The hardest working professor at Mercer?

Last semester Professor Jamal Eric Watson taught 17 classes. What were the effects?

By Noelle Gilman & Laura Polack

Senior Reporters

Prof. Jamal Eric Watson, who teaches full-time in Mercer’s English Department, was also an instructor at five other colleges on campuses located as far as 80 miles apart, in the fall 2011 semester. In all, his course load totaled 17 classes, the equivalent of simultaneously teaching full-time at three different colleges.

Watson’s schedule is extraordinary for several reasons. First, a typical teaching load for full-time community college faculty is five classes per semester. MCCC full-time faculty are also required to attend mandatory committee and departmental meetings on the first Tuesday of every month, and hold five office hours per week. It is not uncommon for faculty members to supplement their pay by teaching more than the school’s current contract limits how much overload faculty may teach, in most cases no more than one or two extra classes per semester. Some faculty members elect to teach additional classes elsewhere, because the per credit pay rate at neighboring colleges is generally higher than at Mercer.

When asked how many hours per week a professor puts in outside of the classroom in preparation for each class, Prof. Laura Knight, who is a former supervisor of adjunct instructors, said, “Between three to five hours per class.”

That Watson was teaching 17 classes in total (two of them online) is perhaps less remarkable than the fact that several of his teaching obligations occurred simultaneously (see infographic). For example, on Fridays Watson had to be at Rider University for morning classes from 9:10-10:10 and 11:30-12:30 while he was also signed up to teach three classes 70 miles away in Wilmington, Delaware from 10-10:50, 11:00-11:50 and 12:00-12:50. (The accuracy of all course time listings mentioned in this article has been double checked using online course data bases, and interviews with deans, department chairs and registrars.)

Fall 2011 was not the first time that Watson took on potentially conflicting teaching obligations. The VOICE first reported, in an April 5 online article, that Watson had held a full-time tenure-track position at Lincoln University in Philadelphia from 2007-2010, years he was also full-time at Mercer.

Mercer was first alerted to Watson’s schedule conflicts by an email from a department chair at the University of Delaware sent to English Department Chair Sharmila Sen. Sen told VOICE reporters that she received an email from the Assistant Chair of the English Department at the University of Delaware on January 8, 2012, indicating that Watson, who was teaching in a part-time position at UDel, was teaching classes in Delaware whose schedule time overlapped with classes he was teaching at Mercer. Sen says she immediately forwarded the email to the Dean of Liberal Arts at Mercer, Robin Schoire and that Schoire then forwarded it to Watson who denied the allegations. Sen said she believed Schoire had forwarded the allegations to his superiors as well.

When asked what he done after receiving the forward email, Shaw said, “I went to my supervisor and informed him.”

Schoire “respectfully declined” to comment on what his supervisor then did with the information. Senior Reporter Kel- lie Rendina contacted Watson for comment and later sent questions to Watson.

NOTE: These course times have been checked using online course catalogues combined with verbal confirmation from department chairs, deans and registrars at all campuses. All driving distances and drive times are estimates supplied by Google maps.

By Noelle Gilman & Laura Polack

Senior Reporters

Prof. Jamal Eric Watson, who teaches full-time in Mercer’s English Department, was also an instructor at five other colleges on campuses located as far as 80 miles apart, in the fall 2011 semester. In all, his course load totaled 17 classes, the equivalent of simultaneously teaching full-time at three different colleges.

Watson’s schedule is extraordinary for several reasons. First, a typical teaching load for full-time community college faculty is five classes per semester. MCCC full-time faculty are also required to attend mandatory committee and departmental meetings on the first Tuesday of every month, and hold five office hours per week. It is not uncommon for faculty members to supplement their pay by teaching more classes at Mercer. However, the school’s current contract limits how much overload faculty may teach, in most cases no more than one or two extra classes per semester. Some faculty members elect to teach additional classes elsewhere, because the per credit pay rate at neighboring colleges is generally higher than at Mercer.

When asked how many hours per week a professor puts in outside of the classroom in preparation for each class, Prof. Laura Knight, who is a former supervisor of adjunct instructors, said, “Between three to five hours per class.”

That Watson was teaching 17 classes in total (two of them online) is perhaps less remarkable than the fact that several of his teaching obligations occurred simultaneously (see infographic). For example, on Fridays Watson had to be at Rider University for morning classes from 9:10-10:10 and 11:30-12:30 while he was also signed up to teach three classes 70 miles away in Wilmington, Delaware from 10-10:50, 11:00-11:50 and 12:00-12:50. (The accuracy of all course time listings mentioned in this article has been double checked using online course data bases, and interviews with deans, department chairs and registrars.)

Fall 2011 was not the first time that Watson took on potentially conflicting teaching obligations. The VOICE first reported, in an April 5 online article, that Watson had held a full-time tenure-track position at Lincoln University in Philadelphia from 2007-2010, years he was also full-time at Mercer.

Mercer was first alerted to Watson’s schedule conflicts by an email from a department chair at the University of Delaware sent to English Department Chair Sharmila Sen. Sen told VOICE reporters that she received an email from the Assistant Chair of the English Department at the University of Delaware on January 8, 2012, indicating that Watson, who was teaching in a part-time position at UDel, was teaching classes in Delaware whose schedule time overlapped with classes he was teaching at Mercer. Sen says she immediately forwarded the email to the Dean of Liberal Arts at Mercer, Robin Schoire and that Schoire then forwarded it to Watson who denied the allegations. Sen said she believed Schoire had forwarded the allegations to his superiors as well.

When asked what he done after receiving the forward email, Shaw said, “I went to my supervisor and informed him.”

