Students ask where money from ENG course fees is going

By DeChole Covington & Daisuki Kataumata
Senior Reporters

In the fall of 2007, Mercer began to add a $25.00 course fee to all English 023, 024, 101 and 102 classes. This semester the fee has been increased to $30.00. The majority of core English classes have one session per week that meets in a computer lab, but at least 15 sections do not, and students in those sections have started asking why they must pay the fee.

“When I got my schedule, there was a $30 special fee and the lady didn’t explain it and I didn’t bother to ask. I just thought the fee went to special things we had to use in English class,” said first year student Vanessa Emerah. Of 18 students interviewed from a typical ENG 101 section, several stated that they were told that the fee was for a computer lab class. This confused the students because their English 101 section is one of the ones that does not have a lab session. Even their proctor could not explain what the fee was being used for.

“I don’t think it’s fair or right that we are getting charged a fee that no one knows about for computers that we don’t have access to,” stated first year Accounting major Ashley Ezecuirio. In an initial interview with Liberal Arts division dean, Robin Schore, he indicated that he was not certain what the fee was for and recommended talking to the registrar’s office. Registrar Joan Guggenheim was away on vacation, but Alex Cooper, office manager of enrollment services, said the fees are already placed on the student’s schedule before they even reach his desk.

More Mercer students are unemployed now than they were at this time last year. In a recent survey of 30 Mercer students, 12 reported that they were currently unemployed. Seven out of the 12 said they were employed at this time last year.

“I have applied [for jobs], but when I followed up they say, ‘We’ll let you know if something opens up,’ ” said George Reed Goldy IV, a TV/Radio major in his second year at Mercer who, in his search for employment, is losing hope in the economy ever stabilizing. “I want it to stabilize, but I believe that ‘important’ people are profiting from [the economy being down], so I don’t see it stabilizing anytime soon,” he adds.

Out of the 30 survey takers are currently employed, almost half of those admitted to undergoing cuts and modifications to their work hours, due to reasons other then personal choice.

“Yes, there have been times my hours have been cut and it has been stressful because I pay rent, buy groceries, and have credit card and phone bills,” said Marketing major Ashley Ezecuirio.

Survey says many more students unemployed than this time last year and some have lost hope of a job.

“People have high hopes when they started to focus on their lifestyle in some way. These students are cutting back, or eliminating entirely eating fast food, driving their car, shopping, or paying for entertainment. ‘Not going to movies, not having fun, just hanging out at people’s houses,’ is the way Michael Applegate, a third year Liberal Arts major, is coping with hard economic times.

‘Due to the recession I am now anorexic…thanks, America!’ said Liz Coegi, a third year Music major, with a laugh.

Although many students are struggling to find any job right now, 25 of the people polled still have hope of one day obtaining their “dream job.”

“As a pre-med [student], I know my dream profession will always be in need, but I wonder how I will fund my education, and how patients will afford medical care,” said second year Biology major Matthew Varela.

The majority of those polled however, they had high hopes for both the economy returning back to normal and for their individual futures. “I firmly believe that good work ethic will be rewarded,” said Tyann Sells, a second year Television major. She added, “things always get better!”

Students ask where funds are going from ENG course fees is going

By Amber Zahn
Senior Reporter

More Mercer students are unemployed now than they were at this time last year. In a recent survey of 30 Mercer students, 12 reported that they were currently unemployed. Seven out of the 12 said they were employed at this time last year.

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Out of the 12 unemployed students, only four are actively continuing their search for part-time work, while three agreed that they need the money, and although they are looking, they do not see job-hunting as a top priority. The remaining five unemployed students are not looking for work at all. They gave reasons such as not having time, wanting to focus on their studies, or being supported by their parents.

Out of the 30 students surveyed, five felt the economy will remain down as a result of government policies. “From day one we have been burying ourselves into the ground after establishing government and letting ourselves be owned entirely by money; the things you own end up owning you,” said Rob Allen, a first year music major. “The best government is no government” Allen added.

Although 18 of the 30 survey takers are currently employed, almost half of those admitted to undergoing cuts and modifications to their work hours, due to reasons other then personal choice.

