

The student press of Mercer County Community College since 1968

College mourns loss of beloved professor

Professor Kathi Paluscio was known for building supportive environments for all

By Aiden Velenger
Reporter

Professor of Communication Kathryn "Kathi" Paluscio, who taught Public Speaking at Mercer for the last 21 years, passed away from cancer on July 6, 2021 at JFK Medical Center in Edison, NJ. She was 54 years old.

Professor Paluscio received her undergraduate degree in Speech, Theatre and Media at Kean University and got her masters degree in Theater at Villanova. Later she was selected for the McGraw Mid-Career Fellowship Program at Princeton University where she studied "guerilla techniques," or unconventional teaching strategies for connecting with students.

"Her classes were filled with powerful energy, excitement, motivation, and ardor she gave to her students. Every time I came to the class, I knew that no matter how grievous or melancholy my days were, Kathi would be able to turn them into joyful feelings, making me smile and cheerful," says

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- Student, Mykhaylo Yanchyk

Mykhaylo Yanchyk, a second year Chemistry/Biology major, who took Professor Paluscio's Public Speaking class in spring 2021.

Professor Paluscio was known for her creative teaching tools. She brought in props, got students out of their seats, she was even known to play the guitar and include her students' names in her improvised songs.

Kyle Goldware, a second year Communication major, who took Professor Paluscio's Public Speaking class in spring 2021 said, "Every Monday and Wednesday when I went into her class I was excited because she made it so fun. She was always cheerful, hilarious, and she genuinely wanted her students to succeed in learning how to speak in public. After taking Kathi's class, I stopped

being afraid to speak up in certain public situations. She also taught me how to get out of my comfort zone."

Another student, Hamza Marzaki, a second year Business Administration major who took Professor Paluscio's Public Speaking class in spring 2021, said, "What helped me was her giving us positive energy and motivation right before we would perform our speeches."

According to her colleagues, during her career Professor Paluscio reviewed more than 30,000 student speeches.

According to Professor of Communication Alvyn Haywood, who worked with Professor Paluscio for the last 20 years, and was a close friend "She was

See **PALUSCIO** page 2



COLLEGE VOICE | FILE PHOTO

Professor Kathi Paluscio, who was known for her creative teaching strategies, taught Public Speaking to thousands of students over more than two decades of service to MCCC.

Issue Highlights

- College has a new Assistant Vice President | **PG. 2**
- New vending machines on campus ask for biometric data | **PG. 3**
- September is Suicide Prevention Month | **PG. 4**
- Mercer's covid safety policies explained | **PG. 5**
- Horoscopes are back! What can you look forward to? | **PG. 12**



President Wang will retire from MCCC at end of year



MCCC president Dr. Jianping Wang. COLLEGE VOICE | FILE PHOTO

By Ben Levitt
Senior Reporter

Dr. Jianping Wang, who has been president of MCCC for the past six years, will be leaving the college at the end of the school year in August 2022. While the official word is

that she is retiring, her exit is not without controversy.

In April 2019 the Faculty Association made a vote of no confidence in Dr. Wang with 85 professors voting, 82 in favor and three abstaining. The faculty then went to the Board of Trustees to voice their concerns and submitted

a document listing more than thirty specific points of contention.

One point in the document reads, "Whereas, President Jianping Wang has grievously mismanaged the College's human capital, undermining shared governance, marginalizing employees, endangering the health of students, faculty, and staff, and instigating high employee turnover which creates an unstable workforce and corrodes morale."

Following the vote of no confidence Professor of Communication Alvyn Haywood, who is also President of the Faculty Association, told The VOICE that one part of the justification for the vote was, "Five Vice Presidents of Academic Affairs have come and gone since [Dr. Wang] became president, and I think that's the most glowing example of a hostile work environment. They did not leave because they wanted to leave."

According to a 2019 article in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* by Katherine Mangan, "James Brandon Shaw, a former vice president for academic affairs, sued both Wang and the college, saying she had racially discriminated against him in ending his employment. Shaw, who is African-American, was hired in March 2018 and said he had been given no indication his performance was problematic."

The article went on

See **WANG** page 3

MCCC has new Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. James H. Whitney III sets focus on diversity, equity and inclusion

By Elijah Parkman-Williams
Senior Reporter

Along with many new students starting at Mercer this fall, there is a new Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs starting, too. Dr. James H. Whitney III comes to Mercer from Rutgers University where he has most recently served as Assistant Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement.

Dr. Whitney says, “I firmly believe in educational equity by meeting people where they are and that everybody deserves a fighting chance.”

Dr. Whitney’s vision for his work is grounded in his own experiences growing up.

“My mom ended up passing away when I was 11 years old. My father had bouts with alcohol and drug addiction. So my oldest sister ended up raising me. She was young, raising the young,” Dr. Whitney says.

By the time he was at Ocean Township High School he was working three jobs, moving from apartment to apartment, all while being raised by his sister.

Dr. Whitney says, “My journey was: how do I change my adversity and triumph into reality?”

Using this mantra Dr. Whitney went on to be more academically focused, eventually leading him to college. Taking the little he had, he went to the Rutgers Summer Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Program.

EOF is a statewide program that provides financial assistance and support services to students coming from eco-



PHOTO | ELIJAH PARKMAN-WILLIAMS

Dr. James H. Whitney III in his new office in the Administrative building on the West Windsor campus.

nomically and academically disadvantaged backgrounds.

“By the time I came to EOF I learned that this was the type of program that I want to be a part of,” says Dr. Whitney. “I knew since that day I made it my business to be in programs and to be in an educational journey to help people, ones that look like me, that had my own story.”

At that time, Dr. Carol Bork, who is now an English Professor at MCCC, was one of the academic coordinators for the EOF Program that Dr. Whitney was a part of.

“He came to talk to me about the work he would be do-

“He came to talk to me about the work he would be doing in that program. After that meeting, this is what I said to one of my colleagues: ‘I don’t know what this young man is going to do, but I think he is going to do something remarkable.’”

Dr. Carol Bork, Professor of English

ing in that program. After that meeting, this is what I said to one of my colleagues: ‘I don’t know what this young man is going to do, but I think he is going to do something remarkable,’” says Dr. Bork.

Later, during his time at Rutgers, Dr. Whitney became a student of Dr. Bork’s and left an even more lasting impression.

She says, “It is the most gratifying experience a professor can have to see a former student who is now a successful profes-

sional. I am delighted that my former student is now my colleague.”

Dr. Whitney went on to attain his Bachelor of Science in Administration of Justice & Africana Studies and then held a series of jobs at Rutgers working up from a position in residential life all the way to becoming an Assistant Vice Chancellor.

Dr. Whitney says he was drawn to the job at Mercer because the college “[is] intimate, but it’s growing. I want to now use what I have learned while at Rutgers, to use those skills and experiences here, and add to the improvement of the experiences of students and academics how I can.”

The Vice President of Academic Affairs that Dr. Whitney will be assisting is Dr. Robert Schreyer who says, “I’m very excited about his vast knowledge base within higher education and his student, faculty, and staff-centric mindset. He’s truly demonstrating the goal of collaboration and bringing people together so that we can all work towards the common goal of student success.”

Dr. Whitney comes to Mercer at a time when the college has put renewed focus on issues of equity and diversity.

Dr. Andrea Lynch, Professor of Business and Chair of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee at the college says, “I expect that the longer that Dr. Whitney is here, the more impact he is going to have to make sure that the more marginalized voices get brought to the forefront.”

