

The Mount Observer

"A voice for the students of Mount Wachusett Community College"

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12 PAGES

Meet the New President of MWCC



Photo courtesy of Courtney Wentz

Dr. James Vander Hooven, the incoming President of Mount Wachusett Community College.

By Courtney Wentz

Dr. James Vander Hooven, MWCC's incoming President is officially taking over on March 18th.

Vander Hooven previously worked at Landmark College, a four year school in Vermont, but he has worked at two community colleges in the past. He was President for four years at Tohono O'odham Community College in Arizona and Lakes Region Community College in New Hampshire as Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management. He said, "Community colleges is where my passion is."

His immediate plan is to do a "listening tour." Meaning, he will listen to concerns and get input from faculty, staff, the administration, community, and especially the students. He wants students to have a say in strategic planning with moving MWCC forward. Vander Hooven plans to interact with students by having monthly lunches to get their input on what is happening with the college.

As a student at Ohio State University, Vander Hooven said he "struggled academically,"

but being a part of the speech and debate team, along with theatre, kept him in college. His difficulties in school made him want to be a teacher to help students with their challenges.

The advice he has for students is to "get involved with the college and community, even if it's just once a semester." Vander Hooven's dissertation was about women who had children and finished their associate's degree. He wanted to know how they juggled college and parental responsibilities. The one factor the women had in common was they were all involved with the college and community, keeping them motivated to graduate.

Vander Hooven also suggested that students ask for help, saying, "Right before you sense that you're falling behind or that something is confusing you, reach out to someone." He thinks asking for help is "the ultimate sign of strength," not weakness, and wants to change the perception of that.

"I am humbled and excited to have this opportunity," Vander Hooven said, "It's nice to be here."

Spring Construction in the Gardner Campus Parking Lot

By Liam Scanlon

Reconstruction of the Gardner campus parking lot will begin during the 2017 spring semester. This includes renovation of the roadway connecting the parking lot to Matthews St.

The design will not be finalized until later in the month. John Wyman, Associate Vice President of Facilities Management, has released some information concerning the project.

Due to the need for parking spaces in the spring semester, preliminary construction will be on a small scale. Full scale construction will start during the summer and the lot is scheduled to be finished before the fall semester.

Aside from re-paving, one of the most significant

improvements to the lot will be the new, deep sump catch basins. This will improve drainage and pollution prevention, which was a particular concern for Wyman as the Mount is located in a critical watershed for Silver Lake Reservoir.

The plans include installation of new streetlights. The plan includes a new layout for parking spaces so as to fit more spaces in the lot. There will be an electric line ran out to the Matthews St. entrance. This will likely be used for a new electric entrance sign. It is likely that new emergency phones will be installed. These phones will be able to display alert messages.

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A series of roadblocks to keep drivers off of the more heavily damaged section of the parking lot.

Decreases in Student Enrollment Increases the Role of Grants in MWCC Department Budgeting

By Kelly Cacciolfi

With decreased enrollment, the demographic of students that is ever changing and budget restrictions, both Robert LaBonte, Vice President of Finance and Administration and Jason Zelesky, Dean of Students said that they have tough jobs of doing the best for the overall student and retention of those students here at MWCC.

LaBonte has been at MWCC for 22 years. Raised in the Gardner area, LaBonte said, "I feel this is the best place for me; my position is challenging as I am responsible for running the Finance and Administration Office, Cafe, Fitness Center, Theater, and the Facilities Department." LaBonte said, "It's like running a large company with a lot of separate businesses within, and MWCC is the parent company."

LaBonte said, "the budget is one of the most difficult parts of my job and I do love my job. It's never boring with something new to do each day." The operating budget for MWCC is approximately \$35 million and LaBonte must determine what 30 to 35 offices will have each year to spend on their programs.

LaBonte said "people call me the money guy around the col-

lege." With the recent decrease in enrollment LaBonte's job with the budget has become even more of a challenge. LaBonte said, "I ask each department for their needs and wants list, hoping that we can cover their needs, then we can look at each office and their wants."

LaBonte said he "appreciates strong advocates for more money within their budget for each of the offices; it is sometimes hard when trying to prioritize where the money goes each year. This is where grants become so important." Grants are not part of the regular operation budget and is often needed to be used in a year's time for a specific office or program. LaBonte said, "MWCC has two grant writers."

Zelesky has been at MWCC for three years, and is one of those fighting for budget money each year for Student Services. Zelesky said, "I live in Gardner; this was the next logical position in my career and it's was like a dream opportunity." After working at Clark University for 13 years, Zelesky said, "I feel connected and mission driven in my work here at the Mount, after being raised by a single mother, I feel like these are my people." Zelesky said, "Our

office provides direct service to students and we make immediate change for an individual allowing that student the ability to stay a student."

Also, he said, "Student Services always is honest with making right decisions and if someone comes in hungry they help unpack that hunger as to how and what they can do to help." If a small loan is needed to make a difference for a student, a payment plan is put in place to keep this program sustainable for years to come.

Grants do help to run certain programs when the Student Service budget cannot. Zelesky gave a few examples. S.O.S., Students Serving Our Students is a club that is operated out of the Student Services office. Zelesky said "this group is part of Civic Engagement and is helping students with sustainable solutions." CCAMPIS, Child Care Access Means Parents in School is another program that is run by Ann Reynolds, CCAMPIS Advisor in Student Services. This is a federal grant offering assistance with child care cost helping with retention at MWCC and is currently the only school in Massachusetts that offers this program.

Kimberly Cook, current first

semester nursing student at MWCC, is one benefiting from CCAMPIS, which is a grant and is separate from the budget. Cook said, "I currently get 60% of help with my child care, which, I am never worried where my child is while I am at school, gives him social interaction, and provides me with much needed study time." Michel Cocuzza, current President of the Parents Support Group and in her last semester, said, "Without Student Services, CCAMPIS, and Jason Zelesky's help I wouldn't have been able to be a student here." Cocuzza said, "I was helped with paperwork confusion from 20 years ago, and sending me to the right

people for help with daycare." Both Cook and Cocuzza said "Student Services have made them want to give back 100% while attending MWCC."

