



Mount Observer



A voice for the students of Mount Wachusett Community College

SEPTEMBER 1, 2011

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WELCOME BACK 2011 Students!

STUDY ABROAD STUDENTS VISITED EUROPE FOR SUMMER



photo by MWCC Study Abroad Program

by MWCC Study Abroad Program

Nine Mount Students returned from London and Paris thus completing their spring course Introduction to Europe. Students earned three credits attending class once a week during spring semester and then flew to Paris, continuing to London for their hands-on experience.

Students felt the full spring breeze atop the Eiffel Tower for the evening lighting ceremony and then made a midnight tour of Paris, the City of Lights. The next day they strolled among the famous paintings at The Louvre, took in the beauty of the Mona Lisa, and cruised at sunset on the River Seine.

The eight ladies and one gentleman mingled for an evening in the hilltop community of Montmartre, listening to the open-air musicians. Artists such as Picasso, Van Gogh, and Renoir once occupied this very area.

A trip to Notre Dame and on to Versailles and the historic Hall of Mirrors completed the five-day Paris portion of the trip. The group then boarded the high-speed Eurostar Train traveling

under the English Channel to Olde London Towne.

Buckingham Palace, Trafalgar Square, and Big Ben were of course favorites in London. Students dressed for the evening theater and were mesmerized by the production of *Phantom of the Opera*.

A leisurely trip by coach to Oxford University near the Bridge of Sighs and a stop at Queens College was led by a very entertaining guide who performed Shakespeare on the bus and kept everyone laughing.

Students got a chance to visit the beautiful Saint Paul's Cathedral as well as Westminster Abbey where Prince William and Kate were married last April. The Royals were not in residence that day but ironically The President and Mrs. Obama were visiting London under tight security, reducing the visiting hours.

Students navigated two fabulous subway systems in both cities that sped everyone around to their desired destinations during the ten day tour.

Mount Professors Bonnie Toothaker and Judy Giacoppe

story continued on page 3>>> more photos on page 5>>>



by President Daniel M. Asquino

VISIONS PROGRAM GUIDING STUDENT SUCCESS

by Angela Rossi

With the constant hustle and bustle of the average college student's life, many are in need of a support system to keep them on track. Here at MWCC, the visions program provides many resources to help guide students to success.

The Visions Program is a part of TRIO which is a Federally funded government grant given to accepted schools for this mission. Upon receiving the money, schools follow the guideline of the grant and utilize it to achieve this purpose in an individual way but following certain guidelines.

For instance, the program is allowed to host 200 students at a time. Among the members, students must meet at least 1 of 3

With an estimated 150,000-plus hours of community service benefiting the region over the past 10 years, what, if anything, could possibly top the impact of Mount Wachusett Community College's past Decade of Civic Engagement initiative? How about the Second Decade of Civic Engagement at MWCC? It begins with the start of this academic year.

A decade ago, following the tragedy of the 9/11 attacks, MWCC

announced this initiative to inspire and empower students, faculty and staff to fan out into the community and make a significant difference in the North Central Massachusetts community – and beyond.

These countless acts of giving to others, whether through service learning projects incorporated into academic programs or through direct volunteerism, have touched the lives of neighbors in our communities and

continued on page 7>>>

guidelines: they must be a first generation student, meaning that neither of their parents received a four-year college degree, they are "low income" as determined by the federal government, or they have a medically diagnosed disability.

According to program director Gaurav Khanna, as long as students utilize the resources that it offers, they are welcome to remain a part of the program for all the years they attend MWCC. Khanna also explained that along with guiding students through their college experience, it also helps students to earn their Associate's degree and on to their Bachelor's degree if they choose to do so.

Being part of this program brings along a large amount of benefits.

To name a few, members receive tutoring, personalized guidance, in some cases financial aid, and constant support. "We are like a small college with in a college," said Khanna. He explained that in many cases, these students are in greater need for guidance when it comes to college, especially regarding the first generation students as neither of their parents attended a college.

Because of the fact that the program only holds 200 students, it is a more personalized experience. The Visions program has six staff members in which the students are divided. This gives much more of a personalized relationship with their supporting counselor.

continued on page 3>>>

Face Space page 4 & 5
LEADERSHIP CAMP & STUDY ABROAD



Reviews page 6
MOVIE REVIEW: THE TOWN



Facebook Connect page 7
WHERE WERE YOU ON SEPTEMBER 11?



ADULT BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAM HELPS STUDENTS REALIZE GOALS

by *Sabrina Chartrand*

The Adult Basic Education (ABE) Transition to Community College Program at MWCC has become a pathway for many adults who were unable to graduate from high school and enter into post-secondary education successfully.

At MWCC, adults who did not receive a high school diploma can prepare to take the GED exam with the help of the ABE staff which is critical for a student's further education. According to Pamela Dempsey-O'Connell, an ABE site coordinator and counselor, "It's becoming harder and harder to get a really good job without a high school diploma or GED."

Dempsey-O'Connell also said that many adult students take the GED exam, fail and are then ready to take the classes. She says that after they have failed, they realize that they need the coaching the adult learning center provides.

