

The Mount Observer

“Voices of the students of Mount Wachusett Community College”

The MWCC Commute: You Won't Get Far on Foot

by Sophia Schlegelmilch

EDITOR IN CHIEF

For MWCC students who can't get to school by car, commuting can pose some major challenges.

“Forty percent of MWCC students don't live in a community that's served by MART,” said Dean of Students Jason Zelesky at a Transportation Information and Listening session in early February.

“We serve 29 cities and towns, most of which are not served by MART at all,” said Zelesky.

According to Shelley Nicholson, Director of the Brewer Center for Civic Learning and Community Engagement, information gathered from several listening sessions and surveys indicated that the biggest obstacle for students who don't commute by car is the conflict between class schedules and the MART bus schedule.

“Class ends at, say eleven o'clock, and they can't get a bus until one, and then they ride the bus for two hours just to get to Fitchburg,” said Nicholson. “That's the rest of their



Photo by Betsabee Torres

The MART bus station in Parking Lot B on the Gardner campus

day. They may have been here for one class and their whole day is shot.” This affects, among other things, their ability to get an afternoon job, she added.

At the information session, Zelesky noted that this impact is greater on students who take classes in the evenings and during the summer semester, when bus service is even less frequent.

One student added that he often has to wait for the bus in Gardner until 4:30 pm, and sometimes has to walk from the bus stop in Fitchburg to his home in Leominster, often in bad weather, if he misses the last bus home.

In more urban areas, students use Uber or Lyft to share rides to school, but Nicholson and Zelesky pointed out that this is not feasible for

MWCC students because the region has very few drivers and higher rates for these services.

Nicholson was approached by her colleagues at the Community Health Network of North Central Massachusetts (CHNA 9) and The Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRCP) to help assess the transportation needs of the community. CHNA 9 has recently received a grant to gather information and create a pilot program to address transportation deficits in the local community.

Nicholson says that the project is still in the information-gathering stages, so it's unclear what form the final program will take. In the meantime, she advised students who are struggling with transportation insecurity to contact the Dean of Students Office or the Student's SOS Office, where they can work one-on-one with staff to develop an individualized solution to their needs.

Library Migration Builds a Better Foundation

by Sophia Schlegelmilch

EDITOR IN CHIEF

The LaChance Library aims to better serve students' needs by migrating to a new library network this summer.

Jess Mynes, Assistant Dean of Library Services and Technology, said MWCC is one of two schools joining the Higher Education Libraries of Massachusetts (HELM) consortium this year. The new network will give students and faculty access to a larger catalog of academic materials and will allow resource sharing between a growing number of Massachusetts college libraries.

Students can expect to see the new network go live in June, with one

month of overlap between the old and new systems.

Mynes said that there will be no downtime associated with the switch, and that student ID cards and library card numbers will not change. “We were adamant about keeping that the same,” Mynes emphasized. Public patrons of the library will need to sign up for a new library card, but will have access to a much larger statewide catalog once they do.

While the appearance of the online catalog interface will be slightly different, Mynes said that the changes are expected to provide easier access to resources. In particular, course materials should be easier to reserve and access with the new system.

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“Library Migration” >>>



Photo by Betsabee Torres

The rest area outside the LaChance Library

Library Migration

>>> continued from page 1

Separate resource databases, such as Kanopy, will not be affected by the migration.

Mynes said that the switch was motivated by a desire to be a part of an academic library community. According to Mynes, the shift to an academic focus will allow MWCC to collaborate directly with other college libraries to make decisions and set priorities.

“We’ll have a voice in shaping our future, instead of being a bystander,” he said.



Photo by Betsabee Torres

Come Work for Us!

Interested in becoming a member of the *Mount Observer* team?
Contact us at mountobserver@mwcc.mass.edu.

Work Study positions are available to those who qualify! See Scott Farris in Admissions for details.

Conner Garrity - A Star is Born



Photo by Betsabee Torres

by Rachel Fortier

OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

Conner Garrity, an MRTV major, talked about his passion for film and directing.

Garrity loved watching PG-13 movies when he was growing up, his favorite being Rocky. “They helped me grow,” said Garrity. He said that the movie made a significant impact on his life.

Garrity enjoys watching movies on HBO and Netflix. He said it gives him inspiration to write screenplays. “One day I will shoot my own films,” said Garrity.

When Garrity isn’t working on screenplays he spends time working at the Marlboro Regional Theater.

Garrity has two older brothers and two dogs - Izzy and Batman. He loves playing Red Dead Redemption and Halo Wars on Xbox. “The AI’s are relentless,” said Garrity.