Schoire “respectfully declined” to comment on what his supervisor then did with the information. Senior Reporter Kel- lie Rendina contacted Watson for comment and later sent questions to Watson.
Mercer reference librarian is a cooking champion

By Amber Deloney-Stewart
Senior Reporter

Mercer’s part-time reference librarian, Donna Wolfe, was the winner of the “Dinner made Easy” category for Pillsbury’s 45th Bake-Off Contest held March 25-27 at the Peabody Orlando Hotel in Orlando, Florida. Wolfe, who is from Hamilton, was one of four over-all finalists. Although she did not take home the million dollar grand prize, she did earn $5,000 for her chicken empanada cones.

The Bake-Off is one of the highest profile cooking competitions in the nation. It happens every two years and thousands of people enter, but the field is culled down to roughly 200 contestants. The competition has very strict rules, one rule states that contestants must provide a complete listing of all materials needed for the dish and all must be products of Pillsbury, Inc. and General Mills. It is the American Idol of cooking. This year the Bake-Off was hosted by Martha Stewart.

Wolfe, a first time contestant, was in competition with numerous veterans to the Cook Off Extravaganza. She told The VOICE she was very nervous when she first arrived at Orlando hotel, but she received tremendous support from “The Wolfe Pack” which included her brother Bill Wolfe and two of her best friends Neisja Yneawine and Gennie Ferro.

Wolfe says “The reason I cook is because I like making people happy, and in my family food is love and a way of showing affection.” She says she began cooking as a teenager, making grilled cheese melts for her friends on a waffle iron. Later she expanded her knowledge of cooking by using cookbooks and watching the Food Network and YouTube videos. Wolfe began working at Mercer this past September. According to Diane Silverson, a fourth year Library and Circulation Assistant at Mercer, “Ms. Wolfe is very good with the kids and she goes above and beyond as a reference librarian. You can tell that she does really enjoy her job.”

Elizabeth Cribbs, another Reference and Cataloging Librarian at Mercer, had a chance to taste Wolfe’s empanada cones after she brought some in to share. Cribbs said, “There was a great balance of flavors, a really interesting blend, and they were not too spicy. I would love to make my own one day.”

Old computer system prevents Mercer from participating in Student Pass

By Dan Asnis
Senior Reporter

According to New Jersey Transit’s website, other local community colleges, such as Brookdale and Middlesex, offer a discount that allows students to travel to New York at a discounted fare. Even Atlantic Cape Community College and Cumberland County College, way down in south Jersey, get this discount. But Mercer students don’t get the discount even though train stations are just minutes away in Princeton Junction, Hamilton and Trenton. We don’t get the discount that students at Princeton University, Rider University and The College of New Jersey can take for granted. How did this happen?

In an interview with Nancy Snyder, a spokeswoman for New Jersey transit, she explained that it is up to Mercer’s administration to make the first move and contact New Jersey Transit about joining the discount program called Student Pass. Snyder said “Student Pass provides full-time undergraduate and graduate students a 25 percent discount on already discounted monthly passes for New Jersey Transit bus, rail and light rail systems.”

Snyder said that “the program started in approximately 2004. We Have 59 schools that are taking advantage of it.” According to Snyder, Mercer students do have access to alternative discounts, though they aren’t as comprehensive.

“With rail service, students who attend accredited colleges and postsecondary schools, where online Student Pass sales are not available, can get a discounted rail monthly pass at any of our ticket windows. They can do this by picking up a paper application form. The discount for students of accredited non-participating schools is 25 percent off rail passes monthly only, but not bus or light rail,” Snyder said.

Mercer’s non-participation in Student Pass seems to involve security issues within Mercer’s computer system, a system that has not had a complete overhaul since 2000. Dean of Students Dr. Diane Campbell told The VOICE that to get the discount it would be necessary to link the outdated computer system to Mercer’s separate financial aid system.

According to Campbell “When we tried to [get the discount] before, New Jersey Transit wanted an integration with our system. Because of the way our system is set up, we could not risk the breach in security because a lot of information would be linked to student files. So we could not do that at that time.”

Assistant Dean of Students John Simone explained, “Until we get our new computer system, we’re just moving slowly. Our new computer system is going to give us a lot more flexibility and a lot more security. The current system we have was put in after Y2K and is now 12 years old. The security of a 12 year old system is not going to be as good as our new one.”

Susan Bowen, Executive Director of Information Technology Services said in an email interview that “The new computer system consists of both a new academic and administrative system for the college. We are in the process of implementing this and expect the project to last two years.” If Mercer does join Student Pass when the new computer system is fully up and running, it could provide a savings to Mercer because it would no longer have to subsidize bus tickets currently available at the bookstore with a 21 percent discount provided by the college. Instead, the discount would be covered by New Jersey Transit and students would have a direct link between their financial aid and rail passes.

Dana Toff, a second year advertising and graphic design major, says she would be more likely to do a New York internship if she could get a Student Pass. “There are more internships and advertising agencies in New York,” Toff said.

Although students at community colleges as far away as Atlantic Cape and Cumberland qualify for NJ Transit’s discounted program Student Pass, Mercer does not participate.
By Trish Vogel

In high school Kate Dooney was an honors student, a cheerleader and a passionate photographer. Then she went to William Patterson University and found herself over her head. Dooney, who was studying early childhood education, began to lose herself a couple months after beginning college. She was no longer in honors or level classes, and no longer a cheerleader. She did not have time to practice her photography. Despite the fact that she had stuck it out, but things quickly began to spiral out of control. She says, “Every day something else was due. I constantly felt a pressure and anxiety that I wouldn’t get done what I had to, and eventually I caught up.”

