

The student press of Mercer County Community College since 1968

New president, Dr. Deborah Preston, arrives as college faces major challenges



Dr. Deborah Preston, who was most recently the Provost at Raritan Valley Community College moved into the Administration building in July.

PHOTO | BEN LEVITT

Issue Highlights

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College makes safety upgrades New door locks installed in case of shooter

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Op: Wifi is spotty on campus which presents real problems | PG. 11

JUST FOR FUN

Horoscopes are back! What can you look forward to as fall gets under way? PG. 12

By Ken Fantry Editor in Chief

UPDATES

MCCC plans to overhaul and update the security infrastructure of the West Windsor campus over the next twelve months. The first step has been the installation of Teacher-Lock brand door sealing barricades. The locks are designed to allow a classroom to be quickly sealed from the inside, affording first responders precious extra minutes to respond to a crisis such as an active shooter.

Once activated the

from opening from the outside without the removal of a bolt and the use of a special key. The

key is currently held by Security, department heads and lockboxes around campus to which first responders have access. The search for a suitable device began after the Robb Elementary School shooting

Josh Johnson, Assistant Director of Facilities, says, "There was a concern about being able to secure their classroom in whatever type of situation, whether it's a mass shoot-

ing [or something else]. So we TeacherLock prevents the door took some time after the events that occurred in Texas, and we something that is more secure. said to ourselves 'what are our That builds more confidence." options here?" Jennings says.

Johnson continues, "We established some long ond year Business Administrarange goals that we wanted to tion Major shares this feeling, see. But then we said we also but also expresses separate condon't want to wait until next cerns saying, "Like I know that spring to put something in place there's security [officers] downthat can secure classrooms."

Professor of Psychology, and take night classes and I'm like Faculty Association President 'Is there anyone in the buildsays the faculty share this prior- ing in case I get mugged?' It gets ity.

mistic that while this may not pretty safe."

be the best form of security for the classroom, that there is updates will include keying the

Destiny Pierre, a secstairs but I only ever see them

As Heather Jennings downstairs. Like, sometimes I like really dark and you never "The faculty are opti- know. But other than that I feel

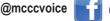
The long term security

See LOCKS page 4

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Funeral Service is an unusual standout program

By Ashley Peng Senior Reporter

Kathryn Taylor who is now a fourth year student, came to New Jersey from Alabama, specifically to study Funeral Service in MCCC's program.

Taylor says, "It's a funny story. When I was younger we had to do a career project for the future and I saw the word 'undertaker' when I was in like 6th grade, just like looking up general medical stuff, and I got the wrestler and [undertaker]. And so I was like 'Well I don't want to be a wrestler, so let me do my project on this profession.' So basically [I've been interested in it] ever since 6th grade"

The job Taylor found, "undertaker" is someone who prepares dead bodies for burial or cremation and arranges funerals, but it is more commonly known as a funeral director.

Mercer is the only public Funeral Service education program in New Jersey. It has been around since 1976. The only other program in the state is a more expensive private one. People from everywhere come to take the college's program, including students from Philadelphia, New York and Delaware. Alabama may be one of the farthest, though.

Taylor says of her move, "The closest school [in Alabama] was about a three hour driving distance and we didn't have the money to get me setup with an apartment or on-campus housing. The next closest was up in Tennessee which was out of state, and out-of-state costs would have been even more."

Fortunately, Taylor has an uncle in Neptune, NJ who was able to let her come live with him so she didn't have to pay for housing.

Within Mercer's program Taylor and the other students learn everything from business to law to biology to psychology.



Kurtis Hoffman, Funeral Director at Peppler Funeral Home in Allentown, NJ, and alumn of MCCC's Funeral Service program, explains how the business works.

"Summer 2020 was especially hard because we couldn't even teach an embalming lab in person. It was crazy because we were all still working at funeral homes and there was a spike in the death rate in 2020. At every funeral home I know, it just got bonkers"

-Professor Michael Daley, MCCC Program Director for Funeral Services

One person who knows the business aspect well is Kurtis Hoffman. He is a graduate of MCCC's Funeral Service program and a director at the local Peppler Funeral Home.

Hoffman says, "Every place is different. Some places are more corporate. We're more of a family business. You try to do what you can to help people, but in the end it's still a business."

A major part of the college's program is the hands-on learning. Students need to set up an internship with a funeral home to gain experience and must reach a quota of embalmings, funerals, and arrangements established by the American Board of Funeral Education."

Hoffman says his experience in getting an internship in the current funeral home where he works took some time. As it is a family business, they prioritized interning family first.

Taylor has found the same. She says, "If you were born into a funeral home, it's different, but I personally was not. So it is very difficult for the non second, third, fourth generation funeral directors to get internships and get to finish everything just because internships are hard to come by if you're not family and if you don't know someone."

At the end of the program, students have to take the National Board Exams and MCCC has had a strong pass rate on the exams. After they pass, students head out to find work.

But learning the business aspects of the job can be easier than handling the psychological aspects.

Taylor says, "Just in general with the funeral students, a lot of other students don't quite realize, to put it plainly, the shit we have to go through, and by that I mean not only emotionally, but mentally, physically."

When asked about how he teaches students how to handle the heavy emotional toll and making sure their job gets done, Professor Michael Daley, who is the Program Director for the Funeral Services at Mercer says, "You can either grieve for them or help them. You cannot do both."