College President Dr. Jianping Wang says, “After a very comprehensive campus-wide visit, and interviews with multiple constituents, Dr. Whitney was the candidate.”

President Wang gives an example of how attentive Dr. Whitney was to a few lost students on campus and how quick he was to aid them.

“Just from those things I think he is a great addition to the college,” she says.

Explaining his overall view of his job Dr. Whitney says, “Part of what needs to come across is that it doesn’t matter if you’re the administrator, you’re faculty, or staff member, we are one community and I’m going to reach right back and I’ll do what I can to give who I am to the community.”

Professor Paluscio remembered for her supportive nature



COLLEGE VOICE | FILE PHOTO

Professor of Communication Kathi Paluscio receiving the Distinguished Teaching Award in 2012. In her acceptance speech Professor Paluscio told students, “We have high hopes for what you will accomplish. I believe that all of you here today are like an amazing adventure story. My life pales in comparison to yours.”

Continued from page 1

a walking thespian who brought her theatrical background into the classroom.”

Professor Paluscio was a founding member of Mercer’s Rock Salt Theatre group and she also founded MouthWorks, an improv comedy troupe. In her free time, unbeknownst to many of her friends and colleagues, she wrote horror fiction under the pen name J.C. Raye.

According to Professor Haywood, “J.C. stands for Jesus Christ, as Kathi was a Catholic and Raye being Christ’s light, something which she would aim for, and something that Kathi brought to Mercer for both students and faculty to enjoy.”

Professor Paluscio was the recipient of MCCC’s Distinguished Teaching Award in May of 2012. Her other accolades include the Human Relations Award and Student Activities Woman of The Year Award.

According to Professor of Electrical Engineering Harry Bitner, who worked with Professor Paluscio for the last 20 years, and was a close friend, “She was so humble, if I tried to give her any type of compliment, she would turn it around so quick, she was focused on other people.”

In her acceptance speech when she won the Distinguished Teaching Award Professor Paluscio told students, “We have high hopes for what you will accomplish. I believe that all of you here today are like an amazing adventure story. My life pales in comparison to yours.”

Professor Bitner recalls that “Kathi gave so much to Mercer. She treated us like family. She served everybody. She helped everybody...She was so dedicated.”

A memorial service will be held on the quad at 12pm on September 28.

Mercer’s new vending machines raise safety questions

By Staff of The College VOICE
Senior Reporters

With the campus cafe shut down during covid, Mercer has installed vending machines called “Canteen Micro Markets” from a company named Avenue C. The machines offer more than the traditional chips and soda, including items like sandwiches and yogurt bowls

But some students have run into problems with the machines’ difficult to navigate interface, and have lost money to its account crediting system.

Student Ashley Jackson, (who is also an editor at the VOICE), says, “After creating an account I was prompted to add \$10 to the balance, but I was still charged for the full amount of my order on top of it. What’s the point of the balance if I can’t use it?”

Jackson says at the beginning of the semester she was standing in line at one of the Micro Market machines in the Student Center and the person in front of her was struggling to check out.

“We were trying to do ‘guest’ checkout but we couldn’t get to the cart without making an account, and to make an account, you have to put money on the account first. The account has to be tied to your fingerprint, or a scannable ID. The screen recommended Drivers Licence, but I used the bar code on my student ID.” She adds, “The per-

son in front of me also lost \$10 and the girl in front of him became so flustered they both gave up and left without getting food.”

The problems seem to be intermittent as other students tested the machines and they were working properly.

However, some students are still concerned about the machine prompting users to create accounts by giving personal information such as fingerprint scans or driver’s license numbers, which may present security threats by using sensitive, biometric data.

Morey Hafer, Chief Security officer at BeyondTrust, a company that specializes in addressing cyber security threats, describes how personally identifiable information (PII) such as fingerprint, voice, and retina scans, can be good for some things like locking your phone, but may also “pose unique data privacy risks and ramifications on multiple levels...Once your biometric data has been leaked or compromised, it puts you at continual risk for identity-based attacks.”

Hafer says, on the BeyondTrust blog, that it is important to know how your data is being stored and secured and who has access to it.

Canteen, the owner of the Avenue C Micro Markets, could not be reached for comment, but according to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy on their website, information collected “about you offline, [or]

from third parties” may be used for a broad range of purposes including “To share the personal information with service providers to carry out other business purposes.” It is not clear whether this refers to biometric data collected from vending machines.

Neither the site nor the machines provide readily accessible information about how biometric data is stored or secured.

Asked about the safety of students giving out their biometric data, Bryon Marshall, Director of College Safety, Security and Facilities, says, “I’m not offended by any of that. I see it as commerce and a bit of integrity. I think it’s a challenge more than a problem.”

Marshall says biometrics are becoming a common security tool used in different industries and how usage will increase in future technology. Though there have been no formal complaints about the campus vending machines submitted so far, Marshall says he does understand students’ hesitation.

“I see it as maybe a challenge for some who are concerned about identity theft and things of that nature,” Marshall says.

Steven Quattro, Director of Purchasing, the division of the college that handles vendor agreements, says, “Canteen, a Division of Compass Group USA, Inc., was awarded the contract to provide both vending machines and food services to the College, as a result of a publicly adver-



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION | ASHLEY JACKSON

During the first weeks of class students have found the new vending machines put to compensate for the cafe shutdown during covid to be unreliable.

tised request for proposal advertised in March of 2020 with the contract being approved by the MCCC Board of Trustees.”

Quattro says the only issue he is aware of with the Mini Market machines at the college is, “...not stocking enough milk for breakfast. In response, Can-

teen has increased the amount of both dairy and non-dairy (almond) milk in the Avenue C Market vending machines.”

Canteen, the owner of the Avenue C Micro Markets, could not be reached for comment.

Mercer president to retire after tumultuous six years

Continued from page 1

to say, “The lawsuit accused Wang of publicly making derogatory remarks and expressing negative stereotypes about African-Americans. It also accused her of favoring white candidates; at the time of his termination, the lawsuit stated, all of the academic deans were white.”

Following the vote of no confidence and despite the faculty pressure, Board of Trustees Chair Mark Matzen continued to express strong support for Dr. Wang.

Matzen told The VOICE at the time, “We have, as a board, confidence in the president. She has done some amazing things, moved us in a strong direction, financially and academically, both on the budget side and on the Foundation side. Having said that, anytime you hear of things that are issues, and especially when you hear from this many...it might make you look at different things...It brings some things to the board that we will definitely discuss.”

Matzen could not be reached for comment, but his current view was most recently conveyed in an email to faculty at the beginning of August

announcing Dr. Wang’s retirement, saying, “Throughout her tenure, Dr. Wang’s number one priority has been what is best for our students. The college, because of her work, is on sound fiscal footing and well positioned for the future. Her steady leadership throughout the pandemic was exceptional.”

Dr. Wang agrees with this assessment of her tenure saying, “We are one of the very few colleges, if not organizations that went through this pandemic without a significant change of the workforce; such as furloughs, layoffs, and services and program cuts, campus closing, and all of that because of the changes we made a number of years ago.”

With the faculty at odds with the Board of Trustees about the presidency of Dr. Wang, it was decided that a third party company would be hired to handle the review of Dr. Wang’s contract negotiation.