Dooney began hauling in assignments late, then eventually not at all. Instead of going to classes she stayed in her dorm room. She told The VOICE, “It’s hard to get back on track once you’re behind, and I didn’t have to time to do really well.” Without even realizing it, she says, she began to slip into a depression. She began to lose interest in classes because of her absences. “That’s when the thought settled in that I’d have to tell my parents that I failed out of college that they paid for, my first semester,” Dooney said.

Although she is doing well at Monmouth County Community College now, at the time Dooney was so overwhelmed by the fact that she had failed out of school and would have to tell her parents, that she says she thought that killing herself was the only way out. “It seems crazy now, but at the time I couldn’t believe what had happened, and anything seemed better than telling my parents.”

Gayla Mantidwile writes on the blog StateUniversity.com that suicide is the second leading cause of death among college students. Mantidwile cites a number of alarming statistics. She writes that nearly 1,110 students commit suicide on college campuses this year and many more students may think about suicide or make a suicide plan. The blog also notes that in the past 50 years the suicide rate for those age 15-24 increased by over 200 percent, and about 12 people aged 15-24 will commit suicide today.

According to the article “College and Teen Suicide Statistics” by Jackie Burrell, of About.com an ACHA study in 2002 said that in 12 college students has actually made a suicide plan at some point and 1.5 out of every 100 have actually attempted it.

According to Alex Johnson on msnbc.com, problems with school or academics are one of the top reasons that college students commit suicide. Some of the other reasons included relief from emotional or physical pain, problems with relationships and untreated depression. According to Johnson’s article “Half of College Students Consider Suicide,” a study extrapolated that at an average college with 18,000 undergraduate students, 1,080 of them would seriously contemplate taking their lives in any year…they also found that half of students who had suicidal thoughts never sought counseling or treatment.

Martha Gunning, Counselor of Student Development Services at Mercer, says there are a few reasons why she thinks students don’t reach out for help. “One, students are not aware of their resources at school. Two, many students believe there is a negative stigma that is attached to seeking help. And three, students don’t acknowledge their problem,” said Gunning. Despite all those who many not reach out for help Gunning also said “the number of students who are seeking help has increased significantly and the problems [they describe] have become more severe over the years.”

As has been covered in previous VOICE articles, Mercer does not have a health center. A search for health services on the Mercer home page offers a link to information about local blood banks and bedbugs. The college had a psychologist, Dr. Valerie Brooks-Klein, but she left on April 12, and no information about when a replacement might be hired has been made available to students or staff as of April 19, 2012.

By Ken Napier

With a commanding view from the top of her Throne of Everblight, Orthros surveys the battlefield. She spots her target and spurs the throne forward. Tentacles as thick as trees uncoil and creep across the land, driving the 40 foot tall living siege engine onto its target.

Crossing tree and swamp with equal ease, the throne comes up against a 10 foot stone wall separating the forest from the scooped and blighted remains of a farmstead.

From the opposite side of the wall comes the signification duck-oval baying of a two-headed wolf the size of an Escalade, armored with bonded iron plates and tipped with razor sharp horns. A tentacle snaps over stone the wall and wraps around the wolf, crushing the beast and drawing the corpse to the rank and twisted pit of teeth at the throne’s base.

As the engine eats the Nysus focuses her attention to a group of archers caught in the open. She channels the power of some small god and unleashes a shower of frozen shards. The dice are rolled... the archers, lightly armored, easily evade the ice storm and begin nocking arrows.

This is Warmachine, a turn-based fantasy game that harkens back to Dungeons and Dragons, in which armies of small scale models wage war on kitchen table sized battlefields. Designed by Privateer Press as a competitive and tournament oriented game, Warmachine leagues have sprung up all over New Jersey and weekly tournaments are held across the state.

Set in the fictional realm of the Iron Kingdoms, where electricity has stayed undiscovered and steam and magic reign supreme, 10 equally well armed factions are locked in constant battle for control of the land. There are the 6 central armies that range from the shuffling undead Cysr and the crusading Protectorate of Menothn — paladins in golden armor and slinging holy fire — to parties with a more familiar feel like Khador, slow plodding companion to a veneer of proletarian victory red (complete with bears). They are rounded out by 4 expansion factions, which are free of technology and represent untamed hordes of the wild.

At the core of the game are finely detailed and intricate models that represent the soldiers, sorcerers, knights, wolves, dragons and robots of the different warring factions. Each one of the hundreds of models is an individual character in the game and comes with statistic cards loaded with information about their abilities. Before each game, players take turns placing forests, dragons, hills and other terrain features around the battlefield. The armies are then set up in designated deployment zones which, outside of a few special scenarios, are rectangular sections at opposing corners of the field. Play commences as each side taking turns, moving each unit, activating special abilities and most often engaging in combat.

Victory is achieved by eliminating the enemy command or through achieving predetermined objectives. A typical games lasts for a dozen or so turns over the course of an hour. Winner of the February 11, 2012 tournament at All Things Fun in West Berlin, NJ, Shane Philpott of Washington Township says he plays “because girls don’t like me.” He stops and laughs, then continues, “No, it’s the most balanced table top game I’ve ever played.”

“I like Dragons... and I like the look of all the models” says Mike Musterer (35) of Berlin NJ. He also describes the game in comparison to Warhammer 40k, another popular table top game, as the difference between chess and checkers. For people looking to get into the game, each faction has its own starter kit, known as a battle box. The boxes contain a warlock unit and 12 points of supporting troops. A small additional unit purchase will be required to start play, as tournament play starts at 15 points.