Geralda Aldajuste, Associate Professor in Funeral Services at MCCC, says that graduates tend to stay with the Funeral homes they interned with because it is hard to get the job in the first place.

But concerns over finding an internship and following a career path was suddenly put on hold for all the Funeral Service students when the country went into COVID lockdown.

Professor Daley says, "Summer 2020 was especially hard because we couldn't even teach an embalming lab in person. It was crazy because we were all still working at funeral homes and there was a spike in the death rate in 2020. And every funeral home I know, it just got bonkers."

Both the program and funeral industry had to get creative on how they did things. Funeral homes gave virtual viewings on platforms like Zoom. Many funeral directors still did embalmings but with protection such as respirators.

One of the homes Prof. Daley worked for, allowed families to have viewings, but with longer viewing times to allow for people to have their time to pay respects and to align with social distancing precautions.

As for the program, both Prof. Daley and Prof. Aldajuste had to figure out how to put all their material online, including exams that used to only be taken in person. Prof. Daley recorded videos for students that they could use for reviews and studying.

As in person teaching has restarted, the professors are continuing to use many of the tools that were made to accommodate students.

Prof. Daley says, "It's good to be back. Even my students have been saying the campus has come back to life."

Major campus renovations are on the horizon

By Ben Levitt News Editor

Starting during the winter break of this year, the Liberal Arts building on the West Windsor campus of MCCC will be closed for renovations. These renovations are scheduled to take nine months to complete, being done around the Fall 2023 semester.

Assistant Director of Facilities Josh Johnson said the renovations are being done to completely replace the HVAC system in that building and perform various other upgrades and changes.

Johnson says that the new HVAC system will provide "constant outdoor air and occupancy sensors which take into consideration how many people are in the room by looking at the amount of carbon dioxide that is

being put out."

He adds that among other improvements, the ceilings will be removed, and lights will be upgraded to LEDs.

The heating and cooling system for the building will also no longer use boilers. It will use heat pumps and refrigerant.

According to Johnson, the project has a scheduled nine month timeline to provide more cushioning and to bring costs down, as the estimate for getting it done quickly would have been three months. Johnson said this was because for the three month timeline, more workers would have to work more shifts, bringing up labor costs. With the current timeline, less people can work and spend more time on specific projects within the upgrade. Mathematics Professor

Jamie Fleischner, who has an office in the LA building said "I'm glad that they're going to redo it because the temperature in here varies day to day. It's never consistent. Different rooms are hot and different rooms are cold - one side of the building versus the other."

Dean of Liberal Arts Dr. Bob Kleinschmidt says that his main concern is finding out where students are going to go, saying "If I have to have an office somewhere for a semester, that [the location] is not the best, that's not a big deal. The real problem is can we put classes in a viable location so students can continue their education?"

Along with these renovations, there are others in the works for the entire campus. The most visible change are the new locks classroom doors called a TeacherLock, which acts like an interior deadbolt device. To improve upon the locks, the school has made various upgrades to make them more tamper resistant.

Along with the TeacherLock, Mercer plans on adding swipe card entries to all class rooms. These would work with a student and professor's schedule so that they can get into only rooms they need to be in when they need to be in them.

These swipe card locks would also be able to be remotely locked in the event of an emergency, so nobody could get into a room.

The school is also working to expand the footprint of security cameras on campus, with the current situation not offering much visibility in the event of an emergency where they are needed.

Abby Hall, an Advertising and Graphic Design major said of the possible security upgrades "I do like the idea of getting into buildings with an ID card, I feel like it would make me feel safer."

The school has set the Fall 2023 semester as its goal for getting the campus-wide security upgrade completed.

History Professor Craig Coenen said of the LA building closure, "I'm hoping that by the fall of 2023 when they reopen the building, it'll be modern and safer. It's going to be a disruption of course, but it's going to be something that I think long term will be a positive thing."

For anyone who cares about reproductive rights The Janes on HBO Max is must see TV

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Seven women from the Jane Collective were arrested in 1972, but their cases were dropped after the Roe v. Wade decision in 1973 made abortion legal.

30 year. In the documenta-

ry Lessin shows "the sep-

tic abortion" wards where

people who had failed ille-

gal abortions went to seek

medical care and often

VOICE, "We are going to

see what we saw in the

60s, people dying, people

ning abortion does not

stop it, it only stops people

from getting safe and legal

speak abortions banned

injured, people infected."

Lessin told The

She says that ban-

"Right now as we

died.

ones.

By Jessica Romero Silver Junior Reporter

"The Janes," a recent HBO documentary, follows the experiences and activities of a group of college aged women in Chicago in the 1970s who formed an underground abortion counseling service that they call the "Jane Collective."

The goal of the Janes was to provide women with safer and more affordable abortions at a time when it was still illegal in most of the United States. By 1973 they had helped over 11,000 women terminate unwanted pregnancies. As the film explains, they had an excellent rate of patient safety, unlike the back alley abortions that were common at the time.

The seven main organizers of The Janes were arrested in 1972 and faced up to 110 years in prison. The case took time to work its way through the system and eventually charges were dropped when the Supreme Court gave women the right to abortion in the Roe v. Wade case decision in 1973.