Cook and Cocuzza are just a couple of examples of how grants can help retain students when the budget is not able to. Zelesky said, "The biggest fundraiser of the year, Winterfest, just took place on December 7th and 8th, and all money raised goes directly to the emergency student loan fund." Zelesky said, "this is how we retain current students and connect them with this institution for years to come."

"Were it left to me to decide if we should have a government without newspapers or a government with newspapers, I should not hesitate to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson

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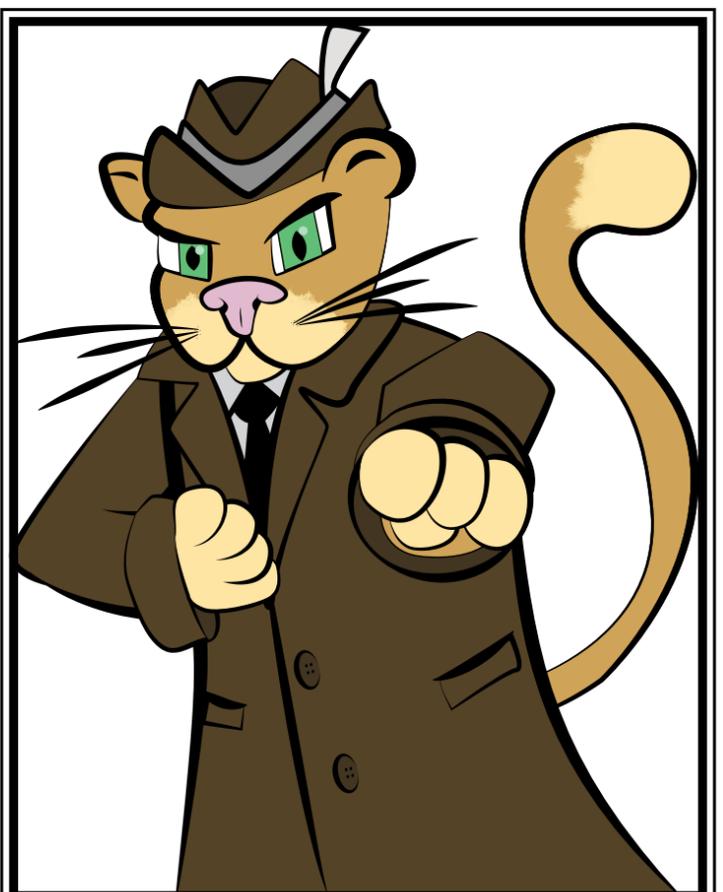
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MRT Students Experiencing Course Planning Problems due to Low Registration Numbers

By Bryon Harris

Some students of the MRT program are experiencing troubles with course planning. Students are having to take semesters off before returning to the main subjects of their degree. This can cause financial problems for students who planned to earn their degree within a certain span of time.

This issue is caused because the main content of the MRT degrees consist of lab courses, which are for the most part only offered one semester out of the

year. With this design, if a class is not offered, or gets canceled due to having not enough students, these students must then wait until the class is offered again, which might not be until a year later. Having a gap year between these sequential, hands on courses can leave students out of practice and behind when they finally get to take the next course.

MWCC student, Matt Grandich, has experienced some of these issues first hand. Soon

earning his degree, Matt has had to dedicate a semester to take the audio class required for his major. Matt said, "It was definitely disappointing to have to have to wait to take the class when I could have fit it into an earlier semester." However, the school does realize these issues and wishes to act upon them

"I wish it didn't have to happen," said Dr. Laurie Occhipinti about students falling behind in the MRT program. She said the MRT program simply

does not have enough students to run multiple courses. On top of this, with the smaller class sizes professors do not make enough money to teach these classes (the more students in a class, the more the professor will make). Dr. Occhipinti noted that the school is making an effort to promote the schools MRT program and attract more students to the program which would help to solve these issues some students are facing.

Teachers of the MRT program such as Ben Mertzic, have said that they also make efforts to reach out to their students and ask what they can do to help benefit them in the MRT program.

Though this is a problem the school is aware of and is effect many students in the MRT program, it does not seem that there are any immediate solutions to this problem.

Falling behind and bouncing back: Advice for students that fall behind in their work

By Joshua Needham

The start of a new school semester is much like celebrating New Years. Everyone makes resolutions that this semester will be better than the last. However, even with the best laid plans for success, sometimes falling behind is inevitable. Between poor health, family emergencies, or just plain forgetfulness, sometimes students fall behind in their work and it can be hard not to just give up.

So, you've fallen behind? Getting caught back up won't be easy, but there are some tips and tricks to help you save the semester. MWCC's Retention Specialist, Joyce Kulig, says the first step is to talk with your professors. Kulig suggests that the first step to correcting the issue, is making it known between you and your professor that you un-

derstand you've fallen behind. Especially if you're early in the semester, focus on working with your instructor(s) to figure out an action plan going forward to help you get caught up and stay caught up. Making the issue known early on can help take some of the stress out of catching up and can really make the difference between success and failure for some students.

"Professors are more interested in the student succeeding, than the student failing" said Jim O'Connell, a Professor in Media Arts. Knowing that your instructors are there to help you succeed, not bring you down, is a huge step for some new students that may have come from a very different environment in high school. O'Connell also suggests seeking help from classmates

and fellow students as well. It's worth keeping in mind that your peers, the other students in your class and attending college with you, also understand how hard life can be at times and may have developed key strategies to deal with certain situations; strategies that may help you as well.

