



Academic Affairs Newsletter

October, 2014 – No. 1

Greetings,

It is hard to believe that I have had the privilege of working within the Mercer community for almost two months now, and I appreciate the warm welcome that I have received from all of you. Joining Mercer was a great career choice for me, and I hope that I can contribute more and more to the institution as time goes by. I will strive to be a valuable and hardworking member of the community.

Each day I spend here at Mercer, my appreciation grows for the faculty and staff who genuinely care about student learning. I want to thank you all for your dedication and effort. Every member of the community is working to reach the institution's potential, and though we might not be there yet, I am confident that over the next few years, if not sooner, we will be much closer to that goal. As one strategy to improve our college, I have initiated this Academic Affairs Newsletter starting this semester. This will be published once or twice a semester and will provide an opportunity for the Mercer community to better understand what is occurring within the institution. In order for this newsletter to be high quality and effective, I seek your help. Please submit any highlights that you and your area have achieved to either your deans or me. Please try to be as innovative as possible in your work and share them with other faculty and staff members using this vehicle. If this method of internal communication is effective we will share this newsletter with external Mercer communities including community leaders and donors in coming semesters. If you have any comments or concerns, please feel free to share them as well, and we will work together to alleviate any issues that arise.

As I promised at the Academic Affairs Convocation, I will listen to your suggestions and work alongside you in overcoming obstacles that emerge. Please feel free to contact me via email (change@mccc.edu) or phone (x3330) at any time. I am excited to work with you all in improving this institution and hope that we can all cooperate in helping this organization excel. I sincerely appreciate all your service and dedication. I am proud to be your colleague.

Thank you and I hope you all enjoy the remainder of the fall semester!

Eun-Woo

Eun-Woo Chang
Vice President for Academic Affairs

Welcome, new faculty

Elizabeth Carr, Assistant Professor – Mathematics
Michael Daley, Assistant Professor – Funeral Service Program
Richard Herman, Assistant Professor – Nursing
Lori Kelty, Assistant Professor – Nursing
Michael Prohaska, Instructor – Sociology
Adena Romeo-Ratliff, Assistant Professor – Nursing
Daniel Schermond, Assistant Professor – Sociology
Terry Voldase, Assistant Professor – Information Systems Tech.

American Honors

Gianna Durso-Finley, Assistant Dean, American Honors

American Honors at Mercer has launched! This fall 74 new students and 61 legacy students will be attending honors courses in this program

We started the summer with numerous otherwise honors-eligible students who were not college-ready in Reading, Writing, Math, or some combination. There were about two dozen in each developmental area. Many of these were NJ STARS students.

Through a combination of active advisement, tutoring, coaching, the Khan Academy, and working with AH network faculty throughout the summer, all the students were college-ready and good to start Honors work in Fall 2014!

The Honors Study Space in SC 141 has had a great deal of student use by AH@Mercer in addition to Phi Theta Kappa and other College Honors societies.

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Mercer Institute

Lynn Coopersmith, Dean, Organization Development & Community Programs

Mercer Institute offers numerous career preparation, certification, and credit programs for the New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission. In FY14 we successfully completed three on-site credit courses, 28 certificate programs, and enrolled dozens of students in more than 80 online credit courses. This program has been well-received by both the students and Mercer's instructors.

From our instructor, Emeka Osuagwu:

I have been having a lot of success with the young men at NJTSB. Recently, we just completed our group projects where they had to pretend to be Communication Consultants and help a Doctor and a CEO who were displaying ineffective communication. Doctor Coldheart and CEO Stoneface were losing clients and thus losing money based on poor and ineffective communication. The assignment listed all the communication problems of both men and the students had to use all the tools and strategies they learned and devise a plan with four solutions for each problem. They appointed a leader of their respective groups and met several times in the class to think about and to develop solutions for the communication problems from their readings, notes, class lectures, test review sheets, etc. It was a collaboration of rehabilitated MINDS to help free individuals that were INCARCERATED BY INEFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION. When the students presented, they sounded as if they were wearing business attire, presenting in a conference room.

I was left speechless and proud of replicating myself into thirteen gentlemen that needed desperately for someone to believe in them and to help them to think correctly. Our motto is that RIGHT ALWAYS WINS! I think I have stumbled upon my purpose. These young men have taught me something valuable. They need someone to believe in them, to inspire them, to help them think correctly, and to develop effective communication skills to make a great comeback in their lives as they deal and relate with others.

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Mercer's Peer Tutoring Program

Barbara Hamilton, Professor of English

Mercer's Peer Tutoring Program has received International Tutor Training Program Certification from the College Reading and Learning Association. That means we are certified to train Level I Peer Tutors who successfully complete the training program and have a minimum of 25 actual contact hours tutoring students. This is a Stage 1 certification, which means we have one year to continue the training program before we re-apply for 3 year Stage 2 certification.

The review was totally positive, with no suggestions for improvement. We were praised for the onsite-online training interface, which was easy to follow and reflects “careful thought, a strong assessment of institution-specific student needs, and overall organization and depth.” Here are some other quotations from the report: “The training offers structure, core techniques, and continuous support for the novice and the experienced tutor.” “The framework for tutor recruitment and training is worthy of consideration as a CRLA model program, particularly the user accessibility and the online content interface.”

Grants News

Kay Eaton, Grants Director

Mercer Participates in \$15M TAACCCT Award for NJ

Mercer County Community College is one of 12 colleges participating in a \$15 million job-training grant to a NJ consortium from the federal government (US Department of Education and the US Department of Labor together) to fund a regional healthcare career pathways system. This Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grant is the fourth and final offering of this grant opportunity for community colleges. The federal government has awarded \$450 million in grants to nearly 270 community colleges nationally in this round of funding.