After passing the GED exam, students can then apply to the ABE Transition Program, and once accepted, students take a placement exam which places them in basic classes. After students take the placement exam, they have appointments with a resource specialist who focuses on them during their first semester in the program. "We try to make it work for them to pursue their education and stay committed to their prior commitments," Deb Bibeau, director of the Gateway to College and ABE Transition Programs said.

During the first semester in the program, students take a basic reading, writing and math course as well as a first semester seminar. Then, during the second semester, students begin to take college career courses, and work towards a diploma in their desired field of study.

As a counselor, Dempsey-O'Connell primarily helps students throughout the GED preparation program, and then helps them enter into the ABE Transition Program. For example, Dempsey-O'Connell helped Renee Chandler, an ABE Transition student, throughout the GED process, and she introduced Chandler to Luis Uribe, a resource specialist.

Chandler's experience began when she received her GED at MWCC. After she received her GED, she had no plan to go to college. But, once she spoke with Uribe, he told her that the ABE staff would help her through the entire process, and he convinced her to apply.

Once Chandler was accepted, she took the placement exam and began her first semester of basic courses. During this semester, her classes were taught by teachers that were specific to the ABE Program, and she had frequent meetings with Uribe. At the end of the first semester, Chandler met with him to discuss and decide upon her college career path.

During the second semester, Chandler began taking classes that were relevant to

her double-major in human services and complementary health care. "This program gave me opportunities where I didn't think I had any, and that's important," Chandler said. "I probably wouldn't have come back to school if it wasn't for the ABE Transition Program."

Since Chandler has found so much success in the program, she highly suggests it for many adults that are in similar situations as she was. "If you want to work hard, be successful and want the support, ABE is the perfect program," she said, "It is a lot of hard work, but it's well worth it."

Chandler said she has had an excellent experience and that there are no bad memo-

ries when it comes to the program. She especially likes to remember the award ceremonies that bring all the students in both the Gateway to College and ABE Transition Programs together. The ABE Transition Program has helped Chandler and other adults like her immensely through the process of transitioning into college.



Grant Cochrane / FreeDigitalPhotos.net

PROFESSOR GELBWASSER REMEMBERED



photo by Jeffery Langlois

by *Tiffanie LeBlanc*

On August 11, 2011, Retiree, Professor Herman Gelbwasser passed away unexpectedly. Professor Gelbwasser was born on March 3, 1940 in Manhattan NY and had earned his Master's in Chemical Engineering before he began his 45 year long career right here at Mount Wachusett Community College.

Professor Gelbwasser retired from the Mount in 2010 as a Professor in mathematics and chemistry. He lived in Rutland with his wife and was an avid Red Sox and Celtics fan. Many of his students found his class's fun, hands on and easy to understand because of his patience with making sure each and every student could understand and learn from everything

that was going on in his class. Some students are even part of a group on facebook called "Herman Gelbwasser's Chem Kid's."

Melanie Patterson wrote an article about the professor in the alumni association section of the mounts web site called "Finding The Right Chemicals."

His daughter Sherry Gelbwasser said, "My father loved his students and enjoyed working at the Mount. I was aware

that he was both well-liked and influential during his tenure at Mount Wachusett Community College. He set the bar high for me to be as patient and as interested in helping students as he was – and to do it for forty-five years. Those are the qualities that I hope to emulate as I try to carry him along with me."

Whether any of us knew him on a personal level or not, whether someone took his class or ate lunch with him in the faculty lounge, one thing is for certain, Professor Gelbwasser was dedicated to the education of students and their success. Mr. Gelbwasser will be missed by many, but never forgotten for his extraordinary work as an instructor here at Mount Wachusett community College.

STUDENT PROFILE:

AMANDA WHITE

by *Shilo Meehan*

Amanda White is a 21 year old student at Mount Wachusett Community College from Wendell Depot, Massachusetts. She is studying in Business Administration.

Amanda White was a 2008 graduate from Ralph C. Mahar and started at the Mount in the fall of 2008. Amanda wanted to go to a college that she could afford and the thought of going away for school was not really her cup of tea. She wanted to get a feel for college and start out in the adult working world.

continued on next page >>>



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Editor in Chief:

Cheyne Ordonio
cordonio84@gmail.com

Graphic Designer:

Mike Shortsleeve
mikeshort85@msn.com

Web Manager:

Cheyne Ordonio

Reporters:

Angela Rossi
Sabrina Chartrand
Shilo Meehan
Casey DiMauro
Edward Billiel
Sarah Kowalczyk
Tiffanie LeBlanc

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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AMANDA WHITE

continued from previous page

Amanda was not quite sure what she wanted to do when she left school. She saw business administration as a field that you can use anywhere. While she was in high school, Amanda had strengths in the math and English departments and excelled. Studying business administration, she can use her strengths and achieve what she really wants to do while living only 30 minutes away.

With Mount Wachsett Community College having many accelerated courses, Amanda will be finishing up her degree in Business Administration transfer degree (BA) while going into her senior year of college still at MWCC. She will be taking classes online through Nichols College in

a program called the A to B program that they offer at the Mount for certain degree programs. The program helps students achieve their 4 year degree to save money and time. Some of the classes she will be taking to finish her degree will be taught online, at the Leominster campus, and even some at MWCC by Nichols College professors.