Sometimes the sun is setting on your class-front and the semester is coming to a speedy end by the time you realize that you're behind. Whether due to personal issues at home or just stubborn laziness, it is worth remembering that you can do anything if you apply yourself. O'Connell's bit of advice for nose-to-the-grindstone catching up is that of true dedication: cram.

Kevin MacMillan, an MRT/V student at The Mount, recounted

a time when he had fallen behind and brought himself back up with hard work and dedication. MacMillan had come to the end of his high school years and was confident of his ability to graduate without issue. However, he was met by his math teacher to discuss a failing grade in her class. With so little time left in the school year, MacMillan met with all his teachers to discuss the issue and make known his dedication to bringing his grade up in that class.

His teacher provided him with workbooks that he could complete for extra credit, but at only a few points per workbook to go toward his overall grade, MacMillan wasn't sure if it was even possible. All he knew, was that he needed to pass this class. MacMillan recounted that the

last month of that year felt like an entire school year on its own. He worked through study halls and every day at home to do as much work as he possibly could.

In the end, MacMillan passed the class and graduated with his classmates. He says that the experience showed him one thing: at the end of the day, no matter how far behind you are, it's because of your actions. You may not have the best relationship with your professor(s), their teaching style may not be for you, but at the end of the day, if you apply yourself, you can do well in any situation.

Spring break is coming soon and is a reminder of how far into the semester we are. As the semester, and the rest of your school years move forward, keep these tips and tricks in mind and don't stop believing in yourself.

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Mental Health Awareness Conference Coming March 21st to Leominster

On Tuesday March 21st, at the Doubletree Hotel in Leominster, MA there will be a mental health conference held from 9:00am until 2:30pm. The program is being coordinated by Mount Wachusett Community College in conjunction with the Shine Initiative.

This program will feature panel speakers such as:

- Dr. Judson Brewer, Director of Research at the Center for Mindfulness
- Dr. Barri Baker, Chief Medical Officer of Network Health, a division of Tufts Health
- Senator Jennifer Flanagan

And the special guest speaker will be: Paul Dalio, an American writer, director, and composer who used his experience of being diagnosed with and managing bipolar as inspiration for his film "Touched with Fire."

The program will also include an audience Q&A session as well as QPR Suicide Prevention Training.

Student Life Events



Jayne Hitchcock: Cyberbullying and the Wild, Wild Web – 12:30 pm, Murphy Room. Jayne conducts law enforcement training for local, county, state, military and federal agencies. Her speaking schedule on cybercrime and cyberbullying includes elementary/middle/high schools, universities and colleges. She has been featured on 48 Hours, Good Morning America, Cosmopolitan and TIME magazines, among others, as well as local, national and international newscasts.

Advocacy Day – State House, Boston. Join students from across the state to advocate for public higher education. Registration required, see Kathy Matson in Student Life for more info.

Student Government Association Nomination Papers Available – Run for a seat on the SGA and be a voice for your fellow students. Nomination papers are available on-line on iconnect or in Room 151.

Student Government Association Meeting – 12:30 pm, Murphy Room. Come see them in action and consider running for a seat on the SGA. Meeting open to all.

Film: Food for Change: The Story for Cooperation in America, 12:30pm, Multipurpose Room.

Hosted by film producer, Steve Alves. Food For Change is an 82-minute

documentary film focusing on food co-ops as a force for dynamic social and economic change in American culture. This is the first film to examine the important historical role played by food co-ops, their pioneering quest for organic foods, and their current efforts to create regional food systems. Additionally, the film shows how cooperatives today strengthen local economies and build food security. The goal is to educate a wide audience about the principles of cooperation with a focus on healthy food and a healthy economy.

Crazy Hat Day – 10am-2pm, South Cafe. Join CATS and SGA as they host this Relay for Life and Heavenly Hats fundraiser. Wear a hat or come decorate one in the South Café, then join us for a photo shoot at 1:30pm in the South Café. All hat wearers are asked to make a donation to the event. We will have a photo booth in the South Café from 10am-2pm for individual and group photos. Sponsored in part by Party Vision.

Culture Festival - 11:30am-1:30pm in the South Café. Sponsored by the MWCC Diversity Committee. Come join the fun!

CATS Programming Meeting (Campus Activities Team for Students) – 12:30 pm, Room W12. Come and join in on the fun of planning and running activities

for MWCC students (i.e. Scary Karaoke, Fall Fest). For more information contact the Student Life office at studentlife@mwcc.mass.edu. 978-630-9148 or stop by room 151. Open to all MWCC students.

Alternative Spring Break – Spend a day of your Spring Break serving others in a community service project. See Greg Clement in Room 141 for more info.

Women's Herstory Project - In Celebration of Women's History Month. Professor Sue Goldstein's Journalism I class and the Office of Student Life will display photos and stories of women from MWCC faculty and staff who play an important role in the lives of students on campus. The display will be on the Student Life bulletin board in the South Cafe. The selection process and written text are from interviews with students facilitated by the Journalism I class.

New York City Bus Tickets GO ON SALE in the Student Life Office, room 151, beginning at 9 am for the April 15th NYC trip. Each student can purchase up to 2 tickets: one for themselves and one for a non-student guest—guest must be 15 yrs. old or older. No reserving seats in advance. No purchasing tickets by telephone or on-line. All tickets are nonrefundable and nontransferable. Tickets: \$30 for students, \$35 for your guest (cash or check only).

Mini March Madness – 12:30 pm, South Cafe. Test your basketball skills and shoot some hoops. Win prizes and a chance at a March Madness themed basket.

Women's Appreciation Day— 12:30 - 1:30 pm, South Café. Ladies receive a free flower and gift (while supplies last). Join us as we celebrate Women's History Month and honor the "Herstory Project" nominees. Music will be provided by award winning guitarist Lindsay Straw. Sponsored by the Student Life Office.

Ping Pong Tournament – 12:30pm, Lion's Den. Preregistration required in room 151. Cash prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place.