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Mercer’s aviation program has been facing possible termination as a result of raising enough funds to continue the program. Many students are certain of ultimately ending up. At this point, they are paying the fee when they know that colleges charge course fees, such as the Testing Center and the Learning Center. Even a visiting student who comes to take just a test, and heart disease. Therefore the CDC states that the H1N1 vaccine will expire. Therefore students should take up this vaccine as soon as they hear that it is available. This is especially true if you are in one of five “priority groups” consisting of pregnant women, those in contact with children younger than 6 months, a healthcare worker or first responder, those aged from 6 months to 24 years of age, and those with medical conditions like asthma, diabetes, and heart disease. Some students will contract influenza. Those students that do will find little ability to continue his or her education. While many schools (including Mercer) are attempting to develop contingency plans so that students can attend classes virtually, this is largely incom- plete. Any students with labs or practical requirements will be unable to continue studies (it is impossible to mix and measure chemicals in a virtual environment). Students with these particular academic responsibilities should take extra care when monitoring their health. Mercer’s three local colleges: Rider, TCNJ, and Rutgers, all have similar flu preparation plans, mostly centered on the prevention of transmission. As part of their preparation plans, Rider University and TCNJ will offer swine flu vaccine to students, faculty, and staff for a nominal fee, whereas Rutgers intends to make these available free. Mercer has not made any apparent plans to vaccinate students, faculty, and staff.

It must be noted that statistically speaking, these two diseases, seasonal influ- enza and H1N1, are not equal in danger. According to Strat- for (which uses CDC’s statistics) global deaths related to seasonal influenza range from 250,000-500,000. On average 36,000 people die from seasonal influenza in America each year with approximately 1,100 deaths in New York alone. By comparison, there have only been 15 deaths attributed to H1N1, making it not nearly as lethal thus far.

Students must know that while the elderly are usually more vulnerable to seasonal influenza, H1N1 has higher rates of infection among those aged 24 years or younger. The greatest danger for any demographic is posed to pregnant women. Therefore the CDC recommends that the vaccine is most crucial for those within these demographics or those who have regular contact with them. Therefore as the season for flu and sickness approaches each student should take ut- most care of their health.

By Ron Russell III

Rider University and TCNJ will offer swine flu vaccine to stu- dents, faculty, and staff for a nominal fee, whereas Rutgers intends to make these available free. Mercer has not made any apparent plans to vaccinate students, faculty, and staff. A grant of $450,000 over five years from the New Jersey Department of Transportation and The Buehler Perpetual Trust revive aviation program. According to Professor Joe Blasenstein, the Aviation Program Director, three new aircraft and one state-of-the-art fully-enclosed flight simulator will be purchased immediately. The aircraft, initially considered the Diamond DA-20 to replace some of the aging Cessna 152s used for ini- tial flight training but the idea was later dropped. "The rea- son we’re not looking at the Diamond is because it is a com- plete aircraft," said Professor Blasenstein. "With sheet metal [construction] in the Cessna product that we’re purchasing, what we have is a proven du- rability that has weathered the test of time." According to Prof. Kuhl, "The Cessna 152 has been a trainer for 40 years."

Although composite aircraft, such as the Diamond, are made of modern materials that pro- vide exceptional durability, they require specialized equipment and techniques to fabricate and repair. "As far as we’re concerned, it is not as easy to repair locally, that’s why we’ve moved towards the Cessna product." The [Cessna 152] will get $250,000," said Prof. Blasenstein. Professor Kuhl echoed these sentiments saying, "[the Diamond aircraft] is not for us. The toughest thing you can do to an aircraft is use it for primary training. It’s murder on an aircraft."

Small Composite air- craft haven’t been around long enough to gauge long-term perfor- mance or be tested in the abuses of flight training. Faculty and student alike are thrilled that Mercer’s avia- tion program will continue. Christopher Ali, an Aviation Flight Technology student says he is impressed. "I’m a new student and I didn’t have to ask around to find what I needed. I used the bookstore, I got the answers, it was pretty easy, and I saved a lot of money." "I’m a new student and I didn’t have to ask around to find what I needed," said first year Arts major, Brandon Fleming. Fleming’s views are echoed by second year nurs- ing major Trudi Newmark, who says, "Last year it was a hassle to get books, pay for classes and see academic advisors. The new setup is much more conven- ient." Other students are less impressed. "It just feels like a new hallway. I don’t get what the big deal is," said second year Liberal arts major, Alex Casper- son. But he noticed, "the hallways now, looks clean, and it’s just a good change of pace from the old stu- dent center." Mercer students did have some early criticism regarding long lines for the identi- fication booth and some have noted that the logistics of the bookstore can be confus- ing. "When I try to go down stairs to pick up books I end up walking to the elevator and have to retry my stops," says Casper- son.

Other complaints are similarly minor. "The floors of the student center may actually be too clean. They always make my shoes squeak," says Flem- ing.\n\n\n"I'm a new student and I didn't have to ask around to find what I needed," said first year Arts major, Brandon Fleming. Fleming’s views are echoed by second year nursing major Trudi Newmark, who said, "Last year it was a hassle to get books, pay for classes and see academic advisors. The new setup is much more convenient." Other students are less impressed. "It just feels like a new hallway. I don't get what the big deal is," said second year Liberal arts major, Alex Casper- son. But he noted, "the hallways now, look clean, and it's just a good change of pace from the old student center." Mercer students did have some early criticism regarding long lines for the identification booth and some have noted that the logistics of the bookstore can be confusing. "When I try to go down stairs to pick up books I end up walking to the elevator and have to retry my stops," says Casper- son.