This year, nearly 50 years after Roe, in a new case known as Dobbs, the Supreme Court took abortion rights away again, making the film all the more relevant to our

"It's not only a story of tragedy, but also a story of resistance and sisterhood and community. People who said 'No. We are not only going to talk about it, we are actually going to do something!"" -Tia Lessin, Co-Director of The Janes

other women and began the abortion counseling service.

CHGO P D F

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Eleanor Olivers. a member of the Janes, volunteered to use her phone number for ads in an underground paper. She explained, "Let's change it so they don't ask for Eleanor. How about Jane? Nobody's named that anymore, it's a nice simple name," and the Jane Collective was born.

Co-director of the Janes documentary, Tia Lessin has been an activist for abortion rights for over the ballot boxes and make a change." Lessin says. She hopes the

Janes inspire a younger generation to rise up to stop these injustices.

Chole Asack, a former Lawrenceville, NJ resident, now first year English Major at Cornell University, says she watched the film because she was interested in learning more about these issues.

"Even though I had learned about it and read about it a little bit I don't think I fully understood the process of what it was like to get an abortion at a time when abortion was illegal."

Asack's social media posts about the Jane Collective caught the eye of Mercer student Sofia Garcia. Garcia then became interested in learning more about the film. She says, "This idea really resonated with me because these issues are so important and its really good that the media and filmmakers are shedding light on its history"

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HBO PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

The Janes members were ordinary women who saw a problem and provided a temporary solution. There are many reasons why someone may choice to seek out an abortion. The documentary allows viewers to further understand what life was like when making that choice was illegal.

Lessin explains, "It's not only a story of tragedy, but also a story of resistance and sisterhood and community. People who said 'No. We are not only going to talk about it, we are actually going to do something!""

Visit www.thejanesfilm.com for more information about the documentary

New students talk about their adjustment to MCCC

By Willena Mah Senior Reporter

This article describes the experiences of some of MCCC's newest students. comes with expectations that High School did not prepare her for.

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The film pre-

miered 16 days before the

Dobbs decision was hand-

ed down on June 24. The

story is told through in-

terviews with former Jane

members, their patients,

spouses, and those in the

In the

mentary Heather Booth,

founder of the Jane Col-

lective, reflects on a time

before the Janes and how

friend mentioned his sis-

ter was pregnant, nearly

suicidal, and needed

an abortion, so I helped

find her a doctor. A few

weeks later, someone

else called...the word had

began seeking Booth's

help it became over-

whelming to do alone.

Booth was involved in

a multiple movement

groups, so she recruited

As more women

Booth said,

they came to be.

spread."

docu-

"A

medical field at the time.

times.

"In high school homework was one of those things where if you to her first year in college didn't do it, you'd get a re-

DEBORAH AUGUSTIN. NURSING MAJOR

Nursing Major Deborah Augustin has also arrived unsure of what it would be

an opportunity.

"My goal is to Grow and be a different person in a good way."

SALMORAN GARCIA, **FASHION DESIGN MAJOR**

While study-

class today."

first in line because they

already had an appoint-

ment set up for me, so i

was grateful for that. I also

walked into the wrong

been possible for her High School experience to better prepare her for college.

"I think mv regular teachers did pretty good at general teaching, but I did take dual enrollment class and i think my teacher exaggerated a bit much. She was inconsistent about the work and college life and what they are like, she just exaggerated about how they would be so complicated. I feel like I don't know how well they could prepare for like being on your own but general work was fun."

in 14 states, that's going to grow day by day unless we take to the streets, take to





EVELYN SANDOYA, PUBLIC **HEALTH MAJOR**

Hailing from a family of Ecuadorian immigrants, freshman and Public Health major Evelyn Sandoya is the first member of her family to attend college. This also means she was the first in her family to discover the stark difference between high school and college.

As Evelyn tells The Voice, the experience can be overwhelming. "Today emotionally and mentally I didn't expect to be just like dumped for a hour and a half worth of like material and expected to write all that down."

At Mercer Evelyn has found that college ally bad grade but it wasn't

the end of the world .. I had a class yesterday that was like if you don't submit all your essays, you can't pass."

Evelyn also describes being nervous but like many of her fellow freshman, Evelyn remains dedicated to finding a balance that will lead to success.

"I feel like that's a

personal decision. Socially I don't think your school is responsible for your social life I feel like that's something you have to take actions for yourself. If you want to put yourself out there okay, good for you, but if not then it's like what can the school do about it."

like

"I'm really nervous just because I don't know what to expect. This is my first time going to college. I'm a freshman so its just new to me so I'm nervous about everything."

Despite her nervousness there are many things about the social and academic aspects of college Deborah is excited about.

"I'm looking forward to meeting new friends and just learning different things, just having fun."

Much like Evelyn, Deborah, who hopes to become a trauma nurse, is staying focused on using this new environment as Likewise. Fernando Salmoran Garcia, a Fashion Designing Major is very excited to step into

his Freshman year of college but wants to make sure he also stays on top of

his game.

"What am I nervous about? Probably just getting things on time and hopefully that's the least of my worries."

Fernando has found The One Stop help-

ful as he adjusts to college, even if his first day involved a common freshman mistake while navigating the halls.

"I went to the one stop this morning and there was a long line but I was looking to make it the

ing Drawing and Fashion Marketing, Fernando keeps in his mind a very personal goal.

"Five years from now I want to be a little happier."

