

The Mount Observer

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

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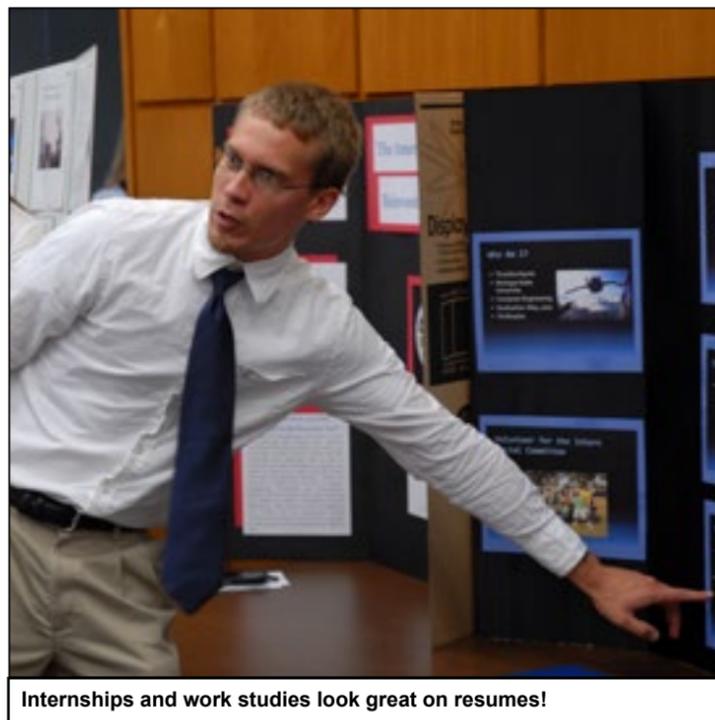
Go Further with Internships and Work Study Programs

By Deidra Brown

Mount Wachusett Community College provides students with many opportunities to participate in internships and work studies. Internships and work studies at MWCC suit students of all degrees and programs.

Although internships and work studies are similar, they do have distinguished differences. Work studies are paid positions on-campus that have been awarded by financial aid, while internships are usually unpaid (non-profit) positions that take place typically off-campus. It is common for internships to be provided by the professor and are required as curriculum depending on the program or major.

Patricia Brewerton, Coordinator of Career Planning and Placement, works frequently with students building resumes.



Internships and work studies look great on resumes!

Brewerton shared the importance of taking up work studies, stating that they teach students

the needed "soft skills" such as work ethic, being prompt, and being able to multitask.

Benefits come with internships as well, such as more work experience leading to less training needed. "Degrees are not enough... there are more qualified candidates than there are jobs these days" Brewerton underlined.

The work environment is tight, and employers want the most experienced. Brewerton also shared that employers value non-profit internships because it portrays the candidate as motivated and committed.

Being an intern or a work study student for the Marketing Department is a great choice for students looking to get experience in the work environment, especially for students pursuing a career in journalism.

Marketing Department representatives Stephanie England,

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"Internships and Work Studies" >>>

Continuing Your Education with Non-Credit Courses



MWCC offers a wide variety of non-credit courses to help further your skill set and assist students in their future careers.

By Zachary Connell

MWCC offers many non-credit courses on campus. It's not only for students at MWCC but it's for everyone around the community. Rachel Frick Cardelle, Assistant Vice President

of Contract Development and Client Training and Deborah Fnine, Manager of Personal Enrichment Programming, are the two women are behind these non-credit courses.

Non-Credit courses are usually run all year round. Some

of these courses in fact could help someone in their career. For example, serve safe alcohol is one of the non-credit courses. If a Bartender needed a certificate in serve safe, they could take that course at MWCC.

Ms. Cardelle explains how these courses are a tremendous benefit to those who want to improve their knowledge and skill sets. For example, Introduction to Microsoft Excel course, is a great way to help someone learn more about MS spreadsheet technology. Someone may take this non-credit course for their career or just take it to help them better understand the technology.

Non-credit courses range from computer and technology, music and dance, arts and crafts, a favorite of senior citizens as well as fitness and wellness. There are many more of different types of

these courses for people of all ages. "Usually I've been seeing more of the senior citizens take computer courses or sign up for arts and crafts," said Ms. Cardelle. "Then I usually see the young kids sign up for fitness and wellness classes."

MWCC has been providing high quality educational non-credit courses for people in the community for well over forty years. "Our middle name is community and we deal with people from one to one hundred," said Ms. Cardelle. The goal is to help those who want to learn something new or help them advance their skills for their career. It can even be sometimes fun to go back to a classroom if you are older.

