



Mount Observer



A voice for the students of Mount Wachusett Community College

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SGA Elections Today



by *Meghan Severance*

It's that time of year again and the Student Government Association at Mount Wachusett Community College will soon have some newly elected candidates. The elections will take place on Wednesday, February 15th and Thursday, February 16th at 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm. The following students are running for a seat in your SGA. Be a part of the vote!

Joan Martin Sophomore Representative



Picture was taken from the candidates Facebook profile.

Joan Martin, is a sophomore studying in the Complementary Health Care program and a Concentration as a Yoga Instructor at the Mount and is running for Sophomore Representative.

"I have had a lot of experience in leadership, from instructing yoga to being a full time leader at my local youth group. I also love the fact that in doing so, I am helping others, which is really the best part of it all," said Martin, via email interview.

Martin wants to bring new ideas to SGA. Martin said, "Any ideas that pop into my head to make things better for all the students. When I get an idea, I go with it until it's done."

Andrea Gendron At-Large



Picture was taken from the candidates Facebook profile.

they were doing for MWCC and its students. I was incredibly impressed with how well everyone worked together to make the Mount an even more student friendly environment. I would very much like to be a part of that effort".

Gendron has a background in both the Visions program and the Leadership for Life program. "In each of these programs I have learned more about myself, and how to be a leader. I am looking for a chance to put what I have learned into practice," Gendron said.

Gendron would also like to bring change to campus. She said, "For many students balancing school, work, and families at home, it is agony to be taking finals during the week of Christmas. I hope to bring to the SGA the possibility of starting the semester a week earlier to allow us to finish the fall semester the week before Christmas to lessen a great deal of the stress that students feel during that week."

Andrea Gendron is 37 years old and is in her second year at MWCC. She is a double major, studying both Business Admin and Liberal Studies. Gendron is running for the At-Large Seat.

Gendron said via email interview, "Last year I began sitting in on SGA meetings and listening to what they had to say and their goals as well as the things

Ashley Williams At-Large

Ashley Williams, 17, is a sophomore studying Liberal Sciences at MWCC and is running for At-Large Representative.

"I want this position on Student Government because I enjoy

students to get what they want and deserve," Williams said via email interview.

Williams said she wanted to "bring enthusiasm and determination to SGA." She has been involved in student government for over 5 years and has also attended several leadership work-

Carly Gagne Freshman Representative

Carly Gagne, is a freshman studying at the Mount and is running for Freshman Representative.

"I enjoy helping others."
— **Carly Gagne**

Gagne said in her biography for SGA that she is "running because I enjoy helping out in the community. I'm very outgoing most of the time and I enjoy helping others."

Gagne also added in her biography, "I'm not going to make any promises unless I can keep them, because we never know what the future holds."

Gagne could not be reached via email.

"I hope to bring some more charisma, not that SGA needs it, but I think I'll be the fresh face with fresh ideas," said Tull.

Grace Santos Sophomore Representative

Grace A. Santos, 19, is a sophomore at the Mount studying in the Art program, and is also running for Sophomore Representative.

"I learned a lot from it [soccer] and I learned to be a leader..."
— **Grace Santos**

Santos said, via email interview, she would "like to bring to SGA, more creative ideas, new perspectives, new activities, and help make a better place to communicate."

Her background in leadership comes from playing soccer for over seven years. Her team won three times, getting both MVP and leadership awards.

"I learned a lot from it [soccer] and I learned to be a leader and hear what others have to say and give my opinions on what I think it right," said Santos.

"Playing a role in leadership has always interested me and I like having the ability to help other students..."
— **Ashley Williams**

being able to take part in making decisions for the school and representing the student body. Playing a role in leadership has always interested me and I like having the ability to help other

shops. "CDMASC and MASC [is a workshop], where student councils from around Massachusetts come together to share ideas on how to improve each other's school," said Williams.

Eizabeth Tull Sophomore Representative

Elizabeth Louise Tull, 28, is a sophomore in the Allied Health program at the Mount and is the

last candidate running for Sophomore Representative. Should she win, Tull said, via email interview, she "would like the opportunity to help makes changes for the student body."

Be a part of the vote!

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Panel Discussion on Black History Month

BLACK HISTORY MONTH¹¹

by *Elizabeth Shipman*

A panel discussion titled "Black History Month: Is it Still Relative?" took place last week in the North Café. Panel members and the audience shared views on whether there should be a month devoted to celebrating Black History.

"...the point of recognizing black history is to educate."

The Moderator of the event was Dr. Vincent Bates, Dean of Liberal Arts, Math, Education and Developmental Studies. Panel members included Candace Shivers, Associate Professor of Sociology, Javier King, student and president of the

math club, and Catherine Maddox-Wiley, a transfer counselor or the RX program.