YELENA SANCHEZ, **FASHION DESIGN MAJOR**

Some freshman such as Fashion Design Major Yelena Sanchez are particularly excited about the changes from high school.

"Im looking forward to actually studying what I'm interested in and not just having to do general learning like in high school. I like the freedom it's better."

However, Yelena does feel it would have

With a complex course load including 2-Dimensional Design, Drawing, and Statistics, Yelena is making the most of Mercer in pursuit of her goals.

"5 years from now I want to be working in a popular business, or open my own place."



Campus

New president gets started

Continued from page 1

nently adorned with an ornate original poster for Kenneth Brannagh's "Hamlet," was 21 years old when, while teaching a writing class for college students, she found herself so inspired that she shifted her pursuits from acting to education.

This was no small decision, as she had already earned a degree in theater from Florida State, a pursuit to which she was dedicated enough to graduate in only three years.

"I could see students writing and getting better, and getting more confident. I felt like I was making a difference," she says of her first teaching experiences.

Dr. Preston's career has been wide-ranging. While working at Georgia Perimeter College she went from adjunct professor to Campus Provost in 14 years.

She first considered getting into higher education when her Ph.D. professor Dr. Joseph Roche said, "You know, Debbie, there's more than one way to change the world."

Dr. Preston says the shift to administration made more things possible.

"I gained the ability to have an impact on more students, and the higher up I got, I gained the ability to have an impact on the faculty. [I realized] if I could have an impact on the faculty that would have a good impact on the students," she says.

One of the first issues Dr. Preston faces at MCCC is the college's rocky finances.

The largest source of financial stability for the college is student tuition, which means more students are needed to fill seats. However, enrollment has been going down dramatically since the start of COVID and is down another 6% this semester.

Dr. Preston says marketing is one way to improve enrollment.

"We weren't really doing enough marketing in the right kinds of marketing, so we are now taking the money that we would've spend internally in marketing and we hired a firm to help us with a better website with digital marketing, digital ads, it's really important to get the word out online for today's generation of college students," she says. In addition to improved marketing, Dr. Preston says she plans to pursue outreach to local businesses to increase enrollment. She says. "This is going to take a little more time, but that's when the real enrollment increases happen, when you have programs that employers promise jobs [in] and the students want to come and take those programs."



MCCC President Dr. Deborah Preston talks to her Special Assistant Lynette McCarthy.

"If you're not in it to change the world, I don't know why you're doing it, honestly. Because it is not like a big university. I'm not making millions of dollars doing this. I'm not going to get my own airplane or anything. I'm in it for the work."

- Dr. Deborah Preston, MCCC President

is arriving after the previous administration ended in chaos with the former president, Dr. Jianping Wang, being put on paid administrative leave following the results of an investigation into alleged racial misconduct was given to the board of trustees. The outcome of that investigation, and Dr. Wang's counterclaims against the college, is not clear, but Dr. Preston faces a problem of low institutional morale.

At the start of the fall term she said, "I'm going to talk to the faculty next week in the opening meeting about everyone just making a pledge to be kinder to each other and more supportive. We're going to offer some training for employees to be better managers, and things that will make the college a happier place to be." To the students Dr. Preston says "I know there's been some chaos, and I know it probably had some students worried, but Mercer is a great college with great people, and you're in a good place, and it's only going to get better." Student Government Association President Christian Perez says of Dr. Preston, "I like the reports that I've heard that she's been interacting with students and trying to have more of a presence in the Student Center and on campus in general. I think students really need that, they need to know their president, and they need to know they can reach out to her and interact with her as an equal."

the past many students such as herself didn't know Mercer even had a president or who it was, so the new president's approach has been meaningful to her.

"I do like that Dr. Preston was able to go to the cafe, and walk around with students and introduce herself and make herself known, which is great, because like I said before I didn't even know we had a president," Pierre says.

Pierre added "I just hope that she really puts the students first, and works on just providing a very safe and inclusive environment for students. I feel like when you go to a community college, It's very easy to get lost in your way, and kind of just feels like you're not having the best time. So I just hope she's really about the students the number seems to be even smaller in administrative positions.

Dr. Preston says, "I think one of the things we have to do is we have to shake that up a little bit and, and give applicants of color some opportunities to really shine in maybe some nontraditional ways."

Faculty response to the new administration has been generally positive.

Math Professor Kyle Anderson says, "It gives me a sense of hope that things can actually change for the better for the faculty, staff and students here at the college. I think that's the general consensus as well, that everyone's very excited to see what further improvements can be made."

His perspective is echoed by Professor of Psychology Dr. Heather Jennings, who is also the President of the Faculty Association, who says that although she has had a short time to get to know the new president, "The kind of feedback that we've been hearing among the faculty is really positive that a short amount of time to hear her plans and to see what her leadership style is going to be, and everybody's very optimistic."

New locks on classroom doors

Continued from page 1

approximately 1,300 doors on campus, and adding swipe card access for faculty to more campus doors. However, as that is a large project which is not scheduled to be completed before next fall, interim measures were sought.

Johnson says, "Generally what first responders have said is they want an additional three to five minutes to respond. What we've found through our research is that any type of mass shooter is going to go to a classroom and if they find they can't immediately get into that classroom, they're going to move on."

Selecting the right device was a balance of cost, efficacy, and the particular needs of MCCC. Some devices either didn't fit most campus doors or didn't fit any of them.