Non-credit courses provide the opportunity for people to learn different things. Ms. Cardelle thinks it's great to see when

people take a course to just learn something new. She believes it will help someone expand their minds and potentially help them somewhere down the road. MWCC provides these non-credit courses in addition to credited courses. "We put the lifelong in lifelong learning," said Ms. Cardelle.

These non-credit courses can usually be taught by anyone. People who want to teach a course would have to apply online. "It's like applying for a job," said Ms. Fnine. "We would contact you, set up an interview to see if you are capable of teaching the course then we let you know if we approve the course." If someone wants to advance their skill set or just take a course to learn something new, they would register for a non-credit course by going to mwcc.edu/noncredit.

Getting Involved with Clubs at MWCC

By Zachary Connell

There is a total of 36 active clubs on campus. Clubs are run by the students at MWCC with a member of the faculty as their advisors. Each club is required to have constitution which needs to be approved by the Student Government. The constitution consists of rules that the students must follow while participating in the club.

Clubs are a good way to meet other people. It gives students to look forward to something every week when approaching campus. Students have to the chance to start new relationships with other students that could last a lifetime. Sometimes it's hard to meet other students in the classroom because some people's attitude is to get in and get out. Clubs require communication with others and making sure everyone is on the same page.

In order to start a club on campus, a student must approach Kathy Matson, a Student Life Program Assistant at MWCC. Students who are interested in starting a club must get a total of 25 signatures from other

students. Once the 25 signatures are all set, the student must submit it to the SGA.

The SGA president is Faith Kurtz. She has been the president for six months. She makes sure the clubs are following their requirements throughout each semester. Each club is required to do two community service projects.

For example, the Anime club, a club that Faith is in, has done a silent auction. The club went to local businesses to get items which they auction off. Then the club took the money they made and bought books for children who don't have the opportunity to purchase books.

The SGA takes care of the club's budget each semester. Each club is required to make back 15% of the money they get from the SGA. Each club will get a different amount depending on how active the club is on campus. Clubs will usually do fundraisers around campus in order to meet their requirements.

The Cultural Engagement and International Service club is the one of the most active clubs on campus. The president, Stevie

LaBelle, and the other seven members in the club have run two successful fundraisers. The club has done two yard sales on campus, one in the fall semester and the other in the spring semester. In the fall the club made over \$500 and in the spring the club made just under \$500. This money helps for their trip they go on every year to Costa Rica.

The Costa Rica trip is required for the members of the club to pay out of their own pocket. The fundraising they do is for the airport and the facility they stay at. It is an eight-day trip which gives the students the opportunity to help serve other people.

"This trip isn't just a vacation for us, it's to serve other people," said Ms. LaBelle. "We want to help the people that are struggling in another country."

Clubs created on campus are usually a positive environment. For example, Jason Zelesky, Dean of Students, takes a lot of pride and joy into being advisor for the Bowling club. He loves the positive environment it brings. It gives him the chance

to meet students at MWCC and get to know them. He also enjoys seeing students get to know each other.

"I enjoy hanging with the students who show up to bowl," Mr. Zelesky said. "I get the chance to talk to them about school or life and it's truly a great thing."

Mr. Zelesky encourages students to do things they love. He would love for more students to get involved with the MWCC bowling club or any other clubs that are going on around the school. "Clubs are good ways to meet other people and build new relationships," said Mr. Zelesky.



The Mount has many clubs to choose from, including Art Club, Dental Hygienist Club, The Green Society, and the Math and Our Community Club

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Internships and Work Studies

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the Assistant Director of Marketing, April Ondis, Director of Marketing, and Vice President, External Affairs, Communications & K-12 Partnerships, Lea Ann Scales, shared what students can expect coming into the

Marketing Department.

Interns and work studies can look forward to being proactive, writing copies for postcards, or assisting in planning events. Students may even "take a photo for Instagram and come up

with a great text overlay that's humorous or thought-provoking" as April Ondis, Director of Marketing, mentioned.

Along with internships allowing students to have a wider experience before officially

starting their careers, Scales shared that many employers prefer to see resume reels with published works rather than reels of school project, which is why internships and work-studies are important.

Internships and work studies can lead to many opportunities for students. "The people that are going to be successful are the people who seek those opportunities out." Vice President, Lea Ann Scales said.

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Editor in Chief:
Joshua Needham

Social Media Editor:
Joshua Needham

Graphic Designer:
Thomas Hill Jr.