The questions and responses are detailed below:

What do you see as the value of a special month devoted to Black History?

Mrs. Maddox-Wiley answered that she had mixed feelings about it. She believes that the point of recognizing black history is to educate. It is a time for people to come together. But she would hope for it to be all year and not just one month out of the year.

What has Black History Month given you personally?

There was discussion about how it does not seem important to single out blacks and have a month for thinking about them. They are equal to everyone else. Ms. Shivers said that we do not see much

ignorance in Massachusetts. There is no real hatred in New England either. However, in the South, there is still much hatred. The Klu Klux Klan still exists and blacks are often held second in society. Ms. Shivers asked, "Is Massachusetts a representative of the whole country?" and answered that she does not think so.

Does Black History Month promote separatism and racism?

Mr. King answered that it most certainly does. Designating a month out of the year promotes separatism. He also said that typically, in general, people who are educated in Black history are not as ignorant.

"...there is more to Black history than just Martin Luther King, Jr. and slavery."

Ms. Shivers, on the other hand, said that she does not think it promotes separatism. She said it gives people a chance to talk about it and embrace it. She also brought up Women's Month in March, which is almost the same in celebrating people who are a part of society. Black History Month celebrates a culture and gives us the time to step back and remember it, she said.

Dr. Bates agreed and said there is more to Black history than just Martin Luther King, Jr. and slavery.

Has the need for Black History Month passed?

Mr. King believes that yes, the need has passed. It was necessary before but now, not so much. Racism is less obvious than it used to be. The fact that text books are not all inclusive is a form of racism but it is not as blatant.

An audience member said that if someone is hateful, educating them on this subject is not going to change them. Dr. Bates said, however, that by educating them, it might get rid of that hate. To this, Mrs. Maddox-Wiley added that it is not the responsibility of Black History Month to eradicate racism. We're all responsible in stopping racism, she said.

Is there a need for a separate monthly celebration of other ethnic groups?

Dr. Bates said that Asians were also important in the building of America. They were greatly involved in the Great Railroad Race, putting together the railroad that connected Eastern U.S. to Western. Why shouldn't there be an Asian Month?

Mrs. Maddox-Wiley mentioned how during the 60s and 70s, black students pushed for a change from Black History Week to having an entire month for recognizing black history. Dr. Bates said that if they were able to get a change from a week to a month, we should make that a change to all the time.

Editors Note:

There is an Asian Pacific Heritage Month. It is May, the month the Transcontinental Railroad was completed. Congress passed a resolution in 1978 designating the first week of May as Asian American Heritage Week, and in 1992 congress resolved that all of May was Asian Pacific Heritage Month.



Editor in Chief:

Cheyne Ordonio
cordonio84@gmail.com

Graphic Designer:

Mike Shortsleeve
mikeshort85@msn.com

Web Manager:

Cheyne Ordonio

Reporters:

Meghan Severance
Rebecca Gilbert
Elizabeth Shipman

Adviser:

Susan Goldstein

Printer:

Athol Daily News

Address:

Room 191, MWCC,
444 Green St.,
Gardner, MA 01440

E-Mail:

mountobserver@mwcc.mass.edu

Telephone:

978.630.9260

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Next deadline:

February 22. For all article submissions after Feb 22, please coordinate with the Mount Observer Editor.

Issue published:

March 1

First issue is FREE; additional copies 50 cents

Green Street Cafe Achieves Fundraiser Success

by *Rebecca Gilbert*

Monday, February 14th marked the end of a successful fundraiser by the Green Street Café at Mount Wachusett Community College for Heifer International, a nonprofit organization dedicated to ending poverty and hunger and caring for the Earth.

Lynne Franciose, Dining Services Manager for the college, declared the cafeteria's first fundraiser a success. They have reached their goal of \$500 with an estimated the final total around \$700.

Franciose became involved with the organization to increase student enrichment during her previous employment as a Culinary Arts teacher. According to Franciose, the organization has been working to send livestock to communities for almost 70 years.

Contributions are used to provide animals, plants and agricultural training to low income, rural families in more than



image was taken from heifer.org

50 countries. Heifer distributes 28 types of animals ranging from cows and chickens to water buffalo and bees.

Students are encouraged to find out more by visiting the Heifer Global Village at Overlook Farm, one of Heifer International's learning centers. The farm is located 30 minutes south of campus in Rutland, Massachusetts. To find out more information, look for materials located in the cafeteria or visit the Heifer International website at www.heifer.org.

Work for the Mount Observer

The Observer is currently looking for reporters, photographers, and critics. All interested should speak with the Editor in room 191 or email mountobserver@mwcc.mass.edu.





