



Mount Observer



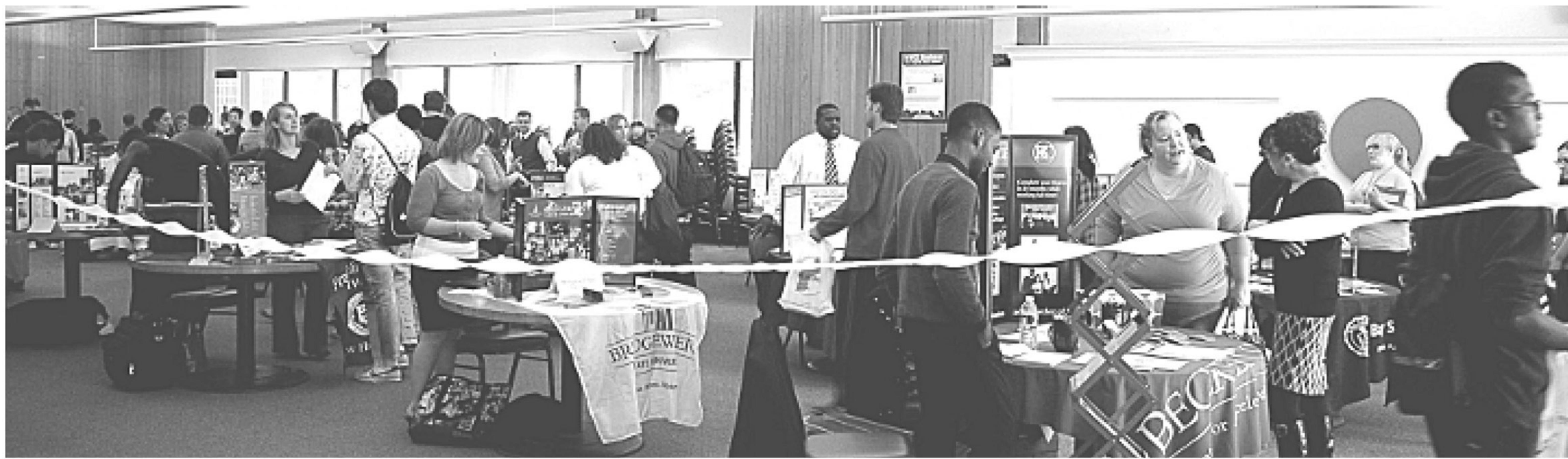
A voice for the students of Mount Wachusett Community College

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Transfer Fair Held in South Café



Students looking to transfer to four year colleges (photo by Tiffanie LeBlanc)

by Tiffanie LeBlanc

On October 6th, 2011 The South Café was filled with 40 colleges from all over New England for the annual Transfer Fair. They gathered from different areas if Massachusetts, New Hampshire,

Maine and other states to show the students here at the Mount what they have to offer if students are planning on transferring for their bachelors' degrees.

Some of the colleges that attended the event include Becker College, Keene State, Fitchburg

State University, St. Joseph's, Westfield State, UMass Lowell, UMass Boston, and UMass Amherst, Worcester State and Nichols College (which is part of the 3+1, transfer program.)

With so many different colleges presenting themselves and hav-

ing their representatives try to explain everything they possibly can to increase their chances on an enrolment rise, it gets kind of hectic and seems like you would never remember one college from the next. Luckily, all of the colleges participating were able to hand out booklets and

papers that could further explain their colleges and inform you on where to go on their web sites or who to talk to, if any students have questions.

Even some tables that did not have something you were looking for or interested in were very helpful on pointing out which colleges were good for you. This shows that all of these representatives do their homework on the educational world today and are invested in helping transfer students find their right path.

The Mount is a great place to start and has amazing faculty that can help you excel and prepare you for transferring. If you are interested in learning more about Transferring, contact Transfer Services at extension 197.