While leagues can be found at most comic and hobby shops, two locations that host Privateer Press sponsored tournaments are All Things Fun in West Berlin, NJ and The Only Game In Town, located in Somerville, NJ.
Three years ago Scott Lettera had no idea that his passion for video games and Japanese culture would collide and throw him center stage. Now things are different. During the week Lettera (22) is a typical TCNJ student with a Computer Science major, but when he isn’t designing apps for android phones, and playing his Playstation 3 he can be found playing drums for the band Osso which he joined in 2010. Lettera says he was originally drawn to music through video game Rock Band. His interests soon became more serious. These days you can find him playing The Backstage at Champion- ship (Champs) Bar and Grill in Trenton. He sports a spiked, studied, and zipper studded outfit, accented with a red scarf and black fingerless gloves that hint at the band’s Japanese inspired look and sound. In full gear, Lettera leaves behind the world of soft spoken student and takes the stage name “Zero”.

Four strikes on the hi-hat cymbal and suddenly Osso delivers a wall of clashing sounds. The dull murmur of the waiting crowd is obliterated by screaming vocals, screeching guitars, and Lettera’s own clattering drums. The lighting wipes out his ability to see the crowd, and Scott is drumming in a trance.


Three years ago Scott Lettera hopped from his PlayStation 3 into the world of music. Since taking up the drums, he has become a well known, hometown favorite. He has shared the stage with bands such as Japandroids, The White Stripes, and The Black Keys. Lettera, who also plays the guitar, drums for the band Ossu.

“The dull murmur of the waiting crowd is obliterated by screaming vocals, screeching guitars, and Lettera’s own clattering drums. The lighting wipes out his ability to see the crowd, and Scott is drumming in a trance.”

By Kellie Rendina
Senior Reporter

Three years ago Scott Lettera had no idea that his passion for video games and Japanese culture would collide and throw him center stage. Now things are different. During the week Lettera (22) is a typical TCNJ student with a Computer Science major, but when he isn’t designing apps for android phones, and playing his Playstation 3 he can be found playing drums for the band Osso which he joined in 2010. Lettera says he was originally drawn to music through video game Rock Band. His interests soon became more serious. These days you can find him playing The Backstage at Championship (Champs) Bar and Grill in Trenton. He sports a spiked, studied, and zipper studded outfit, accented with a red scarf and black fingerless gloves that hint at the band’s Japanese inspired look and sound. In full gear, Lettera leaves behind the world of soft spoken student and takes the stage name “Zero”.

Four strikes on the hi-hat cymbal and suddenly Osso delivers a wall of clashing sounds. The dull murmur of the waiting crowd is obliterated by screaming vocals, screeching guitars, and Lettera’s own clattering drums. The lighting wipes out his ability to see the crowd, and Scott is drumming in a trance.


Three years ago Scott Lettera hopped from his PlayStation 3 into the world of music. Since taking up the drums, he has become a well known, hometown favorite. He has shared the stage with bands such as Japandroids, The White Stripes, and The Black Keys. Lettera, who also plays the guitar, drums for the band Ossu.

“The dull murmur of the waiting crowd is obliterated by screaming vocals, screeching guitars, and Lettera’s own clattering drums. The lighting wipes out his ability to see the crowd, and Scott is drumming in a trance.”

By Kellie Rendina
Senior Reporter

Three years ago Scott Lettera had no idea that his passion for video games and Japanese culture would collide and throw him center stage. Now things are different. During the week Lettera (22) is a typical TCNJ student with a Computer Science major, but when he isn’t designing apps for android phones, and playing his Playstation 3 he can be found playing drums for the band Osso which he joined in 2010. Lettera says he was originally drawn to music through video game Rock Band. His interests soon became more serious. These days you can find him playing The Backstage at Championship (Champs) Bar and Grill in Trenton. He sports a spiked, studied, and zipper studded outfit, accented with a red scarf and black fingerless gloves that hint at the band’s Japanese inspired look and sound. In full gear, Lettera leaves behind the world of soft spoken student and takes the stage name “Zero”.

Four strikes on the hi-hat cymbal and suddenly Osso delivers a wall of clashing sounds. The dull murmur of the waiting crowd is obliterated by screaming vocals, screeching guitars, and Lettera’s own clattering drums. The lighting wipes out his ability to see the crowd, and Scott is drumming in a trance.


Three years ago Scott Lettera hopped from his PlayStation 3 into the world of music. Since taking up the drums, he has become a well known, hometown favorite. He has shared the stage with bands such as Japandroids, The White Stripes, and The Black Keys. Lettera, who also plays the guitar, drums for the band Ossu.

“The dull murmur of the waiting crowd is obliterated by screaming vocals, screeching guitars, and Lettera’s own clattering drums. The lighting wipes out his ability to see the crowd, and Scott is drumming in a trance.”

By Kellie Rendina
Senior Reporter

Three years ago Scott Lettera had no idea that his passion for video games and Japanese culture would collide and throw him center stage. Now things are different. During the week Lettera (22) is a typical TCNJ student with a Computer Science major, but when he isn’t designing apps for android phones, and playing his Playstation 3 he can be found playing drums for the band Osso which he joined in 2010. Lettera says he was originally drawn to music through video game Rock Band. His interests soon became more serious. These days you can find him playing The Backstage at Championship (Champs) Bar and Grill in Trenton. He sports a spiked, studied, and zipper studded outfit, accented with a red scarf and black fingerless gloves that hint at the band’s Japanese inspired look and sound. In full gear, Lettera leaves behind the world of soft spoken student and takes the stage name “Zero”.