Ashley Spring - The Beat of Her Own Drum



Photo by Betsabee Torres

by Rachel Williams

OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

Ashley Spring, a Media Arts and Technology major, talked about how she incorporates hobbies into her busy life.

Spring said that learning how to play the drums and axe throwing are new hobbies for her. She has been practicing Irish step dancing for about 15 years and she “absolutely loves it.”

Spring said that she commutes from Lynn every day. After classes, she usually goes to the Fitness Center before leaving for her 1-2 hour drive home. Once she gets home, she spends time doing her homework.

Spring plans to graduate this year hoping to find a job freelancing or working behind the scenes as a camera operator for news stations.

PROFILE

SPRING BREAK PLANS AT MWCC



Pumping the Brakes on Spring Break

by *Charlie Grecco*

OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

Chris Jacob, a Computer Information Systems major, talked about being too busy to enjoy spring break.

Jacob switched his major which means he is now too busy to even think about escaping to a tropical beach and basking in the sun.

“I’m buried with my job and homework,” said Jacob.

Given the opportunity, Jacob would head out west for spring break saying, “I’m sick of the snow and cold already.”

When Jacob is not in school he works at a bar at the Oak Hill Country Club in Fitchburg. Jacob said he is hoping to squeeze in some down time over the break.

Deconstructing Spring Break

by *Eliana Mello*

OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

Nikki Sommsy, a Criminal Justice major, talked about working over spring break.

Sommsy works in construction for a private contractor. He said that he enjoys how his day is always different when working construction and that he gets to spend most of the day outdoors.

Sommsy also likes that when they are done with the job they get to move on and be done with the site. He doesn’t enjoy waking up early for his job, though. Working construction makes him sore the next day and he has to work in the cold.

To relax over spring break, Sommsy plans to go to the gym and grab some drinks with friends.

Engineering Spring Break

by *Hunter Ziegerhofer*

OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

Ben Miller, an Engineering and Physics major, talked about his plans for spring break.

Miller and his family are going to Washington, D.C. for a week, with plans to stop at landmarks along the way. “I really want to go to the Holocaust Museum and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier,” noted Miller.

Miller said that he wouldn’t mind moving to D.C. because they are well known for space engineering.

R&R and D&D

by *Daniela Perez*

OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

Daniel Hurst, a Graphic and Interactive Design major, talked about playing Dungeons and Dragons over spring break.

Game Knights, located at 44 Main Street in Gardner, is where Hurst and his friends gather during the weekends to play tabletop games and card games. Although many of the games played at Game Knights can also be played at home, Hurst said he prefers to play at Game Knights in order to meet new people and it gives him a chance to get out of the house. Prizes are offered to winners of each tournament.

Hurst hopes to be able to spend most of his time relaxing with his friends during spring break but another goal of his is to get a retail job so that he can pay for his math class when he comes back from break.

All Work and No Play

by *Marie Rodriguez*

OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

Kim Anderson, a Paralegal Studies major, gave advice to students on to how to achieve a full split during spring break.

“All you have to do is stretch your legs a little further every day for ten seconds,” advised Anderson. This will ultimately lead to the perfect leg split and more flexibility with continuous effort.

Practice makes perfect as Anderson also used this method years back when she first started cheerleading in high school. As she improved, Anderson could be thrown up into the air to complete a stunt as well as jumping into a split for routines.

Even with a set work schedule, Anderson is determined to have fun during spring break. She plans to spend time with her high school sweetheart of two years and also make time to join her best friend on a double date.

Although she enjoys engaging with new customers at her job at Market Basket, Anderson would much rather be away on her week off from classes. If Anderson did not have to work during spring break she would have loved to take another trip to Myrtle Beach in South Carolina. The boardwalk and warm sand brought back fun memories of her last trip with her boyfriend and his family.

Netflix and Chill

by *Aisha Schor*

OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

Dazia Robertson talked about spending time with her friends and family over spring break. Though she would love to go somewhere warm, Robertson is still excited to spend her spring break in Massachusetts where she will relax and catch up on sleep.

“I will probably spend time with my grandmother who lives in Fitchburg,” said Robertson. Robertson’s other plans include shopping with her friends and watching movies. “The Leominster movie theatre is right next to the mall, so it makes it easy to spend the day there,” said Robertson.

Aisha Schor - Horsing Around



Photo by Aisha Schor

Schor's horses prepare for winter in their cold-weather gear.

by Marie Rodriguez

OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

Aisha Schor, a Media Communications major, talked about training and caring for her horses in Vermont.