Faculty Profile: Lisa Williams



Lisa Williams (photo by Cheyne Ordonio)

by Brienna Lahti

Lisa Williams, Assistant Director of Strategic Enrollment here at Mount Wachusett Community College, dreams of one day opening and running an art gallery or a cultural development center.

Williams is currently enrolled at UMass Amherst for a degree in art management.

"Do what you love" is the advice she would give to students who are just starting out in education and careers. This is also the advice she seems to be follow-

ing. Williams has held a variety of titles at the college over the past twenty years but insists that they are all just jobs, something to help provide for her family, rather than a career. She enjoys getting to work with the students while she is here, but she still considers it just a job.

Lisa paints in her spare time because it is what she loves doing. She wants to incorporate her talents into her career in order to development a cultural development organization or an art gallery where she can display her work either in California or Washington D.C.

When Williams was younger, she was enrolled in art school but her mother did not encourage it because art was no way to make a living according to her. However, Williams insists people should "follow your passion. If you love it, it will work."

Her favorite things to paint are landscapes, ocean scenes, and sometimes she works from pictures. Lisa also takes enjoyment in calligraphy and working with different mediums, such as acrylics, pastels, and watercolors.

MWCC Alumni Are Among Occupy Boston

by Cheyne Ordonio

As an Occupy Boston march on Oct. 8 progressed down Boylston Street on its way to Newbury Street, a place famous for its many shops and restaurants, a single woman stood outside Trader Joe's, resolved to make the movement more image conscious with a sign that read, "Take A Look At Yourself, 99%."

I'm not so sure she checked the mirror, herself, while dressing for the day's grind, but I guess dismissing the movement's concerns based on the "hippie" or "anarchists" looks of its participants alone is about as well trained as one can get after years of watching the pundits on Fox

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Sarah Linstrom making a sign at Occupy Boston (photo by Cheyne Ordonio)

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BEEHIVE: THE 60's MUSICAL



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SHOULD COMMUNITY HOUR STAY OR GO?



Face Space page 3 & 4

MWCC ALUMNI AMONG OCCUPY BOSTON



MWCC Receives Award From The EPA

by *Luiz Arduini*

In the midst of the campus's main entrance, monumental wind turbines stand high as students and faculty members catch a glimpse of its impressive grandeur and simple design. Mount Wachusett Community College in Gardner is fortunate to be one of the few colleges in Massachusetts that's taken a big step towards becoming a greener campus. Online since March 25, the two 1.65-megawatt wind turbines generate a substantial amount of power for the campus every day.

Recognized for the major function of powering the campus, the wind turbines have gained national attention by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). As a recipient of this year's Environmental Merit Award, this is what the EPA had to say about the wind turbines at Mount Wachusett Community College, "This project caps a decade of renewable energy initiatives and conservation measures that have slashed the college's electrical consumption nearly in half, saving the school \$4 million while shrinking its carbon footprint. Mount Wachusett Community College exemplifies how an institution can invest in clean energy, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, and ultimately address the global climate crisis."

"Over the course of the year, they're estimated to supply 97% of the college's electricity demand and return about 30% of its

power back to the electricity grid", said Vice President Robert Labonte. "Today in particular, wind's speeds have been high, allowing the turbines to generate twice the amount of energy expected, which in this case energy then back feeds into the grid." And, of course, on non-windy days, the college relies on National Grid to supply its' energy needs.

A project of this magnitude required a tremendous amount of funding. Partially funded by the US Department of Energy and Massachusetts Clean Energy Investment bonds, Mount Wachusett Community College worked closely with the Division of Capital Asset Management to develop and finally construct this project. The final cost of the project was \$9 million, and though it seems a lot to spend at once, it certainly isn't. In a sense, the college is simply paying its' electricity bill two years and a half in advance, while investing to be self-reliant in the production of energy years in the future.

It's been a little over six months now since the wind turbines went online and according to Vice President Labonte everything is "running smoothly".