Four strikes on the hi-hat cymbal and suddenly Osso delivers a wall of clashing sounds. The dull murmur of the waiting crowd is obliterated by screaming vocals, screeching guitars, and Lettera’s own clattering drums. The lighting wipes out his ability to see the crowd, and Scott is drumming in a trance.


Three years ago Scott Lettera hopped from his PlayStation 3 into the world of music. Since taking up the drums, he has become a well known, hometown favorite. He has shared the stage with bands such as Japandroids, The White Stripes, and The Black Keys. Lettera, who also plays the guitar, drums for the band Ossu.
PROFILE: Cito Santiago wrestles to win for Rider

By Julie Einstein
Reporter

As a loyal member of an upscale health and fitness center located in Mercer County, I have never stepped beyond the limits of my own gym. However, I was well aware that there are in fact other fitness facilities in the surrounding area such as the brand new Work Out World, located on route 130 in Robbinsville, NJ. "WoW" as its members refer to it, is known for being descriptively stunning. Having low monthly fees, I was intrigued and went to see how this affordable gym compares to the health and fitness center that I have been attending for more than six years.

When walking into WoW, I was initially surprised at just how large the facility is. The walls are alive with art, and as a matter of fact other fitness facilities in the surrounding area such as the brand new Work Out World, located on route 130 in Robbinsville, NJ. "WoW" as its members refer to it, is known for being descriptively stunning. Having low monthly fees, I was intrigued and went to see how this affordable gym compares to the health and fitness center that I have been attending for more than six years.

Ramon "Cito" Santiago Jr., a twenty-year-old junior at Rider University in Lawrenceville, NJ, shows he never thought he would become a wrestler, let alone a champion.

"I thought I was going to grow up and play Major League baseball," Cito said in a recent interview with The VOICE. "I didn't expect for wrestling to take off at all."

According to Ramon Santiago Sr., Cito's father, Cito was always a great athlete, every sport he tried he was good at and wrestling was no exception.

As a junior at Sayville High School, Cito placed in a state wrestling competition becoming a High School All American and defending champion, the best high school wrestler in the country.

"It felt great to win," said Cito. "Having a big crowd with all eyes on me is one of my favorite things about wrestling.""Determined to help his son become the best wrestler he could be, Ramon Sr. would drive Cito fifty minutes from their house four times a week to train at Meluha Wrestling Club in Lodi, NJ.

Cito continued to wrestle all through high school, winning more than 100 matches and becoming a three time district champion. Cito earned a full wrestling scholarship to Rider University which is a Division I school.

According to Cito, wrestling in college is very different than in high school. The matches are longer – about eight minutes compared to seven in high school. And in college everyone on his team is a state champion, unlike in high school where people just signed up for something to do. "[Cito] is a very talented wrestler and a lot tougher since last year," said Gary Taylor, Rider head wrestling coach.

As a freshman wrestler at Rider University, Cito won 20 matches before officially making it on the team as a Rider Bronc. Cito has won thirty-three matches since making the team and his father was there to see them all. "Since day one I've never missed any of his matches," said Ramon Sr., "I remember every name and face of everyone he ever went up against!"

According to Cito, what it takes to win isn't always fun. Along with practicing with his teammates five days a week, Cito also has to maintain his weight, which is a twenty-four hour, seven day a week job. Everything that he eats or drinks affects his weight and that could take him out of the 157 weight class.

"It's hard because I love to eat," said Cito, "I look forward to the summer when I can eat what I want!"

According to the article, "Broncos Have Spirit of St. Louis" on gobroncs.com, two Bronc wrestlers went to St. Louis this past March to compete in the 2012 Division I Wrestling Championship. Cito was not one of them. Both Taylor and Ramon Sr. said Cito could have been more aggressive at the finals that led up to the championship.

"He was too cautious," said Ramon Sr.

According to Cito, no loss will make his wrestling career final, there will always be another match and he will be ready for next year's championship.

"He has a shot at All American next year," said Taylor, "but he will have to work hard to get there, same with all our wrestlers."
via email at his request, however, he had not responded by the VOICE press deadline the following day. Nevertheless, it does not appear that taking on so much additional work necessarily indicates that Watson broke the law. Hoping to understand the financial issues, The VOICE sought help from a local professor who holds a Ph.D. and is also a CPA, who has asked that his name not be used lest his comments result in unintended interpretations.

He said, “With regard to this employee working two full-time jobs on top of other part-time employment, this is completely legal unless the employer is violating some contract agreement with one of the employees. Since our colleges simply require us to disclose outside employment without placing any restrictions on such, this employee is completely within his rights. Drawing multiple 401K matching contributions from the state [of New Jersey] along with any other benefits that accrue to wages is also legal. In fact, there are many public employees that hold multiple full-time jobs in New Jersey.”

In reference to New Jersey’s state ethics standards, Mercer’s policy #380 (last revised in 2006), the “Code of Ethics for Officers and Employees,” point #1 of the Ethics section reads: “No officer or employee shall have any interest, financial or otherwise, direct or indirect, or engage in any business or transaction or professional activity, which is in conflict with the proper discharge of his/her duties to the College.”

Mercer’s policy #400 (last revised in 2005) entitled “Outside Employment” provides clarification. It reads, in part, “Outside employment shall not constitute a conflict of interest, occur at a time when the employee is expected to perform his or her assigned duties and/or diminish the employee’s efficiency in performing her or her primary work obligation at the college.”

In recent weeks VOICE staffers uncovered criminal charges against Watson, including a guilty plea to a felony. It is not clear whether that background was fully disclosed or known to Mercer when Watson applied for employment, nor whether that background is part of the current investigation.

Casey Dellalio, spokeswoman for the Mercer County prosecutor’s office, confirmed that both the West Windsor police department and the college have been in touch with their office.