Amanda wants to peruse a lot out of a college education and with choosing MWCC; she can get what she needs to get done to go far. Amanda can see herself being done at the Mount and starting her career by looking for another job. She would like to travel someday to a warmer climate and would like to see more of the world. She currently works in the loan office department at the local Athol Credit Union bank.

FACULTY PROFILE:

DEB BIBEAU

by Sabrina Chartrand

As the director of the Gateway to College Program and the ABE Transition Program, Deb Bibeau is motivated and willing to help those who need an alternative to high school. Bibeau, who has worked for MWCC since 2004, enjoys being involved in both programs. The Gateway to College Program and the ABE Transition Program are both College Access and Preparation Programs (CAPP), which are part of the Division of Access and Transition.

When asked about her favorite part of being involved in the programs, Bibeau said, "I think it's seeing how the programs have evolved from when we opened our doors in the Fall of 2006 to now. We always add new things and have new initiatives to benefit the students here."

For example, CAPP at MWCC has started using the PLATO computer system which helps students who did not complete college recover credits. The PLATO program is another subset of the Gateway to College Program for students that want to receive a high school diploma, but who are not interested in the structure of Gateway.

Bibeau accepted the position of Director for the Gateway and ABE programs be-

cause she thought it seemed interesting to be able to provide another opportunity to be successful. She believes that a student should be given another opportunity because "sometimes, for whatever reason, a four year high school doesn't always make a student successful."

The secret to Gateway's success comes from two main factors, Bibeau said. One factor is the support given to the students by the resource specialists; the specialists provide advising and wrap-around support as well as teach classes that all the students must take. The second factor is that during the first semester, students have scheduled weekly check-ins in which each student sits with a resource specialist for a feedback session.

Bibeau likes to remember the students that she interviewed for the programs. For example, her favorite part of being the director for the programs is seeing the students from the programs on campus and hearing what they have accomplished. "We'll see them graduate in a few years with at least an associate's degree, and most will go on to post-secondary education," she said excitedly.

GATEWAY
to
COLLEGE

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such as the Greenwich Mean Time at the Royal Observatory – only a short walk from the hotel. Some walked the dark Catacombs beneath the streets of Paris and shopped the fashion district. The museums, markets and bazaars and the London Eye were other's must-see places. The U.S. students also hung out with locals at a jazz club and visited other night spots to relax and socialize.

Two students stayed behind; one with a grandmother in Scotland where she will take additional courses as part of certification to teach English-as-a-Second-Language, and another will backpack the summer through the Netherlands and Denmark.

The local cuisine was sampled by all and laughter and endless amazement made the trip to the two most well known cities in Europe a dream come true.

STUDY ABROAD

continued from page 1

co-taught this course for ten students. The course included an overview of healthcare, history, art, culture, communications, and an introduction to independent travel.

Professor Toothaker commented, "Everybody had a good time with minimal culture shock and homesickness. Students learned about not only Paris, France and London, England, but also about themselves and their comfort zones. It was meant to be a true interactive learning experience!"

The Mount students were part of a larger group of college students joining EFTours from Houston, Albuquerque, and New York. There was plenty of free time to shop and visit personal favorite places

THEATER AT THE MOUNT BRINGS OPPORTUNITY AND ENTERTAINMENT



www.mwcc.edu stock image

by Angela Rossi

The "Theater at the Mount" Program at MWCC not only provides a platform for local people with all sorts of talents, but it also brings the community together to celebrate the art of theater. In many ways, the community theater has brought opportunity and entertainment to anyone who takes part in it, whether it be an actor or a person who just wants to see a show without paying for an expensive trip into the city.

"It truly is a gift to the community," said theater director Gail Steele. She explained that, when putting on productions, they choose from a pool of loyal directors, sound technicians, choreographers, and so on, based on their specialties.

Because these people are mainly volunteers, Steele believes that they all carry a passion for the arts and by offering them this opportunity, the program provides a venue for members of the community to do what they love. Not only is this for crew members, but also for actors.

One instance of this is 20 year old actor, Doug Dame. At the age of 8, Dame began performing here at MWCC. For him, the people he has worked with through the years have become very significant in his life. "In a lot of ways it's become an inseparable part of the person I turned [into] because it was my whole life for so long... you get the sense that everyone is out to help everyone else," Dame said in a phone interview.

Over the years, Dame has also observed the ways that the theater program has influenced the community. He said, "... there are so many kinds of people that it provides a creative outlet for."

After being in his first play at a young age, he took part in at least one show a year and then continued on to become a Junior Councilor at the summer theater camp. He then recently took on the position of drama teacher this past summer for the first time.

Children's show director, Emily Smith, also has a similar view of the program. Smith has now been working with the program for 20 years and claims that she is absolutely thrilled with her involvement. Smith began acting at MWCC at a very young age as well and is still very much involved to this day.

Smith now works as a high school theater teacher but is also in charge of directing the children's shows at the mount. She loves that by having the opportunity to work with these kids she is able to watch them grow up in the theater as she did as a child. Because of this, Smith compares this community to a family.