Contributors:
Zachary Connell
Deidra Brown
Michael Young
Jennifer Ballou

Adviser:
Susan Goldstein

Address:
Room 344, MWCC,
444 Green St.,
Gardner, MA 01440

Telephone/E-Mail/Website:
978.630.9260

mountobserver@mwcc.mass.edu

www.mountobserver.com

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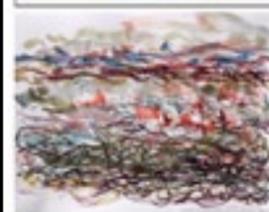
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EAST WING GALLERY - Mount Wachusett Community College
Fall 2017 Exhibitions & Gallery Talks



Julia Morgan
In/Transit
September 6 – October 5
Reception: Fri, Sept. 22, 3:30-6 pm
Gallery Talk: Wed, Sept. 13 at 12:30
< Composure Sunset, 2017, watercolor, marker & paint pen on paper, 12x16 in.



Joan Hathaway
Ceramic Work in the glass cases
September 6- October 16
Reception: Fri, Sept. 22, 3:30-6 pm
Pitcher, 2016, stoneware, reduction cone 10 >



Climate Change and You - A Look at the Next 25 Years

By Jennifer Ballou

Picture a cup of water. Now imagine that cup overflowing. It would be quite disastrous, wouldn't it? Nowhere for that excess water to go, just continuously causing a mess and damaging what is around it.

This is how physics Professor Nathanael Fortune of Smith College wants people to view the world. Fortune recently gave a speech about the science and basics of climate change to the North Quabbin Energy group at the Millers River Environmental Center in Athol. He explains his analogy, stating that "our earth is that cup and we are filling our atmosphere with carbon dioxide two times faster than it can remove it."

This imbalance causes increase in temperatures, which in turn causes ice caps to melt and leads to rising ocean levels. The increase of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere also creates changes in weather patterns, which attributes itself to severe droughts in one area and flooding in others. Many other people and organizations in Massachusetts are worried about these changes as well.

Fortune wanted the listeners



In summer, some polar bears do not make the transition from their winter residence on the Svalbard islands to the dense drift ice and pack ice of the high arctic where they would find a plethora of prey. This is due to global climate change which causes the ice around the islands to melt much earlier than previously. The bears need to adapt from their proper food to a diet of detritus, small animals, bird eggs and carcasses of marine animals. Very often they suffer starvation and are doomed to die. The number of these animals is sadly

Andreas Wetli; https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Endangered_arctic_-_starving_polar_bear.jpg

to walk away from the speech and share the information with friends and enemies alike "because we need everyone on board." He believes that we may be "starting too late," but encourages everyone to do everything in their power to change what they're doing now that could be causing damage and carbon dioxide pollution.

"Carbon dioxide parts per million keep rising in our atmosphere," said Fortune. "In 20 to 25 years it could reach the warmest it's ever been in our 200,000-year civilization. Will our planet survive? Sure. But will we? We are subjecting future generations to a system we cannot reverse."

The 25-year range seems to be the most commonly used when

talking about climate change. Former Senator Stephen Brewer, special assistant to the president at MWCC, is an active member of the East Quabbin Land Trust, which recently hosted a retreat. During this, there was a discussion on climate change, specifically to our state and how it will affect us in the coming years.

"Scientists say that on an average, we see 3 to 5 days of summer

in the 90-degree range. They're predicting that in 25 years, we could see upwards of 60 or more days of temperatures above 90," said Brewer. He continued on to explain the implications of this increase. "People in the urban, city areas where there's no shade, no trees, they're going to be looking for cooler places to live. This is where they're going to look, inland, in Central and Western Mass."

Brewer believes areas that are now protected from being developed could one day be cut down to make way for housing for people trying to escape the extreme heat. "There are laws protecting those areas, but those same men and women can change those laws," said Brewer.

Another issue that Brewer spoke about was with temperatures increasing, it is creating an environment for pests and diseases that have only affected plants in the south, to migrate north. "The Asian long horn beetle is one pest we now see here, and Worcester had to spend about \$35 million to cut down the dead, diseased trees,"

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"Climate Change" >>>

— Creative Writing —

Eclipse

A Shadow crossed before the sun,
while some of us have just begun to shine.

We do not need free speech
with flags of hate out in the street to shine.

Have we all lost our way
or just the ability to say the words that shine?

No need to plead or whine.
Just know that it's the time to shine.

Be prepared to blaze
and cut through all this haze to shine.

It's what is in your heart
that sets you apart and lets you shine.

-Michael Young
August 21, 2017

A Letter of Welcome from MWCC President Jim Vander Hooven

Welcome back students!

I am very excited to welcome all you to the fall semester. Whether you are a new student just getting started at MWCC or a returning student nearing the end of your finish line, I wish you the very best this semester and year. You are a part of a very special class of students for me. I became the president of the Mount in March so you are the first class I can officially welcome into the community.