"A lot of those [models] actually took longer to deploy than the Teacher-Lock. So that was something else we looked at 'how quickly can this be deployed in an emergency, and how easy is it to use?" Johnson says.

Professor Jennings already views the Teacher-Lock as an improvement saying, "I feel that it's good moving forward, because in the past we had only a magnet to lock our doors and this seems to be more secure."

The Facilities Department has further enhanced the TeacherLocks with specialized torque bolts, replacing the easily overcome flat head bolts the models came with. The torque bolts are more difficult to remove with common tools but can be removed with the proprietary key already in campus lockboxes and utilized by first responders.

Johnson explains, "When we reached out to Teacher-Lock they said they knew that they were flathead screws and if we could get the bolts somewhere else that they would reimburse us."

PHOTO | BEN LEVITT

In addition to the financial struggles, Dr. Preston Destiny Pierre, who is the President of the Women in Business club, says that in

and not into any drama or anything like that."

When asked about her plans for the James Kerney Campus in Trenton, Dr. Preston says that there are a lot of supportive people interested in sharing ideas to help that community, but she needs to figure out what is the right idea for the improvement of that campus. She says that one of the options is to hire a firm, but ideally she wants to use the support of the college's four year institution partners.

Another issue of concern at MCCC is the lack of minority representation. According to institutional data from December 2021, the student body is 58% people of color, while full time faculty are only 15.5% people of color, and In terms of her overall take on the job Dr. Preston says, "If you're not in it to change the world I don't know why you're doing it, honestly. Because it is not like a big university. I'm not making millions of dollars doing this. I'm not going to get my own airplane or anything, I'm in it for the work."

Many on campus are happy to have the new locks, but as Destiny Pierre explains, it's more complicated than that.

Pierre tells The VOICE, "Shout out to Mercer for taking the proper steps to ensure that we're safe, but it's also just sad that that has to be done in the first place, you know?"

Read more online! mcccvoice.org





Dear Madam President,

From some MCCC students who have been here for a while, we offer our new president some hopefully helpful advice and wish her the best of luck!



(Context - As the VOICE reported in 2020, when a campus building was on fire there were no alerts sent out and students and staff were told only that there were "unforeseen maintenance repairs" going on in the affected building.)

Dear Dr. Preston.

Communication and specificity are essential to education. So for future reference, [avoid the errors of] your predecessor, and remember the technical term for a large, bright, hot, smoky 'unforeseen maintenance repair' is in fact "FIRE!" My concern is not so much the disingenuousness of jargon, but the suggestion that Mercer students and staff cannot identify a fire literally happening in front of them'

-Ken Fantry, Editor in Chief

the backbone of the institution. And bring your camping gear, because that West Lot is a long way away.

-Ashley Jackson, Former Editor in Chief **Current Princeton University Student**

Dear Dr. Preston,

and say hello.

Please get to know students.

especially new freshman, and give

motivation to anyone you see who

is looking down (upset). Also, build

a good relationship with professors

and make them believe you belong

-Willena Mah, Senior Reporter

here by showing them. And just

take daily walks around campus

23 years later, I can say I've seen a lot of positive change on campus. My advice to vou as our new president is to keep looking forward. Get to know the students, and allow us the opportunity to know you.

> -Julia Meriney, Junior Reporter

-Kristina Hontz, Former Art Editor **Current TCNJ Student**

Dear Dr. Preston, Good luck! -Sierra Azara, VOICE horoscope writer

Dear Dr. Preston, Please work hard and never give up and also help give encouragement to all of students and facilities. -Laurie Galagher, Newsroom Manager, **DREAM Student**

6

Dear Dr. Preston, We have no need for dorms. We just don't. We don't get enough international students, and we are a community college. Most everyone already lives here. Plus, we already have a deal with Rider to house people who need it. Dorms are a waste of money.

-Ben Levitt, News Editor

And here's some coffee. Your going to need it.



The VOICE surveyed 50 students to find out if they wanted to keep the old viking mascot or would prefer something new. We offered them a variety of NJ native creatures to choose from. Here are the results!

