



Lady Cougars Play Tough at 1st National Tournament

By SallyAnn Garvey Lumumba
Live Wire Assistant Editor

The Lady Cougars journeyed far beyond their usual turf, playing (and soundly beating) teams in the Northeast and headed to Rochester, Minn. They qualified for the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division III National Championship Tournament that ran from March 11-13.

The Lady Cougars have never made it to nationals before and this year they did not disappoint, making it to game four of the championship.

The Cougars' head coach Robert Turner Jr. said the women played exceptionally well during the tournament, and were given the Sportsmanship Award for their performance during games.

"The girls played much harder, much tougher and we shot well from the field," he said.

Before leaving for the tournament the Cougars were congratulated by Gov. M. Jodi Rell after becoming NJCAA Region 21 Division 3 champions. The team was met with a standing ovation at a rally in the lobby of the Lowe building on March 9 before they left for Minnesota.

Rell encouraged the Cougars and said no matter their rank at the tournament the experience would certainly be life changing to each member of the team.



Photo by Rich Carpenter, Staff Photographer

Gov. M. Jodi Rell awards the MCC Lady Cougars with a NJCAA championship plaque prior to their 1st national tournament. In back from left to right, Tyra Brooks, Jazlynn Canino, Ericka Sagay, Kasiana Goodman, Kate Gazdzicki, Erika Murphy, Mikal Mitchell, Amanda Colon, Rebeca VanGuilder, Ellyn Little (face obscured) Samantha Cains.

"We are rooting for you, we are cheering you on," she said in a brief speech. But a championship was not to be.

In the first game against Brookdale Community College of New Jersey, the opponent took control of the game with a 10-0 run early in the first half to beat MCC 89-70 in the first round of the National Junior College Athletic Association Division III National Championship Tournament.

Erika Murphy led Manchester (22-4) with 17 points and 10 rebounds. Shenielle Duncan-Clarke had 16 points while Ericka Sagay

had 11 points and 10 rebounds for the Cougars.

The Cougars roared back with a convincing victory over Westchester (NJ) Community College, also of New Jersey, on the second day, they completed their tournament with a 77-66 victory over Anne Arundel Community College of Maryland in fourth place game to end its 2009-2010 season.

During the Brookdale game, MCC jumped out to a 6-0 lead, but Brookdale roared back with three consecutive three-pointers and a layup to take an 11-8 advantage six minutes into the game. After a pair of lead

changes, Brookdale went on their 10-point run and never looked back.

MCC turned the ball over too many times and Brookdale exchanged them for points while putting together a solid 12 point lead. Callie Tambling (14 points) hit her first of two threes in the waning minutes of the first half, followed by Sagay and Murphy baskets, allowing MCC to limp into halftime down by just seven points, 41-34.

The Cougars picked away in the second half, but Brookdale kept the lead between eight and ten points, then pulled away over the final six minutes.

"In the second half, it seemed like we just ran out of gas," Turner said. "I give the other team credit because they played hard. We could have played much tougher, but kind of got shocked a little bit early."

Despite the tournament outcome, the Lady Cougars have the memory of a good season and the support of their college to remember. During the rally before the tournament, students, staff and faculty were everywhere, even leaning over second floor railings to catch a glimpse of the celebration.

At the rally sophomore Amanda Colon spoke on behalf of the team, and said that the team was thrilled by its victory and excited to head to the next round of competition.

"We will make you proud," she said, and they certainly did.

Hypnotist Mesmerizes Manchester Community College Students

By SallyAnn Garvey Lumumba
Live Wire Assistant Editor

Eight Manchester Community College students got to take part in a unique extra-curricular activity: being hypnotized. There were lots of memorable moments, hula dancing, "Charlie's Angels" moves and lots of fun. The MCC Student Senate has brought numerous unique programs to campus including a certified ghost-hunter earlier this year. The appearance of popular hypnotist Brad Clark was just another of these events.