Campus Announcements

SHINE Initiative Conference at MWCC

In March, the SHINE Initiative is launching a region-wide, multi-year approach to raise awareness about behavioral health issues. It will start with a conference on Friday, March 4 at Mount Wachusett Community College. The conference, "Voices for Change: A Mentally Healthy Campus for All," will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the south cafeteria and is open to all MWCC employees and students.

Guest speakers include Bruce Meltzer, M.D., executive medical director for the departments of pediatrics and psychiatry at UMass Medical School, Erica Tolles, a

counselor at Worcester Polytechnic Institute and an advisor to the peer advocacy organization "Active Minds" on campus; and a person successfully living with mental illness.

Registration is required and is requested by Feb. 23. MWCC employees may register by contacting Jo-Ann Meagher at jmeagher@mwcc.mass.edu or ext. 105. Students may register through the iConnect portal.

Janice O'Connor
Director of Public Relations

The Drowsy Chaperone Opens

Theatre at the Mount opens its 2011 season with the musical *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Performances are on February 25, 26, March 4 and 5 at 8:00PM and March 6 at 2:00PM.

The Drowsy Chaperone is a tale of a Broadway starlet who wants to give up show business to get married. It is directed by Peter Landry, features David Prescott as The Man in Chair; Chelsea Young as Janet; Gloria Oliver as The Drowsy Chaperone; Robert Olivier as Mr. Feldzieg, the Producer; Kyle Carlson as Robert; Thom Hardy as George; Amanda Carpenito as Kitty, the chorine; Mark LeBlanc Peterson

as the Latin Lover Adolpho; Rob Houle and Craig Cormier as the gangsters; Sue DiRusso as Mrs. Tottendale; Paul Caouette as the Underling; and a large ensemble of singers and dancers.

Tickets are \$20 for evenings and \$15 for matinees and may be purchased at the TAM box office at 978 632-2403. Subscription packages for the complete 2011 season are also on sale for just \$65 for all 5 shows. Individual and season tickets may also be purchased online at <http://theatre.mwcc.edu>

Theater at the Mount

The Montachusett Veterans Outreach Center invites you to join us for the

1st Annual

H O C K E Y

FOR

HEROES

MONTACHUSETT VETERANS OUTREACH CENTER

Saturday, March 19th

Doors open at 4pm • Game Starts at 5pm

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45 Veterans Drive, Gardner, MA

Gardner Varsity Boys Hockey Team

VS.

MVOC All-Stars

Raffles, 50/50 and Family Fun!

\$5 per person in advance
\$6 per person the Day of the Event
\$20 for a family of 4 or more



FEBRUARY 26TH 2011

\$10

CYSTIC FIBROSIS BENEFIT

7-12

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

JANEL AND GRADY
ADAM AND LAVIGNE

GILMOUR'S BREAKFAST

FRANCO O'MALLEY
RYAN MURPHY

CHINESE AUCTION
50/50 RAFFLE

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Student Life Calendar of Events

Tues., February 15

Student Government Association Elections: Elections will take place on-line. Log on to iconnect (<https://connect.mwcc.edu>). Voting on-line OPENS at 8 am on Tues., Feb. 15, and CLOSES at 2 pm on Wed. Feb. 16.)

Wed., February 16

Student Government Association Elections: Elections will take place on-line. Log on to iconnect (<https://connect.mwcc.edu>). Voting on-line OPENS at 8 am on Tues., Feb. 15, and CLOSES at 2 pm on Wed. Feb. 16.

Wed., February 16

Movie, *The Great Debaters* – 12:30 pm, North Cafeteria. This touching drama is based on the true story of Mel Tolson, a professor at Wiley College who inspired his students to form the school's first debate team. This group of kids was the first African American team to ever go up against Harvard and defeated the famed debate team in the national championships. Event is open to all. This movie is held in celebration of Black History Month. Sponsored by the Student Life Office.

Tues., February 22

Mardi Gras MASK MAKING – Stop by the South Cafeteria to make yourself a mask for the Mardi Gras Carnival event taking place March 3 (see March 3 entry below for more info on Mardi Gras). Sponsored by the Student Life Office and CATS.

Thurs., February 24

Student Government Association Meeting—12:30 pm in the Murphy Conference Room. Meeting is open to all.

SAVE THE DATE:

Thurs., March 3

Mardi Gras Carnival – Karaoke 6–8 pm; Dance 8-10 pm, South Cafeteria. CASH PRIZES: \$100 door prize awarded hourly. Costume prizes are \$100, \$70, & \$30 (costumes optional). Snacks and beverages provided. Free admittance for MWCC students, faculty & staff and their one guest. Sponsored by the Student Life office and student clubs and organizations.



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