Review:

Beehive The 60's Musical

by *Ericka Pultorak*

"Beehive, The 60's Musical" premiered on Oct. 10 at MWCC by the Theatre at the Mount. It was directed and choreographed by Trish Aponte. Throughout the entire musical, maybe ten sentences were spoken. Watching them dance around song after song with practically no breaks would make anybody's feet hurt. Sitting in the front row, I could feel waves of energy rolling off the stage. The audience received a high energy performance, as well as a detailed timeline of the 60's.

The play opened by projecting clips and pictures of significant events during the 60's. They had the first man on the moon, pictures from Woodstock, and even Elvis Presley. From there the play went into hyper-drive. Nine women sang and danced all over the stage. They introduced each of themselves by playing "The Name Game." From there they sang "Sweet Talkin' Guy", "My Boyfriend's Back", "One Fine Day" and "It's My Party." Through all these songs we get to know each woman's story a little more intimately.

The play itself was well organized. The play progresses through the events that took place as the 60's came and went. Their costumes, done by Amanda Feeley, were fashioned after the "current" style. The audience saw go-go boots, Tina Turner dresses, and the classic flower child look.

I also liked how they took moments to honor the more difficult parts of the 60's like President Kennedy's assassination, the Vietnam War, and some of the prejudices that we unfortunately still have today. They presented all these things from a teenage girl's point of view. This was interesting because many of the girls that are teens/young adults now can closely relate to them based on how we feel about the Iraq war. Both wars have involved a lot of confusion and hatred of people we don't know. At this point in the play they sang: "The Beat Goes On" which was perfect.

Had I been a "teeny bopper" in the 60's, I would have thought this play was hilarious. Considering I was not, I had a harder time identifying with their pain and excitement. However, despite my lack of 60's experience, the way they presented the play did give me the opportunity to feel what was felt at that time. If those songs were a part of my childhood, I would have been put into a wonderfully euphoric state. Overall I enjoyed and appreciated the hard work put into this play for our entertainment.

Facebook Connect



by *Mount Observer Staff*

We Asked, "Should MWCC get rid of community hour to make time for more classes?"

You replied:

Amy Elizabeth Doucette No way! It's so nice to have that time in between especially for lunch when you have classes back to back.

Phillip Smith NO! it allows time for activities such as the Fall Festivals, etc., and sometimes clubs, especially when you have got classes all day. And if there is nothing to do one day outside of class, then it's always great to hang out with friends during that time.

Christopher Kyprianos No. It's an important opportunity for students and faculty alike to deal with responsibilities unrelated to course studies. We are able to go to school morning, afternoons and evenings already.

Tiffanie LeBlanc No. I like having that free time. It gives me a little time to relax and gather my thoughts, so that I can put everything I have to do in order and to stay organized

More on this developing story in the Nov 1 Issue.

Students React to Death of Steve Jobs

by *Leigh Edwards*

On October 5, 2011 the co-creator of Apple, Steve Jobs, passed away at his home in Cupertino, CA. Jobs passed away from pancreatic cancer, which he had been battling for several years, and respiratory arrest, as it was officially stated on his death certificate. His death was so abrupt and unexpected that the public was shocked. Amongst the shocked were students at Mount Wachusett Community College.

The news broke during Political Science Professor, Shane Martins class. The overall reaction of the students was merely a

look of wide-eyed shock, and disbelief, with mumbblings of the words, "wow..." and "I can't believe it." Another student, Joseph Kuehl's reaction was no different, "When I found out it took me a few seconds to process what actually happened. I wasn't aware he was in poor health. It was a very sad shock that affected so many individuals. For me, he was a real inspiration and will be dearly missed."



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MWCC Alumni Are Among Occupy Boston

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News and CNN bicker over partisan lines. Nonetheless, as the movement marched on, I overheard curious onlookers, some with dropped jaws, asking the question, "What do they want," so I figured I'd take the lady seriously and have a closer look at Occupy Boston.

