CRIME REPORT UPDATE:

By Kevin Xavier & Carl Fedorko
Senior Reporters

In a typical week, Dorothy Gasparro sits down with twelve to fifteen Mercer students to help them work through personal and emotional problems.

As the annual crime reports are due each year on October 1, The VOICE sought to determine what changes, if any, Mercer has made in its crime reporting.

This year Mercer filed its crime reports on time. The college also filed separate documents for the different campuses, and the recorded data appears accurate when compared against the police reports of local law enforcement.

On the other hand, the college has not sought to rectify the years of inaccurate data that remains on both the Department of Education and the college’s websites. Without these corrections, the college remains in dan...
Hurricane Sandy one year later
Shore residents learn to brace for the worst no matter what

By Max Mendel
Reporter

By the time the harsh winds and blistering rains of Superstorm Sandy hit the Jersey Shore last year, there had already been severe bad storm surges throughout the Mid-Atlantic. When the waters poured inland, the evacuation procedures were well underway. Angelo Kozoli, a resident who was evacuated from Normandy Beach, N.J., says he was very concerned about his house.

Hurricane Sandy had battered the eastern seaboard for over 2 days. After the waters receded and the winds died down, the citizens of the Jersey shore returned to find out if their houses were just damaged or totally destroyed.

Fast forward one year.

After suffering extreme damage to the foundation of their home during Sandy, the Kozolos have invested in sandbags and an elaborate water barrier system. They are not taking any chances.

In fact, however, this year’s hurricane season has defied the experts expectations. Prior to the start of the hurricane season, which runs from the beginning of June to the end of November, the climatologist team at Colorado State University predicted this season would be another above average year for hurricanes.

The National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) also predicted an above average forecast of hurricanes. NOAA indicated it expected 13 - 19 named storms this year, 6-9 of them tropical storms that could form into hurricanes. That’s 3-5 major hurricanes more than are usually forecast.

But while the current season hasn’t lived up to expectations so far, many coastal residents are not taking any chances.

Chet Wohlman, manager of Aaron & Company, a local plumbing supply house, said in an interview with the VOICE, “Local residents have done a diligent job in preparing for hurricanes this year. We have expanded our selection of pumps and generators and I’ve noticed a premium in sales.”

The Kozol family bought additional insurance this year, at very high premiums. They upgraded their drainage and are installing a generator. Kozoli said, “This year has been quiet so far, but the same could be said about last year’s hurricane season. Of course, until Sandy hits.”

New construction at the shore in Mantoloking, N.J., takes future hurricane possibilities into account.

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Quakerbridge mall revamp complete
As mall goes upscale, some shops and students are priced right out

By Louise Traeger-Nielsen

Quakerbridge mall in Lawrenceville recently completed a large scale renovation that began in February 2012. There are now 40 new stores in the mall, and the space has a newer look.

Pam Ashmet, second year Nursing major at Mercer said, “The mall is good, but it’s missing some stores.”

According to a mall employee, some of the stores are no longer at the mall seems to be related to the cost of renovation. Prior to the construction start, every store that was already located in the mall received a note explaining that they had to pay for construction in order to stay in the mall.

According to an employee who worked at the mall prior to the construction start and who is still employed there now, though by a new store: “Some stores, such as Charlotte Russe and Dehors, could not pay for it, which means they had to leave. Luckily the managers got transferred to different malls, but the associates got laid off”

The employee asked to remain anonymous for fear that discussing the changes at the mall might cost her her job.

“During the construction,” the source continued, “It was an inconvenience because of all the chemicals which we had to breathe in while moving heavy items from location to location for our own store.”

But according to Mariann Kapp, Director of Marketing and Business Development at the mall, “that is not true.”

Kapp says that the construction was done to meet the demands of local consumers. She says: “In addition to the new high end stores, which was most frequent requested tenancy, we have new tiling, landscaping, nursing room, food court, and a play area to just name a few.”

While walking around the mall with her four year old daughter, Carrie McGuire, a psychologist from Princeton, said, “I love what they did with the mall. Not only does it look much nicer, but they have created a safer atmosphere.”

Safety does seem to have been a central consideration in the revamp.

Another employee, who also spoke on the condition of anonymity, said “one of the reasons for the renovation was to try and lean out shoplifting. It was a huge issue in the mall because we are near Trenton. The stores they have added so far are leaning it [shoplifting] out more and so the people who are gonna steal are the more expensive type.”

Bringing in higher end brands, such as the Apple store, may have a good business decision, but it is also one that affects students facing leaner budgets.

“I think what they did to the mall has made it awesome,” said first year Communication major Tabbie Menezor, “but the prices doesn’t feel very student friendly!”

While walking out of American Eagle with her friends, Lillly Williams, a third year Nursing major student from Rutgers University told the VOICE, “The interior looks better, but overall it’s too cliche. We already have enough mall filled with over-priced stores. Not only are we at a time where money is a big issue for everybody, but we are the ones that have to ability to pay $300 for a new bag. It is far from reasonable.”

When asked what target group the mall had in mind, Kapp said, “The fashion forward shoppers. It was the consumers themselves who asked for the high end stores.”