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William Paterson offers B.A. at Mercer

By Peter Cosma
Reporter

Mercer County Community College graduates now have the opportunity to receive their bachelor’s degree from a highly respected 4-year university, William Paterson University, without ever leaving Mercer’s main campus.

Students who graduate from Mercer with their Associate of Arts degree can apply to the program, which offers three choices of majors: Early Childhood Education/Elementary Education, Liberal Studies, and Psychology. Classes are taught by members of William Paterson University’s faculty, although all classes are held at Mercer.

The new arrangement with William Paterson is not the first one made between Mercer and a four year school. Mercer already has similar agreements with Fairleigh Dickinson University and Felician College, but this is the first program to offer bachelor’s degrees in the previously mentioned majors and to do so entirely on the Mercer campus.

“I think it’s an excellent option. It gives students another choice to go to an excellent school and have the opportunity to receive an excellent degree, all in a convenient location,” says Laurene Jones, Director of Transfer and Career Services at Mercer.

Additionally, all students accepted to the WPU program will have access to facilities at the WPU campus should they choose to use them. “They would have access to the library, computers, etc. They are William Paterson University students,” says Jones.

Although Mercer students do have to apply and be accepted to WPU, just as they would if they were applying to any other transfer institution, if they are accepted into the school they will pay less than one would pay for the same degree from WPU’s main campus.

Tuition for the program at Mercer for in-state students is $4,452 per semester, or $8904 dollars per credit for part time students, compared to $5,419 dollars and $348 dollars respectively at WPU, according to WPU’s website. Out-of-state tuition is $7,380 dollars per semester, or $507 dollars per credit at Mercer for part time students. According to WPU’s website, it would cost $8,786 dollars per semester for out-of-state students, or $569 dollars per credit.

In addition to appealing to those looking to save money, the program has the potential to appeal to those who don’t want to leave the area.

“It’s a good program for people who have a lot of responsibilities,” says Jones, explaining that for many people traveling away from home to pursue a bachelor’s degree is not an option. Whether they are working adults or students who have a strong connection to their community, for them, she says, “traying to leave is just too much.”

I want to do the program because I don’t really like change,” says Lea Wisniewski, a second year student at Mercer. “I would be able to stay at home and continue going to Mercer, and I would be saving a lot of money,” says Wisniewski.

The partnership between WPU and MCCC is not without potential drawbacks however.

Some students have voiced concern that adding new programs at Mercer, while having the potential to increase enrollment, can create problems such as overcrowding and a shortage of classrooms. One step being taken in an attempt to minimize classroom shortages is offering the classes that are part of the program in late afternoons, evenings, Fridays, and on week-ends, to avoid adding people at times when the campus is most crowded.

“They tried to work around Mercer’s busy times,” said Jones.

Also, some classes are being offered online and one of the classes is being offered at a public school in Lawrenceville.

The program has just begun, but interest in the program has exceeded expectations.


HARD CORE + PUNK SCENE THRIVING

Homecourt plays at Champions

By Christina Perez
Reporter

Champions bar in Trenton, NJ is getting known for its hardcore music scene. On August 30, hardcore band Homecourt and death metal band Morbid Viruses performed for punk kids, death metal lovers and music gurus of all kinds.

Homecourt was the last but certainly not least band to play. Chaos erupted within the first 20 seconds of their set. Testosterone fueled boys and mothers rushed into the venue, trying to get in front of the security of the back wall into the mayhem.

“Too crowded,” one crowd member said. “I’m all for the power but keep up the peace...”

As the band progressed, the moaning died down following two injuries, one a sliced open foot (stepped on broken glass due to the trash being thrown), and the other a broken nose (a flailing crowd- goer accidentally hit another in the pit). Besides Downey, the other members of the band include, Chris Wilson on guitar and background vocals, Ant Cella on lead vocals, Ant Cella on guitar, and Tim Krisza on bass.

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“Thinking of some...they say, what they used to,” says Rod Miller, manager of the outlet store in Cranbury, NJ. While Miller had no specific statistical data to show for the stores sales, he knows for a fact that the store has seen a “significant decrease” in its sales.

“Instead of using canvases, people are buying more canvas boards,” which are a cheaper alternative to a traditional canvas, Miller explains. In addition to the change in customer’s purchases, they are also using more coupons than ever before. Coupons, which the company sends out to customers via email and mail.