Group Fitness Class Demo, 12:30pm, South Café. Come join in and see what fun a group fitness class can be.

Film: Rosie the Riveter, 12:30pm, North Café. Documentary about women working in factories during WWII and resultant loss of jobs after the war. Five women tell their stories.

It's Your Birthday Celebration, 12:30 pm, Lion's Den Student Center. Stop by and enjoy a piece of birthday cake as we celebrate all of the February, March & April birthdays.



Have a Scoop? See something newsworthy? Tag us
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A Music Review: Defend the Rhino

By Bryon Harris

Defend the Rhino is an instrumental post rock band you won't want to miss out on. Drawing their influences from groups like Mogwai, Godspeed You! Black Emperor, and Explosions In The Sky, Defend the Rhino has a gorgeous sound and wonderful musicianship. Their latest CD *There's No Place Like Home* shows off the undeniable potential of their works.

Starting off with "Milestone," Defend the Rhino presents their musical identity with a soothing musical experience. "Milestone" begins with some ambient crackling accompanied

by a set of piano chords. These are then slowly built upon adding tasteful guitar licks for about half the song. This progression then breaks into a steady groove bringing the composition together with layered guitar, bass, drums, and some additional production. The mix is professional and sounds as if it could be used in movies or television soundtracks, which speaks volumes about the musicianship and talent of Defend the Rhino.

The next track I'd like to pay homage to is "Eternal Love." This beautiful instrumental leads us in with spacy synth sounds,

accompanied by some symbol flourishes. Slowly building, soon both bass and piano come in followed by the addition of a simple drum beat. Defend the Rhino has the amazing ability to form gorgeous, memorable melodies without the use of vocals and their song "Eternal Love" is a great representation of how they can do this.

Another noteworthy track off of their album *There's No Place Like Home* is *Tokyo, Japan*. This high energy song is sure to be a fan favorite, grabbing your attention right from the start with its entrancing guitar line and melodies from the strings. About

half way through the song, the tune breaks into a more electronic sounding interlude which was a great addition to the song. Defend the Rhino does a great job of integrating a multitude of different sounds and styles into their work and *Tokyo, Japan* is no exception.

The album closes with a short outro called "Afterthought." This track is a slower paced chilling track that does well to wrap up the album. Featuring mostly piano, this song is extremely relaxing and allows you to get lost in your thoughts as it takes you along for a gentle musical ride.

Overall, Defend the Rhino's album *There's No Place Like Home* is full of high quality, moving instrumental tracks that anyone could tune into and enjoy. This album would also be great for students looking for study music. Looking to the future, Defend the Rhino will be composing a soundtrack for the film "Killing the Frog" and scoring music for an audio book by Paul Barile. Defend the Rhino's music is available for purchase on all major music platforms.

Book Review: *I Was Here* by Gayle Forman

"Sometimes we meet people and are so symbiotic with them, it's as if we are one person, with one mind, one destiny."

— Gayle Forman, *I Was Here*

By Mariah Boisvert

I Was Here by New York Times bestselling author Gayle Forman and published by Penguin Random House LLC is a coming of age novel dealing with the loss of someone who is important to you. I loved this book from beginning to end. It deals with love, loss, friendship, secrets, mystery and forgiveness.

Open chapter one, "I regret to inform you that I have taken my own life. The decision has been a long time coming, and was mine alone to make." – Megan Luisa Garcia

This book follows 18-year-old Cody Reynolds following her best friend, Meg Garcia's shocking suicide. As Cody goes out of her way to help the Garcia family, she takes it upon herself to search for answers for why Meg took her own life. While

doing this she begins a journey of self-discovery which takes her to a terrifying path, and forces her to question not only her relationship with the Meg she thought she knew, but how she looked at herself.

Forman based this book on an article she wrote about suicide, in which she interviewed friends and family members of young women who had taken their lives. The one story about "Suzy Gonzalez" stood out to her the most and gave her the inspiration for this novel.

The audience for this book is geared more towards teenagers and young adults, but anyone who likes a heart touching realistic fiction book should get their hands on this one. It really hits the heart hard.

News

Parking Lot Construction

>>> continued from page 1

Students are relieved to hear that the project is being renovated. The parking lot has been notorious for its poor condition. "It says something," commented Celina Guitare. Guitare is in her first semester at the Mount as a part time student and had already been baffled by the condition of the lot. "There should be updates...it can really reflect on the school." Jamie Parker recalls how her car's alignment had been "messed with" during her commute to school. She said "I think it's great" that the lot will be renovated.

Giovani Soto Padilla, MWCC alumnus, recalls that he drove slower in the lot because of the bumps and potholes.

The reconstruction of the lot promises to be an all-around benefit, provided that the poor condition of the lot has not been

the only reason for students' slow driving. Connor Scanlon, Quinsigamond Community College Alumnus, recalls many student complaints about driver accidents in the QCC lot. He recalls his own rear bumper being dented by another student. One student would consistently be parked in the back corner of the lot, presumably to remain far away from student traffic. Campus police were strict enough on the speed limit to pull Scanlon over for going 17 mph when the limit was 15 mph. He did not get ticketed.

Information on the traffic and parking rules and regulations can be found on the Mount website or by contacting the college's Department of Campus Police and Public Safety

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Sarah Payson

Animating an Income

By Joshua Needham

Sarah Payson, a 21-year-old Media Arts and Tech major at MWCC, juggles a job while going to school, like many other students, but her job is a bit more interesting than most. Under the name Sango Nanami, Payson runs a YouTube channel with over 45,000 subscribers.

The channel itself started nearly 10 years ago as an account to save videos to playlists and make favorite lists, but in 2015 things took off. Payson's specialty lies in animations, and when she made an animation based on the highly popular game *Five Nights at Freddy's* views and subscriptions skyrocketed.