“I like how the bigger stores are closed, and I don’t have to go all the way to Freehold Raceway mall to purchase a Macbook Air,” said Stan Sawyer, a fourth year chemistry major from Princeton University.

Waiting outside Sephora while his wife went shopping, Dylan Adler, an electrician from Hamilton said, “I have to admit that the mall looks a lot more friendly and welcoming.” Adler isn’t concerned about actual mall safety, but he is a little worried about his finances. “I no longer feel safe letting my wife come here alone,” he quipped.

Mercer’s new online portal receives frosty reception

By Louise Traeger-Nielsen

Mercer’s new online portal, known as Integrow, has finally gotten a revamp. The new system, known as “Colleague”, is still being phased in, but the student and faculty portal, which replaced the old MyMercer access page, went online March, 2013. Reception to the new system has been mixed but much of the response has been negative.

“The new portal sucks,” said Nassim Ajami, a second year Business Administration major. He added: “Everything should be in one place, such as the grades and class schedule. It’s a wild goose chase now. It was much easier to find everything with the old system.”

According to a VOICE survey of 30 students, 52 percent said they have had problems using Colleague and 77 percent said they wish that the old “My Mercer” portal would come back.

Director of Information and Technology, Kim Bowen, told the VOICE that the college administrators had prohibited her from speaking to the VOICE directly, but she did respond via email after her responses were cleared with Jim Gardner, Mercer’s Public Relations Manager.

“With change comes challenges,” Bowen told The VOICE. She continued: “We are into the third year of the implementation [of the Colleague system] and moving forward, so we cannot change back.”

She added: “One of the new features that has been implemented [compared to My Mercer] is single sign-on for students and adjunct faculty to their email and portal services.”

According to the college’s most recent annual report, the Colleague system was designed to allow more efficient delivery of services for students and staff.

But students report facing a variety of inefficiencies in the system.

Kaleea Collins, third year Culinary Arts major told The VOICE she has had trouble adapting to the new system. “It’s more difficult and time consuming to find your email and grades. The new system doesn’t tell you your overall GPA, and with the old Mercer portal, it was just easier to find things.”

Third year Digital Film major Andrew Ashmet also expressed his opinion, saying, “I have no problem with the new system. It’s more difficult and time consuming to find your email and grades. The new system doesn’t tell you your overall GPA, and with the old Mercer portal, it was just easier to find things.”

Ashmet added: “Also the new ID numbers threw everything off. I’m hoping that they will make more options in the database with easier access.”

When asked why older Mercer students had to get new ID’s, Bowen replied, “the ID format in Colleague is different than our [previous] system.”

Another inefficiency of Colleague affected financial aid recipients, forcing them to use their financial aid voucher within one day of receiving it, in order to purchase books and supplies.

Students were notified of this by the many signs on the Bursar’s office window reading, “Students can receive only one text voucher per day.”

Although the vouch- ers were for the students entire aid award, a student who only took night classes or whose book wasn’t in the bookstore that day was out of luck. The vouchers were tracked manually and en- tered daily through the Colleague system in an effort to either prevent students from spending beyond their means according to faculty emails obtained through open records requests by The VOICE.

Problems with Colleague have affected faculty as well as students.

Some of the issues fac- ulty members have faced include not being able easily to send group emails to students with attach- ments included, having less access to students’ transcripts and to advise information, and hav- ing no apparent data on salary or sick days. These were all features that the old system had.

Anne Pollich, a Foreign Language professor who teaches German described another concern: “The old Integrow system made it easier for me to use grade tracking, which allowed me to see how students were doing and whether they had missed assignments. [Integrow] marked categories and generated emails to students automatically if they needed to hand in something.”

When asked why the college selected Colleague when it was time for an upgrade Jim Gar- dner said: “It was not an issue of how the system works now. It was an issue of taking a proactive step to make sure we have an efficient, reliable system for the future. Col- league was chosen based on its features, the ability to serve our needs and it’s reputation based on experience with other New Jersey colleges,” said Gardner.

Since many College functions are not yet online, The VOICE asked Bowen when the college expects the system to be in full effect. She replied: “In several years. Modifications and improvements to the tools of the system will continue to evolve and be implemented.”

Even though students as well as faculty expressed their concerns with the Colleague system, not everyone is unhappy.

Chris Lewis, a first year Business major, said, “I haven’t had any complications with Colleague. I think it’s convenient and easy and the tabs makes everything accessible.”

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

DO YOU LIKE THE NEW PORTAL? DO YOU HATE IT? PARTICIPATE IN DEMOCRACY; VOTE IN OUR ONLINE POLL AT MCCCVOICE.ORG
Italian American fest celebrates 14 years

By Mariana Braz & Stephen Harrison
Senior Reporters

The aroma of cheese-steaks overstuffed with beef and charred onions filled the air. Opera music drifted from a nearby tent. The rumble of carnival rides and children screaming with joy and too much sugar could be heard in the background.

