats? I saw a stray dog last week in the West Lot near the pre-school. Know anything about it?
-I<3 Dogs

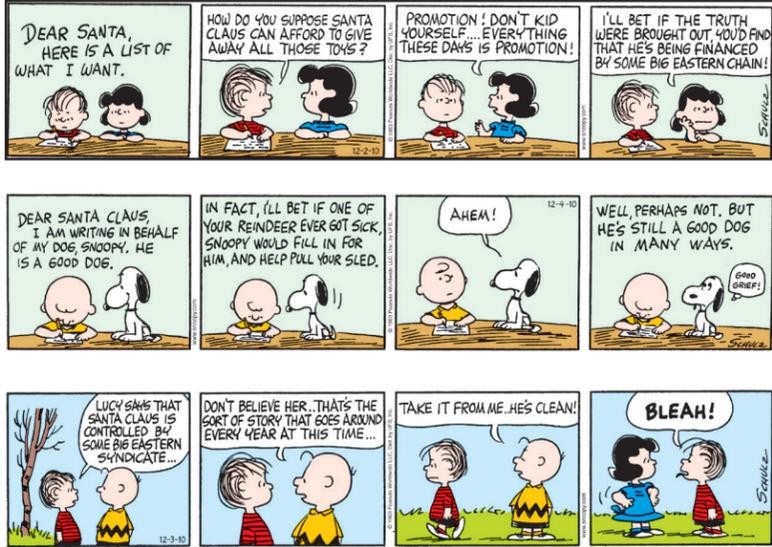
Dear I <3 Dogs, Due to Hurricane Irma, it has been raining cats and dogs everywhere. However, if you step in any poodles, let us know!
-The VOICE.

Dear VOICE, Is there something good and healthy to eat in our cafeteria?
-Hungry Hippo

Dear Hungry Hippo, YES! Lately, I have taken to hunting students who go to the cafeteria mistakenly believing there is food there at all.
-The VOICE

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

Classic Peanuts



HOROSCOPES



Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

There is something secret that you've barely allowed yourself to wish for, but desperately want. It may be material or in the form of a relationship. Prospects are brightening for this development.



Taurus

Apr. 20 - May 20

You are always a good time and it is the time of year you try to get yourself invited to as many parties as possible: football nights, turkey fests. This year why not throw one of your own?



Virgo

Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

As the weather cools and the evenings darken, so does your outlook on a particular friendship or association. Forgive yourself for needing your space. You are right, it is time to move on.



Aquarius

Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

Honor, nobility these are things you have always aspired to; you've always tried to do right, but you probably never knew it would be so thankless. Still, you are a hero to a few who really matter.



Gemini

May 21 - Jun. 20

The good news is you don't need to go see a doctor about that minor medical issue you've been worrying about. The bad news is the problem is stress, not the other thing. Time for a spa day.



Libra

Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

What's love got to do with it? Well, pretty much everything. Without the love and support of those around you, you have had to work doubly hard to find the will to work so hard. Finally the love will be returned ten fold.



Pisces

Feb. 19 - Mar. 20

Once a year you consider doing something radically different with you diet and exercise regimen, but usually this bright idea hits you around January 1st. This year, try starting earlier.



Cancer

Jun. 21 - Jul. 22

The universe is in general chaos around you. Fortunately you're not losing your cool...yet, however, you are losing time and money. Think about getting a second job for the holidays.



Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

You may have been down on yourself lately (as usual) but someone near you sees you for the amazing person you are. Listen to what they tell you, because they don't give praise lightly.



Aries

Mar. 21 - Apr. 19

You're sick of those "Keep calm and..." signs because keeping calm isn't your strong suit. Fortunately you've arrived at a moment when being calm would be the worst decision possible. Lose it!



Leo

Jul. 23 - Aug. 22

Mechanical failures seem to abound. Although you've put it off and put it off, you will finally need to replace something you rely on. Take advantage of end of year financing options.