With the reduced rev- enue coming in from sales, the thought of the store’s end is always in the back of Miller’s mind.”

“This year does not the least business out of all of our stores,” Miller explains, “but it doesn’t cost much to keep it open. We don’t p a y a y a y a y a y a rent, utilities, it’s all part of the warehouse.”

The warehouse is one of the main attractions to the store. The whole building is actually the headquarters of the entire Utrecht Company. Through the warehouse the store is able to maintain a large stock of every product that the company sells. Though the Cranbury outlet store doesn’t cost much to stay open, the company had to let go of almost all of its part-time employees, leaving only Miller’s salary to cover.

The back to school sea- son is the store’s busiest time of year, and despite the recession, this fall has broken the record for sales in the store’s almost five year history.

“A majority of the stu- dents we get are from Mercer,” Miller explains. Which could be the reason that the store has had a successful fall. Mercer has seen a major increase in enroll- ment this year, something else that can be attributed to the struggling economy.

Despite the fall sales bump, the lay-offs and de- creased revenue have hit the store hard. Still, Utrecht tries give back to its customers.

“Things that become damaged in the warehouse, they just give them to me and I sell them at a reduced price to give people a break,” says Mill- er.

The discounted items include dented tubes of paint, sketchbooks with bent corners or ripped pages, and anything else that is in good enough con- dition to still be put to use. A good part of the store’s business comes from these damaged items which are sometimes marked up to 70 percent off re- tail value.

Like many local busi- nesses, Utrecht remains cau- tiously optimistic about the economy, hoping to get through the lean times without being forced to shut down, a fate that would have a major impact on the lives of hundreds of Mercer arts students.
Kelsey starts fall season with a bang

Alice in Wonderland is perfect for kids and adults alike

By Sarina Prior

A bored and somewhat precocious little girl scampers after a tarry rabbit, falls down a rabbit hole, and enters a very strange world. Kelsey Theater’s new ’09 – ’10 season opened with a production of Alice in Wonderland by the theater company 20 Minutes to Curtain Productions. Based on the novel by Lewis Carroll, the adaptation, music, and lyrics were written by Mari lyn Gerald, and the show was produced by Arthur Gerald and directed by Claudia Perry. This production was wonderful entertainment, suitable for even the youngest audience members. Unlike some versions of Alice which take a darker approach, this version was cheerful, happy, and silly. The theater’s intimate setting and the staging, which made use of the house aisles, served to draw in the audience. Laura Downes’ set design drew inspiration from the Carnaby Street and Austin Powers look and vibe, Perry explained. It was intended to be light and bright, fun for the family set. Lauren Parsons, as Alice, was a luminous and captivating presence on stage. This 21-year old student at Westminster College of Rider University has a voice and a presence that guarantees that we will see more of her on stage. A strong supporting cast including Mariel Rosati as the Cheshire Cat, who maintained an appropriate cat-like demeanor throughout, and Jenny Horwitz as the Mock Turtle, Myrtle. The tea party scene was particularly amusing, as were the cards, a game played by the Queen of Hearts.

The first musical number, which takes place in summer, was a success despite the economic problems. If I don’t want to spend money, I don’t have the money. As Perry explained, “The team works hard everyday, but this only helps them boost their talent and potential,” says Coach Ricciardi. It is likely that the Lady Vikings will see their perennial nemesis, Monroe, during the District Tournament. Last year’s women’s soccer team finished 17-4-1 and was one win away from the National Junior College Athletic Association Division 1 National Championships. Head coach Jude Ricciardi believes that this year’s team has the potential to make the nationals, provided the team stays healthy and plays hard. Entering her third year at the helm of the program, Coach Ricciardi has a roster that includes returning starter Kasey Kenny, the all-American forward who will lead the high-powered offense. Kenny earned this national honor after finishing last season with 29 goals and 12 assists.

According to Coach Ricciardi, “Compared to previous years, this team has more depth. We have at least 4 or 5 players that can come off the bench into the game and the flow of the game will not change at all.” The team lost some key starters from last year, but seems to have filled the holes in the roster with talented freshmen. After a fairly unevenful preseason, the team took a road trip in upstate New York. Against one of the nation’s top teams, Monroe, the Vikings faced a tough loss after being tied 1-1 with two minutes left and losing 2-1. However, they followed with a 10-0 victory over Manor C.C. the following weekend.

The Fischer family, Kelly (age 19), Traci (age 16), and Matthew (age 11) thought the show was “really good,” and that it compared well with other shows they had seen. “The team lost some key starters from last year, but this only helps them boost their talent and potential,” says Coach Ricciardi. It is likely that the Lady Vikings will see their perennial nemesis, Monroe, during the District Tournament.