The show was in the SBM Charitable Auditorium on March 3. There were about 50 people in attendance, some of whom were brought onstage to be part of the show and others who were hypnotized right in the audience. Clark said he came to MCC hoping to find students who were willing and open to being hypnotized and he certainly found them.



See **Hypnotist**, pg 5

From left to right, Jamie Nunes, James Boyle, Nathan Mair, are hula dancing under the influence of the hypnotist.

What's Going on at MCC...

Norwalk Community College Abduction Reason to Pay Attention to Safety

On March 9 a Stamford man was arrested by state police for who they say posed as a cop and abducted a student at Norwalk Community College. The suspect allegedly lured the female student to his SUV around 7 p.m. by asking for directions and drove off campus. The woman was able to escape by jumping out of the moving vehicle.

In response to this incident, the MCC Police Department is reminding everyone about some personal safety tips:

- Be aware of your surroundings. Pay attention to what you're doing, where you are, and who's around you.
- Prepare yourself. Constantly play the "what if" game to think about what you would do in a particular threatening situation. This will help prepare you to respond instinctively when a threat is encountered.
- Be careful when people stop you for directions, assistance, or money. Always reply from a distance and never get too close to a car.
- Never get in a vehicle with a stranger and never provide a ride to a stranger.
- If you think you are being followed, walk quickly to areas where there are people and lights. If a car appears to be following you, turn and walk in the opposite direction or walk on the other side of the street.

If you have any questions or concerns about safety at MCC or in general, contact Susan Gibbens, director of public safety, at 860-512-3682.

MCC Honor Society Members Win Awards at Annual Convention

On March 12-14, Manchester Community College's chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society attended the annual Phi Theta Kappa New England Regional Convention held at the Community College of Southern Maine. They received several awards, including the Distinguished Chapter Officer Award for treasurer Mikhail Markov and the Distinguished Chapter Award for the New England region. MCC triumphed over chapters in the six other New England states to win this honor.

Community Discussion on Transit Needs to be Held at Manchester Community College

After being awarded a \$77,000 research grant from the Federal Transit Administration, Manchester Community College has decided to hold a discussion open to the public regarding transportation planning issues. This event will take place March 30 at noon in the Cheney Dining Room, located on the second floor of the Lowe Building. The focus of this discussion is open for the public to decide. Participation is encouraged and there is no fee to attend. To register for this event, please contact Rebecca M. Townsend at 860-512-2685.

Recently Opened Art Exhibit at MCC to Continue Through April 28

The Hans Weiss Newspace Gallery is showcasing the work of Belarus native and New York City artist Pasha Radetzki. The exhibition includes

sculpture, video and performances. Since 1999 he's been developing the notion of *trans-space* - a general, unconventional theoretical base, in an attempt to define the aesthetics of spatial transcendence. Radetzki's exhibits are well known throughout the world, including Beijing, Taiwan, Moscow and Frankfurt. For more information on the artist please visit <http://web.mac.com/pashara.net/index.html>.

MCC Teacher and Author Steven Torres Presents Latest Novel

Steven Torres, an English professor at Manchester Community College, will be reading and signing "Blackout in Precinct Puerto Rico" April 15 at 6 p.m. in the Library Fireside Commons. The book is his latest novel in the Louis Gonzalo mystery series. The event is free and open to the general public. Refreshments will be served. For more information contact Paula Cook at 860-512-2877.

A Taste of Poetry Comes to MCC

Rhode Island's Poet Laureate Lisa Starr will give a poetry reading in the Library Fireside Commons April 14 at 7:30 p.m. She is the author of three poetry books, including her most recent collection of poems, "Mad With Yellow," which was published in September 2008. Starr is also the founder and director of the Block Island Poetry Project, a celebration of the arts and humanity. The event is free and open to the public. For more information,

Correction: In the Feb. 22, 2010, issue of the Live Wire the names of the members of the Alumni and Faculty and Staff basketball teams, who played against each other in a charity basketball game Feb. 13, 2010, were incorrect. Below are the corrections.