The fourteenth annual Mercer County Italian American Festival was held September 27-29 in Mercer County. John Scarpati, the president of the Mercer County Italian-American Festival says of why he founded the festival 14 years ago, “Everybody is proud of their culture. I am just very proud of mine and wanted to celebrate.” According to Scarpati the festival at Mercer County park is “… the biggest cultural festival in the state.”

There are no hard figures, but the increase in the number of cultural festivals is giving Scarpati some competition. The Irish, Greeks, Scandinavians and Indo-Americans all have large heritage groups in the state and sponsor similar festivals.

However, the Italian American festival is one of New Jersey’s oldest and certainly most popular. Each year the event covers five acres and has a quarter acres and one hundred and twenty five volunteer staffers on hand. A percentage of the money collected from vendors who pay for spots at the event and from admission fees is donated to the catholic fraternal benefits organization Knights of Columbus.

The festival employs an internal security and maintenance team to supplement the regular police force.

Among the attractions are carnival rides, a cultural theater, bocce courts, dance tents, live music, dining tents and food vendors.

Aaron Risoldi, owner of Risoldi’s Market in Mercerville, New Jersey, says “We let the customers try Italian food made from scratch”. His most popular item is his cannelloni which he says are such a hit because of the forty year old recipe he uses to make them.

Among the volunteers is Wayne Deangelo, New Jersey fourteen district general assemblyman, who volunteers at the event to help park cars. Deangelo says “It is a great way to get in touch with the community. This is a great community. Other politicians should do the same.”

Seventy year old Evelyn resident Sandy Johnson came to the event for the second year this year, saying “I like to pick on some of the Italian things like Italian sausages. It is hard to get everywhere… it reminds me of home food.”

When asked about why he believed that the content of the fair was worth the cost, Mercer County Community College second year Film and TV student Thomas Clark stated, “The Italian American festival is a place for Mercer students to relax and enjoy themselves in a relaxed environment. For only $5, you get access to the whole space and you’re not forced to buy anything. That’s worth it.”

Nicholas Signora contributed reporting.

Experimental jazz guitarist plays Small World Coffee
Brooklyn based musician, Terrence McManus, reaches Princeton cafe crowd

By Jessicarose Fattibene
Reporter

Brooklyn based jazz guitarist, Terrence McManus, played at Small World Coffee in Princeton on September 28. The crowd is sparse, a once atop the stairs to the upper level of seating he can be seen producing the soft hint of lovely music weaving itself through the coffee shop.

“Wow, the worst part is just waiting to go up there.” McManus told The VOICE when asked if he gets pre-show jitters.

“When I’m actually playing I don’t think I’m really that nervous, but when you have to wait you can have some tension.”

McManus sat in one of the many wooden chairs, and tuned his red electric guitar attached to a small amplifier.

The first set began with an up tempo rhythmic number that faded into a more melancholy tune as he went on. Then the strumming picked up pace again and the upbeat melody returned.

This fluctuation between light strumming and brooding dissonant plucks and reverb was a theme throughout the performance.

McManus frequently closed his eyes, his head swaying and lips moving as if they are conducting his performance. Audience members trickled in and talked amongst themselves, treating McManus as background music, a fact he says he is prepared to handle. He explains that some musicians take the attitude of “Well, I only play concerts where everybody has got to be listening.”

“But Small World is a different sort of venue. I like to have a more diverse audience where people that are not necessarily familiar with the music...”

McManus says. A smiling couple sat cuddled up in back corner sipping their drinks and watching him play. A dreamy melody capped off the first set, and McManus accepted a light round of applause and takes a short break.

Small World barista, Christine, said she isn’t too familiar with jazz, being more into the indie rock scene, but she enjoyed McManus’s performance. Other patrons were less enthusiastic, one said that for a while he thought McManus was just adjusting the strings on his guitar, and that, though he liked jazz, he wasn’t into experimental varieties.

The second set, like the first, pulled in different melodic and rhythmic directions, but concluded in a major mode, just as it started. McManus provided a haunting and creative accompaniment to a quiet, college town night.

Terrence McManus will play again at Small World on Nov. 23 at 8:30pm.
Rick Armellino, lead singer of This or the Apocalypse engaging fans at close range during frenetic set at Champs in Trenton on Oct. 4, 2013

By Russ Chizik
Senior Reporter

This or the Apocalypse, a five man metal band hailing from Lancaster, PA, threw down at the back-stage of the Championship Bar and Grill when they played a set on Friday night, October 4, 2013. This or the Apocalypse is the second national metal act from Lancaster to play at Champs year. Currently touring as openers for Kansas City metal/electronica group The Browning, This or the Apocalypse has played at Champs many times.

“It’s a bit of a gem, really,” Rick Armellino, the band’s singer, told The VOICE in a recent interview, adding: “A filthy little gem. It’s definitely one of the cooler small venues. They run it like a real venue and they really know what they’re doing.”

The band formed in 2005, and has since released one album on their own, as well as three other full length albums through three different record labels.

Last fall This is the Apocalypse headlined a tour in support of their album Dead Years. They have since played several other tours supporting bands like Bleeding Through and Alesana.