On July 30, 2021 an article written by Isaac Avilucea in *The Trentonian* stated that Matzen initiated his own review of Dr. Wang. The article cited internal strife between Dr. Wang and Matzen as the

reason Dr. Wang walked out of the contract negotiation process with the Board.

As reported by Avilucea, “Wang was upset with Matzen for conducting a separate performance review on her after he was unsatisfied with results of an independent review from a company tapped by the board to evaluate her, the sources said.”

It was reported that in Matzen’s secondary performance review, a question was asked of the college’s upper administrators about what animal they would describe Dr. Wang as. Some of the responses were lion, tiger, and dragon. This brought up possible cultural insensitivity problems as Dr. Wang is from China.

When asked how she felt about these questions, Dr. Wang said “after the article came out, [the administrators] spoke with me, every one of them, and said that they were very upset about that, and at the time when Chairman Mark Matzen was asking those questions they were not happy about the questions themselves.”

Dr. Wang says, “The [Trentonian] article claimed that [Matzen] apologized to

me, which is also not true, because I didn’t even know about it. How could anybody apologize to me about something I don’t even know? So we never talked about it.”

Professor Haywood, like many others, found out the news of Wang’s retirement and of the secondary performance review through the *Trentonian* article. Although he did not participate in the Matzen review and did not see the potentially inappropriate questions asked, he does have an opinion on the matter.

“I’m not shocked, but I am surprised that Mark would use such language or that he would use such imagery,” Professor Haywood says.

One faculty member who spoke to The VOICE on the condition of anonymity said, “I think [Dr. Wang’s departure] is a good thing. I don’t think that she is a competent leader with some of the decisions that she’s made for the college.”

Professor Haywood says, “Clearly we’ve had our problems, but we never, the Association especially has never behaved in such a way that would be unseemly, or that we were just attacking for



COLLEGE VOICE | FILE PHOTO

President Wang seated in her office at the beginning of her first year at MCCC.

the sake of attacking.” Dr. Wang says that after forty years in higher education, “It is the last phase of my professional career, and I am proud of what I have been able to do here in the last six plus years.”

She adds, “I just wish we would focus on the next phase of the college. That is to find the next leader that cares about students, that is committed to the mission of the college, and is able to give himself or herself all to this institution as I did and I’m continuing to do until my last day here.”

What are MCCC's COVID policies and how are they working?

As the fall term starts, every college in NJ has different COVID safety procedures



PHOTO | ALESSANDRO RIVERO

Because of classroom configurations, social distancing is not always possible for MCCC students.

By Ashley Peng and Kyle Goldware
Senior Reporters

Although COVID-19 is still affecting thousands of people in New Jersey every day, including younger people, college students have been returning to face-to-face learning this fall. Making things complicated, every college has created different plans for safety, including MCCC which began the fall term on September 7.

Mercer's current re-opening plan requires mask wearing and focuses on motivating staff and students to get vaccinated and upload their vaccine cards online as proof. If they aren't vaccinated students and staff are asked to fill out a daily symptom tracker form online to indicate that they aren't sick before coming on campus.

However, there is no guarantee that students are complying.

Even students who are trying to make an effort can run into issues. When asked about students filling out the symptom tracker Biology Professor Ellen Genovesi said, "I don't know if they're filling it out or not and I think it's an easy thing to forget."

One professor who asked to remain anonymous added, "Plenty of my students admit they aren't filling the form out, and it's not because they are trying to break rules. A lot of them are completely confused by the whole thing. Some thought they only had to fill it out once at the beginning of the semester even though it says they must do it 'daily.'"

Other state institutions are avoiding this type of problem by requiring all students to be vaccinated before coming to campus. This includes big universities like Rutgers, but also community

"I have mixed feelings about being on campus...I enjoy the atmosphere of having in person classes and the environment Mercer has to offer after being cooped up in my house for the past year and a half. But the Delta variant is something that worries me and others as well, but I feel if we all work together to get vaccinated and mask up, the threat itself will start to minimize."

-Kendrick Barrera, Liberal Arts Major

colleges like Essex County College which says on its website: "All eligible students, faculty, and staff are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, unless a medical or religious exemption is approved by the College."

The County College of Morris, which, like Mercer, doesn't have a vaccine mandate, has chosen to hold the majority of classes in online format until October 26, giving students and staff more time to get vaccinated and submit vaccination cards. If they don't, they will have to submit negative PCR test results weekly once school goes back to face to face learning.

Mercer's President Dr. Jianping Wang says, "Vaccination is the only way out of the pandemic we all know, but a mandate is a simple requirement to make in theory but a very sophisticated and complex to implement...So if you are not vaccinated as a student you can still go to class in person. No one stops you."

Mercer's current policy for non-compliance is that after three documented offences the "Student jeopardizes enrollment, up to and including suspension from classes and campus for the balance of the academic year and/or expulsion from the college," but it is not clear how this is being enforced.

Director of Athletics and Assistant Dean of Student, John Simone, who was a chair of the college's committee that came up with the policies for reopening this year says, "In regards to why Mercer did not mandate vaccinations, it was because the State did not mandate it. When they did mandate it, it was only for state colleges, it wasn't for community colleges. We were hoping it was for all colleges. They were saying that in the community colleges, each county has to make their own decision about it. Our county has not made a decision yet."

As to why those who are unvaccinated are required to fill out the Symptom Tracker form versus those who are vaccinated Mr. Simone said, "We're hopefully doing it as a way to reward people who got vaccinated, with hope that those who did not will say 'I'm tired of filling out the symptom tracker. I'm going to go get vaccinated.'"

When students were asked their opinion about the safety procedures in place on campus, they gave different perspectives.

Second year student Kendrick Barrera who is a Liberal Arts major says, "I have mixed feelings about being on campus...I enjoy the atmosphere of having in person classes and the environment

COVID-19 SAFEGUARD COMPLIANCE -- PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION

Failure to comply with the following is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct:

- wearing a protective face mask indoors and when in proximity to others outdoors
- completion of the daily online [Symptom Tracker Form](#) by NON-Vaccinated Students
- a 10-14 day quarantine period (as directed by a campus authority) due to exposure and/or a stay at home order following a positive COVID-19 test

1st Violation: Formal written warning and/or suspension of campus access (14 days), restricted to remote access only. Please note: Remote access is not available for all courses. Subsequent violation(s) will have escalated sanctions. Additional related Student Code of Conduct violations may apply.

2nd Violation: Student campus access suspended for the balance of the semester, restricted to remote access only, up to and including suspension from all classes.

3rd Violation: Student jeopardizes enrollment, up to and including suspension from classes and campus for the balance of the academic year and/or expulsion from the college.

No refunds of tuition will be granted to students serving a suspension. Students on federal and state aid will need to be mindful of a loss of aid, and fund balances which must be paid to the college prior to reinstatement.

Additional related Student Code of Conduct violations or municipal action may apply.

COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card

Please keep this record card, which includes medical information about the vaccines you have received.
Por favor, guarde esta tarjeta de registro, que incluye información médica sobre las vacunas que ha recibido.

Last Name _____ First Name _____ MI _____

Date of birth _____ Patient number (medical record or IIS record number) _____

Vaccine	Product Name/Manufacturer	Date	Healthcare Professional or Clinic Site
1 st Dose COVID-19	Lot Number _____	mm / dd / yy	
2 nd Dose COVID-19		mm / dd / yy	
Other		mm / dd / yy	
Other		mm / dd / yy	

Mercer has to offer, after being cooped up in my house for the past year and a half. But the Delta variant is something that worries me and others as well. But I feel if we all work together to get vaccinated and mask up, the threat itself will start to minimize."