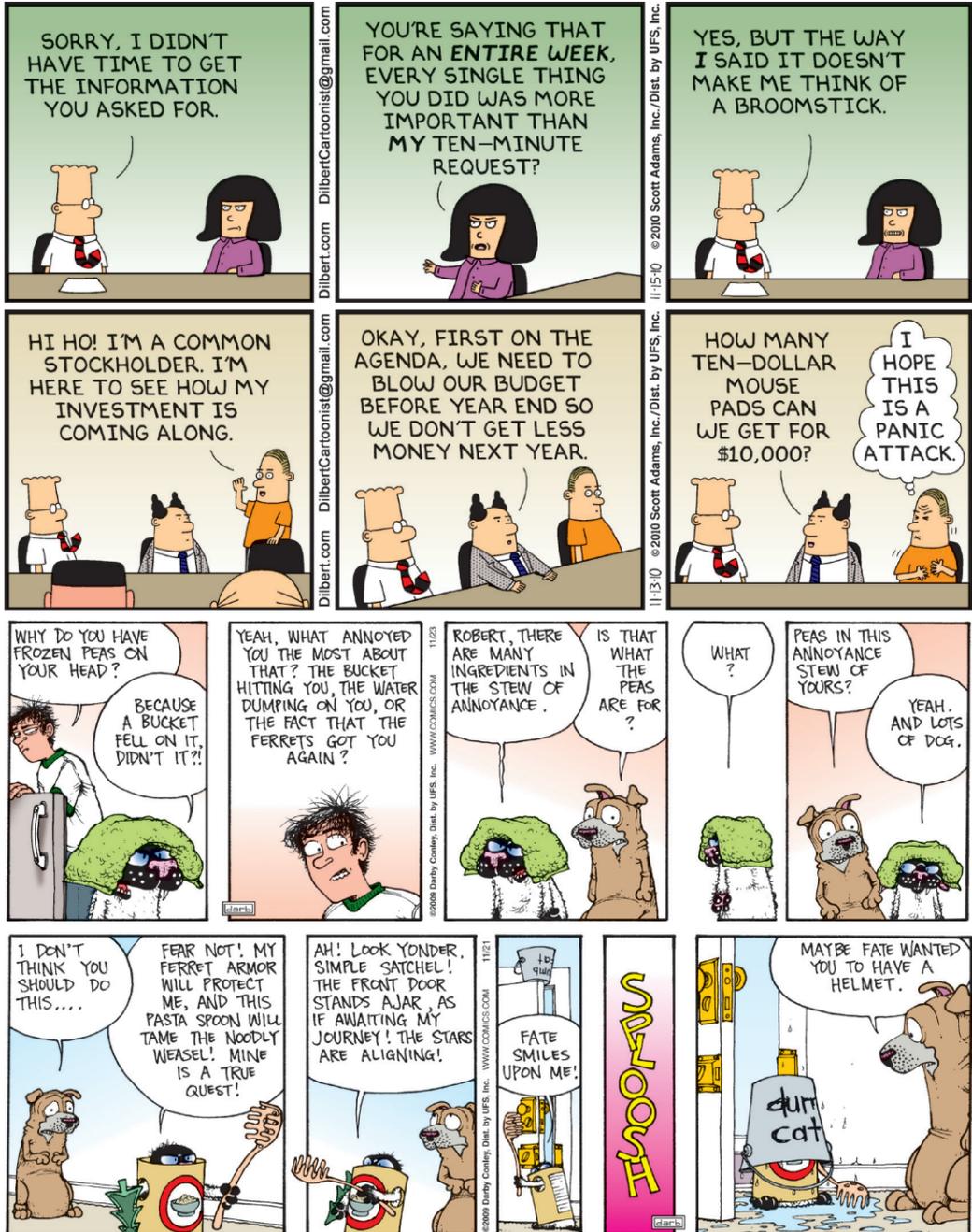


Sagittarius

Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

Ever thoughtful and conscientious you've reached the point where you really need to let yourself relax. It is okay to play hooky every once in a while. Preserve your sanity: take a day off.

2X DILBERT AND GET FUZZY



SUDOKU

Difficulty: 3 (of 5)

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PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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

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