"This is work and this is what I like to do," said Smith. She works anywhere within 200 kids at a time; Smith claims that being able to have a positive influence on this many kids at once is incredible. She is now providing that platform for these young, ambitious children as she was provided at that age.

continued on page 7 >>>

VISIONS PROGRAM

continued from page 1

The program also does what is called a "Four-week check in" in which they take it upon themselves to get a progress report on each student to ensure that they start the semester off well. If the student

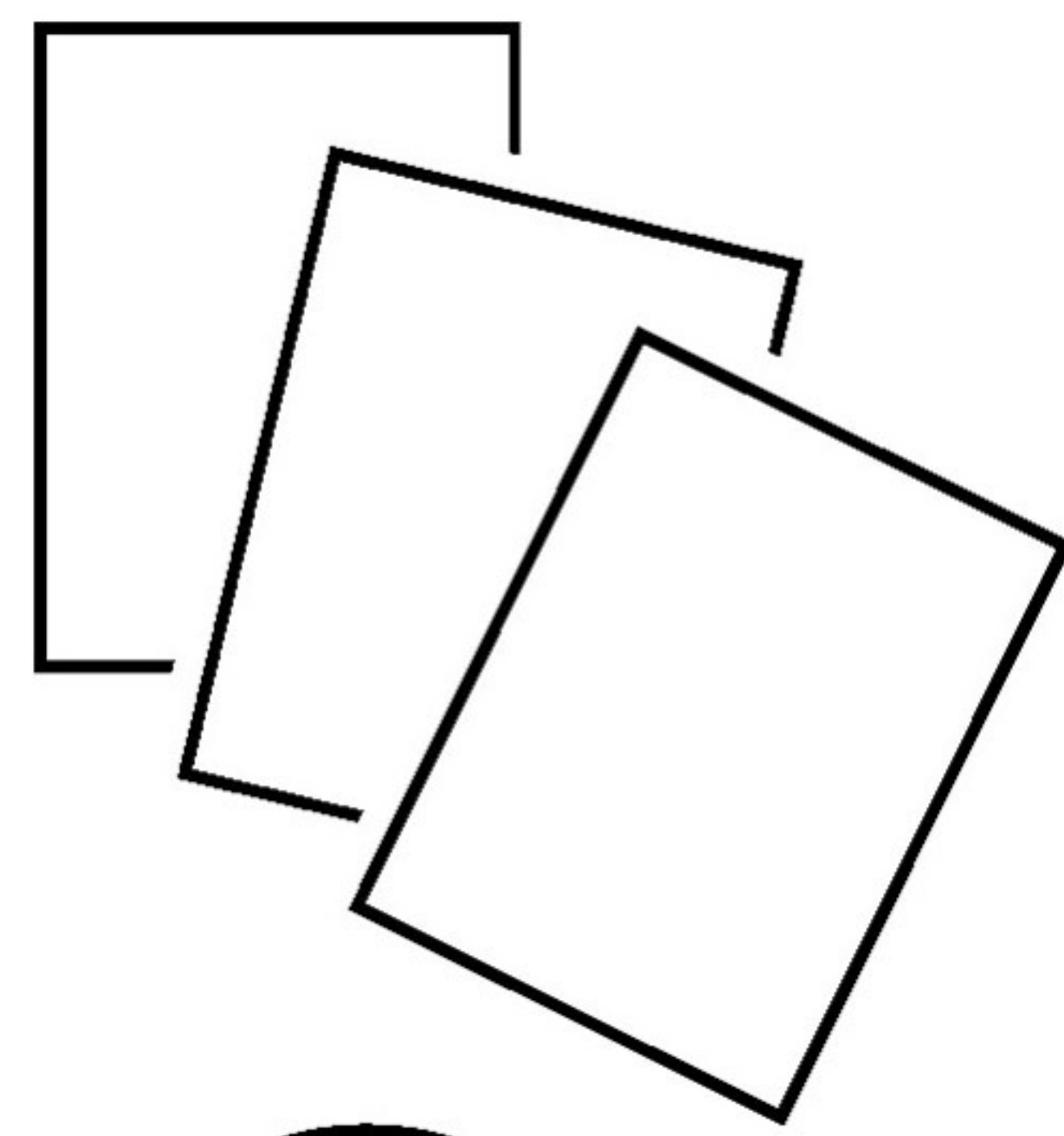
is struggling in a certain subject, they are immediately connected to a tutor. The club is completely oriented around the success of each individual student.

The program has also recently expanded into an Rx program which is another offshoot of TRIO involving only health and science majors.



www.mwcc.edu stock image

face space



More photos in color online at mountobserver.com

a photo album of student life activities this semester

MWCC's LEADERSHIP CAMP

All photos are from the Office of Student Services





MWCC STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

All photos by MWCC Study Abroad Program

Brooks, Rebecca
Carboni, Christina
Cooney, Jessica
Dilling, Tiffany
Fletcher, Hannah
Jones, Melanie
Newell, Gary
Potter, Mettaya
Simmrs-Swansen, Alexis
Instructor
Bonnie Toothaker



REVIEWS



RESTAURANT REVIEW:

CINNAMONS



Simon Howden / FreeDigitalPhotos.net

by Sarah Kowalczyk

Cinnamons, a tasty and supreme restaurant located right on Main St. Athol, has everything from fried food to hardboiled streaks.