It’s not uncommon for bands to constantly want to play bigger and better venues on increasingly more prominent tours, but the members of This or the Apocalypse say they are happy with where they are right now.

“I think right now we’re at a place where we’re all content doing what we do, and it’s brought the most growth on that we’ve ever had. I just try to be happy doing this,” Armellino told The VOICE.

When it was almost time for This or the Apocalypse to take the stage the goofy-like back stage room was very still. Most of the crowd stood tentatively along the walls, leaving a gaping hole in the center of the floor. The lights were dimmed in the already gloomy hall and a few minutes later the band took to the stage to cheers and applause from their fans.

The moment guitarist Jack Esbenshade and Rodney Phillips shredded through the opening riffs to Hell Praiser, the hole in the middle of the room was overtaken by dancing fans, flailing their arms and legs wildly, colliding with everything in their path. Much of the crowd collectively took a step towards the back of the room so to not to become collateral damage, but Armellino quickly objected.

“What the fuck are you doing in the back?” he yelled before unleashing the song’s opening roar. Armellino got right in the middle of the crowd. With his mic in hand he weaved through the fans to herd them closer to the stage.

When Bassist Matthew Marcellus wasn’t dropping back and forth across the stage he was perched on a box overlooking the crowd, beckoning them to clap along with the beat.

One highlight was watching Armellino launch himself from the crowd only to have his fans hold him up as he finished singing the lyrics to A Damn Moment.”I know what it’s like/I know what it’s like/I know what it’s like/To give up.” Armellino beckoned while the hands of his audience suspended him above the room.

When the band began playing the final song of their set, Chancer, the opening track of their 2010 album, Haunt What’s Left, the energy in the room escalated to a new level. As fans threw themselves at each other to the song’s furious guitar riffs, they managed to pull Armellino off the stage completely. He still managed to finish the song, and the set, a feat that was met with the thunderous approval from the crowd.

Ben Knudson, third year accounting major at Rowan University who attended the Champs gig said, “I’d never listened to This or the Apocalypse before the show and I was blown away by how energetic and tight their performance was.”

“They absolutely tore the house down, literally and figuratively as shown by the chunks of ceiling that fell to the floor,” said Nick Bonsanto, drummer for the South Jersey thrash metal band, Thrashole, who also attended. He added: “They truly represent the hardcore scene in what a band could and should be solid, refreshing, intense and passionate.”

This or the Apocalypse has better musicianship than the average metal outfit. The wailing guitar leads can be heard cleanly over the punishing drum beats delivered by drummer, Aaron Overca. Each band member plays with great purpose creating a very full sound.

“Don’t go to Champs too often because I barely listen to metal these days, and I’m getting a little old, but this show was so good, it was refreshing, tough and hard,” said Knudson.

“I know what it’s like,” added Armellino. “As long as you’re doing your job well and are showing up for the crowd to get a little crazy. One of the most important things is that it’s easy to tell that the guys in the band are having a great time while they are playing, which makes the show all that much more enjoyable for the audience.”

This or the Apocalypse puts on an impressive and impassioned performance. They make the crowd feel as though they are part of the show and don’t hesitate to get a little crazy. One of the most important things is that it’s easy to tell that the guys in the band are having a great time while they are playing, which makes the show all that much more enjoyable for the audience.”

This or the Apocalypse continues their current tour until the middle of November and are currently working on a new record.
IN FOCUS

PERSONAL FEATURE: Fighting breast cancer in person, not in a lab

NOTE: This article describes a local charity founded by the reporter’s mother. Though we deliberately avoid such conflicts of interest in hard news reporting, the goal here is to offer content in a blog-like format that acknowledges our connections within the community but allows for a broader range of storytelling.

By Deanna Rizziello

Entering the third phase in a battle with breast cancer, 63-year-old Rebecca Totaro walked into Capital Health Hospital to receive her first treatment of radiation therapy. For approximately a year and a half, Lisa Rizziello of Pennington, New Jersey has been working with Breast Cancer patients program called, "Sprinkling Hope With a Touch of Bling!" The program allows cancer patients the opportunity to pick out a piece of jewelry by Premier Designs while they're waiting to receive treatment.

In an interview with the VOICE, Nancy Goodwin, Director of Volunteer Services at Capital Health Hospital in Hopewell, described her first thoughts about the program.

"It was an idea I had never heard of before, and to me, I thought it was a fabulous idea that she found a way to meld working and finding a way to give back to people who needed help in the community."

According to Goodwin, the philosophy of the volunteer service program at the hospital is "neighbors helping neighbors." She says Rizziello’s program "fit this motto perfectly."

"If you’re feeling awful and someone comes along to offer a beautiful piece of jewelry to make you feel special, pretty and warm, that can’t do anything but help the healing process."

"I was faced yet again with the fear of the unknown. "Totaro said. "It was soapy."

"I had no idea what to expect. I was faced yet again with the fear of the unknown. "Totaro said. "It was so

When asked about her initial thoughts about the program starting, Tatpai stated that "I thought it was very thought-
ful of [Rizziello] to think of these patients because sometimes they feel like they’re alone. And hav-
ing someone care about them and do something for them that they don’t even know is such a won-
derful thing."