“They have provided us with information which we are reviewing,” she said.

A former student of Prof. Watson’s English 102 class, who asked to remain anonymous, said, “Prof. Watson often canceled class, and on one occasion did not even inform us that he was not coming.”

This past December, Watson was voted by Mercer’s board of trustees to receive tenure; in August, it will be activated. In regards to this milestone, Watson said in a recent interview with the Trenton Times, “I was appointed to Mercer County Community College as a faculty member and I have been reappointed six times and granted tenure, and I expect that I will continue in my tenure position for many years to come.”

However, several of Watson’s students seemed to be under a different impression. They believed that the college administration had asked Watson to resign, due in part to Watson’s participation in a Trayvon Martin rally held on Mercer’s quad on March 29, 2012.

According to Stephen Middleton, a student in Watson’s Sociology 209 class, on April 4, Watson told his class the college was forcing him to resign, in part because of his involvement in the Trayvon Martin rally. In a phone interview conducted the next day, when asked if he had said this to his students, Watson told VOICE Senior Reporter Kenneth Napier, “I don’t know what you are referring to.”

Meanwhile, Middleton and classmate, Jason Rogerson, a second-year Hotel and Restaurant major, gathered signatures for petitions which were later presented to Mercer President, Dr. Patricia Donohue. During her April 5 VOICE interview, she acknowledged having received the petition as well as Middleton’s request for college administrators to keep Watson at the school.

In Administrators later acknowledged that an investigation of Watson is under way; however, Donohue told the VOICE that it began “in the middle of March” and “the college did not ask [Watson] to resign.”
eventually became involved with gangs, after which he served four years in a penitentiary for a felony.

“[Mercer] is the last institution who would take me for who I am despite what I’ve faced,” he said.

Hoping to move forward from his past, Middleton has sought for role models and mentors on Mercer’s campus.

“There are very little black role models, growing up. Whenever they offered me tenure, I didn’t have that stability, that in my father was not there, because I was trying to get out of a gang, after which he served four years in a penitentiary for a felony.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Recent articles in The VOICE as well as the Trentonian and Trenton Times have examined everything from the fact that Watson presented himself as having a Ph.D. when he had not yet completed that degree, to the fact that Watson had a 2006 conviction as well as two restraining orders, including one at Northeastern University.

The University, in regard to these revelations and Watson’s continued presence on campus, Mercer President Dr. Patricia Donahue told The VOICE on April 12, “The severity and currency drives the speed of our actions. This is America, so we are all entitled to due process. He has been given an opportunity to speak to the charges.”

Watson later spoke to the allegations, specifically those concerning his credentials, as documented by the Trenton Times article “MCCC professor faces inquiry.” In response to questions raised, Watson said, “My transcripts are all filed in a human resources department. So if it’s on the human resources website, obviously they’ve accepted them.”

Dean of Liberal Arts Robin Schore made a similar comment when asked at what point a person earns their Ph.D. He said, “a person can say he has completed a Ph.D. when it is officially documented on his transcript.”

Jose Fernandez, Executive Director for Compliance and Human Resources, said he could not comment on Watson’s transcripts because the college is “bound by confidentiality.”

According to Prof. Knight, “At a department meeting it was announced that Eric had completed his Ph.D...[it was] not this year [2012], and I was on sabbatical all last year, so it must have been before then.” However, as reported in the VOICE’s April 5 article, John Bracey, Watson’s thesis advisor at UMass Amherst, told the VOICE that Watson has not completed his Ph.D., but is scheduled to in May of this year. In fact, the UMass Amherst website lists Watson as a current graduate student.

The VOICE also spoke to Richard Prince of the Maynard Institute, an organization that promotes diversity in the media, last Friday, April 13. For his article “Ex-Editor pleads guilty to larceny,” published December 18, 2006, Prince exchanged several emails with Watson.

When asked what effect individuals such as Prof. Watson have on the field of journalism and education, Prince said, “I just think his case points out the need to be vigilant on who is training our students.”

Rowan: Fall 2010 - US Lit 1

The absolute man, very cool personality, positive guy, has a funny story for every situation. makes a subject interesting at least keeps me awake and interested in what he has to say about the readings. Do the reading and you’ll be fine. no midterm, no exams...just 3 or 4 papers. taking him again next semester!

SUNY Old Westbury: Spring 2006 - AA History

His major asset to the college is that he knows a lot of people. He brings great speakers to campus. He is a very engaging in a 2006 story someone students feel that he can at times be arrogant and somewhat condescending. That has not been my experience with him. He has been so helpful in getting me to think about graduate school.

Mercer: Fall 2011 - HIS 209

Loved this professor! Extremely funny and intellectual individual, he keeps you interested in his lectures. Will help his students not to fail, just participate at do what you’re supposed to do. You won’t regret taking this awesome professor!

Mercer: Fall 2008 - ENG 204

I took the honors class with him this past semester. Not much bad stuff to say. Good professor, can be funny, only 2 assignments at all class... but had to read 7 novels. The only thing is he can get off on tangents sometimes and that can get annoying. He could have ended sooner if he didn’t rant on and on sometimes.

UDelaware: Spring 2010 - ENG110

TAKE HIM! He’s so easy! He’s really funny and grades essays really easily!

Additional reporting contributed by Matthew Arnold, Kellie Rendina and Ken Napier.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Due to her close connection to Prof. Watson and this story—as a member of his department who knows many details of the story that would not be available to students—VOICE adviser Prof. Holly Johnson recused herself from advising on this article.