When I first arrived at Cinnamons, I was a little surprised to find that it's a seat-yourself restaurant. It took no time to find a seat in one of the very large lounge-type rooms. When I sat down, I was very pleased to be waited on by a waitress with a friendly smile and she asked me right away what I would like to drink.

I instantly ordered something most restaurants would have; A vanilla frappe. When I received my frappe it was the perfect consistency - not too much ice cream. My experience so far was very relaxed and very pleasing. As for the food, I decided to order fried clam strips and a side of onion rings from the vast-choice menu. The meal took very little time to come out hot and steamy.

Throughout my delicious meal, all I could focus on was the horrible choice of wallpaper. The flowers, or maybe grapes, seemed to just blend together into a

brown and blue mess. I did like the carpet choice, so overall I would say they have an okay décor and a neutral environment. I also happen to like how clean the place seemed to be. The carpet looked vacuumed, the ceiling wasn't gross like older restaurants, and the booths and chairs were clean. I also happened to like how the place was roomy. The booths were oversized which will appeal any space-loving customer.

The dish I was entranced in was perfectly cooked to a crisp crunchiness. The meal seemed to have come right out as soon as they were both done and it spent no time under a heater. Finally, the quality of this food was very good.

Some of the other meals include foods like a hotdog dinner and a seafood platter. They also had regular hamburgers, lobster, and specials of the day which included chicken cordon bleu.

Now, moving on to the one last place to check out - the bathroom. I walked right through the middle of the restaurant to a hole-in-the-wall space which was a little way to start out with. I walked on in anyways. I shouldn't have expected much to look at but I was hoping it would be better than it was. The bathroom seemed to be from ancient times and the walls along with the stalls were both pale beige.

I was very impressed with this little place in a small town, until the bathroom. If they updated this place's interior and bathroom, Cinnamons would a fantastic restaurant. Though, I guess if the food was the only thing that counted, I would have to recommend this restaurant for everyone, including the poor college student.

The prices of cinnamons also happen to be very fair. I only paid \$9.95 for clam strips and onion rings. I think that this restaurant is very good for any soul looking for a laid back, cheaply priced, but good quality restaurant.

LOCAL ATTRACTION:

NORTH BROOKFIELD APPLE ORCHARDS



Arvind Balaraman / FreeDigitalPhotos.net

by Casey DiMauro

Whether or not you want to go apple picking, go on the hay rides, or stop in at the snack bar North Brookfield Apple Orchards offers it all. The Orchard is open Year 'Round - 9:00 AM to 5 PM - and only closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and

the Fourth of July. It is located on 12 Lincoln Road, North Brookfield.

Recently I stopped in at this orchard. I found a family owned business that is all about the quality of service. Coming in, they made me feel right at home. "The orchards are owned and operated by the fourth generation of the Lincoln family," Said the family.

Browsing around, some of the items I found were old tools, spinning wheels, cider presses, the waterfall, and a decent amount of thrift shop items. They also had a good variety's of jams jellies, maple products, Vermont cheddar cheese, candy,

continued on next page>>>

RESTAURANT REVIEW:

THAI JASMINE



savit keawtavee / FreeDigitalPhotos.net

by Angela Rossi

At 446 Lancaster St. in Leominster, MA, there sits a subtle yet precious gem among the many restaurants scattered in the area. Thai Jasmine serves a variety of delicious Thai and Vietnamese food that come with many options to allow each diner their own unique experience.

Upon arrival, my guest and I were seated at one of the ten tables in the small yet spacious restaurant. Its neat and orderly environment was inviting and calm. The tables were set comfortably apart from each other, however, on this particular visit, my guest and I were the only diners which makes it hard to judge the potential noise level of the area. Quiet music played from the TV in the corner of the room to accompany the dining experience without an overpowering noise.

To begin, we ordered Thai rolls as an appetizer. Although we were not served immediately, when they arrived, they were hot, crisp, and extremely fresh. They consisted of chicken, carrots, and sprouts in thin, fried wonton wrappers.

MOVIE REVIEW:

THE TOWN

by Edward Billiel



Newly released on DVD, *The Town* is an action film that will not disappoint. This is Affleck's third movie as director and it is on its way to having equal if not more credit than his other works including Gimme Shelter and Gone Baby Gone, which has received multiple awards that include the Hollywood Film Festival Award for Breakthrough Director of the Year.

The Town also has a cast full of talent including Ben Affleck, Jeremy Renner, and Pete Postlethwaite. Affleck's character, Doug MacRay is the ring leader of his crew. MacRay's childhood friend James "Jem" Coughlin is the hard headed thug of the group, who has no remorse toward his victims. Pete Postlethwaite plays the owner of a local flower shop and is the master mind behind all of the robberies MacRay and his crew complete.