Tatpai said the impact of the program has been powerful. "It provides [patients] with that extra positive boost to get through their treatment."

Many Mercer students have personal connections to cancer. A VOICE survey of 30 students revealed that 60 percent personally knew someone affected by the disease.

When she heard about Rizziello’s program, Vanessa Marachel, first-year nursing student felt that “Things to make them feel more feminine when they are going through treatment would have a positive impact.”

Rizziello says of her own experience: “It brightens up my day when I know that I can provide a smile, to someone who is going through a tough time, by a simple act of giving.”
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JUST A DEGREE AWAY

CENTENARY COLLEGE
NEW JERSEY
Mental Health

Continued from page 1

fords and killed several others. Jared Loughner, who was convicted in the Arizona shooting spree, was a former community college student. After the attack, particular scrutiny was directed at the officials at Pima Community College where The New York Times reported: “After the re-release of detailed reports the college kept of Mr. Loughner’s bizarre outbursts and violent Internet fantasies, the focus has turned to whether it did all it could to prevent his apparent descent into explosive violence.”

The Times continued: “In September, Pima suspended Mr. Loughner and told him not to return without a psychologist’s letter certifying that he posed no danger. But it took no steps to mandate that he have a psychiatric evaluation, which in Arizona is easier than in many states.”

**POtENTIAL HARM**

Could the next Jared Loughner be studying at Mercer? If so, would the college be able to get that student help before the student hurt himself or others? The answers to these questions are not clear.

What is clear is that students do not leave their mental health issues outside the classroom door when they come in.

“I had a conflict during my first semester,” said the anonymous student. “One of the professors was brand new and I couldn’t come to any understanding with him, and we kind of bashed heads a lot.”

He continued: “It was very hard for me to come out and say, ‘Hey I have issues and I can’t deal with so much stress and anxiety,’ and eventually I just left the class because I couldn’t handle it.”

During his first term, the student chose not to leave but their behavior escalated to the point that violated the Code of Conduct. When that happens, they are sent to the Assistant Dean of Students John Simone.

In the most severe cases, students are mandated to attend counseling. Out of 65 students seen by Dean Simone for behavioral issues in the past year, he told The VOICE that between 35 and 40 were required to attend therapy.

Though the Jared Loughner of the world are the ones who get the media attention for their extreme acts, the highest cost in terms of human suffering comes in the form of thousands of college students in need of mental health care.

**THE REAL COSTS**

In October of 2010 The VOICE reported on a spate of student suicides that claimed 3 lives within the first weeks of the fall semester. One student threw himself in front of the high speed Accela train, another hung himself, the third was found in the water in Mercer County Park.

The costs can be measured not only in human lives, but also in missed days of class and absences or withdrawals that can impede a student’s chance of completing courses and completing their degree.

In a survey of 55 Mercer students, The VOICE found that 9 percent of students identified as having suffered from serious mental health problems. Of the 16 students who said they had faced mental illness, 14 said they had had to withdraw from a class as a direct result of their mental health.

One Mercer student who responded to the survey but asked to remain anonymous told The VOICE, “In one of my classes my second semester, a lot of times the pressure was so much I just had to leave. I couldn’t be there. Instead of being in class a lot of times I’d just be crying because I couldn’t handle it.”

Another student, who also asked for anonymity, said: “There are a lot of times when I get very frustrated if I’m not able to keep up with something. If I don’t understand something I get very angry and storm out. I confuse a lot of my professors and friends because they don’t understand too well.”

“Mental health issues could interfere with the learning environment if there are distractions. You want everyone to understand material given by the lecture. If the correct resources are given it could work out.”

**ENOUGH RESOURCES?**

According to Dean of Liberal Arts & Communication, Robin Schore, “Mercer has lots of students with very serious problems, and we do the best we can to help them.”

Faculty say they are on the front lines and often ill equipped to help students who they can see are suffering.

According to Psychologist Professor Karen Beare, Beare said that the psychology faculty are often approached by troubled students for help. This semester, so far four students have approached Prof. Beare while in crisis. Beare helps the best she can, but isn’t trained as a counselor.

“Having only one licensed counselor at Mercer is opening ourselves up to crisis,” Prof. Beare told The VOICE. “She said Mercer should have between 4 and 7 counselors for a college of its size.

Lack of access to resources is not the only problem troubled students need to overcome. Two students that Prof. Beare recently walked to the Counseling Center were seriously concerned about the financial cost of therapy. They wonder, “Why am I even talking about my problems if I can’t afford therapy?” Prof. Beare said.

She continued. “Mercer needs to market resources so that students and faculty know how to use them. Especially important is making sure students know that financial troubles don’t prevent them from attending therapy or other resources.”

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) is allowing more students to stay on their parents’ health insurance for longer (age 26). Further, the ACA requires low cost comprehensive insurance be made available to all students, and all ACA approved plans must pay for preventive care, mental health care and contraception.

**FACING THE STIGMA**

Access and information are crucial, to the end, however, the question of whether or not students seek the mental health care they need still hinges on their willingness to speak up despite the stigmas that are attached.