Alice in Wonderland is perfect for kids and adults alike

PHOTO | SARA GATING

Children perform Bollywood dances at the Indo-American fair in Mercer County Park on Sept. 5.

PHOTO | SARA GATING

Musicians perform at Indo-American fair.
**SPORTS**

**Viking men’s soccer season starts with a bang**

By Rebecca Koplinfer

Mercer’s men’s soccer team dominated 3-1 at their rainy first home game on Saturday, Sept. 12. The game was played against Monrose College from Rochester, New York. Mercer’s men’s team, ranked number three in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA), now stands with a record of 2-0 for the start of their 2009-2010 season.

The game featured so much full-body contact by the players that it sometimes looked like a school yard brawl. Before the end of the first half, Mercer midfielder/forward #23, Frank Tweneboea, of Pensauken, was thrown a yellow warning card by the referee for hitting a Monrose team member on the back of the head when the Monrose player got physical with him during a play.

Later in the game, Tweneboea was preparing to place the ball on the ground for a penalty kick when player #22 from Monrose slapped the ball out of Tweneboea’s hand in anger and shouted at him for taking too long.

“We were rough during the game” said Mercer midfielder #10 Amit Aburmad, who is from Israel, about the Monrose players. “But at the end of the day, what’s important is not hurting them by their legs but by putting the ball in the net.”

Aburmad added.

The game seemed to have no effect on the determination of Mercer’s men’s team. “We have a good team, regardless of the weather. We need to win everything,” Aburmad said with the three goals scored by #23 Tweneboea, #10 Aburmad, and #3 Julian Ward, winning is exactly what they did.

Mercer’s team and coaches communicated with each other throughout the game frequently shouting to each other and cheering everyone on. Mercer’s team had no problem telling the referee what’s their thinking: at the beginning of the game Mercer midfielder #7, Darnell Edwards, of Silver Spring, MD shouted at the referee to pay attention to the game.

Although Mercer’s goalkeeper did not see too much action during the game, he did not hesitate to take control of the field, shouting plays at his teammates and giving them tips on where to be.

The crowd was also very boisterous, shouting and showing their team pride throughout the game. One fan brought a drum which he had draped over his chest and beat on throughout the game.

“We did ok today, but we could do better” stated Assistant coach Larry Povia, who has been with the team for twenty-five years. Povia said that Monroe is a big rival of Mercer and that the men played well against them. He said that the teams may meet again later in the season.

Looking further ahead for Mercer, Povia said “This should be a good year, we should do well. There are improvements to make but it should still be a good year.”

Head Coach Charlie Inverso, who is going into his twenty-fourth season with the team, has lead the Vikings not only to this win, but also to five national championships and well over 400 wins in previous seasons.

The men’s team finished their 2008-2009 season with a record of 19-5. Last year the team won the Region XIX tournament title and reached the NJCAA Division I championships for the eighth consecutive season.

During this season, as the Vikings try to work their way to the top, they will be hosting the National Championships for the first time since 1999. The championship will include 8 other teams all vying for the title. Coach Inverso believes his men will make it big this season. He says on the Mercer athletic website, “I think we’re pretty talented.”

One way Inverso works to keep the men inspired is to not direct “captains.” Coach Inverso believes that by naming different captains for different games, the men will all work their hardest to achieve the same goal.

Some of the key players to keep an eye on are returning player and starter, Amit Aburmad, a sophomore and business administration major. Aburmad was named NJCAA First Team All American in 2008. Also, Aturo Barajas (New Rochelle, NY) and Frank Tweneboea are both expected to be high achievers for the Vikings this season.

The Mercer men’s team’s next game is listed on-line.

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**Women’s tennis team strong, but off to a slow start**

By Daisuke Katsumata

The 2009 Women’s Tennis season started with rain for the Lady Vikings foreshadowing the results of their first match. Brookdale defeated Mercer by a score of 8-1, in 6 singles matches and 3 doubles matches.

The Sept. 10 meeting between Mercer and Brookdale was originally scheduled to start 3:30 p.m. at the Mercer County Tennis Center, but inclement weather conditions forced the match indoors.

Mercer’s lone win came at second doubles by a score of 8-3 from the Emily Dow and Maria Eldridge pair over Brookdale’s Michelle Cheng and Melody Werner.

Notably absent from the event was Sachiko Nishida who is expected to play in the upcoming matches although her position in the line-up has yet to be finalized.

Head coach Marc Vecchiola, who is in is thirteenth season coaching the Lady Vikings Tennis team says, “I’m very excited about the girls team. We’re even better experience-wise from competing at nationals last season and we have four returning players from that. We’ve got a pretty challenging schedule, but it’s the best way to get the girls match tough and to prepare for our ultimate goal of winning the Region XIX tournament of the National Championships last year. We’ve lost our #1 and #4 from last season but I think we’ve got a lot of depth this year”

Vecchiola’s optimism is echoed by Maria Eldridge, a sophomore, Biology Major, from Lawrenceville, who says, “We’re a very solid team, coming up, we hope to do well and stay positive. We’ll see how it goes.”