"The animation wasn't even that good," Payson said in reflection of her previous work. To her, quality is everything in her videos and she puts forth the effort to make the best content she can. Payson works with a small group of trusted individuals who lend their voices to her productions and says she rarely goes talent scouting outside of that group.

Payson was initially approached with an offer for a partnership program, much like a sponsorship for YouTube content creators and was able to start making an income from her passion. She has since transferred to a different partnership program, citing the fine print that was to be added to her contract at the time, which would have had her locked into that partnership for years.

Payson says that she works mostly on whatever content that she wants to work on, but also keeps her fans in mind, working on videos and projects that they suggest as well. Although some content creators work to pander to an audience, bending over backward for whatever is the latest and greatest trend, Payson keeps true to herself by working on the things she loves while providing the quality that her audience has come to expect.

Her creations are brought to life with a combination of Sony Vegas Movie Studio 13 and Miku Miku Dance, software

for editing and animation respectively. Looking to the future, Payson hopes to be able to create original animations like RWBY, an animated series created by Rooster Teeth, which uses a similar style of animation to what can be found from SangoNanami herself.

Contrary to what many may think, even with over 45,000 subscribers, Payson says she only brings in about \$20-\$30 per week in ad revenue from her channel, a testament to how difficult it can be for content creators to make a living. Overall, the connection with her fans and her passion for creating are what keep her at it while working on her education as well. Her YouTube channel can be found at youtube.com/sangonanami, or check her out on Twitter @sangonanami.

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Cook with Ryder, Age 6

The Busy Life of Kim Cook

By Kelly Cacciolfi

"I get it" is what Kim Cook stated as she explained why she is in her first semester of the Nursing program at MWCC and taking part in several groups on campus.

Growing up very ill as a young adult with Crohn's Disease, having back surgeries, gallbladder removal, and lymph node issues. Cook stated, "I always had it in the back of my head that I needed to help change the system and be an advocate from the inside." Cook said, "I didn't have a childhood and now this is my playground."

Cook lost a sister at the age of 14, lost a child of her own (Kelsey who would have celebrated her 16th birthday this September) to Jaundice, and her father struggles with heart disease and alopecia. Cook said, "she knows the importance of being an advocate and treating a patient like a person and not a number!"

Cook, 36 is a stay at home mom from Gardner where she resides with her husband Joshua of 14 years (together for 19), daughter Nevaeh 12, sons Owynn 11, and Ryder 6. She started at MWCC with a General Allied Health with Liberal Arts double major and soon knew she needed to enter the Nursing program. Lisa Diamond, Cook's advisor knew that Cook needed help with daycare and pointed her in the right direction to CCAMPIS. CCAMPIS, Child Care Access Means Parents in School took Cook about six months to be accepted into the program. "It's wonderful," Cook said. CCAMPIS helps her with 60% of her daycare costs. Cook also volunteers at the daycare as one of the requirements for CCAMPIS. Some great benefits that are also a plus are: she doesn't have to worry where her son Ryder is after school, he has social interaction, Cook

has study time, more family and friend time.

Cook also is a part of the Parent Support Group (PSG), which she said, "she became involved with the group 100% because there is not enough nontraditional groups here at MWCC." She feels as though this group is the "Moms and Dads of MWCC, it's for the community, and looks out for other groups."

Cook takes part in several groups, to name a few: CCAMPIS, PSG, PTK, Student Nursing Association, RX program, Student Government (Cook was elected Sophomore Rep last summer), and the Student Leadership Program. As Cook looks at her future she said "I hope the legacy I live here is that I gave 100% in any area I could give."

MWCC YouTube Gaming: Joshua Needham and yeahdudegamers

By Nicholas Velillari

Mount student, Joshua Needham, runs a youtube channel and gaming website, *yeahdudegamers*, that focuses on video game commentaries, "let's play's", and video game reviews.

Yeahdudegamers, primarily focuses on story driven and survival horror games like *Tales of Graces*, and *Fatal Frame*, but Needham states they cover "pretty much all games."

Needham and a few of his friends started the YouTube channel around Halloween of 2014. He states how he and his friends had a passion for playing all sorts of games. "We were just having fun" stated Needham, so they decided, "we should make a YouTube channel and put random stuff on it," and that's how it all began.

As a result of the YouTube channel, *yeahdudegamers* expanded and created their own website (yeahdudegamers.com). The site is set up much like other popular video game media outlets, like IGN and GameSpot. They focus on video game reviews, news, and even promote their own magazine, *Health and Mana*. However, Needham states that the website is cur-

rently going through, "massive reconstruction" in the way of its presentation.

Needham got the urge to create the website after taking web design with wordpress with Team TreeHouse. He initially signed up for a major in CIS at the Mount, but it didn't have the courses he wanted in order to make the site.

Yeahdudegamers also do live video streams on Twitch. They mainly focus on games made for consoles. Needham states that doing live streaming with all the equipment can get "pricey, but not all at once."

Making videos and doing live streams can be tedious for he and his team. Needham says that it can take hours doing a game commentary, along with editing afterwards. "It taught me that persistence can really get you somewhere," Needham said.

Overall, *yeahdudegamers* may be going through an overhaul with their website, but they have every intention of continuing on with doing weekly live streams on Twitch and updating youtube with their "let's play" series. They currently have 5-10 people working on their YouTube channel and website.

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Professor Elmer Eubanks' Background

By Scott Mellecker

Professor Eubanks could possibly be the most interesting man in the world.

He is a professor here at the Mount and teaches business courses. He had a long road before he came to MWCC. "I for sure had my own peaks and valleys," said Eubanks.

Eubanks was born in Costa Rica, where he often goes on vacations to visit his family. At a young age, he bounced around from Costa Rica to Columbia. After spending a few years in Columbia, he moved to Guatemala in 4th grade. "When I thought my family was all finished moving we then ended up in Nicaragua when I began high school," states Eubanks.