I'd like to say a bit about that last word: community. You are joining a college community focused on providing a comfortable and, yes, challenging opportunity for personal growth. The entire faculty and staff are committed to enabling your success. We succeed together only as a community. We look after each other in the MWCC community. I'm not sure if this has ever been statistically proven but I know in my heart and after 25 years of experience that not one person has ever completed college without having to ask for help in some way, shape, or form. So please use the services available here be it tutoring, academic advising, counseling, library research, and the list goes on and on.

I have a request. In order to create a culture of community, I need each and every one of you to help look after each other as well. Create study groups. Create student clubs and organizations. If your classmate, who is usually big smiles, appears down, ask how they are doing. We can all go a long way when we know we have the support of our community.

I also encourage you to let me know how you are doing. Let me know your challenges and successes. Let me know how we can make your experience at MWCC a better one. I can be reached at jvanderhooven@mwcc.mass.edu and I am always open to meeting with students. Take me up on it! Most of all, stop me in the halls to say hello.

Again, good luck with your fall semester!

Climate Change

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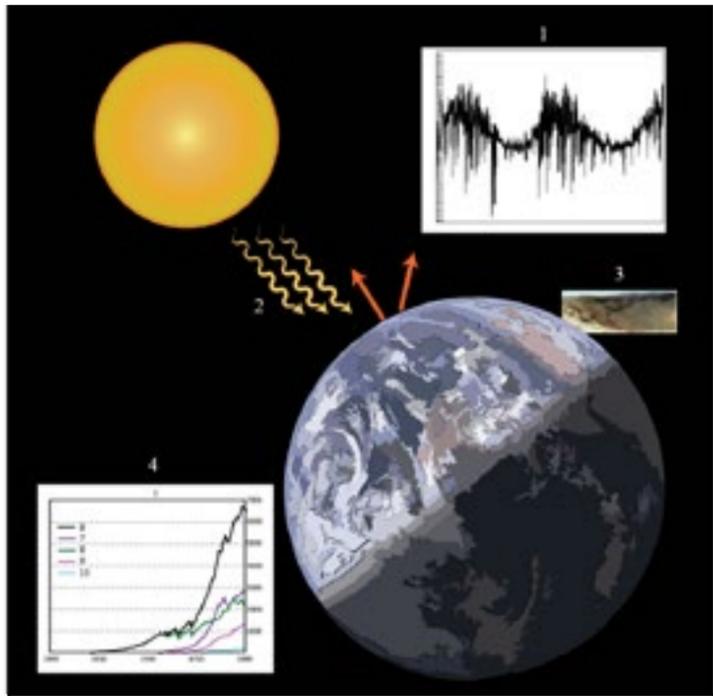


Image composite illustrating main factors affecting climatic change.

said Brewer. "We could spray the trees to prevent the pests, but that kills the tree as well, and it's impractical for whole forests."

Tower Hill Botanic Garden in Boylston is another local area that is seeing the effects of climate change and new species of pests and diseases. Robert Burgess, the garden's public relations manager, must stay on top of everything happening not just at Tower Hill itself, but in the surrounding areas. It is important to know what is happening with the local vegetation and what issues might arise.

One major problem that did occur affected the apple orchard which contains heirloom trees dating back to the 1700's.

"Southern diseases are coming up, ones that love the warm temperatures," said Burgess. "The orchard was affected about five years ago with a blight that's not native here. It shrivels the branches and the leaves, and makes the fruits inedible. We had to call in special arborists

that pruned the trees to help stop the spread, injected medicine into the roots, and you just have to hope that helps." This disease has put a hindrance on Tower Hill's annual fall festivities, since they cannot have visitors eating the apples there. They have had order apples from local farms to carry on with traditions.

One thing that Fortune, Brewer, and Burgess all stated, was that change needs to happen, and it needs to happen now. Time is short when it comes to saving our planet and it's atmosphere. They believe that there are many energy efficient changes that everyone can make, starting with evaluating how we use energy. The younger generations are the ones most at stake, but many believe that they can be the most prominent change.

Natural Resources student, Bailey Fluet, is the acting president for the Green Society on campus. She shared the ideas and ways that the Society and greenhouse help to combat climate

changes. "The biggest thing is informing people and making them open their eyes," Fluet said. Between growing plants for use at the school and teaching people how to use plants and compost, it can cut down on a lot of waste. The Society recently held an Earth Day celebration where they distributed seed packets and taught students and visitors the importance of plants and the earth.

"The Green Society pushed for the refillable water stations at the new fountains, and it's great to see people using them," said Fluet. Recycling is one of the ways that Brewer and Burgess also believe can greatly benefit our planet. The new greenhouse will also feature a more efficient water system and energy efficient lighting, ideas that Fortune spoke on.

One thing that they all agree upon is that if change is to happen, it needs to happen now and it can start in the simplest of ways.



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