Following the loss, Mercer prepares to play Ocean County College on the 16, then Hartford Community College on the 18, followed by the Hartford Invitational Tournament on Sept. 19 and 20.

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**SCORE BOARD**

**Thursday, September 12, 2009’s home match against Brookdale Community College:** Brookdale over Mercer 8-1.

**S1:** 6-0, 6-0; Carly Graver over Becca Wolf (Brookdale Winner)
**S2:** 7-5, 3-6, 6-2; Michelle Cheng over Kristina Holsman (Brookdale Winner)
**S3:** 6-1, 6-1; Sam Miller over Emily Dow (Brookdale Winner)
**S4:** 6-7(5), 6-2, 6-3; Melody Werner over Maria Eldridge (Brookdale Winner)
**S5:** 7-5, 6-4; Olga Kanevskaya over Joanne Zabodyn (Brookdale Winner)
**S6:** 6-1, 6-4; Crystal Stanzione over Shantell Bacon-Jones (Brookdale Winner)
**S7:** 6-0, 6-0; Carly Graver over Becca Wolf (Brookdale Winner)
"We need to be out of Medicare, take 5 percent of everyone's income and pull out of the war on drugs to see an improvement in the economy."
“[The recession] has affected the world in many ways. It has created fewer jobs. People who go for job interviews are competing for 15 people for just one position. There’s a lot less money in the world.”

“The economy has affected so many people. Jobs can be lost, hiring becomes detrimental, and some of us may have lower income because of this. The best we can do now is have hope and faith in the economy. For me, it is not that bad, but in a second, anything can change.”

“The economic downfall hasn’t really affected me so much because I am from a low income family and I’ve learned to live without certain splurges. I don’t overspend.”

“What I’ve noticed here is that a lot of my students are out of work and losing jobs which translates to a lot of stress on their class work. It’s basically placed additional burden and strain on these students.”

We hope to make SPEAKING Out an ongoing section, so if you want your own VOICE heard, and would like us to interview you for our next issue is SEX, DRUGS, and ROCK N’ ROLL.
By Jackie Pachuta
Senior Reporter

The 2009 recipient of Mercer’s Distinguished Teaching Award is professor Dr. Dori Seider. Since Mel Leipzig first won the Distinguished Teaching Award in 1980, the award is now given annually to a Mercer County Community College teacher who stands out among their peers.

Dr. Seider has been teaching at Mercer for 39 years. She teaches a variety of courses including French, history, and some psychology classes. Dr. Seider holds a bachelor’s degree from Douglass College at Rutgers. She earned her first master’s degree from the University of Rochester, earned a Ph.D. from the University of Vermont, and has a degree in French from the University of Paris! She even possesses a certificate in professional baking from Mercer’s Hospitality program.

When discussing her teaching career, Dr. Seider said, “[My teaching is characterized by] my dedication to the students, my passion for learning and the deep respect I have for the students who hold jobs, have families and struggle with financial problems but still come to school.”

Out of all the courses she teaches her favorite subject to teach at Mercer is French. Seider said, “The French language is so musical and colorful.” Although she enjoys teaching during the week, she says Saturday classes are her most enjoyable. “In spite of other responsibilities, students are still willing to come to school on a Saturday. My Saturday morning psychology class forms a learning community and it is always an uplifting experience.”

“Dori is truly dedicated to her students’ success; her methods and her patience set the bar for all of the teachers out there,” says Mikey Scofield, a Mercer student who is currently enrolled in one of Dr. Seider’s courses.

Kristin Liedtka, who took Seider’s history class a few years back, said, “Even though it was an online class, you could tell she put an equal amount of time into it, as if it were on the campus.” In addition to teaching, Dr. Seider is also an author. Of her first book, Teach Me Something Real, Dr. Seider says “It pays tribute to a large number of faculty here at Mercer, who have been my teachers in classes I’ve taken here.” She speaks of her most recent book, A Place Called Happiness, saying “It just came out in second edition with a new preface that emphasizes the tough economic times that we’re going through right now.”

The Distinguished Faculty Award is a difficult award to win at Mercer. The award itself is an engraved gold medallion presented to the winner by the college’s President, Dr. Patricia Donohue, at graduation. In order for a professor to be nominated for the award, they must be a full time, tenured faculty member and no one can win more than once.