"My years in Nicaragua, were, interesting, to say the least," claimed Eubanks. The professor had revealed that he was there during the revolution and that it was not a pleasant time to be there. Eubanks talked about how there were times that his family

went days without food because of shortages in the country, and when given the chance to make it to the grocery store when food came, they would stock up for a month's worth of food. "My wife thinks I'm crazy when I come back from the grocery store because I'll come back with enough food for an army," he joked, this is the effect that the revolution had on him.

One of the final straws of leaving Nicaragua was when his bus was hijacked. "Luckily no one was hurt, but it was a scary scene," said Eubanks. He and his family had finally left the country through the U.S. Embassy. The final scene that Eubanks described seeing as he left the country, was flying away and looking down at all the bodies scattered across the land.

Eubanks moved back home to finish High School in Costa Rica. Shortly after finishing high school, Eubanks decided to start his own company. Eubanks

had started his own dairy farm. The company was successful, so successful that he actually had to sell the company because he could not handle the business. "Production became so large that I would have needed to expand my company. I was not ready for that, so instead I decided to sell my farm."

Eubanks and his family seem to be well known. So well-known that the President of Walla Walla University in Washington had recruited him through his father to come to the college. Eubanks packed his bags and moved out to Washington.

Eubanks first obtained an Associate Degree in Business before majoring in Interior Design Marketing and Apparel for his Bachelor's Degree. Right before he was supposed to finish his degree, his college cancelled the program because not enough students were involved in it. Luckily he was able to finish on time with a Mass Media Communica-

tions degree.

What finally brought Eubanks to Massachusetts was again, school. A friend of his, who also happened to be the Dean of Anna Maria, told him to come get his MBA at the school. "This was great for me because I couldn't get in anywhere else," Eubanks said in a laughing manner. "I finished my MBA in 2 years, but those happened to be the 2 busiest years of my life. Taking a full course load while working a part time job was difficult, but it felt good to get it done," claimed Eubanks.

After chatting a little more about work, it was revealed that at one point Eubanks came very close to buying the New England Patriots. Yes, that team that wins all the time with that handsome quarterback. "I was originally trying to buy a T.V. station, so I was building a team of people that would go in on the deal with me. This was when one of my friends told me that we should

look into buying the Patriots because they were on sale" said Eubanks. "The friend of mine, who was my number one business partner, personally knew Victor Kiam who was the current owner of the Patriots. Although it sounded very enticing, I decided against it because at the time I didn't know a single thing about football. All we were going to do was make a quick business flip of it, but I did not want a part of that deal." Eubanks said that looking back on it, he wishes he had bought the team (which is currently worth \$1.5Billion) but he does not dwell on it.

Eubanks went on to work with consulting companies, trade shows, and even head of recruiting and enrollment at Atlantic Community College. All that has led to his current life at Mount Wachusett Community College. Not bad for a kid who was stuck in the middle of a revolution at one point in his life.

Fathom Farewell: An Interview with a Local Band

By Mariah Boisvert

A Fathom Farewell – Fathom for short - is a band local to Worcester County and book shows all over Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Current members include vocalist Alex Cohen and guitarist Jesse Ljunggren

"A Fathom Farewell's brand of post-hardcore brings a different angle to a well-tread genre, fusing modern metalcore with influences ranging from traditional Armenian music, to stoner metal, to pop-punk. Their high-energy performance seeks to bring positivity to every musical community they play in" – Direct quote from the band's Facebook page.

I had the pleasure of talking with vocalist Alex Cohen after Fathoms set at The Worcester Palladium on October 21st.

Mariah: Who are the current members of your band?

Alex: Our Current members are me, I'm the singer Jesse Ljunggren on guitar, Justin Medas on drums and Thom Roy on bass.

Mariah: How long have you all known each other?

Alex: I've known Jesse for 3 years. Justin for 6 years (went to college together) and Thom for 2 months now.

Mariah: What genre of music do you consider your work to be?

Alex: Melodic Metalcore.

Mariah: What are your favorite venues to play at? Why?

Alex: The Worcester Palladium, Fete Music Hall, Lupos Heartbreak Hotel for the simple fact that the crowd is amazing and always filled with old friends and new friends. Plus, I dreamt of playing the palladium for a solid decade before I was able to actually do it.

Mariah: How has your music evolved since you first began playing music together?

Alex: Our new music to our old music is night and day for the simple fact that the lineup was a little wishy washy with

people lacking the ability to be truly serious about the band until recently. Jesse joined and wrote a whole eps worth of riffs that were a delight to write lyrics to and our new members Justin and Thom are very professional and serious about music, so I can't wait to see what we'll come up with as a team.

Mariah: Where do you personally see Fathom in the next 1-3 years?

Alex: In the next 1-3 years our goal is to find the means to tour professionally in order to most efficiently spread our music and our message.

Mariah: What advice do you have for people who want to form their own bands?

Alex: For people who want to form their own bands: No one is ever going to hand you anything in this industry. No one is going to get people in the door to see you but you. No one is going to help you understand how to effectively express yourself other than you. You are entirely in control of what you become and the work you put in will come back to you if you truly believe in what you have to say.

You can check Alex and his band A Fathom Farewell on Facebook and on YouTube.

MWCC Student is a Part-time Princess

By Nicholas Velillari

Li Vaillette, 18, is a student here at the Mount who has a very interesting side job: she is a professional Disney Princess at birthday parties for children on the weekends.

She does all sorts of characters from Belle from *Beauty and The Beast*, to Ariel from *The Little Mermaid* and even Princess Leia from *Star Wars*. Vaillette

originally got into this opportunity during high school. "I had a friend who was doing a charity event during school," Vaillette states, "She asked me if I wanted to dress up as a princess for it. I said yes, and that's how it all started."

Aside from her unique side job, Vaillette is from Leominster and is currently majoring in the-

ater. When asked why she chose that major, she said, "I've been doing theater since I was four years old." It makes sense that she would continue her passion.