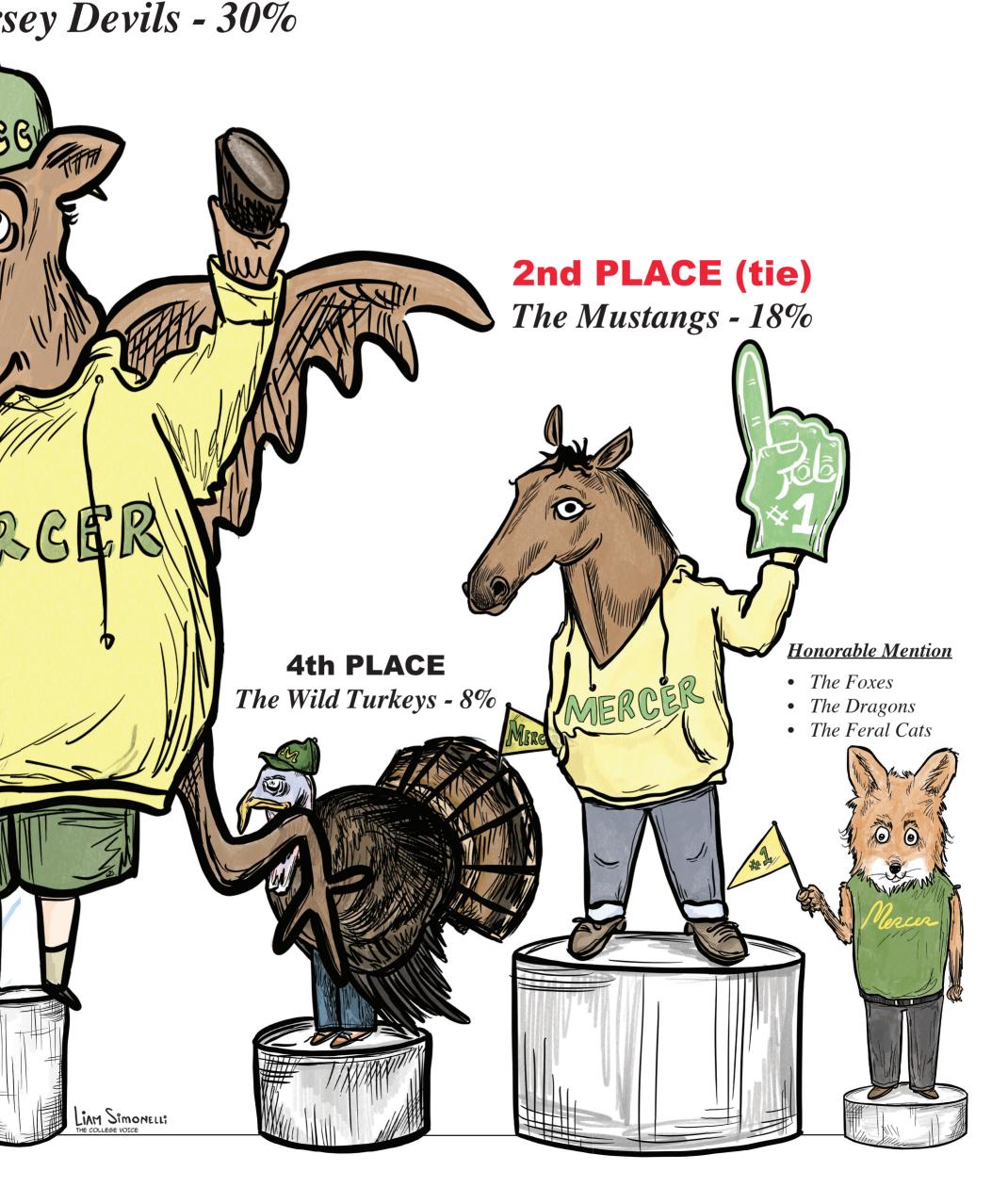
2nd PLACE (tie)

1st P

The Green Jers

















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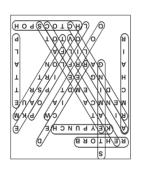
Puzzles Extra

VOIC

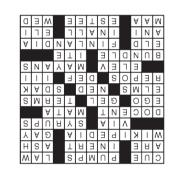
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Decider	Lollipop	Tantrum
Forsake	Platte	Virginia
Hopscotch	Stalemate	Waterloo
Keypunch	Steaming	
	Forsake Hopscotch	Forsake Platte Hopscotch Stalemate



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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ** * Moderate ** Difficult *** GO FIGURE!

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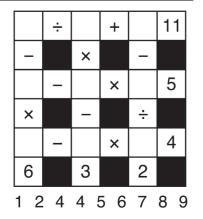
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DIFFICULTY: ***

Moderate ** Difficult *** GO FIGURE!



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Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. **HAGNEC** becomes **CHANGE**). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥ RATHE becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

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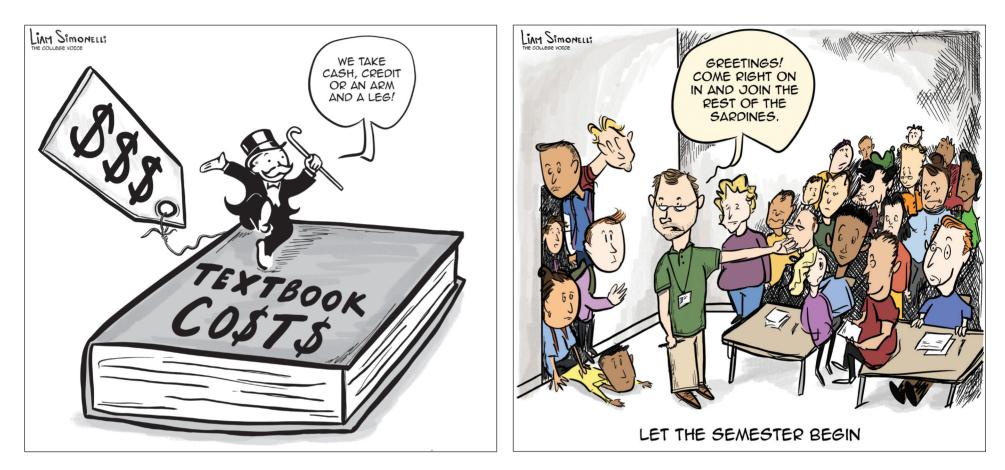








Giving Students a VOICE is a monthly editorial cartoon series from Liam Simonelli



Not everyone drives: Understanding our transportation needs is important



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



PHOTO | LAURIE GALLAGHER Students wait for transportation by the CM building near the turning circle at PE.

and so on. But the challenge of taking Uber is that you need to pay by credit card or debit card. I am very lucky that my parents pay for it, but it can be expensive.