Schor has been practicing horseback riding since the second grade. When she visits home, Schor always makes time to care for and ride her two horses, Ginger and Starling.

“Taking care of horses isn’t too different from taking care of another house pet.”

Ginger, 28, is the oldest of the two horses and Starling is 20. Both horses are of a rich chocolate brown color but Starling is a few shades darker. Back in Vermont, Schor usually takes Starling out for rides

more often.

“I’ve had Starling since I was sixteen. She’s a lot of fun and loves running around,” said Schor.

Schor and Starling are not nervous when it comes to gymkhanas - local competitions between horse riders through pattern racing and timed games. They are talented in the sport and have won first and second place ribbons in events consisting of weaving through poles and barrels.

Not only is Schor skillful in horse riding competitions, but she is also very knowledgeable of the upkeep of horses.

“Taking care of horses isn’t too different from taking care of another house pet,” Schor noted.

Back home in Vermont, Schor feeds both Ginger and Starling twice a day in their family barn. At least once a week, she will take her horses riding and she always makes time to brush their hair.

Schor has also been playing soccer since she was in the sixth grade. She enjoys playing on the MWCC intramural soccer team. Schor encouraged students to join in on a soccer game in their free time to meet friendly new people on campus.

Emily Rossi - All Natural

by Marie Rodriguez

OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

Emily Rossi, Business major, talked about leading a vegan lifestyle.

Rossi is dedicated in her choice and loves to take pictures of her home cooked vegan meals to share on social media. One may even scroll through their newsfeed without realizing Rossi’s colorful creations were vegan.

Rossi encouraged those who wish to taste vegan food to visit two of her favorite vegan restaurants in Worcester - Antonio’s Pizza and Nancy Chang.

“Both locations sell other items besides vegan food,” said Rossi.

Being a vegan doesn’t mean fashion is not important to Rossi. She finds stylish vegan-friendly outfits regularly at a bargain as she is a full time retail supervisor for Marshalls. Rossi can be seen wearing popular clothing styles at a fraction of the

price that are trending in today’s fashion.

Rossi enjoys sharing knowledge about her vegan lifestyle in a respectful manner. Rossi had the opportunity in her Business Ethics class to explore immoral business practices. She took this opportunity to dedicate a presentation on the unprincipled practice of industrial cow farms.

“My classmates were really moved when they saw a video I included in the presentation showing the cruelty many cows suffer in the industrial farms,” said Rossi.

Rossi considers herself an ethical vegan because not only did her eating habits change, but she also abstains from buying merchandise and apparel derived from animal products. Leading a healthier lifestyle has also made Rossi a more environmentally conscious individual by converting to veganism over a year ago.



Photos by Emily Rossi

Examples of vegan dishes cooked by Rossi.

PROFILE

Associate Dean of Student Services Set to Retire

by *Charlie Grecco*

OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

Gregory Clement, Associate Dean of Student Services, announced his early retirement after 15 years of innovative and dedicated service to MWCC.

Clement has spent the past 38 years as an academic forerunner in the psychology of embracing commuting students, emboldening their college experience, while at the same time contributing significantly to the culture and life-blood of the campus. His success is well documented by the impact he has made on the lives of so many students who, for logistical reasons, would have missed out on the comradery of campus life and

most importantly, the friends and memories that students treasure for a lifetime.

When asked about the positive impact he has had on students' lives Clement said, "I spent my early career in student government. I realized very early on how valuable the connection and the sharing of cultural wealth between students would add to their college life and to the institution as well. I believed that commuter students were being somewhat short-changed of the college experience." He said there was a direct impact on student's grades and quality of life when

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 "Associate Dean Retiring" >>>



Photo by Observer contributor

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Associate Dean Retiring

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fully integrated in campus life and activities.

His past experience at Bradford College as Coordinator of Student Activities, the University of Southern Maine, and Salem State led to his track record of success at MWCC.

During his tenure at MWCC, he was responsible for the Student Activities Program and was a strong advocate for the Student Center -

“I spent my early career in student government. I realized very early on how valuable the connection and the sharing of cultural wealth between students would add to their college life and to the institution as well.

the epicenter of our campus where students enjoy time for relaxation, reflection and making new friends. He served on the team developing the center, making sure students played an active role in its development.

As a forward thinker and a bold

change-leader, he introduced numerous new concepts throughout his career that were designed to enrich all students, making inclusivity of paramount concern, ensuring commuters would never be left behind.

“I am so grateful to be working with him one last time on the commencement ceremonies this coming May. As trying of an experience as it is to coordinate hundreds of people both in and out of the gym due to crowd overflow, his leadership and, quite frankly, his loving and truly caring demeanor will be missed for sure,” said a Student Advisor.