Mercer’s share of the grant, \$732,777 over four years, will support expanded training opportunities for students to enter careers as Certified Nurse Assistants and Phlebotomy Technicians.

This consortium, known as the New Jersey Health Professions Pathways to Regional Excellence Project (NJ-PREP), expects to serve more than 2,000 participants, including veterans and the unemployed.

A kick-off meeting to plan the implementation of this program will take place on October 15. The project lead is Bergen Community College. Dr. Lynn Coopersmith will be attending this meeting for Mercer.

Library News

Pamela Price, Director, Library

Check Out What’s New in the MCCC Library’s Professional Development Collection

The professional development collection has books on issues related to higher education and community colleges. Topics include teaching, student engagement, the learning process and new developments and ideas about serving students in college and the issues related to a wide array of challenges faced by community colleges.

Here are a few suggested titles recently added to the collection for your professional development reading interests. If any pique your interest, call us: x3561, or send an email to: srinathl@mccc.edu and we will send the book to you.

Academically Adrift: Limited Learning on College Campuses (c2010)

by [Richard Arum](#) and [Josipa Roksa](#)

“The time, money, and effort that’s required to educate college students helps explain why the findings are so shocking in a new blockbuster book—*Academically Adrift: Limited Learning on College Campuses*—that argues that many students aren’t learning anything.”(*U.S. News & World Report*)

What Excellent Community Colleges Do: Preparing Students for Success (c2014)

by [Joshua S. Wyner](#)

A pragmatic and holistic new vision of what excellence looks like at community colleges. . . . Given that so much of our country’s future rests—and will increasingly rely—on community colleges, it is critical that we find ways to help them unlock their potential—by Anthony P. Carnevale, research professor and director, the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce

Governance Reconsidered: How Boards, Presidents, Administrators and Faculty Can Help Their Colleges Thrive (c2014)

by [Susan R. Pierce](#)

“Susan Resneck Pierce reminds college presidents, trustees, and faculty members that, despite much handwringing on the topic of academic governance, they actually *can* and in fact must work together in a spirit of mutual respect and shared mission. Her perspective is practical and aspirational, prudent and ambitious, informative and encouraging.”

—**Jo Ellen Parker**, president, Sweet Briar College

Community Colleges and the Access Effect: Why Open Admission Suppresses Achievement (c2014)

by [Juliet Lilledahl Scherer](#) and [Mirra Leigh Anson](#)

'A provocative and productive read in which the authors challenge the traditions and current conventions of open-access colleges, and sow the seeds of discourse and reform.'—**D. Patrick Saxon**, Associate Professor and Director, Developmental Education Administration Doctoral Program, Sam Houston State University

Re-visioning for Community Colleges: Positioning for Innovation (c2012)

by [Debbie Sydow](#) and [Richard Alfred](#)

‘Sydow and Alfred have provided, through this text, a desperately needed field guide for the uneven and shifting landscape surrounding today’s community college. Grounded in thoughtful context, yet providing a view of promising practices, the authors ask fresh questions of the reader, suggesting opportunity, and ideally prompting deliberate action for grappling with the seemingly unending disruptive innovation in higher education’—**Daniel J. Phelan**, president, Jackson Community College



Announcements

**Business & Technology Division
Winston Maddox, Dean**

The first Annual MCCC Culinary Tasting Event will take place on Wednesday, October 15. There are at least 18 restaurants participating, including Agricola, Teresa’s Café, Blue Bottle Café, Jammin’ Crepes and others. In addition, our MCCC Culinary and Pastry Arts groups will add some tasty culinary/pastry contributions. There will be over 25 Silent Auction items including: gift certificates for restaurants, hotels, massages, gift baskets, and gourmet chocolates. Don’t forget to bring your checkbook. Tickets must be purchased in advance through the MCCC Kelsey Theatre ticket portal online <http://www.kelseytheatre.net> or at the Kelsey Theatre box office.

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Distinguished Lecture Series – Fall 2014
Susan Zambrio, Assistant Vice President, Academic Operations

Wednesday, October 22, 2014
12 noon – room CM109
“ON PHOTOGRAPHY AND THE HOLOCAUST”
Jack Tabor

explores the relationship between the photographic image as cultural artifact and the Holocaust as a historical event. He will also discuss Mercer’s upcoming May 2015 Holocaust Study Abroad program to Poland.

Hosted by Craig Coenen

Wednesday, November 5, 2014
12 noon – room CM109
THE RELEVANCE OF THE COURT MANAGEMENT PROFESSION
TO THE THIRD BRANCH

Giuseppe M. Fazari, trial court administrator for Union Vicinage, will present an overview of the court management profession and the role it plays in the judicial system.

Recommended by: Professor Cavit Cooley, Department of Criminal Justice

Tuesday, November 18, 2014
12 noon – room CM109

NO CODE: NAVIGATING
CURATORIAL ETHICS

In her recent retrospective, *Brian Weil: Being in the World*, curator and art historian **Stamatina Gregory** will discuss the politics of representing atrocity, ghosts in the archive, as well as the broader questions of curatorial ethics and curatorial practice in general.

Recommended by: Professor Yevgeniy Fiks, Department of Art

If you would like to have your highlights, stories or concerns published, please send them to Susan Zambrio (zambrios@mccc.edu). We are planning to have the 2nd edition distributed by the end of November.