If you want to take Uber download the Uber app, pay, then select the kind of car of your choices and enjoy your ride. But, in the app you do have give your location and the location of your destination. The Uber drivers are nice too.

I interviewed Tione Maurice Campbell Jr. who is a Mercer County Community College student. He said "yes I go to college; the Uber is great on time there to pick me up and to the campus."

I interviewed more Mercer County Community students who take many different kinds of transportation to campus. Mercer Student Shaboi said that they take a bus called New Jersey Transit, and another person named Zachary aid he drives on his own and another student's name Siddi says takes a yellow bus.

Uber cars are comfortable, and I talk to the drivers and it is a great opportunity for people who don't drive. It is easy to download the app go into the app store on your cell phone and pick your location and your destination where you what to go there can take you anyway you want from any store and go and from school, work and so much more. Everywhere you on go to the airport or even on our spring /summer break. People should care about the safety and the well-being of college students, and how they need to depend on their transportation to go to and from school. After all, these students are the future.

Some students do drive and some don't drive and

As college students we need to go on-campus

those who don't drive have to take other transportation such as a yellow bus, NJT, Taxi, or apps like Uber and Lyft to go on-campus and attend their classes. Even when it is raining cats and dogs, in the snow, in the hot summer days and even in the Spring and Fall semesters, transportation is important to every students on Mercer County Community College's campus because money can be tight when it comes to transportation. It can be very expensive. Even if you own your car it can still be pricey at the gas station.

for our classes. Some students drive to classes some students are driven by their parents, and some students take public transportation for example New Jersey transit, Access link, Taxis' or apps like Lift, and Uber.

On average, college students need a low-income way to go to school, especially when it comes to transportation. I know because I take Uber myself because I do not drive. Uber is a way for me to do my daily life like going on-campus and going home, shopping



Opinions 10 - 3 - 22 the college VOICE 11



Campus Wi-Fi woes ongoing: do improvements lie ahead?

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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

UPDATE

By Julia Meriney Junior Reporter

If you are in college, you most likely have a device on you that will allow for connection to the internet. Phones, tablets, and laptops are now just as important to students as notebooks and pencils, especially if the course requires a digital textbook or if your class is only offered through remote learning. We are living in an age where Wi-Fi is becoming less of a convenience and more of a necessity which is why it is paramount that, as students at Mercer County Community College (MCCC), we have access to reliable Wi-Fi while on campus.

Having faced challenges with the W-Fi myself, I wanted to know if others on campus were having the same problems. In a VOICE survey of 45 students, when asked if they have ever had issues with the school Wi-Fi, 82% answered yes.

The biggest complaints were: 1. The connection dropping and 2. Slow internet speed while using Wi-Fi.

Although not everyone has a problem with the internet it is clear that the majority of Mercer students do. Abraham, a current student at MCCC said "We need a better Wi-Fi option. Make it faster and have better connections.".

With the high cost of attending college, compounded by rising inflation, upgrading to a faster device is just not an option for everyone. *Even though the Wi-Fi is free on campus, the price* to use it to its full potential can be very costly.

Fi on campus a challenge.

Having an older device can slow the connection or even cause it to drop completely and not everyone can afford the most up-to-date device. With the high cost of attending college, compounded by rising inflation, upgrading to a faster device is just not an option for everyone. Even though the Wi-Fi is free on campus, the price to use it to its full potential can be very costly.

Another factor that can cause spotty Wi-Fi on campus is its added use for entertainment. It is important to take breaks throughout the day and many students find playing online games or catching up on their favorite Netflix series offers much needed time to relax before their next class. Streaming and online gaming could also play a factor in Mercer's spotty internet service.

The structures of certain buildings on campus and materials they are made from also could also be contributing to the problem. Having taken classes in most of the buildings on campus, I can say that there are areas on campus which seem to be much worse than others.

One Mercer student noted that the "Wi-Fi seems to struggle in the HS building."

A study was published on October 9 2021 in the Engineering, Mathematics and Computer Science Journal (Volume 2 No. 3) titled "WiFi Signal Strength Degradation Over Different Building Materials." The study found that "[d] ifferent building materials will affect different WiFi signal strength." While I'm not sure of all the materials used throughout the college, there certainly seems to be a little bit of everything and it's probably interfering with our Wi-Fi.

There are many factors for MCCC's spotty connections but at the end of the day, the speed of our campuses network is greatly determined by how much bandwidth is available and ensuring that the access points are spread throughout the campus especially in those areas that have the most interference.

There could be some much needed improvements coming soon. MCCC has a new Vice President of Information Technology (IT), ble educational experience Inder Singh. This is great

news for the college as new leadership can often bring about much needed change. Singh joined the college in March of 2020, during the pandemic.

He told The VOICE in an interview that since the pandemic "we have realigned our IT team to support our student faculty and employees much better. We work very closely with the OneStop Team and we have an IT liaison to support all the students and faculty."