This small portioned course was the perfect size and had a uniquely blended flavoring to keep us satisfied before the meal arrived. The appetizer cost us \$4.95 for four roles. With this being one of the cheaper options, other appetizers ranged anywhere from this to \$11.95.

For my entre, I ordered the chicken Pad Thai. This hugely portioned meal was sweet and flavorful and was decorated with classic pieces of eggs, crispy sprouts, and juicy chicken. Again, the meal was served hot, promptly, and to my order. At \$7.95, I had plenty to take home for a second meal.

As for my guest, she ordered the Chicken and Cashew nuts Combo. This bold and spicy dish left a wonderful impression on us. For \$9.95, this dish consisted of chicken, carrots, green beans, corn, mushrooms, celery, cashew nuts, and pineapple. This dish was offered with other kinds of meat and fish as well as tofu for varying prices. This was, again, served fresh and hot.

The restaurant was waited on by one single waitress which was sufficient given the number of customers. She was prompt and attentive to refill our drinks and other such needs. She was friendly towards both us as well as those picking up take-out orders. Our check at the end of the evening totaled to \$25.35; this lead to our only real issue which was our waitress' inability to make change for us in order to tip her.

To conclude, this restaurant deserves four stars for its bold and fresh food along with a friendly environment for couples to families alike. For ample amounts of food and a small price, anyone can enjoy classic Thai and Vietnamese food in their own suburban town.

The film was shot in Boston and showcases many landmarks throughout the city including the Tobin Bridge and the historic Fenway Park.

Right from the beginning this movie it is packed with the fast paced action of a perfectly executed bank robbery. The movie has a good balance of passionate, thoughtful storytelling and hard hitting action.

Mention towards the effects and costume selection in this story is also important. The effects are great. All the muzzle flashes from the guns and the explosions when the bullets hit objects are flawless. The costumes are also right on cue; the MBTA worker outfit Affleck's character wears is as close to the real thing as you can get. All of the Boston Police outfits are also indistinguishable compared to the real ones.

The entire movie overall was very enjoyable to watch but isn't for the faint of heart or for children. It does however offer a realistic feeling insight into the life of a bank robbery crew, and offers a sense of hometown pride.

NORTH BROOKFIELD APPLE ORCHARDS

continued from previous page

local honeys, books, home-made fudge, maps, crafts, antiques, collectibles, penny candy, kids toys, cook books, etc.

You can witness the grading and packaging of apples right off the line all year round. These apples are then either bagged so they can be put on the floor to be sold or baked and sold in the Snack bar.

The Snack bar is located across from the country store. It serves hot apple dumpplings and pie with ice cream all year. In September and October, the menu includes hot dogs, hamburgers, chili, macaroni and cheese, grilled cheese, chips, and drinks.

The apple dumplings are a peeled and cored apple wrapped in a puff pastry with

cinnamon, sugar, and nutmeg. I ordered one; it was a perfectly baked and as satisfying to the wallet as the mouth. At \$4.00 for one with ice cream I found it was well worth the money.

There is a play-ground with many different activities for the children including swings, a sandbox, trees to climb, slides, merry-go-round, and more. The orchard is also an animal friendly environment.

I would definitely suggest taking a day to enjoy the old school traditions at this locally owned business. Overall I was very pleased with what I found going to the North Brookfield Orchards. It is spacious, well kept, friendly, and fun.

WE ASKED YOU ON FACEBOOK:

WHERE WERE YOU ON SEPTEMBER 11?



by Mount Observer Staff

Holly Lusco: I was in 6th grade in the middle of a English lesson or some lesson when we heard the news.. We went to assembly where we were told what happened and when we got back to the room we watched the local news and saw the video of the planes crashing into the towers... I can remember like it was yesterday.

Ashley Gough: I was a senior in high school in Colorado. They brought television sets into all the classes and turned on

the news during 1st period after the first plane hit. Then we all watched the second one hit and the buildings come down. It was scary and some of the senior boys who were planning to enlist after graduation were talking about the possibility of going to war. It was a very strange day.

Denise Lavoie Whitney: I was working as an operator (zero and 911) at Verizon.... we heard from parents, siblings, husbands & wives, kids, etc. looking for their loved ones....not knowing where they were or if they were ok, or how to reach them. Landlines were down, cell phones were not operating and over used so folks could not get through. It was very stressful; we also could not help them, most of the phone lines were down and not operating. They were desperate and we were actually powerless on our end, it was very sad. At that time, the Gardner based Verizon handled all of New England and New York...we got the calls.....we heard a lot of stories.

Karen Ray Costa: I was in Manhattan, on 89th and 2nd.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

continued from page 1

strangers around the world - from Massachusetts children and adolescents living in foster care, to soldiers serving in Afghanistan and Iraq, to those suffering in Haiti, Japan or Darfur, and thousands of others near and far. In fact, student involvement on this scale is why MWCC has consecutively been listed on the national President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service learning and civic engagement.

As we close the first Decade of Civic Engagement and enter the second, MWCC's Center for Democracy & Humanity will roll out a variety of exciting new initiatives for the college community and the greater community. MWCC students will have the opportunity to take part in an array of programs that first and foremost serve others, but as equally important provide valuable real-world experience to include on their resumes.