According to a 2010 meta-analysis by Dr. James Liv- ington and Dr. Jennifer Boyd at the University of California, San Francisco, there is a “striking” negative link between internalized stigma and “hope, self-esteem, and empowerment.” People who felt the most stigmatized were also most likely to have serious mental symptoms and to reject treatment.

Another student interviewed by The VOICE, who asked to remain anonymous, said she was diagnosed with bipolar disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder, and spent 11 months in various mental hospitals.

“I know that as soon as somebody hears that, the first thing that they think is ‘Oh she’s crazy,’” she said.

The idea that there is something wrong with people dealing with mental health issues is born out of “ignorance and lack of understanding,” said Gasparr.

**SHOUT OUT**

We asked and you told.

“You need to be mentally healthy to be able to move forward with your classes and pass and things of that nature. So I definitely think it has an effect on your ability to perform.”

“You need to be mentally healthy to be able to move forward with your classes and pass and things of that nature. So I definitely think it has an effect on your ability to perform.”

“Mental health issues could interfere with the learning environment if there are distractions. You want everyone to understand material given by the lecture. If the correct resources are given it could work out.”

“I don’t think it’s a problem here on campus to be honest with you.”
Fewer than 13% of community colleges provide psychiatric services for students*.

*According to a survey by the American College Counseling Association.

Of the 55 Mercer students surveyed, 16 said they have been diagnosed with a mental illness: 5 with depression, 4 with anxiety, and 1 with ADHD.

**MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES:**

**FOR STUDENTS:** Any student or community member needing mental health care can contact the Counseling Center located in the Student Center’s Financial Aid Office.

**COUNSELLING CENTER HOURS:**

- Mon. 9am to 7pm
- Tue. 9am to 7pm
- Wed. 9am to 7pm
- Thur. 9am to 7pm
- Fri. 9am to 5pm

**FOR FACULTY:** Psychology Professor Heather Jennings has compiled a guide for assisting students in emotional distress. Faculty are strongly encouraged to contact either Professor Jennings or Professor Bearce to obtain a copy of the guide.

**FOR MORE INFO about obtaining health care through the Affordable Care Act visit:**

[www.acha.org/Topics/Affordable_Care_Act/](http://www.acha.org/Topics/Affordable_Care_Act/)

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**SHOUT OUT**

WE ASKED AND YOU ANSWERED:

“**How do you feel mental health issues affect students at Mercer?**”

**Timothy C. Krisza**

“I feel that mental health is a sham peddled by the pharmaceutical corporations to make money. Have you ever thought what would happen to pink if breast cancer were cured? Is there really any cure in mental health, or do they remedy it? Do we just ease the symptoms?”

**Wensley Civil**

“I don’t know. There are a lot of students here and we don’t have enough people to talk to them on a regular basis. They probably feel lonely. Having someone to talk to would be a really good thing.”

**Katerin Jaquez**

“It’s something that prevents [students] from concentrating in class so of course there will be big problems.”

**Bryan Steward**

“I think people get stressed out. They get a lot of class work and it affects their lives...like their social life and their personal life.”

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**DID YOU KNOW MCCC HAS A COUNSELLING CENTER?**

*I do because of this survey.*

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**MENTAL HEALTH AT MERCER**
Women's soccer red hot heading into the regional tournament

By Kyle Kondor
Senior Reporter

The Mercer women's soccer team got off to a slow start this season, losing 3 of their first 4 games. Fortunately, none of those losses came against Region XIX division 1 opponents, and since then have turned things around, winning 7 of their next 9 games. The Lady Vikings capped off a 6-1 inner-division regular season record with a 3-0 win over Sussex on October 9th.

The win helped Mercer clinch a tie for first place, but Essex will enter the Regional tournament as the number one seed because their 5-3 victory over Mercer on September 19th will work as the tie-breaker.

"At a two year schools girls are in and out so the team changes a lot each year. It takes some time to learn how to play with each other," said Lady Viking's forward and team co-captain Taylor Wright.

She was sure to note that after the slow start the team changed its formation from a basic 4-4-2, to a 5-3-2 which puts extra emphasis on stopping the other team from scoring. Mercer allowed 11 goals in the first four games of the season while using the 4-4-2 formation, and they matched that amount in the nine games that followed while using the 5-3-2 formation.

Goalie and co-captain Jackie Laurenti has also picked up the pace. According to stats, njcaa.org, Laurenti has nearly 100 saves and a .828 save percentage during her second season in net. Now tasked with stopping the number one seed, those numbers are sure to increase. "I'm working a lot more on our defense now," said Laurenti.

Fortier, the team's fourth place in Region XIX. If she keeps this pace she'll have lead the team in goals in both of her two years with the program.

Taylor Wright stressed the fact that the team is still trying to improve despite the recent success. "On this team we never say to ourselves that we're 100 percent ready to win the regional tournament whether the stats show it or not. There is always room for improvement. So we must come out to practice ready to work hard, realize our weaknesses, and then better ourselves," said Wright.

The Region XIX tournament begins on October 26th, and the championship game is set to be played on November 10th.