The Distinguished Teaching Award committee (DTA) is comprised primarily of former recipients that are still working full-time at the college; they decide who the new winner will be each year. The recipient must not only be an excellent teacher, but needs to be involved in extracurricular activities outside of the classroom as well.

Jeff Callahan, the head of the DTA says, “The committee is very confidential, everything is done behind closed doors.” Five thousand nomination forms are distributed to students, then the nominations are narrowed down until just a few remain. Finally, the DTA decides on the winner whose name is kept secret until it is announced at graduation in May. The award is presented to the recipient by the faculty member who won it the previous year.

Dr. Dori Seider wins Distinguished Teaching Award after 39 years of service

Winner of Mercer’s Distinguished Teaching Award for 2009 Dr. Dori Seider at home with her cat.

Callahan says, “The DTA is my favorite committee because everyone is so upbeat, nothing about it is negative.” He went on to say, “I was Dr. Seider’s student back in 1971, she’s absolutely terrific.”

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We begin a new semester with a new VOICE feature, an ongoing photo journalism project by senior Staff Photographer Chris Szakolczai, documenting the activities of the Mercer County Police Academy, which is housed on the Mercer County Community College’s West Windsor campus. Each issue we will bring you more of Chris’s work and more information about the lives of the recruits and their instructors.

**PART 1: Introduction**

ABOVE: Recruits listen during a demonstration from Officer Carvalle of the Hamilton Police Department, as Sergeant Toole from the Princeton Township Police Department hands out paperwork.

RIGHT: Recruit Kulak running during a morning PT session, by the end of the 21 weeks, recruits will routinely complete 5 mile runs.

LEFT: From left to right Recruits Harvilla, Van Ness, and Latham raise the flag.

The Mercer County Police Academy, dubbed “No Joke” by class 04-09, is directed by Albert Paglione, and instructed by Police Officers from the Mercer County Sheriff’s Department and other surrounding Police departments. As class 04-09 title hints, the Academy is an intense 21 weeks, designed to turn dedicated recruits into full fledged Police Officers. Recruits are trained to react to any possible situation they may face while on the job from helping to deliver a baby to approaching a car containing known felons. The training is, quite literally, no joke.

Class 04-09 started with 27 individuals, of which 21 graduated. The class included military Veterans, two of the Director’s sons (Michael and Thomas Paglione), and individuals who had no family or military background in law enforcement.

A typical day of the Academy starts at 7 A.M. sharp and consists of morning Physical Training (PT), followed by the morning flag raising. Next comes classroom instruction which is taken as seriously as the hands on exercises the recruits complete. Tests are frequent and each day’s notes are rewritten neatly every night. When not in the classroom, recruits spend the remainder of their day doing hands on exercises such as practising felony car stops, room clearing, and many more.

Sergeant Demko, instructor at the Academy, demonstrates how to properly advance with a longarm.

TOP: In this exercise, Recruit Markowski assumes the role of ‘felon’ so his peers can practice safely approaching a suspected dangerous criminal.
Costs at Mercer fair to students?

**The College VOICE**

Macy’s, which reserves the don’t hassle the dial. The material printed in The College VOICE, therefore, is not necessarily representative of the views of the editors, the faculty, staff, or administration. The material appears in The College VOICE, be it articles, advertisements or opinion pieces, does not represent the views of the editors, the faculty, staff, administration or the board of trustees of Mercer County Community College.

**Ron Russell**

I’ve heard many a student say they are being “nickeled and dimed to death by Mer- cer.” These course fees are rant and clearly do not have any idea how great they have it here at Mercer, especially when it comes to tuition and fees. One common complaint students make is about course fees and lab fees. They say they are unnecessary, given that they already pay tuition for a class. In reality, the total cost of tuition, even including course and lab fees is a BARGAIN compared to other institutions of higher education. For example, just a few miles away from Mercer at Rider University, a typical four-year college, part-time students can expect to pay $890 per credit hour, whereas at Mercer they pay $119 per credit hour. Throw in fees, and the average Mercer class runs roughly $400 compared to the $2,700 per class at Rider. You’re saving $2,300 per class. So would you rather take English 101 at Rider, or at Mercer knowing that the class is completely transferable and the quality of instruction is the same or better here?

Besides course fees, students get wound up about the cost of books. Stop griping! Books that you purchase on ANY campus ALWAYS sell at retail price, just like when you go into a Barnes & Noble Bookstore. This is true for Rider, Rider, Rutgers, TCNJ, and even Princeton. Students are just not taking the time to figure out which books they need before the class begins, even though it’s as easy as log in to mcccvoice.org! The cost of a course at Mercer is $119 per credit. This does not include special fees (registration or an out of county residence), however, compared to our local community colleges, students spend nearly the same as their students. For example, Ocean County Community College costs $120 per credit, proving we are students are not being gouged here.