Advising was provided by Prof. Emeritus Jim Franklin, with assistance in layout from Prof. Michael Dalton and additional support from former Trenton Times investigative reporter Kevin Sha. Legal advice was supplied by The Student Press Law Center.
Meetings:
Mon + Wed 12-1:15pm in AD 234a and FA 107

The College VOICE
NOW RECRUITING
WRITERS PHOTOGRAPHERS DESIGNERS

FIND YOUR VOICE
Build your resume. See your work in print. Cover important stories. Make friends.

Why transfer?
Felician College offers its accredited
RN to BSN Fast-Track Program
Onsite at
MERCER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

• 17-month fast-track program
• Meets one day a week – same day of week for program duration
• Earn three graduate-level credits at the undergraduate tuition rate
• Qualified graduates may automatically be accepted into the MSN program

CONTACT:
Marie Scolavino at 609-586-4800 x3368 or scolavinom@felician.edu

Felician College
The Franciscan College of New Jersey

201.559.6077 • adultandgraduate@felician.edu • felician.edu

The College VOICE
NEWSPAPER
NOW RECRUITING
WRITERS PHOTOGRAPHERS DESIGNERS

Widener Leadership Works

Today leadership is at a premium.
Paralegals are the lifeblood of any law firm. So when it comes to paralegals, leadership is what separates the good from the impoosable.

Widener Law’s Legal Education Institute is one of the select paralegal programs approved by the American Bar Association. At LEI, students can earn a paralegal certificate in seven different areas of concentration. In addition, students can earn a certificate as a Legal Nurse Consultant, including a Forensic Nursing concentration. An education from LEI gives you the leadership skills to separate yourself in a career that ranked among the top 20 “best jobs in America” by CNN Money.

Please join us for an information session on April 14th at 9:00 am in Pohick Hall Room 302.
Visit law.widener.edu/paralegallnc and learn about earning your certificate in one summer.
NEW MEDIA

Like the articles you see in this paper? Want to learn how to write them, design new layout for print and online formats, and build a marketable resume? Check out Mercer’s New Media program.

TRANSFER SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

More than $37 million in Berkeley College grants and scholarships for qualified students provided in the past award year

The Transfer Opportunity Program (T.O.P. Scholars) from Berkeley College offers scholarships to students who have earned an Associate's degree from another college. Scholarship amounts are based on a student’s grade point average (GPA) and range from 25% to 50% of the tuition at Berkeley College.

Who is eligible?
To be eligible as a T.O.P. Scholar, a student must:

• Have an Associate's degree from another college
• Be enrolled as a full-time student at Berkeley College
• Remain continuously enrolled for his/her first academic year (three quarters). After that, the student may take one quarter off without losing the scholarship

For more information on T.O.P. Scholars, please visit: BerkeleyCollege.edu/Transfer_Scholarship

call: 800-446-5400, ext. GBD
or text: “MAKE” to 247365

NY: Midtown and Lower Manhattan • Brooklyn • White Plains  NJ: Newark • Paramus • Woodbridge • Woodland Park (formerly West Paterson)
ONLINE: BerkeleyCollege.edu/Online

DOMINICK’S
of Hamilton Square
Pizza and Italian Grill

609 · 584 · 8700


New Jersey malls should keep the minors out: they are noisy, they are obnoxious, and they are responsible for a lot of thefts. It is both annoying and distressing to observe a group of rowdy teens pushing and screaming at one another in the middle of a store, forming shady congregations around seating areas, and destroying store displays but never buying anything.

I don't propose banning them outright, but it would be no loss to restrict the 16 and under kids from evening and weekend mall time unless accompanied by an adult. An ID checking policy at mall entrances would offer employment opportunities as an added benefit to keeping the presence of troublesome teens to a minimum.

I'm not the only one to have this great idea, it turns out. According to the September 23, 2010 ABC News article, “New Policies Exterminating Teen Mall Rats,” by Kayleen Schaefer, the Mid Rivers Mall in Missouri, Tri-County Mall in Ohio, Crossgates Mall and Atlantic Terminal Mall in New York, and many more malls across the U.S. have already implemented curfews for minors. Mall of America in Minnesota was among the first of the U.S. malls to set a curfew according to a June 28, 2007 TIME Magazine U.S. article, “Bye-Bye, Mall Rats” by Julie Rawe. The Guest Services, Parental Escort Policy section of the official Mall of America website says that “on Friday and Saturday evening's youth under the age of 16 must be accompa- nied by an adult 21 years or older from 4 p.m. until close.” Rawe's article also says that “Some 46 of the 1,200 enclosed malls in the U.S. have adopted parental-escort policies...” according to the International Council of Shopping Centers.

Teens who can't yet drive get dumped at the mall by parents who want the out of their hair. Understandable, but ac-
cording to the National Learning & Resource Center's "Shoplifting Statistics" page by the National Association for Shoplifting Prevention (NASP), “Approximately 25 percent of shoplifters are kids, 75 percent are adults.” This may not seem like a huge problem, but the article goes on to say that “55 percent of adult shoplifters say they started shoplifting in their teens.”

While many Quaker Bridge Mall store associates that I interviewed agreed that there seem to be more teen thefts than any other kind, the professional mall security staff was unwilling to confirm the occurrences or an-
swer any questions. If the security staff won't comment, they should listen to what the retailers and concerned citizens have to say about enforcing a curfew for the mall.

A VOICE survey of associates in teen friendly stores at Quaker Bridge, including Forever 21, American Eagle, Pacific Sun- wear, Journeys, Express, Spencer's Gifts, Game Stop, Wet Seal, Lids, and Hot Topic located in Quaker Bridge Mall showed greater sup-
port for the implementation of curfew than those who disagreed with the idea. Of a total of 18 polled associates, 13 liked the idea of putting a curfew policy to work.