When asked about what the team's goals are for the tournament, Wright replied, "We're probably one player away from being the second best team in the region. Hopefully next year we'll get some more interest and the girls we have now will continue to improve." The women Vikings will resume practicing when the men's team begins competing in the spring. If you're interested in playing for Mercer's women's tennis team, contact coach Marc Vecchiolla at 609-203-9332 or mvecchiolla@mercercounty.org.

Women's tennis exceeds Coach Vecchiolla's expectations

By Kyle Kondor
Senior Reporter

The Mercer women’s tennis team was supposed to have a “challenging year” according to coach Marc Vecchiolla. In an interview before their season began, the coach said he wants the girls to “have fun and work hard” instead of focusing on wins and losses.

The 2013 Lady Vikings were made up of only two second year players and four first year players, two of which had little to no experience playing the game. Coach Vecchiolla’s early season plan was to “work a lot on the basics...when the region tournament starts, we’ll be much improved compared to where we are today.”

Despite their apparent inexperience, the team’s hard work paid off, earning them fourth place in Region XIX and a 500 winning percentage.

In a recent interview with The VOICE, Vecchiolla gave credit to the team, saying, “We had a lot of dedicated girls on this team that showed up to practice, worked hard and had fun...all of the wins are just icing on the cake for us.”

Former Nottingham High School tennis standout Valerie Gapco, is the team’s number one player. She finished the regular season with a personal record of nine wins and three losses.

Solemy Owusu and Nataly Hernandez, the two returning players, filled the number two and three spots, respectively. Owusu finished the regular season with a record of six wins, six losses. Hernandez finished just under 500 with a record of five wins, six losses.

Newcomers Tiffany Fortier, Kelly Runzer and Miranda Leone started slowly, but Vecchiolla got them adapted to the game by the halfway point of the season. Fortier, the team’s fourth ladder ended with a three-and-six record. Runner, fifth ladder, finished two and eight. Leone was able to go three and five, playing in the number six slot.

“We were fortunate enough to play some teams that also had some beginners at the bottom of their lineup as well, so that definitely helped,” said Vecchiolla.

In the region tournament, the team didn’t fare quite as well, finishing in 5th place out of 7 teams. They were forced to play short handed in the tournament due to the loss of one player who was ineligible to participate because she failed to meet academic requirements. They had to forfeit the matches she was scheduled to participate in.

The region tournament features six singles and three doubles tournaments, one for each spot in the ladder. Each individual game won, whatever it be single or doubles, earns the team one point. The teams are then placed in order based upon who has the most points at the end of all the tournaments.

Valerie Gapco, was able to earn a first round victory in the number first ladder tournament, but she lost her second round match in a close battle to Terra McHenry from Gloucester, who would eventually go on to win the tournament.

Nataly Hernandez and Miranda Leone were also able to win their first round matches.

Vecchiolla is confident that the four first year players from this year's team will be back next season.

“We're probably one player away from being the second best team in the region. Hopefully next year we'll get some more interest and the girls we have now will continue to improve.”

The women Vikings will resume practicing when the men's team begins competing in the spring. If you're interested in playing for Mercer's women's tennis team, contact coach Marc Vecchiolla at 609-203-9332 or mvecchiolla@mercercounty.org.

PHOTOS | ZAC SANTANELLO
Former Vikings national champ becomes first African-American coach in MCCC soccer history

PROFILE: Widmarc “Tigana” Dalce

By Kevin Xavier
Senior Reporter

Jean Amadou Tigana was a French national soccer team star from the French Sudan during the mid 1980s. Tigana, a midfielder, was known for possessing tireless stamina and staying active and aggressive on both the offensive and defensive portions of the field.

During the same time period a boy from Leogane, Haiti, about 20 miles from the capital of Port-Au-Prince, was modeling his skill set after the French national team superstar. The boy’s father came to the United States in 1981 working for the Haitian government’s international relations department.

That young man’s name is Widmarc Dalce, better known to his players and former teammates as Tigana, because his grit and tireless work ethic reminded peers of his idol. He honed his soccer skills on dirt fields in Leogane using a makeshift soccer ball he and his friends made by wrapping pairs of socks around a wad of newspaper.

Widmarc, the man, has a wife, and three children. Samuel, the oldest of the three kids is 12, followed by Widmarc who is 7, and Celine the baby of the family is 2 years old.

Coach Tigana, now a Trenton resident, is a Mercer alum who starred during the 1996 and 1997 seasons. During that time the Vikings won a national championship in 1996 and finished runners-up in 1997.

In 1998 Dalce transferred to American International University in Springfield, MA where he received a full scholarship for his talent on the pitch.

A year later Dalce began his coaching career as an assistant to both the Men’s and Women’s soccer teams at American International.

The experience from playing and coaching at AIU landed him the head coaching job for girl’s soccer at Princeton High School in 2001, where he would remain for five years.

Coach Tigana then coached club teams in the Mercer County area when he got a phone call from the Athletic Director at Allentown High School. A parent of a student whom he had coached at the club level recommended Coach Dalce as a head coaching candidate for the Red Raiders boy’s soccer team. Without a formal interview Dalce was immediately hired.