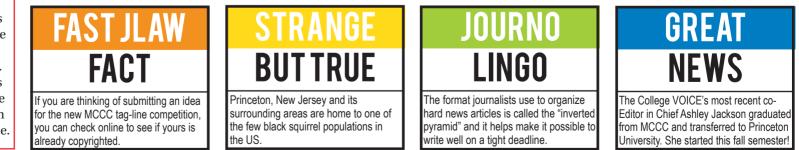
Singh also told The VOICE, "we are partnering with Cisco and we're using Cisco technology to upgrade the campus Wi-Fi infrastructure. So that's already in the works."

The IT department is aware of the Wi-Fi problems on campus and the plan to upgrade has already started. During the interview, Singh acknowledged, "currently we have a Wi-Fi issue and that's one of the reasons we are upgrading. Our JKC Campus is already in the process which we are planning to complete by December and then we will start the West Windsor Campus. Our goal is to complete by the time our Spring session ends."

We look forward to seeing what improvements Inder Singh and his team bring to Mercer. With their current plan in motion, there is hope that we will soon be able to experience the quality of Wi-Fi that will ensure the best possifor all students on campus.

In our May 2022 issue, we reported on the clash between the MCCC Board of Trustees Chair Mark Matzen and the then College President Dr. Jianping Wang. Following our coverage, Dr. Wang was sent home on administrative leave based on the results of an internal investigation. The college community has received no follow up on the contents of the investigation nor the resolution in this case.

While it is easy to say that Mercer is the problem, there are several factors that make optimal Wi-



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!

The College VOICE accepts letters to the editor. Submissions should be no more than 400 words. Send materials by email to an editor or a media adviser, and include your name and status at Mercer (major and year, faculty or staff position or alumnx) or local address. Letters to the editor are posted online and run in print. For more infomation see our policy manual at: www.mcccvoice.org/tools/policy-manual/

e-mail: johnsonh@mccc.edu phone: (609) 586-4800 ext. 3594 write to: The College VOICE c/o Prof. Matthew Kochis Mercer County College 1200 Old Trenton Rd. West Windsor, NJ 08690



12 VOICE 10 - 3 - 22 **IUST 4 FUN**

HELP IS HERE - ASK THE VOICE!



Hey VOICE. I was wondering where the quad is. -Lost

Dear Lost, Well quad means square, and there's only one giant, open square on campus. -The VOICE

Dear VOICE. I found out I have to take Public Speaking and my anxiety is going through the roof. Can I get out of this class -Quiet Type

Dear Quiet, We honestly have no idea but also want out. Please let us know what you come up with. -The VOICE

Dear VOICE, Is the parking lot haunted. Creeped Out

Dear Creeped Out, Judging from the look of the students getting out of their cars in the morning...yes. -The VOICE.

Dear VOICE,

This is my first official year on campus and I almost got run over by two old guys in a golf cart. I just managed to jump out of the way but they keep arriving without notice. What do I do? -Almost Flattened

Dear Almost Flattened, What were you doing in the golf cart lane? The college has provided grass, mulch, and stone work to walk on just to avoid such a calamity. -The VOICE

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





Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

Capricorn, October will be a busy month! My advice is make plans for Halloween with family or close friends. This choice will have a positive impact on your mental health.



Apr. 20 - May 20 This month will test everything you know as stability. By the last week of the month, you will understand your personal themes throughout this transit. It's time to buckle down and protect what you've built.



Virgo

Virgo, this month your communication skills will be in the spotlight. You may feel guided to help others this month, embrace that energy. You are being sent to these people for a reason.



Aquarius Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

This month you may feel yourself needing to be more adaptable than you really like to be. Embrace the chaos Aquarius, it's only preparing you for what's to come!



Gemini May 21 - Jun. 20

Gemini, it's time to stop distracting yourself with other people, and focus on yourself. Embrace the introspective energy this month, you won't regret it!



Libra Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

Libra, this month you will be charismatically boosted! This month, it's time to let go of those who no longer need you to speak for them. This is your time!



HOROSCOPES

Pisces Feb. 19 - Mar. 20 Pisces, this month the universe is making way for a new chapter that is

the key to unlocking the good karma you've been waiting for. Enjoy the confidence boost in your intuition this month!



Jun. 21 - Jul. 22 With the harmonious aspects hitting your sun sign at the end of the month, it's now or never Cancer. You can have the *life you've always wanted;* you just need to have *faith, and jump.*



Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 All things come to us when we need it, not when we want it. Be ready for a new chapter Scorpio, it's right on your horizon.



Aries Mar. 21 - Apr. 19 Look inward and find freedom this month, Aries. With this newfound confidence, doors will continue to open for you. Keep your head up, and eyes open.



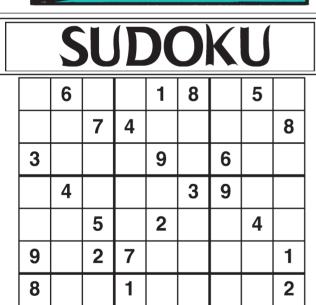
Jul. 23 - Aug. 22 My advice to you this month is to use the energy you have before the full moon to enjoy all the perks of the spooky season. Don't forget to take pictures!



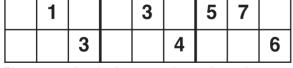
Sagittarius Nov. 22 - Dec. 21 *Enjoy the benefits of early* October and do what is best for you. Rebuild yourself from any losses experienced this summer. *Later in the year, you will be so grateful that you* did.

FLASH GORDON





Aug. 23 - Sept. 22



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!

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GET FUZZY