One student said he was disappointed when he heard Clement was retiring and moving back to his childhood home in Bar Harbor, Maine saying, “Every student who pilgrimages to this student conclave or participated in an activity or club owes a debt of gratitude to Dean Clement for his dedication to uniting students with one common goal.”

And what is that goal?

The student said, “All for one and one for all. I have met my best friends right here on this couch!”

MWCC Beats Out the Competition



Photo courtesy of MWCC

By Daniela Perez

OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

Jake Aveyard, 25, encouraged students to look into MWCC before going to other colleges.

Aveyard studied engineering at UMass Lowell for a year before losing interest in the major and came to MWCC two years later.

He said it was better than other universities that he attended because he was able to find a parking spot that was close to the building he was going into. He also likes that all of the classes are in the same building and that he didn't have to walk outside in between classes.

Aveyard added that some of the more noteworthy perks at MWCC is that the bathrooms are easily accessible as well as the food. He mentioned how he liked being able to get food whenever he was hungry

and wouldn't have to wait for a certain time to eat. He especially liked that he was paying less for a school that offered him the same opportunities as other universities.

Many of Aveyard's friends and coworkers attend MWCC and he likes how the school is close to home so it's not as big of a commute as UMass Lowell was. Having a good flexible schedule is also one thing that MWCC provides better than other colleges, according to Aveyard.

Aveyard mentioned how academics are about the same for Fitchburg State, where he currently studies, as it is at MWCC. “Just because FSU is a more expensive school it does not make it more elite than MWCC,” Aveyard stated. He mentioned that his time at MWCC was equivalent in value to that of UMass Lowell and Fitchburg State.

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PUZZLES

EAST WING GALLERY at Mount Wachusett Community College
SPRING 2019 EXHIBITIONS, GALLERY TALKS & EVENTS
 All exhibitions & events are free and open to the public.

GARDNER MAKES:
Steamroller Prints
 Chair City Community Workshop
February 1 - March 12
 Gallery Talk & Presentation by
Tracie Pouliot
 "Make Art on the Street! Collaboration,
 Community Building & Printmaking"
 Monday, March 11 at 12:30-1:30 p.m.



In the glass cases: Metal sculptures by
Matthew Evald Johnson
February 1 - March 12
 Welding demonstration at artist's studio
 Thursday, February 28 at 12:30-2 p.m.
 138 Holyoke Street, Easthampton, MA
 < Coils #7, 28 x 24 x 16 inches
 Ectomorph, 22 feet tall x 4 ft. x 4 ft. >




Artist Presentation and Q & A:
 "Let's Get Real: What It Means To Work In Animation"
 by **Katie Taccone**
 Co-founder & Creative at OpenPixel Studios, a virtual
 animation production studio, in Springfield, MA. Her
 experience ranges from AAA game titles to commercials.
 She gives new insights to students & professionals
 alike who are pursuing a career in Animation.
Wed., March 6 at 12:30-1:30 p.m. (Multipurpose room 115)

36th Annual Regional High School Art Exhibition & Competition
 April 2 - 19 Reception & Awards: Thurs., April 11 at 6-8 p.m.

**48th Annual
 MWCC Student Art Exhibition**
 Work from all foundation & advanced art courses
May 14 - 24
 Reception: Wednesday, May 15 at 3:30-6 p.m.
 Camilo Almarales, *One Song*, 2018, painting, 48 x 108 in. >



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

	6				7			4
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|----------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Across | 37 Medics (Abbr.) | Down | 29 Time frame, poetically |
| 1 Dot follower | 38 Oaf | 1 Stateroom | 30 Attention getter |
| 4 Constructed | 40 Bartok and Gabor | 2 Succeeded | 31 Camber |
| 8 Disfigures | 41 Fragrance | 3 Ague | 32 Depend |
| 13 Volcanic rock | 43 Ballyhoo | 4 Non-glossy finishes | 33 Follies |
| 14 Grad | 44 Diving bird | 5 Burn plant | 36 Laborious |
| 15 Gazelle | 45 Shriveled | 6 Fool | 39 Inactive |
| 16 Eve's son | 46 Wither | 7 Printing measures | 41 Ocean |
| 17 Head over heels | 48 Racing inits. | 8 Silky fabric | 42 Descend, like water |
| 19 Actress Sorvino | 51 Estimate | 9 Cause | 45 Stoolpigeon |
| 20 Golf item | 53 Gr. letter | 10 Yorkshire river | 47 Gemstone |
| 21 Machinists' tools | 55 Actress Witherspoon | 11 Guns the motor | 49 Fragrance |
| 22 Menu item | 56 Lacking resources | 12 Cunning | 50 Hindu princess |
| 24 Rockfish | 58 Eng. river | 13 Feeble, as an excuse | 51 Wound by piercing |
| 25 Bronx cheer | 59 Upright | 18 Actress Mimieux | 52 Inspires admiration |
| 26 Negation | 60 With (Fr.) | 23 Curve | 53 Inlet |
| 27 Cast aside | 61 ___ tasse | 24 Libertines | 54 Pigments |
| 31 Regions | 62 Foreign Legion film, Beau ___ | 26 <i>Vertigo</i> | 56 Magnitude (Abbr.) |
| 33 Expel | 63 Engage | 28 Covert | 57 Aswan, for one |
| 34 Adam's grandson | 64 Geological period | | |
| 35 Soak flax | | | |
| 36 Dyke | | | |