Dalce had three successful seasons at Allentown, earning Colonial Valley Conference Coach of the Year honors in 2006, his first season at the helm.

One of Dalce’s former club team players is now a Captain for the Vikings. Nana Osei, a sophomore midfielder and Business Administration major, thinks his coach is firm but fair.

“He is the type of guy who will stick with you, he has pushed me to the brink. And in the long run, I could tell it made me a better player,” Osei said.

Dalce describes his personal coaching style as “simple.” One example is the Vikings 4-4-2 formation (four defenders, four midfielders, two forwards/strikers.) Many college teams implement more complicated formations but Coach Tigana is adamant in regard to the effectiveness of his strategy.

“You don’t have to be the best player in the world, its the little stuff!” Osei said, crashing a smile. “If you were literally just learning how to play soccer you could play his style.”

When asked what makes his coach mad, Osei said “he gets mad when we stray from his style [short passes, keeping the ball on the ground.] He gets mad when we complicate the game.”

From 2008-2010 Coach Tigana was an assistant of Rider University Women’s Head Coach Drayson Houndson and in February of 2012 Dalce came full-circle as he was named Head Coach of Mercer Men’s soccer, returning to the program that he won a national championship 16 years earlier.

Coach Tigana is the first African-American coach in the history of Mercer soccer.

Assistant Dean for Student Services John Simone thought Dalce was an ideal candidate for the position left vacant when longtime coach Pete Inverso left for Rider University, “he was a Mercer Alum, he had an extensive background in soccer, and he was a former assistant coach so he was really a perfect fit,” said Simone.

Dalce was named Coach of the Year in Region 19 in his first season as Mercer Head Coach, leading the team to a record of 18-6, en route to an appearance in the Final 8 in the National Championship tournament.

Year two has not been as successful for Coach Tigana, his team stands at 6-6-1 currently, fourth in the conference out of six teams, but he is not discouraged. “I’m a little disappointed, but I’m not going to give up, I will fight for my team.”

Coach Tigana is adamant about his players dedication to their studies saying he wants them to “give 150% in the classroom and 110% on the field,” Dalce said leaning forward his eyes wide and face stern, “I don’t recruit soccer players, I recruit student athletes.”

That boy from Leogane, Haiti has become a molder of young men.

“He doesn’t just prepare you to play soccer, he prepares you for life,” says Osei.

October 9th vs. Union:
The Mercer men’s soccer team visited the Owls of Union County College, and they were greeted rudely, losing 3-1 to the conference opponent. Viking’s Freshmen defender Jhessian Gonzalez scored his second goal of the season on an assist from Jeffrey Valcis. Darrien Chambers and Christian Aguirre went into the Referee’s book in defeat. The Vikings had 12 shots on goal in the game.

October 12th vs. Hagerstown:
The Viking’s traveled to Hagerstown, Maryland, and won 4-0. Four different players scored goals and Sophomore Captain Nana Osei added an assist for the Vikings. Freshmen Valdo Jean-Baptiste had five shots on goal, one of which resulted in his second goal of the season. Freshmen Forward Darien Chambers had six shots and also notched a goal and an assist. The other goals were scored by Freshmen forward Enkjargal Davdaadolo and Freshmen Jhessian Gonzalez.

October 15th vs. Brookdale:
After two consecutive road games, the Vikings played a match on their home turf against the Jersey Blues of Brookdale County Community College. In what can be considered a low-scoring game, Brookdale defeated Mercer 2-0. There were only eight shots on goal in the entire match, and Mercer only accounted for three of them. Mercer’s Goalkeeper has had a successful season thus far, with a .761 save percentage, but in the loss to Brookdale he was below average. He had a .600 save percentage, allowing two goals on five on target shots. Both Brookdale goals came in the second half.
This is Russ
Russ is a New Media major at Mercer and pays the bills working at Petro Lube in Bordentown. But as a staff reporter for The College VOICE he covers the arts and entertainment scene, interviewing local bands, covering ComicCon in NY for his blog, even checking out the local ostrich farm looking for stories.

“Joining the VOICE helped me find purpose and direction for my life and career. It also lead me to meet some of the most excellent people in the world.”

-Russ Chizek

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ASK THE VOICE: GOOD ANSWERS TO TOUGH QUESTIONS

Dear Voice, Are your pages getting darker and snarkier or is it just me? -Hip to be Happy

Dear Happy, Yeah. You caught us. We ran out of antidepressants. -The Voice

Dear Voice, Why am I so ugly? -Ugly

Dear Ugly, Grow a beard and hide behind it.

What kinds of articles are you working on for November? Inquiring minds want to know. -The Cat

ONCE IN A WHILE IT PAYS TO COMPLAIN. YOU DIDN'T WANT TO SAY ANYTHING, BECAUSE IT SEEMED TRIVIAL, BUT THE SITUATION IS GETTING TO YOU AND SPEAKING UP WILL HELP.

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

Classic Peanuts

SUDOKU

Difficulty: 3 (of 5)

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

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