First year student Gregory Johnson Jr who is a Video Game Design major says, "I mean I think it's alright. I just hope that no one actually does get it where it affects the whole campus".

Assistant Professor of Nursing Education Florence Lee says, "I know that many of the protocols are built off of the CDC recommendations and it's a win-win if you're following what the experts are telling you to do for infection control and prevention... Therefore I would have to trust the process."

Professor Lee adds, "We're already concerned about enrollment and that bottom line is really driving all the decisions for the community colleges."

As reported in The VOICE last year the college's enrollment was down by more than 16% in 2020-2021. This year enrollment is down by 5%.

Between the different community colleges there are different cleaning and distancing policies as well.

Sussex County Community College, which, like Mercer, doesn't require students to be fully vaccinated, has required the 6 foot social distancing rule both in and out of classrooms. By contrast Mercer classes are running at full capacity and many rooms do not allow for 6 foot distancing.

Sussex has also taken extreme measures in cleaning their classrooms taking

45-60 minute breaks to do 15 minutes of cleaning after a certain number of students have passed through.

President Wang explains MCCC has implemented many hygiene policies but says deep cleaning between classes is more difficult because there is only so much that can be accomplished in 15 minutes.

Understanding the concerns of students, Dr. Wang explains how she and other New Jersey community college presidents meet ever Fridayat 5pm to share notes on what each of the campuses is doing in terms of cleaning or keeping their students safe.

When asked if there have been any issues with people not complying with masking requirements, Commanding Officer of College Safety and Security Michael Flaherty said, "In my interactions with the students, everybody's been very cooperative...So far so good."

When asked how comfortable they were with returning to in person classes, second year Music Technology student, Bria Moscetti said, "Yeah, I think I [am] because it had been a whole summer of experimenting and feeling comfortable...and being here experiencing it has been a pretty good experience. I've never really felt unsafe, except for a couple of incidents, but so far it's pretty good."

Dr. Wang says, "Our choice is always focus on students. Whatever students' needs are, we try to do our best to meet your needs."

September is National Suicide Prevention Month

By Maya Chell and Staff of The VOICE
Reporter

Along the length of her left forearm Kelsey Mason, of Hamilton, has a tattoo that reads “warr;or.” The semi-colon in the word is an important symbol that indicates Mason is a survivor of a suicide attempt.

She says, “I would have missed a lot of memories with my close friends and my entire high school experience,” if she had not survived her suicide attempt in 2018.

The ; symbol was first used by the advocacy group Project Semicolon that supports mental health, particularly providing resources to help those with depression. The group explains in its literature that “a semicolon is used when an author could’ve chosen to end their sentence, but chose not to.”

Suicide Prevention and Awareness month comes every September. With it comes many stories of survivors of attempted suicide and counselors, organizations and peers spreading information on how to prevent suicide.

Dr. Yannick Ladson, is the Senior Counselor at MCCC in Student Support Services. She can relate to students who are struggling because she is no stranger to personal difficulties.

In an interview on Medium.com in 2017 Ladson said, “I lived in a working class Black community in Raleigh, NC, but was the only Black student in my gifted classes. Everyday, I felt oppressed, marginalized, and voiceless. I endured daily microaggressions in the classroom and was bullied in my neighborhood for ‘acting white.’ I was from New York and was always



Suicide attempt survivor Kelsey Mason's tattoo says “warr;or” which she says means “I was strong enough to overcome the thoughts and feelings I was dealing with.” PHOTO | MAYA CHELL

reminded that I was different. I felt like Ariel in *The Little Mermaid* when her voice was taken.”

Dr. Ladson's mentors encouraged her and eventually she ended up going all the way to graduate school and even doing stand up comedy. But life took a hard turn in the early 2000s as she suffered job instability, a break up, student debt, and health problems, and ended up having to apply for public assistance. But she managed to push through. She found work, paid off the creditors and finished her graduate degree.

Now Dr. Ladson's work includes talking to students about a variety of issues, like an unstable home life, food insecurity, difficulty in classes and

mental health struggles. She meets with students virtually or they can drop in to her office in SC 229 on Mondays with no appointment.

The Counseling Services website on mccc.edu describes other services available to help students, like phone chats with a licensed counselor and a new peer support app called “Talk Campus.”

The counseling department is also planning a de-stress week at the end of October that will offer in person and online events.

“We are constantly trying to connect to students in the hybrid world,” Ladson says.

According to the American Foundation for Suicide

Prevention, suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the US and the 13th in New Jersey. According to New Jersey State Health Assessment Data, “The average annual suicide count among New Jersey residents is about 800 and there are more than twice as many suicides as homicides in the state.”

But survivors prove that there are ways to get help and get through the bad times.

Kelsey Mason reflects back on what it took her to move through her depression saying, “The tattoo says ‘warr;or’ and it means I was strong enough to overcome the thoughts and feelings I was dealing with which makes me a warrior for that.”



MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES AT MCCC

Let's Chat

Let's Chat is a free, private virtual drop-in service where registered Mercer County Community College students can have an informal consultation with a licensed counselor on a first-come, first-served basis.

Fall 2021 Drop-in Hours
Mondays 9-12pm,
1pm-4pm SC 229



TalkCampus is a free app where you can talk with other students from around the world. It's designed as a peer support system that's available 24/7.

Terhune's Orchards serves up Fall Family Fun Weekends through October

By Ashley Jackson
Senior Reporter

Terhune Orchards - a Princeton mainstay - is celebrating the return of Fall Family Fun Weekends, now running every Saturday and Sunday through October.

For over 40 seasons, Terhune Orchards has been serving up farm-fresh goodies, live music, and barnyard fun to celebrate the start of fall.

Festival goers can start their day picking apples at their Van Kirk Road Orchard, then take the 2 minute drive to the Cold Soil Road entrance and enjoy the main farm.

Admission to the festival includes access to the barnyard petting zoo, nature trail, flower picking, the Adventure Barn, pedal tractor area, hay bale maze, corn maze, pumpkin picking and painting, and access to the



Fresh picked vegetables, home made baked goods including apple cider doughnuts, and local gourmet treats can be found in the Farm Store. Wine tastings, animal patting, and pumpkin picking are all family favorite events at Terhune's.

winery, the Barn Door cafe, and country store.

The adventure barn is a standout activity for even the littlest farmers. This season's “Gee, New Jersey?” theme

sends families on a life-sized storybook maze to discover all sorts of wild, weird, and goofy facts about the Garden state.

Local musical talent serenades guests from 12-



PHOTOS | ASHLEY JACKSON

4pm outside the Barn Door cafe, which features more outdoor seating options to accommodate socially distant spacing.

The event runs rain or

shine from 10am - 5pm. Admission from family members 3yrs and up is \$11 online, and \$14 at the gate as capacity allows. Tickets are valid for 3 hours after entry.

9/11 Remembered

Ewing Patriotic Committee honored those lost in the terrorist attack 20 years ago

By Alex Gonzalez
Senior Reporter



Members of the Ewing Township Fire Department were among those who attended the ceremony to honor those lost in the 9/11 terrorist attack 20 years ago.