Laterly, besides the other complaints, students have started complaining about the health insurance fee at Mercer. Students balk at paying when they already have insurance or can’t afford insurance. Guess what? Mercer is REQUIRED to charge this fee according to the Student Handbook, “All full-time students are required by the state of New Jersey to be covered by health insurance while attending MCCCD.” If you have health insurance, you can apply for a waiver and get your $22 back. Other than that, unless you can cause the state assembly to repeal this measure (good luck, they can’t even agree to eliminate corruption), you are required by law to pay up.

Mercer is one of the top community colleges in the state. Its classes are equal to or better than those you would get at a comparable private college. While credit costs are fair compared to our fellow two-year schools, some Mercer policies are not fair. Mercer allows students two months to officially withdraw from a class, but a full refund is only given if you withdraw within one business day following the class’s initial meeting! This just isn’t enough time to shop around and figure out what you want to take.

Another policy with flawed implementation is the course fee as discussed in the article on page 1. Course fees make sense when a biology student has to pay slightly more for the squids they need to hack apart in biology lab. But course fees of $30 for English classes that have no word processing section are unwarranted and look a lot like a subtle way of raising tuition without officially raising tuition. While Mercer’s cullers may be hurting in this recession, so are the pockets of the student body and a fee for a non-existent lab portion of a class is justifiable.

Now let’s talk books. While the bookstore is perhaps the most complicated “non-class” of Mercer’s student body, it is important to note that the book store is not owned by Mercer. The bookstore is owned and operated by a company called Follett. Books range in prices that are fair to absurd. I have personally spent over $500 in dollars in a semester on books (and that included buying used and borrowing books which saved me more than a penny or two) and have overheard classmates mentioning spending $700 a semester for books. One of the largest common denominators when buying textbooks is the semester split. For many liberal arts courses, the textbooks that are selected are divided into volumes 1 and 2. While this may sound convenient in the short run, and save students who will not complete two semesters of a course, it is cheaper to purchase both sections together. Justice majors have the opposite problem. Since, for the most part, these students lack the option to back out after one semester they must purchase massive tomes that are used around a quarter of the time. Take CHE101, which requires a textbook called Chemistry, 9th Edition by Shirley Hollabaugh. The Mercer bookstore is this $181.00 (and can only be bought new) and lacks both a hardcover and a binding (it is 1200 pages unbound in shrink-wrap). However purchased on Amazon.com, one can find the marked down, hardbound, hard edition for approximately $172.

Many students recommend purchasing books online. But purchasing textbooks online is a gamble. If you purchase early you may purchase a superfluous or incorrect book wasting money, but if you wait you will be without a book in the opening of the course and perhaps jeopardizing grade success.

As each of us feels the bite of the current recession, it is clear that some of Mercer’s financial policies are unfair, but Mercer’s policies are punitive as well.
Dear Voice,

Why is my boyfriend so cheap?

Trouble in Paradise

Dear Trouble,

Since the market crashed, nothing’s worth what it used to be. Make sure to get a piece of cash for Clunkers.

-The Voice

Dear Voice,

The girl that sits next to me wears no bra and when it’s cold in class… needless to say I can’t concentrate on what the teacher is saying. What should I do to keep my focus in class?

-Hurry to the library

Dear Voice,

Dear Hurry, Fail the class, man. There’s always next semester.

-The Voice

Dear Voice,

I hate paying for the cafeteria food. What should I do?

-Softly Swaying

Dear Starving, I heard that a few student organizations offer free meals during their meetings. Either get good at crashing meetings, or join something like… I don’t know. The Voice

Dear Voice

I have a small bladder issue, but feel cornered by the distinct lack of men’s restrooms, whatever shall I do?

-Party Dancer

Dear Party Dancer,

Not to worry. This feature is for entertainment purposes only. Any resemblance to actual problems is purely coincidental.

Do you have a problem? Need friendly advice? Send your questions to hoytdavidc@gmail.com

THEME CROSSWORD: FAIRWAY PHYSICIAN

ACROSS
1. Larger-than-life
5. Williamson River
10. Feigns
15. Slight
18. Woman’s captain
20. Hurry, in a way
21. Great 19th-century explorer
22. Mil. alliance
23. Friction, in aero
24. Cat
25. Dynamics
27. Start of a quip by...
28. Mil. alliance
29. Always wears black sunglasses
30. A possessive pronoun
33. Double agents
34. Summer squash
35. Being of service
36. Plant bristle
38. Cavern
42. -- Lumpur
43. Wading bird
44. Part of an orchestra
45. -- and ashes
46. Gulp of hooch
47. -- and ashes
49. Agalite
50. Smoky crème brûlée
52. Code word for...