Among those in attendance at the march that day was Jason Kotoch, an MWCC alumnus and current student at The Museum of Fine Arts of Boston, who said, "We're being asked to pay a bill that the people who run this country, the banks and the government, created." Other grievances he mentioned were that people don't have healthcare and bank mistakes that cause people to be evicted from their homes.

Of the movement itself, Kotoch said, "I don't really necessarily see any point in begging the people who put us here to get us out of the problem... I feel like this is an interesting way to start something; building a truly democratic system right here in Dewey Square and then letting that expand all throughout Massachusetts and then the Country and then all throughout the world." He went on to say that he wants people to realize that, "there's no reforming a system that was corrupt in the first place; there's no reforming a system that pits people against each other and against the Earth, which essentially is the nature of Capitalism... Ultimately I would like to see Capitalism abolished. I think that it's a failed experiment... There's got to be a better way."

Also at the march was Jason Mizula, an Iraq War Vet and student from UMass

Boston, who came to Occupy Boston in order to form a coalition of veterans, military families, and people from communities who have been affected by our wars and our foreign policy. Mizula would ultimately like to see a Constitutional Amendment for Peace based on Major General Smedley D. Butler's proposal from 1936. Mizula said his time in the military, "opened my eyes to the fact that there's a big world outside of Massachusetts, outside the United States." He went on to describe an incident in which he experienced helping a capsized boat of illegal immigrants, as a member of the Coastguard, and openly wondered how horrible it must be for people to risk their lives and start over at the lowest rungs of society with all the anti-immigrant sentiment we have.

Justin Kenney, a volunteer for the food tent at Occupy Boston who also attended the march, said that in the past he had become disillusioned by activism. But, because Occupy Boston is such a constant presence, it forces people to pay attention. Of the issues that brought Kenney to Occupy Boston in the first place, he said, "it's the fact that not only does one percent control 50 percent (fact check: it's 42 percent) of wealth, they control 90 percent of the nation's power... Unless the other 99 percent can organize in the same way and really concentrate their influence and power we'll never be able to check them."

And organize they have. A walk around Tent City, on Dewey Square, reveals massive infrastructure; makeshift walkways made out of wooden crates, a spiritual area with scheduled meetings for various

religions, a public library, a logistics operation, a food court, a medical center, a legal advising center, a sign making area, safety volunteers, scheduled rubbish pick-up, and a media operation.

Geoff Matheson, an entrepreneur who's part of the startup groworganism.com, volunteered for the logistics operation. Matheson said of the logistics operation, "basically what we're in charge of is collecting donations, distributing those donations in a take what you need sort of way.... And making sure that all the other work groups have what they need in terms of supplies." "For donations, Matheson said, "Some large groups have donated, but it's the grandmothers, it's the mothers, it's the fathers who come in... People care!"

Ariana Webb, a Legal Assistant, who volunteered for the legal advising center, said that their purpose is to advise people of their rights, train objective observers (people in the green hats), raise defense/bail funds in the event that people get arrested, organize pro-bono lawyers, and collect emergency, family, and medical information if people get arrested. Her single advice for the members of Occupy Boston was, if they get arrested, "Don't call your boyfriend; call your lawyer."

A man who would only identify himself as Leighton and refused to be on camera or have his picture taken was a volunteer for the media operation. Leighton said, "Our main objectives, or our main jobs so far, has been to maintain a web presence... to maintain communication between our individual groups within the camp... try to communicate with donors on the web... we've also formed a small amount of PR work." Leighton said he works in life sciences and has a degree in chemistry.

In response to criticism of the movement, Kotoch offered a solution for people who

think Occupy Boston is disorganized. "I would say, if you think that, just come down here and check it out yourself," Kotoch said. "I think that you'd be presently surprised just what you'd find out."

I certainly was presently surprised, especially when it came time for a General Assembly, which is both fascinating to watch and utterly boring to sit through at the same time. While trying to maintain an ideal as a leaderless movement so that everyone can be part of the conversation, the GA, "run" by people who call themselves facilitators, gives individuals and groups a stage to make announcements, voice opinions, make proposals, and submit statements to be voted on by everyone and passed by a consensus of spirit fingers. The process is long and often repetitive as people are afforded the ability to pose clarifying questions, friendly amendments, or raise objections. After that, the group or individual who made the proposal considers amendments and objections, accepts or denies them, then re-reads the proposal, starting the whole process over again.