This past Memorial Day also fell on September 11, the 20 year anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the Twin Towers in NY, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and the plane crash in Shanksville, PA.

To commemorate the anniversary, Ewing Township held a ceremony at the Municipal Complex, hosted by the Ewing Patriotic Committee.

The memorial was held outside, allowing those in attendance to observe The Firefighter Memorial behind the Municipal Building. The statue contains a piece of the towers, an hono-

rarium gifted to municipalities that lost community members. Ewing Township lost three of its own that day, and these citizens lives were memorialized.

Richard J. Guadagno, who grew up in Ewing, graduated from Rutgers in 1984, and worked for the US Fish and Wildlife Service, was aboard United Flight 93, returning from a visit to his parents. His badge and credentials were identified among the debris.

Joshua Scott Reiss, 23, was in the North Tower at the time the plane crashed into it. Reiss

grew up working in his father's clothing store, Suit World, on Olden Ave. He was a graduate of the University of South Carolina in 2000, and was working as a bond trader for Cantor Fitzgerald at the time of his death.

Colleen Fraser, 51, was the Director of the Progressive Center for Independent Living, a Ewing-based non-profit advocacy group fighting for the civil rights of the disabled. She served on the New Jersey Developmental Disabilities Council, and helped to support the Americans with Disabilities Act. Fraser was also a passenger on United





PHOTO | ALEX GONZALEZ

e Memorial Day celebration that honored the three people from Ewing whose lives were



PHOTO | ALEX GONZALEZ

Scott Strauss, a retired NYPD detective who was one of the first responders that answered the call to help at Ground Zero on 9/11, gave the main address at the Memorial Day ceremony in Ewing that marked the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks.

Flight 93.

The opening remarks of the 9/11 service were given by Ewing Mayor Bert Steinmann. He was followed by guest speaker Scott Strauss, a retired NYPD detective who was one of the first responders that answered the call to help at Ground Zero on 9/11. He spoke about what he witnessed that day.

“The things we saw and had to do are forever burned deep within us and will haunt us for the rest of our lives,” Strauss said.

He went on to describe leaving work for the day, hearing on the radio that a plane

struck the Trade Center. When he got home and turned the TV on he saw the second plane hit.

“I immediately knew we were under attack, and I knew I had to get back to work,” Strauss said.

He got back to the Trade Center just as the second tower finished collapsing. Strauss said, “We grouped up and began searching for survivors. And then, about 7:30-8:00 at night, we got word that there were two police officers trapped in the rubble.”

Strauss was concerned about the time it took to find

survivors, saying, “We didn’t think they’d survive a rescue attempt.”

It took about 4 hours to get the first officer, Will Jimeno from the Port Authority Police Department, out of the rubble. It took until 7:00 the next morning to get the second officer out. That officer was Sergeant John McLoughlin from the Port Authority Police Department.

The ceremony ended on a somber note with the roughly 100 people in attendance giving their respects to the responders and civilians lost in the attacks.



Triathletes team up for Special Olympics

By Ken Fantry
Reporter

Every year Special Olympics of New Jersey (SONJ) hosts an event at the Jersey Shore known as One More Tri. It is a triathlon that helps raise money for athletes with developmental disabilities who participate in the Special Olympics. Triathlon is a sport that combines swimming, biking, and running.

In the past two years SONJ has shifted the event from in-person to a virtual relay format which partners non-disabled athletes with Special Olympians. Participants get to choose the portions of the race they'll complete and then race it on their own time, at their own pace, either indoors or outdoors.

Gayle Stamler, a member of the Jersey Shore Tri Gals, participates in triathlons regularly and is also an open water swimmer. Swimming is her favorite part of triathlons and often her leg in triathlon relays.

This year Stamler decided to compete in the One More Tri Unified Relay event and was paired up with former Mercer student, and Special Olympic swimmer, Margo Lee. Lee has won Gold Medals in Special Olympics in swimming in the United States and abroad.

As Jeanene Leppert, Director of Special Events for SONJ described Stamler and Lee's pairing, tears could be heard in her voice. She said, "[Gayle] wanted Margo to have the swim leg, so she did the bike and the run...She taped Margo's trading card to her bib, and ran. That's not what she does, she's a swimmer, but she decided Margo's going to be the swimmer. And this was somebody that knows nothing about Spe-



PHOTOS USED WITH PERMISSION

cial Olympics, and she was one of the first people to register this year."

Lee, who began swimming competitively with the Special Olympics when she was about eight years old, first swam in the One More Tri triathlon in 2009.

She says her favorite thing about participating is "Making new friends." While she misses the in person aspects of previous years, she says "just seeing all my friends" is still her favorite part of this year's event, even though it is virtual.

As Leppert explains, in years past, "You came to the race, you did the race, and you left. And you felt great about it. It was amazing, but you didn't really get to know the athletes, I

think."

Under the new format One More Tri athletes and community members have been encouraged to engage more on social media, sharing stories about their lives and their love of the sport.

Lepper says, "we asked [the athletes] to fill out a survey that is a deeper dive than, you know 'How many medals have you earned? What sports do you do?...The connection between the community and our athletes is way deeper, way more real, much more humanity is brought to our athletes."

Additionally there have been surprising financial benefits. While the revenue is lower than the typical annual in person haul of \$80,000 and up, the



Gayle Stamler (left) and Margot Lee (above), were paired up for the 2020 One More Tri Unified Relay to support Special Olympics.

expenses have been so greatly reduced as to leave the event with higher net proceeds.

"To put on a triathlon," Leppert explains, "is a very expensive endeavor, so much more expensive than people realize."

She continues, "So what ends up happening is the expenses creep up to being about 60% of the total revenue." Leppert adds, "This year, owing to the reduced expense and heightened engagement, proceeds are up despite less than half the average number of participants so far."

Current Mercer Student, Gold Medal winning Special Olympian and VOICE reporter Laurie Gallagher reflects this enthusiasm centered on the SO community. She recalls of her days in the Special Olympics that "It's [about] participation, but I also did it for social reasons, and it got me out of the house."

While Stamler and Lee will be completing their sections of the race apart, they will still be in it together.

Mercer athletics start the fall with covid caution

By Liam Simonelli
Reporter

In early March of 2020, Mercer County Community College's spring sports were following a typical practice and game schedule when COVID-19 hit and within two weeks the campus and all sports were completely shut down.

MCCC men's lacrosse coach Robert Siris said of the situation "Once Princeton University cancelled their spring sports, we knew that we would be shut down as well. It happened very quickly."

By the fall of 2020, the college was still operating almost entirely remotely and all sports were still canceled for the year. The college had developed a symptom tracker for those required to be on campus, but it was only for academics. Sports were still completely on hold.

MCCC Athletic Director John Simone said "Everyone missed the day to day routine and the socialization." He added that "For many [students] that were graduating, it was the end of their playing careers."

Coach Siris spoke on this reality as well, stating "The most difficult part was not being able to see our players and coaches in person."

But by the spring 2021 semester, sports activities began their practices again in preparation for the fall 2021 game season. It was a gradual, cautious step for Mercer's athletics. Many precautions were in place including masking and distancing to only playing scrimmages.

As of late September this year, most students are back on campus and sports are returning to their regular schedules but still observing precautions.

However, the rise in the Delta Variant of COVID has already caused scares. A student on the softball team was exposed to covid and couldn't attend face to face classes.

If a whole team gets exposed there is a risk not only to the players' health but also to the season schedule if everyone has to quarantine.