MWCC is proud to participate in the burgeoning, national community college initiative The Democracy Commitment, as well as the American Association of State Colleges and Universities' American Democracy Project. Through these initiatives, the Center for Democracy & Humanity will emphasize civic engagement in both a global and a local context. These exciting new initiatives include:

Fagan Forhan, director of Experiential Learning Opportunities and Civic Engagement, will work with faculty and staff to begin to integrate the "7 Revolutions" into curriculum of First Year Experience and introductory courses, allowing students a substantive way to view what is being learned in the classroom through the lens of "democracy's students." The program strategically examines seven major issues faced by each country/continent in the world, projected out through the year 2025. Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education Maureen Provost is piloting the first course integration this fall and workshops will be held for faculty interested in integrating this concept into their curriculum.

We have the power of numbers

THE TRIO AND GEAR UP PROGRAMS AT MOUNT WACHUSETT COMMUNITY COLLEGE ASSIST **3,800** LOW-INCOME AND FIRST-GENERATION HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE AND ADULT LEARNERS ANNUALLY IN THEIR PURSUIT OF A POSTSECONDARY DEGREE.

IF YOU ARE A PART OF THE MWCC TRIO EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY CENTER (EOC), STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES (SSS), TALENT SEARCH (TS), UPWARD BOUND MATH/SCIENCE (UBMS) OR GEAR UP PROGRAM, IT IS CRITICAL THAT YOU **STAND UP JOIN THE MOVEMENT AND FIGHT FOR CONTINUED TRIO AND GEAR UP FUNDING.**

To become a part of the TRIO student and alumni movement, please contact Rheanna Martinez at TRIO's national office, the Council for Opportunity in Education: Rheanna.Martinez@coenet.us

TIPS FOR GETTING INTO MWCC'S PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM

by Sabrina Chartrand

As the upcoming school year approaches, students attended a physical therapy informational session at MWCC on Tuesday, July 26, in order to learn about the prerequisites and application process for the program. Aaron Spencer, assistant director of admissions, held the session.

The program requires a prospective applicant to complete MAT126, ENG101, PSY105, BIO203, and a business elective

before applying for the two year program. While taking these classes, students must maintain a C+ or higher in every class. "If a student does not maintain the C+, he or she will have a rather difficult time being accepted," Spencer said at the informational meeting.

Along with the prerequisites, prospective applicants must complete a general application and a program of studies applica-

continued on page 8 >>>

The Center will continue to work with faculty to develop and deliver quality service learning and internships or co-ops. The What's Next Speaker Series also will be reintroduced this academic year, with a focus on disaster preparedness, response and recovery in remembrance of the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Beginning with student orientation and running through the month of September, students will be encouraged to engage in many volunteer opportunities in commemoration of the 9/11 anniversary.

A new Community Service Learning Course, taught by Associate Professor of Psychology and Sociology Julie Capozzi, will be implemented in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club this fall.

In addition, the Future Philanthropist Project will again be provided to students nominated by faculty members as an option for service learning. The Highland Street Foundation of Boston will provide \$10,000 in funding for a second year for our students to disseminate into selected community projects.

The second Decade of Civic Engagement at MWCC is about to begin. I could not be more proud of the achievements made during the past decade and the significant accomplishments that are yet ahead.

THEATRE AT THE MOUNT

continued from page 3

According to Smith, this theater program is one of the only community theater programs in Central Massachusetts. She too agrees with the benefits given to all of the people in the area.

According to Steele, this program is really providing a service for Central Massachusetts. With numerous ambitious futures, the program will still have this effect for many years to come.

STUDENT LIFE CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER

Leadership for Life - a series of eight short presentations on topics that will help you feel more comfortable and be successful at Mount Wachusett Community College. From the first one in September to the last one in December, leadership for life will help you. Workshops are held: Sept. 27; Oct. 18, 21, 25; Nov. 4, 8, 22; Dec. 6 from 12:30 to 1:30 pm. The workshops are held in the Murphy Conference Room (with the exception of Oct. 21 which is held at the Wachusett Village Inn; and Nov. 4 held at Stop & Shop). To pre-register: contact the student life office at 978-630-9133, studentlife@mwcc.mass.edu, or stop by room 151.

Nomination papers to run for a seat on the Student Government Association (SGA) are now available in the Student Life Office, room 151, or on-line. Just log on to iconnect (<https://iconnect.mwcc.edu>) and download nomination papers. Completed nomination papers must be submitted to the student life office by Tues., September 20. SGA elections take place on line on September 27 & 28.

Tues., Sept. 6

Student Photo IDs - being taken in Room 149 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Please bring a license or other form of photo identification. ID cost is \$5. Returning students who already have an ID should stop by the MWCC library on the Gardner Campus or the front office on the Burbank, Devens or Leominster campus to have it validated at no charge for the fall semester.

Wed., Sept. 7

Student Photo IDs - being taken in Room 149 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Please bring a license or other form of photo identification. ID cost is \$5. Returning students who already have an ID should stop by the MWCC library on the Gardner Campus or the front office on the Burbank, Devens or Leominster campus to have it validated at no charge for the fall semester.