After taking a day to get to know the people at Occupy Boston, even spending the night in one of their tents, I learned that there's more to it than just a bunch of unshowered, out of work, hippies and anarchists. For one, I could only identify one anarchist. And what's so wrong about being an anarchist anyway? As American's, shouldn't they have a forum to be heard, along with the students, veterans, legal assistants, entrepreneurs, chemists, medics, socialists, ex-bankers, iron workers, and teachers also in attendance? Their message is their occupation. Their occupation is a democracy. They want real democracy. And they want you to join them.

pictures below and next page>>>

face space

a photo album of student life activities this semester

More photos in color online at mountobserver.com



Veteran Jason Mizula at Occupy Boston march.



LAS Major Christopher Robbins at the first meeting of Occupy Worcester.



Jason Kotoch (far right) marching in Boston.



Jason Kotoch (left) and Sarah Linstrom (right), just outside Tent City.



MWCC Alumn Jason Kotoch making a sign.

All photos by Cheyne Ordonio continued on next page>>>

October Calendar of Events

Leadership for Life

Oct. 18, 25; Nov. 8, 22; Dec. 6

12:30 – 1:30 pm in Murphy Conference room.

A series of short presentations on topics that will help you feel more comfortable and be successful at MWCC. Contact the student life office studentlife@mwcc.mass.edu. Walk-ins welcome.

CATS (Campus Activities Team) Meeting

October 4, 17 & 26

12:30 pm, room W11.

Come and join in on the fun of planning and running activities for MWCC students (i.e. Scary Karaoke, Mocktails). For more information contact the student life office at studentlife@mwcc.mass, 978-630-9133 or stop by room 151. Open to all MWCC students.

Intramural Activity—Whiffle Ball

Tues., Oct. 18

12:30 - 1:30 pm, Fitness and Wellness Center.

You must have athletic sneakers to participate. For more information contact Paula in Room 149.

Monster Costume Show

Wed., Oct. 19

12:30 pm, South Café.

Come get some Halloween costume ideas as members of CATS (Campus Activities Team for Students) and other students walk the runway in costumes. Then join us on Oct. 27 for Scary Karaoke. Sponsored by CATS and the Student Life Office.

Intramural Activity—Volleyball

Tues., Oct. 25

12:30 - 1:30 pm, Fitness and Wellness Center.

You must have athletic sneakers to participate. For more information contact Paula in Room 149.

Annual Scary Karaoke

Thurs., Oct. 27

6 – 9 pm, North Cafe.

Come join in on the “spooky” fun. There will be snacks, \$100 cash door prize every hour and CASH PRIZES (\$100, \$70, \$30) for best costumes. Event is free for all MWCC students, faculty and staff. Sponsored by CATS and the Student Life Office.

Party Smart Mocktails and Fatal Vision Program—including Texting and Driving

Mon., Oct. 31

12:30 - 1:30 pm, South Cafeteria.

Part of MWCC’s Alcohol and Drug Abuse Awareness Week. Purchase a full-sized beverage and receive a free glass goblet (while supplies last). Proceeds to benefit the SGA Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. Sponsored by CATS, Student Life Office, Health Services, and MWCC Office of Public Safety and Security.



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Open House

Sunday, Oct. 23

8:30 a.m.

Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell

Go to www.uml.edu/openhouse for more details, to register and get directions.

Office of Undergraduate Admissions

978-934-3931

admissions@uml.edu

www.uml.edu/transfer



Learning with Purpose

face space

a photo album of student life activities this semester

continued

Tent City on Dewey Square



Tent City on Dewey Square



Tent City on Dewey Square



Single counter protester holding sign.



Onlookers watching Occupy Boston march.