However what Vaillette said she loves about doing theater is, "I like it because I enjoy being a different person." Some of Vaillette's current classes are Fundamentals of Acting and Set

Design. However, she's "not looking forward to dance" and singing classes in the next semester.

Some of the things she's learning right now in class are how to do a monologue for acting. She said she is "looking forward to it." When asked if she had any upcoming parties scheduled, she stated, "I have a job this week-

end as Ariel."

However, Vaillette's main goal right now is to proceed on with her major. She still wants to continue on with her side job and hope it leads into something more, but for now she's happy with the way her first semester is going.

Puzzles

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, each row, column and box must contain the numbers 1 to 9. There is only one possible solution.

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| | 6 | | 2 | | 9 | | | |
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| 8 | | | | | | 6 | | 7 |
| 3 | | | 7 | | | 5 | 1 | |
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| 13 | | | | | 14 | | | | | | 15 | | | |
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| 54 | 55 | 56 | | | | | 57 | 58 | | | | 59 | | |
| 60 | | | | | | 61 | 62 | | | | | 63 | | |
| 64 | | | | | | 65 | | | | | | 66 | | |
| 67 | | | | | | 68 | | | | | | 69 | | |

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Across

- 1 Entanglements
- 5 Vanquished
- 9 Palm starch
- 13 Song for Carmen
- 14 Greeting
- 15 Kipling's horse
- 16 Annoyed
- 18 Town in Alaska
- 19 Author Umberto
- 20 Similar
- 21 Thin ice, e.g.
- 23 Yule decorations
- 25 First Lady of Jazz
- 26 Quantities (Abbr.)
- 28 Jewel
- 29 Moth-eaten
- 32 Molten rock
- 35 ___ firma
- 37 Itinerary word

- 38 Safe, on board
- 39 Caviar
- 40 Gusto
- 41 Camel hair fabric
- 42 Viewpoint
- 44 Black-and-white diving bird
- 45 Scratch the surface of
- 46 Golfer Woosnam
- 47 Go yachting
- 49 South African cash
- 50 Kills; ___ out
- 54 Sandwich filler
- 57 Pearl Harbor locale
- 59 English ___
- 60 Actor McCowen
- 61 Bellicose
- 64 Not a lick
- 65 Decrees
- 66 Appear

Down

- 1 Walks in water
- 2 True heath
- 3 Buffalo
- 4 Dummy
- 5 Schnozz
- 6 "What ___ is new?"
- 7 Brewpub offering
- 8 Youngster
- 9 Medicinal plant
- 10 Wide-eyed
- 11 Willing
- 12 Humdinger
- 14 Holdup
- 17 Andean animal
- 22 ___ mater
- 24 Hardly racy
- 25 Marsh birds
- 27 Maroon
- 29 Above
- 30 Yarn spinner

- 31 Broad valley
- 32 Hat-tipper's word
- 33 Jessica of "Dark Angel"
- 34 Reverse, e.g.
- 36 Geologic time
- 40 Bantu language
- 42 Thailand, once
- 43 Nautical line
- 44 Without
- 48 Lenten symbol
- 49 Speed demon
- 51 Aviator
- 52 Bank note
- 53 Flower holders
- 54 Without (Fr.)
- 55 Crooked
- 56 Siberian river
- 57 Make eyes at
- 58 Mars, to the Greeks
- 62 Chap
- 63 Mariner's dir.

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

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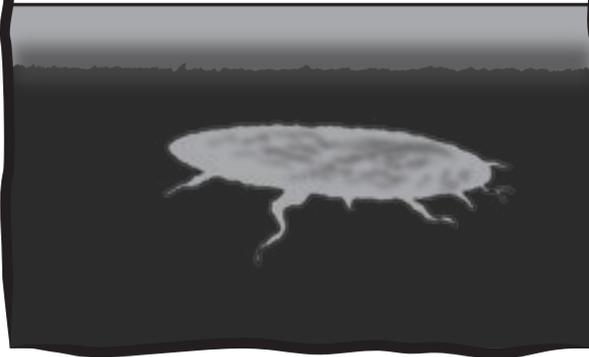


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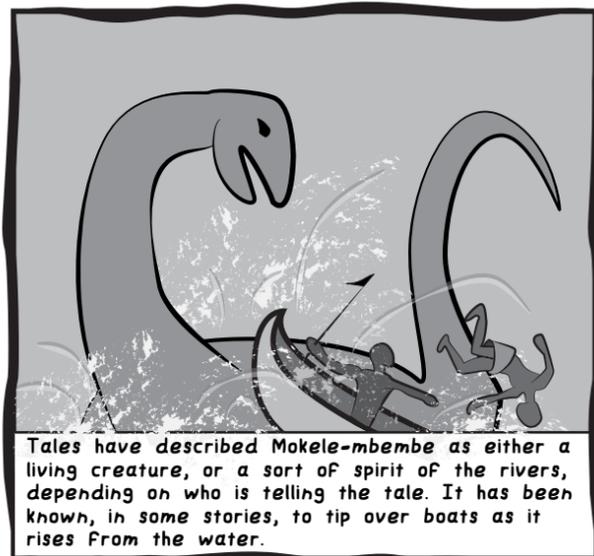
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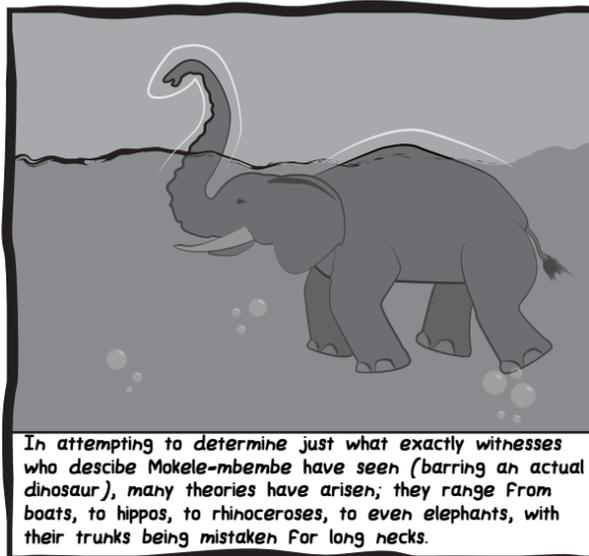
Deep in the dense jungles of the African Congo, in the Lake Tele region of the Congo River Basin, legend tells of a creature that makes its home in the lake and the adjoining rivers. A creature that has not roamed the Earth in millions of years...