Thurs., Sept. 8

9/11 Remembrance - MWCC remembers the victims of 9/11, especially Carrie Progen, a 1995 MWCC alumna and artist with a wide variety of interests. Carrie was tragically lost in the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City. Stop by the tables in the cafeteria hallway to purchase a piece of chocolate cream pie, which was Carrie's favorite dessert, and pick up a 9/11 remembrance ribbon. Proceeds to benefit the Carrie Progen Scholarship. View some of Carrie's artwork on display in the glass cases in the East Wing Gallery. And don't forget to stop by the SGA booth in the café hallway to purchase a raffle ticket for a chance to win a Today's Technology basket or a Sports Fan basket. Raffle proceeds to benefit HOT (Helping Our Troops).

Thurs., Sept. 8

CATS Programming Meeting (Campus Activities Team for Students) - come and join in on the fun of planning and running activities for MWCC students (i.e. Scary Karaoke, Fall Fest) - at 1:00 pm in Room W11. 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. Come join the fun.

Wed., Sept. 6, 7, and 8

Student Photo IDs - being taken in Room 149 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Please bring a license or other form of photo identification. ID cost is \$5. Returning students who already have an ID should stop by the MWCC library on the Gardner Campus or the front office on the Burbank, Devens or Leominster campus to have it validated at no charge for the fall semester.

Sun., Sept. 11

Remember to Remember Memorial - Mount Wachusett Community College, together with members of its Veterans Group, will hold a Remember to Remember Memorial to

honor and reflect on those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. The Memorial is open to the public and will take place at 1:30 p.m. at the flags on the front lawn of the College Campus. Remember to Remember is a silent memorial, except for the reading of names of the victims. Actress Betsy Palmer is the voice reading the Airline and the World Trade Center names; the names of the fire fighters will be read by RFB&D volunteers; actor Jerry Orbach reads the names of the police officers; the Port Authority names will be read by Alan Hicks; and Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff, reads the Pentagon names. The public is invited to participate in the memorial by placing a flower at the base of the flag pole. Flowers will be provided for free.

Mon., Sept. 12

Student Government Association Meeting - 12:30 pm, Room W11. Meeting is open to all.

Film - Co-Exist - Three Showings: 10:30 am, on the Burbank Campus, 3rd Floor; 12:30 pm & 6:00 pm on the Gardner Campus in the North Café. Coexist presents rare, candid testimony so viewers can consider the sources of dehumanization, limitations of forgiveness, complexity of coexistence, impulse toward revenge, and challenges of re-humanization. Through structured viewings of Coexist we facilitate conversations with youth about the genesis and escalation of violence, their beliefs and response to it, their experiences as victims and victimizers, and personal and societal responsibility to protect vulnerable groups from harm. Co-sponsored by: The Diversity Committee, LaChance Library, Human Resources, and Student Life.

Tues., Sept. 13

Film - Co-Exist - Two Showings: 11:30 am on the Leominster Campus in Lab 4; 1:30 pm on the Devens Campus in Room 128. See Sept. 12 showing for film description.

Student Photo IDs - being taken in Room 149 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm or from 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm. Please bring a license or other form of photo identification. ID cost is \$5. Returning students who already have an ID should stop by the MWCC library on the Gardner Campus or the front office on the Burbank, Devens or Leominster campus to have it validated at no charge for the fall semester.

Wed., Sept. 14

Free Personalized Air Brush Trucker Hats, 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm (or while supplies last), Lion's Den Student Center. Sponsored by the student life office and CATS (Campus Activities Team for Students).

Thurs., Sept. 15

Fall Fest Welcome & BBQ, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm, Back Lawn. Featuring Grupo Fantasia in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. Enjoy the free BBQ, big chair photos, glass etching, gel candles, henna tattoos, caricatures, cotton candy, and the student club expo. BBQ and expo begins at 12:30 pm. Open to all MWCC students, faculty and staff. Sponsored by the student life office and CATS (Campus Activities Team for Students).

Events are held on the Gardner Campus unless otherwise noted.

Check out the student life web page at www.mwcc.edu/studentlife/default.html for information on MWCC clubs and organizations, student photo ID dates and times, and much more. Also, check out the on-line MWCC calendar at <http://iconnect.mwcc.edu> for more college events

MWCC'S PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM

continued from page 7

tion. Applications are judged by a point system in which applicants gain points in regards to various aspects of their previous studies. Spencer said this is the fairest way to choose applicants since space is limited.

If a student maintains a higher grade in a class, he or she will receive more points. Similarly, applicants can receive points for receiving a relevant degree before applying for the program. Likewise, if an applicant has taken classes and received credits, the credits will add points to the applicant's total amount of points.

MWCC accepts about 30 applicants for this program per year and the program is rather demanding. Since the workload can prove to be overwhelming, Spencer suggests that prospective applicants talk to academic counselors regarding scheduling and their course loads in order to be successful during the upcoming year.

There will be more information sessions late this summer, early this fall, and early next spring. For more information, contact Margaret Jailliet, director of the Physical Therapy Program.



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Check it out and gain access to the following features:

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