Coach Siris says, "It is tough to predict the future, but I hope many students are vaccinated and we don't have to revert to any closures." He added "We will adapt as we have done in the past."

Garrison Legros and team aim for strong season

By Mahdavi Steinert
Reporter

Mercer Viking's pitcher Garrison Legros doesn't back down from a challenge, but the abrupt end to his 2020 baseball season threw him for a loop. Thanks to COVID, he and his team had no trips, no playoffs, and no opportunity to compete in the 2020 championship.

Legros says, "We were really discouraged to find out we weren't competing that season because we worked really hard. We felt like we were turning a corner as a team. In a sense, it kind of felt like it was snatched from under us." He added, "You don't know what you got until it's gone."

After taking a moment to process the unorthodox end of the season, he took action.

"We actually ended up forming what we called the 'Sandlot League' on Mercer's



PHOTO | ALESSANDRO RIVERO

Mercer men's baseball team at practice in spring 2020.

field. That was a lot of fun, got a lot of guys together, got us out of the house, you know? Kept us engaged."

Maintaining their connection despite safety restrictions seemed to help the team make a comeback. As they got back to play in spring of 2021 Legros helped the Vikings turn around a 9-0 deficit in an intense game against Brookdale.

Legros says he put

his workout song to "Party in the USA," and hit a homer that night that ultimately helped The Vikings bring home a win.

Athletic Director John Simone says, "It took quite a bit of work by the staff to set up the safety protocols, scheduling, and procedures in order to return in a safe manner."

Coach Fred Carella concurs, saying, "The biggest challenge we have faced is



COLLEGE VOICE | FILE PHOTO

Garrison Legros team roster photo

learning to live and play in this new environment. There are still some restrictions and protocols in place which can cause frustration."

Legros look ahead saying "This is just another obstacle we're going to have to overcome as a group."

The season continues through September, finishing on October 30.

Rudy's in Hightstown is a new local favorite

By Gaby Lorenzo
Reporter

Rudy's Restaurant, the new eatery in downtown Hightstown, has the town raving with its filling portions and mouth watering Guatemalan flavors.

Owners Rudy and Zhamilet Martinez have dedicated their time and effort turning a small locally owned restaurant into a buzzing business. During peak hours, you will see large parties patiently waiting outside the doors for a table. Do not be discouraged, it is very much worth the wait.

With only \$13 in your pocket, you can get a big platter with rice and beans and a protein of your choice, as well as a freshly made Guatemalan authentic drink. Enjoy fries and a sandwich with a fountain drink, and still have money left over.

It's no wonder dinner and lunch rushes are their busiest times, but it is all worth it when you receive a nice hot plate of personally favorite "La Picada" which translates to the picking. This dish includes a variety of meats including fried pork cracklings, cubed grilled chicken, and diced pieces of steak with sweet cassava and fried plantains.

It's no surprise that this small business has made a big name for itself. Rudy's Restaurant became the talk of the town when they relocated



PHOTO | GABY LORENZO

Rudy Martinez showcases some of the most popular dishes at his restaurant in Hightstown.

from Manalapan, Freehold to Hightstown Main Street, and then quickly making their first appearance as a locally owned business when attending the 8th annual Latino Festival.

Hosted by RISE, a community support service, on August 21 - it included musical performances, craft vendors, and of course food from local restaurants, where Rudy's Restaurant sure caught the eyes and noses of many. As a result,

from the positive reviews, townies and outsiders have been pouring into Martinez's doors.

The impact of coronavirus was fraught for many local business owners, and Martinez became overwhelmed with emotions recalling the moment he and his wife accepted closing down in Manalapan was for the best. But the heavily trafficked area where they currently reside has had a positive impact, so much so that Mar-

tinez couldn't put into words how grateful he was. "This was a blessing in disguise," he shares.

Raul Perez, a Guatemalan local indulging in his breakfast, commented in Spanish how "Rudy is so famous, everyone knows him!" Martinez interjected in Spanish with a quip of his own, "Everyone is family when they walk through those doors but no, I am not famous. My FOOD is famous. The best fair prices and good food."

Chevere Latin food truck hits the quad for Club Day



PHOTO | ASHLEY JACKSON

Numerous clubs had tables at the Club Day event on September 22. Students enjoyed good weather and time to connect.

By Ashley Jackson
Senior Reporter

Club Day at Mercer had something for everyone. First and foremost were the club tables representing all kinds of extra curricular groups on campus from Hospitality to The VOICE. Research shows that joining clubs helps students feel connected to their peers and their college and students who participate in clubs regularly are more likely to graduate on time!

Club day also featured games like mini-golf, a DJ, and some some delicious food!

The empanadas from Chevere: Latin Food Lovers food truck were a stand-out selection, with lines wrapping around the quad. Chevere was

in such high demand, that not everyone was lucky enough to get a taste.

"I enjoyed the different cultures of food on Club Day. Them empanadas was so fire, but the line was super long!" shared Isaiah Hostick, a Business Administration major. "But at the end I got the final empanada! Period."

Hostick wasn't the only lucky winner at Club Day, as there were several friendly competitions down on the quad. Om Patel, a Business Administration major, enjoyed getting to hang out with his friends at the mini golf station.

"It's fun getting to be at Mercer for the first time", Patel exclaimed "I enjoy it!"



PHOTO | ASHLEY JACKSON

Student Issiah Hostick survived the long lines at the Chevre food truck to get the last empanada at MCCC's Club Day on September 22.

Princeton's Bent Spoon icecream: a pricey treat

By Alex Gonzalez
Senior Reporter

For the past three weeks, I've been trying different ice cream flavors from The Bent Spoon in Princeton. I have read so many positive reviews online for The Bent Spoon that I felt like it was worth a try, and in the age of covid, the best way to try it was through online ordering and curbside pickup.

Bent Spoon has grab-and-go options but their website lets you place an order and pick it up the next day. They call it "provisions." The provisions shop is open on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. It's not exactly Amazon, but hey, we're supporting local business here.

Then I saw the price: \$10 per pint. I know food prices have gone up because of supply chain problems this past year, but \$10 is over the top. Still, there were the good reviews and the goal of supporting local ventures, so I went ahead.

I tried four different flavors over the course of several weeks both to break up the costs and because I can't eat four pints of ice cream--even with help from my family--at one time.

Bent Spoon is known for its variety of flavors so I tried to branch out. The flavors I chose were Milk Chocolate Hazelnut, Coffee Chocolate Bit, Madagascar Vanilla, and Turkish Coffee.

For the Chocolate Hazelnut my first reaction was that it was like biting into a Hershey's chocolate bar, but creamy. I was disappointed because I didn't get a hazelnut flavor right away, but it was just subtle. It came through slowly and the flavor reminded me of those Ferrero Rocher chocolates, rich and complex. Does anyone still eat those besides me?

As for the Coffee Chocolate Bit, as soon as I tasted it, I was immediately reminded of a fresh, hot cup of Dark Roast coffee. At first, the taste of coffee overpowered the chocolate bits. But as with the Chocolate Hazelnut, after a few bites the secondary taste came through. It tasted like German dark chocolate, a little bitter, but for someone like me that enjoys a nice bar of dark chocolate, it was a pleasant taste.