STUDENTS

STUDENT LIFE

STUDENT LIFE

	3/4 Ping Pong Tournament 12:30pm Student Center	3/5 Pizza with the President 12:30pm North Cafe	3/6 Ping Pong Tournament 12:30pm Student Center		3/11 Stress Less - Learn to Meditate North Caf� 12:30pm & 1:15pm
3/29 Volleyball Tournament Mount Fitness 12:30pm- 3:30pm	<p>Get into the Student Game of LIFE</p>				3/11 SGA Meeting Murphy Room 12:30pm
3/28 Herstory Women's Appreciation Day South Caf� 12:30pm	<p><i>Spring 2019 Leadership for Life program</i>- a series of eight short presentations or service opportunities on topics that will help you feel more comfortable and be successful at MWCC. From the first one in January to the last one in April, <i>Leadership for Life</i> will help you. Upcoming workshops are being held: January 30, February 6, 20, March 6, 14, 20, April 3, 17. Most workshops are held from 12:30 to 1:30 pm in the Murphy Room. For more information: Contact Sarah Savoie in Student Services at ssavoie7@mwcc.mass.edu, 978-630-9855 or stop by room 141.</p>				3/12 CATS Programming Mtg., 12:30pm Room W12
3/27 SGA Nomination Papers Due in by 5pm	<p>Intramurals</p> <p><i>Pick-up Basketball</i> – Tuesdays, 3pm-4pm</p> <p>Open Gym – Come try out all that the Fitness Center has to offer. Use the equipment, try a class, or swim in the pool. On the following dates: 3/6, 3/13, 3/27.</p> <p><i>Intramural Soccer</i> – Thursdays at 12:30pm</p>				3/13 NYC Trip Tickets go on Sale at 9am! Room 151
3/27 Film Series: <i>1984</i> 12:30pm North Cafe	<p>Please see the reverse side for detailed information.</p> <p>For further information or to inquire about an event, please contact the Student Life Office at studentlife@mwcc.mass.edu or 978-630-9148. Full details may also be found on the Student Life webpage at http://mwcc.edu/studentlife/</p>				3/14 Thinkfast Game Show, South Caf�, 12:30pm
3/26 CATS Programming Mtg., 12:30pm Room W11	3/25 Stress Less - Learn to Meditate North Caf� 12:30pm & 1:15pm	3/21 Advocacy Day at the State House	3/20 Alternative Spring Break Spend a Day Volunteering! 9am-3pm		

Alpha Beta Gamma

Chi Gamma Chapter, MWCC

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday, March 13th: Speaker Series 2- Come join us as we dig into the differences between Capitalism and Socialism as told by our very own Charles Greco! Pizza and beverages will be served. 12:15-1:45 the

Saturday, March 30th: Character Breakfast- Volunteers needed from 7:30 to 3:30 (any time in between) Please contact Lisa at ferraracaron@mwcc.edu. Come join us for Family Friendly celebration from 8:30-11:30 am. A fun filled party full of costumes, games, an amazing raffle, and more!

Friday April 5th: Induction Ceremony- MWCC's hardest workers will be officially inducted into the International Honor

Society! For more information contact Lisa at ferraracaron@mwcc.edu.

April 23rd and 24th: Lillian Blanchette and her amazing beaded jewelry are back! Stop but he student center to see her latest designs from 10am-2pm both days!

Also Coming in April: (Date to be determined) Peter Dunn of the Executive office of Economic Development in Worcester will be back to talk about all things small business. He is the go-to for all the questions you may have about opening and running a small business in Worcester County. Join us for refreshments and a wonderful presentation!