Mokele-mbembe, or "one who stops the flow of rivers," has taken a few shapes over the years, depending on who is telling the story. However, the most popular description, and the one most monster seekers think of, is that of a modern-day, living sauropod dinosaur.

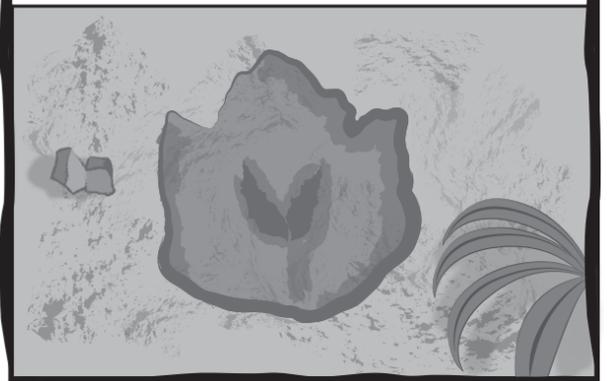


Tales have described Mokele-mbembe as either a living creature, or a sort of spirit of the rivers, depending on who is telling the tale. It has been known, in some stories, to tip over boats as it rises from the water.



In attempting to determine just what exactly witnesses who describe Mokele-mbembe have seen (barring an actual dinosaur), many theories have arisen; they range from boats, to hippos, to rhinoceroses, to even elephants, with their trunks being mistaken for long necks.

Whatever Mokele-mbembe's true identity, the idea behind the tale remains an incredibly fun, even romantic one to consider. After all, who hasn't wondered what it would be like, if dinosaurs still walked the Earth today?



Interview/Review of Local Musician Julie Cira

By Bryon Harris

Julie Cira hails from the Happy Valley of Northampton, MA. She describes herself as alt-country/Americana, sometimes lo-fi indie rock, a femme-fatale, punk at heart. Cira is relatively new to the Western Mass music scene and has made a notable entry with her self-titled three song EP. All three songs on the EP display solid, engaging songwriting delivered by Cira's warm and intimate vocals. It is clear that Cira has passion and heart. Her music is soulful.

Cira wrote "Time" shortly after moving to Massachusetts. She had gone through a significant break-up and a handful of other hardships. Far away from her hometown of Baltimore, she embraced a new found solitude and within this space, she found the voice we hear on the EP - an inward reflection that connects outward to her listeners. Cira's song "Time" is a twist on the saying that time heals everything. Cira seems to be saying that ultimately it is the people in our lives and the experiences we go through that fundamentally change us and it is change that heals, more than time.

In her song "Time", Cira taps into her inner 90's rock goddess. She draws her influences from a

conglomerate of different artists and genres, from alt-country to 90's female rock idols like Stevie Nicks and PJ Harvey. Like her influences, Cira's style is laid-back, raw, and natural. Her voice is never over-produced; her sound is authentic.

From the second Cira's voice comes in, you can hear the raw emotion fueling it. She knows how to write a hook that resonates long after you've heard it. As the song progresses, it is easy to feel her journey and before you know it you are reminiscing about past loves as you immerse yourself deeper into the rocking drums and tasteful guitar riffs, while singing along, "Oh what they say about time healing your wounds, easing your mind". As I was listening to Cira's songs I realized that even though she was tackling an emotional subject, her music was uplifting and empowering; ultimately this is what Cira offers her listeners—songs with depth and emotion that take you into that reflective zone and lift you up at the same time.

Cira has her song "Time" and other songs off of her EP available on <https://juliecira.bandcamp.com/>, Apple Music, and Spotify.

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An Interview With Sylvie Abate, Musician from Fitchburg

By Bryon Harris

Sylvie Abate is a local musician out of Fitchburg, MA. Along with being a multi-talented musician, Sylvie also shares a passion for helping others and creating a stronger community. Sylvie will be putting together a benefit music concert to celebrate and empower women.

From a very young age (12), Sylvie was immersed in music. She studied classical guitar at the HART School of Music then later on attended New England Conservatory. Sylvie later went on to form multiple bands that were all successful and played for many large groups. These experiences set the stage for Sylvie's passion for music.

Sylvie is managing the Out of the Fog Festival to raise awareness for domestic and relationship abuse. The term Out of the Fog comes from patterns of behavior associated with emotional abuse which promote Fear, Obligation, or Guilt (F.O.G). The Out of the Fog Festival will be an all-inclusive, feminist, fundraising event for musicians, friends, families, and supporters of all genders.

The Out of the Fog Festival is seeking to raise funds for Safe Passage. Located in Northampton, Massachusetts, Safe Passage is dedicated to creating a world free of domestic violence and relationship abuse. And it is important to know that

Safe Passage is for all survivors—women, men, transgender and gender non-conforming survivors, folks of no gender, and people of all sexual identities.

"It's all about the community" Sylvie said, as she went on to talk about how many members of the community are coming together to help her with the event. All members of the community are invited to celebrate and contribute.

The festival will take place on Saturday, October 14, 2017, at Lyman Hall (First Churches) in Northampton, MA from 7:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. All proceeds after expenses from the event, and the full amount of every ticket sold will go directly to benefit Safe Passage.



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