For my final run of taste tests, I ordered two different flavors for my final week: the Madagascar Vanilla and the Turkish Coffee ice cream. The Madagascar Vanilla Bean was nothing special. It's your standard vanilla ice cream. The Turkish Coffee was interesting. I did get a little smell of coffee when I sniffed it, but it didn't have a strong coffee flavor like I expected after tasting the Coffee Chocolate Bit.

Out of all the flavors I tried, the Milk Chocolate Hazelnut topped my list with the Coffee Chocolate Bit coming in a close second. Is it worth the price? Maybe stick to getting a small cone as you walk around Princeton on a sunny day, and avoid the cost of a full pint.

The Bent Spoon is located at 35 Palmer Square in downtown Princeton, NJ.

Letter to the Editor

Fellow MCCC Students,

My name is Christian Perez, your Vice President of Student Government Association. I am writing to you regarding the upcoming elections, where I will be running as your President. For most students, including myself prior to joining, “Student Government” is usually an empty term. We often don’t see or hear anything impactful, but that doesn’t have to be the case.

I was hard at work during the COVID-19 lockdown, meeting with politicians via Zoom to advocate on behalf of CCOG (Community College Opportunity Grant) and other financial aid opportunities for students. In fact, you can find promotional material for a CCOG campaign that features me, among other students, online and out in the world! I also advocated on behalf of our student body and clubs and fought back when some members of the administration tried to take our club offices and meeting rooms from us. I went so far as to email President Wang herself, of whom was very supportive of us, and produce a video with other students which I would have publicized if our voices weren’t heard. Finally, one of my last agenda items I accomplished was hosting regular meetings with SGA members of our neighboring county colleges so that we can share ideas, collaborate and support each other- something that proved to be super valuable and that they are eager to continue doing with me this coming term.

All that said, Student Government Association has taken on a bigger meaning and part of my life than just granting me some sort of fancy title. It’s become hard work, but only because I strive to make it hard work. I want to continue to give students the opportunity to enjoy what this college can offer, without missing out on the “college experience” or struggling as hard financially as they would otherwise. I want to inspire the rest of you to speak up or, better yet, get involved, and amplify your voices where you either can’t or are too shy to. If you value any of that and want to see someone not just take the reins but go somewhere with it, vote for me, Christian Perez.

Chris Perez for President. Voting for me is a vote for yourself.



How to avoid cramming for tests and quizzes

LAURIE’S CORNER



By Laurie Gallagher
With support from
the Staff of The College VOICE

It can be hard to balance everything at once

We, as college students, are under a lot of pressure as the semester starts up. We’re still facing the pandemic, wearing face masks, and staying six feet apart. Because of these circumstances, we may find ourselves slipping behind in our work and then trying to cram for our first tests and quizzes.

Cramming means trying to get lots of information in our heads at the last minute. We may find our-

selves drinking lots of caffeine to stay up to focus. But is this healthy?

I have researched why we cram. Sources like the blog “The Productive Engineer” say we cram because we’ve put off all the things we need to do because it’s easier to focus on living in the moment rather than planning ahead.


The blog has some recommendations for staying on track and avoiding having to cram. The blog

recommends studying small chunks at a time and possibly with peers to make the effort more social. Music, meditation, exercise and healthy snacks can also help us keep mentally on track. Using online time organizers like Google Calendar are also recommended by the blog.

By taking little steps, we can build better habits overall and have a happier semester.

top ten

Most Grammy Wins



1. Sir George Solti
2. Quincy Jones
3. Alison Krause
4. Pierre Boulez
5. Vladmir Horowitz (tie) Stevie Wonder (tie) John Williams
8. Beyonce
9. Chick Corea
10. U2, Jay-Z (tie)

Source: Statista

MAIL CALL

What do you think? Do you agree with the opinions you see here? Do you like our coverage of College and local issues? Is there a topic you really want us to cover? DROP US A LINE AND LET US KNOW!



Do you see a typo?


Join the staff and help us fix it!

Meetings Mon + Thur 12-1 on Zoom or in person!

NOTICE

MCCC LIBRARY

Need help with research papers? Check out Reference Chat online M-F 9-5.

mccc.edu/student_library.shtml



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Being a sophomore and a freshman at the same time

After a year of college I finally got to come to my campus

My Perspective



Aiden Velenger

For some Mercer students their previous year at college was entirely virtual. Now that in-person classes are being offered for this fall semester, Mercer has second year students who have never spent a minute on campus, like me.

After a year of college spent entirely online, I was thrilled to attend my classes in person. Although face to face does pose significant risks when CDC guidelines are unattended to, learning in person on the West Windsor campus has proven to be beneficial so far.

The campus itself is a commodity that students can

use to their advantage. The design of the school is most ingenious. There are interconnected hallways allowing students to travel from almost every building without having to step outside. This makes for an easy commute to and from class.

The first thing that grabbed my full attention on the campus was the study space inside of the Student Center building. The newly renovated portion on the second floor creates a futuristic and vibey feeling of modernity, almost like being in a Starbucks or Apple store, but better.

Ceiling lights form together to create simple geometric patterns. The wallpaper is abstract and fun to gaze at. The carpet is patterned to catch the eye, and furnishings look like they're straight out of 2025, all of which are colored in a complimentary palette that ties the whole space together with a playfulness that just has to be seen in person.

While the spaces for study provide students with fun areas to congregate and mingle. Other aspects of be-

ing in person can also be beneficial.

The advantages of physical classroom interactions even behind masks make for a more realistic college experience than is possible online. While my online classes did have some positive traits like time flexibility, they could not provide the same nurturing and intellectual environment that Mercer has to offer when on campus.

Seeing friends, professors, and faculty in real life adds to Mercer's magnificent aura of diversity and inclusion. Being on campus with peers, and physically enjoying time together creates a sense that some limitations of our pandemic predicament have been lifted.

However, certain limitations still exist for individual safety which we should stay mindful of. Masks, social distancing, and the vaccine are helping to slow the spread of coronavirus, but students on campus are still getting sick.

Safety measures like antibacterial tape on most door handles, and our janitorial team who disinfects the

classrooms between usage create an atmosphere of caution. But it is clear even with these security measures that we cannot stop the spread of the virus entirely unless everyone is on the same page.

Some students attending classes in person are more susceptible than others to contracting covid, but aren't able to do online only classes.

As a community college we need to focus on the bigger picture. Everyone should do their part in keeping Mercer safe which means wearing a mask while on campus, filling out the symptom tracker form honestly, social distancing whenever possible and, if you wish, (although not mandated by Mercer) getting vaccinated.

If we all do our part in following Mercer's guidelines, attending in person can continue to be a positive experience for all students on campus. Everyone in person should feel comfortable enough to relax in the communal study spaces, in the new funky furniture, and outside in the great-wide-open quad.

HIGH GPA? JOIN PTK!

If you have a GPA of 3.5 or higher and have completed 12 credits or more of classes at the 100+ level you may be qualified for the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

Members have access to lots of benefits including potential scholarships!

Find out more by stopping by the PTK Student Club office in SC. Or contact Professor Huang at

huangj@mccc.edu

GET YOUR SHOT!

COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card

Please keep this record card, which includes medical information about the vaccines you have received.

Por favor, guarde esta tarjeta de registro, que incluye información médica sobre las vacunas que ha recibido.