Of course, not everyone sees it my way. Claire Schultz, a Hamilton resident with a 16 year old daughter said that she didn't like the idea of a curfew. Schultz said that she trusts her daughter and a group of friends at the mall and they don't need a chaperone. Ms. Schultz is right, not every-

one needs it. I bet her daughter is great; lots of teens are great. I was a good teen myself. But there is a critical mass miscreants who make the mall unbearable and who could be thwarted with a curfew.

People with well-behaved teens aren't the only ones who hate my idea. Six year retail veteran Jeff Van Wickle, Store Manager of Hot Topic strongly disagreed with the idea of a cur-

few. Van Wickle said, “Those kids are our main clientele, if you implement curfews you lose sales. You might decrease shrink”, but you are hurting sales…you can’t take out potential customers in this economy.” He went on to say that activating the security staff the mall has in place would be a better idea than a curfew. Mall security could be helpful, but the guards at the Quaker Bridge Mall look like kids themselves. It’s not the trustworthy ones that need watching, but it may help to protect them. Rawe's TIME Magazine U.S. article mentions “rowdy teenagers...high-profile scuffles...and violence” as specific reasons for the curfews that malls across America have already implemented. It works elsewhere and it could work here. “Shrink: A reduction in inventory due to shoplifting, employee theft, paperwork errors and supplier fraud (About.com definition).

**My View**

Miranda Horn

---

**VOICE**

**NJIT**

New Jersey Institute of Technology

**UPCOMING STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

**WED. APRIL 25**

**MASK MAKING IN SC 104 FROM 12-1**

**THURS. APRIL 26**

**BRING YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY EVENTS IN SC 104 FROM 11-2**

**SAT. APRIL 28**

**GO GREEN FLEA MARKET IN THE CAFETERIA 8-2pm**

**THURS. MAY 3**

**SPRING DAY ON THE QUAD FROM 11:30-2:30**

**UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

**DESIGN things. CREATE art. BUILD new worlds. IMAGINE new possibilities at NJIT.**

We give students the tools to make innovative ideas a reality. With a 21st century focus, the School of Art + Design in the College of Architecture and Design provides a superb education in a variety of visually-focused disciplines. A leader in the incorporation of digital media in all design fields, the School helps prepare students for exciting and growing professions in creative fields.

Transfer into one of our exciting majors:

- Fine Arts
- Interior Design
- Digital Design
- Industrial Design

Apply now for Spring or Fall 2012

Find out about transferring to NJIT at www.njit.edu/transfer or call 1-800-925-NJIT.

To find out more about specific design or architecture programs contact Ms. Sasha Corchado, Advisor to the School of Art + Design by email at corchado@njit.edu

NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT
UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, NEWARK, NJ 07102-1982

www.njit.edu

THE EDGE IN KNOWLEDGE
How to fix the visible ID tag policy

indexOf inaccessible areas, does not necessarily represent the views of the editors, the faculty, staff, administration or the board of trustees of Mercer County Community College.
Classic Peanuts

Dear Voice, My friends at Rutgers and TCNJ tell me about exciting frat parties that get broken up by the cops, brawls that break out at football games. How come nothing exciting ever happens at Mercer?

-Bored Beyond Belief

Dear BBB,

We used to say the same thing. Word to the wise: Nothing exciting ever happens at Mercer?

-Good Answers to Tough Questions

Dear Voice,

There is a highly competitive coed cockroach racing league that meets each week in the LA building. Get a form from Dean Robin Schore to register your roach. Notice: your roach must be under three pounds and found on campus.

-T. THE VOICE

Dear Voice,

Was that second lady Jill Biden I saw on campus? Any chance Michelle Obama will come?

-Obama-Biden 2012

Dear 2012,

Yup, that was Jill Biden. Dear Voice,

How come you try not to let anyone see, but it is going to find its way into the spotlight this month, no matter how you try to avoid it? This could be for better or for worse.

-Bored Beyond Belief

Dear Beaver,

Are there any intramural sports teams to try out for at Mercer?

-Eager Beaver

Dear Voice,

What are the best fashion design programs.

-Actual Problems Is Resemblance to Entertainment

Dear Sneaky Peter,

Are there any policies Mercer’s official handbook says $25, but the director of security said they weren’t sure. Which is it?

-Sneaky Pete

Dear Voice,

It’s spring but you’re still indoors dealing with work. You may not be able to rump in the sunshine just yet, but you can put on some crappily TV in the background to make life more bearable.

-do something you usually do. This could be for better or for worse.

-12-23-12

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

It’s spring but you’re still indoors dealing with work. You may not be able to rump in the sunshine just yet, but you can put on some crappily TV in the background to make life more bearable.

-Taurus

Apr. 20 - May 20

That alarm clock has been your nemesis, but soon you’ll be able to choose a schedule that fits better with your natural work hours. Hang in there just a little longer.

-Virgo

Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

When you look around at your friends you may be thinking they are all doing more interesting things than you are. It’s not true, however. Many of them are bored and envious of your life. You’re life is interesting!

-Libra

Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

Though you are never one to wallow, about once a year you feel a little sorry for yourself. Instead of chiding yourself about it, let yourself off the hook. You’re right, something that is going on does really suck.

-Sagittarius

Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

When did you get so mature? Lately you handle yourself with real dignity and sophistication. Guess what? This is the new you. You are coming into your own.

-You're Life Is Interesting!

Sunshine just yet, but you can put on some crappily TV in the background to make life more bearable.

-You're Life Is Interesting!