Last Name	First Name	MI
Date of birth		
Vaccine	Product Name/Manufacturer Lot Number	Date Healthcare Professional or Clinic Site
1 st Dose COVID-19		mm dd yy
2 nd Dose COVID-19		mm dd yy
Other		mm dd yy

The closest vaccination site to MCCC's West Windsor campus is at Costco on Quakerbridge Rd. less than four miles from campus!

voice of the future

A CLASSIC NEVER DIES



The Headband



The Classic



The Chingard



The No Nose



The Earring

K.Horke

FAST JLAW FACT

In the Mahoney case of 2021 Supreme Court ruled that a cheerleader who dropped the F-bomb on social media was protected by the 1st Amendment.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

Fake news has been around a long time. In 1835 an article about people an alien colony living on the moon caused sales of the New York Sun to skyrocket!

JOURNO LINGO

Sometimes an editor "spikes" a story which means decides it can't run. This refers to the old days of journalism when editors kept actual spike on their desks!

GREAT NEWS

Former VOICE reporter Maria Lupita Ramos, who graduate from MCCC in 2018 is now working for The Dallas Morning Star. Congrats, Maria!

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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.

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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, tone or clarity.

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ADVICE - ASK THE VOICE



Dear VOICE,
I've fallen and I can't get up. What should I do?
-Fallen

Dear Fallen,
Stay down, there's a lot of craziness flying around.
-The VOICE

Dear VOICE,
I'm sweaty, tired all the time, and I think I've grown five inches. My dad says it's puberty. I think I am Spiderman. Suggestions?
-Confused

Dear VOICE,
I'm hungry and broke. What should I do? Head for the

corner?
-Broke

Dear Broke,
Pull a Robin Hood. Steal from the rich. Feed yourself.
-The VOICE

Dear VOICE,
My dog at my 500 word essay. My professor doesn't believe me. What now?
-Bad Excuse

Dear VOICE,
My dog at my 500 word essay. My professor doesn't believe me. What now?
-Bad Excuse

Dear Bad Excuse,
Rewrite your paper on the side of your dog in Sharpie and turn that in. That'll show that professor not to question your bad excuses!
-The VOICE.

Dear VOICE,
I keep getting lost on campus. What should I do?
-Lost Larry

Dear Larry,
We all get lost sometimes. Leave it to God. Or Lil

Nas X.
-The VOICE

Dear VOICE,
Something simply must be done about the overflowing in the BS building bathrooms!
-Soggy

Dear Soggy,
Amen, sister.
-The VOICE

Dear VOICE,
I believe my students are trying to kill me with their shoddy mask wearing skills. What can I do?
-Scared Prof.

Dear Scared Prof.
If they wanted to kill you, you'd be dead by now.
-The VOICE

NOTE: THIS FEATURE IS FOR ENTERTAINMENT ONLY. ANY RESEMBLANCE TO ACTUAL ADVICE IS ACCIDENTAL.

HOROSCOPES



Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

Three times a charm. You have tried something several times lately and not had exactly the outcome you hoped, give it one more try. You're getting closer every time.



Aquarius

Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

An unexpected social situation at the end of the month makes you nervous but also excited. Embrace the moment because it could lead to a meaningful connection.



Pisces

Feb. 19 - Mar. 20

Try not to put so much pressure on yourself to pick your exact direction in life. You are doing the right things, but a lot of where you end up is just a matter of luck and timing.



Aries

Mar. 21 - Apr. 19

A new school year leaves you stretched for time. It can be easy to forget to take time to yourself. Try to schedule in a few micro-breaks each day so you can maintain your stamina.



Taurus

Apr. 20 - May 20

No one knows what you are truly capable of, even you sometimes. You are strong and able to do amazing things. Don't sell yourself short. It's okay to see yourself in a positive light.



Gemini

May 21 - Jun. 20

After a bumpy summer fall comes as a relief even if there is a lot of work to balance. Get out and enjoy the cooler air, carve a pumpkin, watch the leaves begin to turn. Things are looking up!



Cancer

Jun. 21 - Jul. 22

Months of covid restrictions have left you on edge and things don't seem to be improving as much as you'd hoped they would by this point. Don't worry, improvements are coming, just at their own special pace.



Leo

Jul. 23 - Aug. 22

Your Leo side is taking over and it's time for you to let out your roar. Speak up, be heard, don't be scared about raising your hand and getting noticed. You have a good roar and good things to say!



Virgo

Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

You are a helper by nature but sometimes helping everyone else can drain your own batteries. Don't be afraid to ask for help when you need it too. You aren't bothering anyone by asking.



Libra

Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

Do you look around and wonder why everyone else seems so much more calm and relaxed? Here's a secret: they are probably nervous too, but they are putting themselves out there and you need to too.



Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

You are a hard worker, possibly even a workaholic. It's good for your bank account and for stability, but pace yourself. You don't have to prove yourself every minute, and you need time to connect with family and friends.



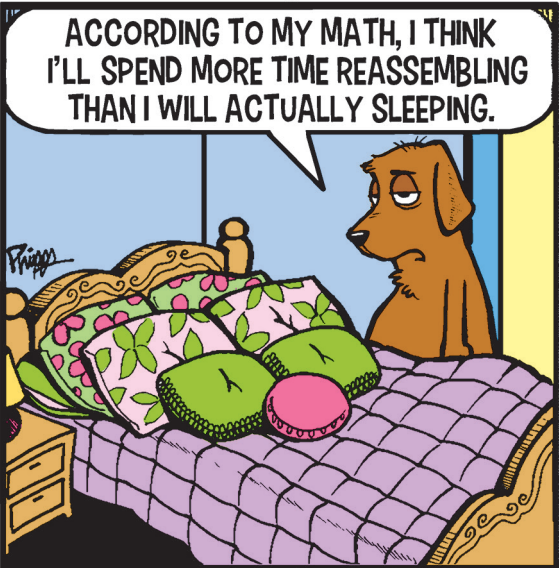
Sagittarius

Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

You did a small kind deed that you may have forgotten about but someone out there is paying it forward and good karma should be coming back to you too.

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



SUDOKU

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

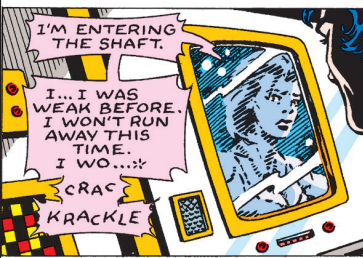
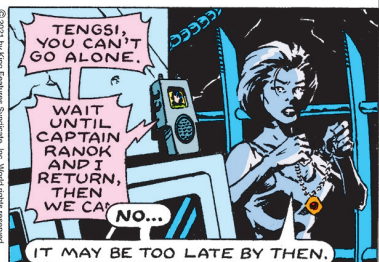
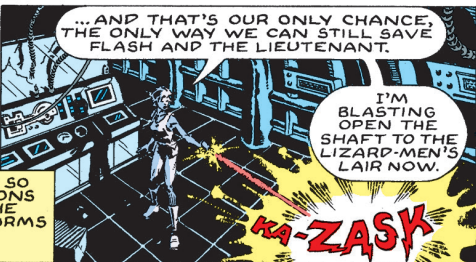
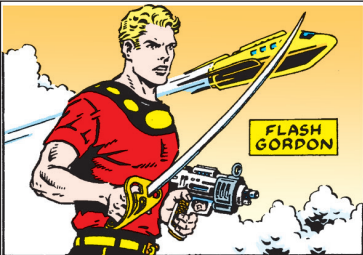
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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

Answer

FLASH GORDON



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