Alumni from left to right in back, Christopher Harris, Robert Turner Jr., Candice Manson, Debbie Anderson, Laresha Hogan, Katie McClellan, Marc Mojica and Bernate Bryant. Front, Yomary Dejesus, Amy Griswold, Amanda Morrales, and Tina Pagano.



Faculty and Staff in back, Delano Paul, Joe Navarra, Jack McClainey, Juan Cains
Middle row: Steve Moore, Sandra Rimetz, President Gena Glickman, Theresa Janeczek
Front row: Martin Hart, Duncan Harris, Cynthia Washburne, Andrew Paterna, Peter Harris, (unidentified child).

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MCC Alum Matthew Dicks Proves Hardships Can Lead to Success

By Janet Cyr
Special to the Live Wire

Matthew Dicks got his wish. "I always wanted to be a teacher and a writer," Dicks said with a smile. Today, to the delight of his students, Dicks teaches fifth grade at Henry A. Wolcott School in West Hartford. He is well known for educating his students to memorize lines of Shakespeare for spring performances. In 2005, he was awarded West Hartford's Teacher of the Year and was finalist for Connecticut's Teacher of the Year.

Last November, fans of all ages gathered at West Hartford's Barnes & Noble book store where Dicks hosted a book-signing event for his first novel "Something Missing."

Barnes & Noble associate Lauren Demers said the store received "Something Missing" three months ago. Soon after displaying [the book], the store became swamped with student after student saying, "Oh my God. That's my teacher!" Demers said.

"Something Missing" is about Martin Railsback, a socially awkward, obsessive-compulsive thief from West Hartford. Martin steals things from Hartford area residents that they won't notice missing like salad dressing, bread, a few sticks of butter—and the occasional diamond. The *New York Times* called Martin an "endearing and oddball hero," in its review of the book.

The idea for the novel occurred in 2004, Dicks said, while he was having dinner with Wolcott School colleague Justine Wolgemuth. During dinner, Wolgemuth said one of her earrings was missing.

Dicks replied, "Maybe someone stole one earring and left the other so they would not be noticed." Hence, Martin the master thief was born.

But the road to success wasn't easy for the now 38-year-old Dicks, who grew up in what he calls a dysfunctional family in Blackstone, Mass. Back then, his less-than-perfect childhood was the driving force that sparked his love for education. Because of his unfortunate home situation, Dicks lived for school—he couldn't get enough.

"Since there were no children's books around the house, I would read everything and anything," Dicks said. "Including Shakespeare and encyclopedias."

Unlike most kids at an early age, Dicks developed a fondness for Shakespeare. He loved education so much when he came home from school he taught his siblings—much to their dismay.

During his lifetime, Dicks has cheated death three times. "Sorry, no white light," he joked.

At age 10, Dicks survived an almost-deadly bee sting. "The next time I almost died, I was 17," Dicks said describing how he survived a head-on automobile accident two days before Christmas.

Again, at 22, Dicks narrowly escaped death for the third time when the McDonald's he was managing in Brockton, Mass. was held up at gunpoint by three violent criminals. As Dicks' coworkers lay on the floor, one robber held a gun to Dicks' head and demanded that he open the safe.



West Hartford teacher Matthew Dicks is working on his third novel.

Photo courtesy of Janet Cyr

The gunman pulled the trigger three times—the gun wasn't loaded.

Suffering from post-traumatic stress syndrome after the burglary, Dicks visited a therapist for many years. Today, he's cured—no more nightmares or the clicking sound of the gun firing in his head. Traumatized by the third near-death encounter, Dicks relocated to Connecticut where he worked at a bank for a short time before enrolling at Manchester Community College.

At Manchester Community College Dicks excelled. He joined the Student Advisory Committee where he met regularly with then President Jonathan M. Daube.

"I have gone to three other colleges since MCC and still consider it to be the best institution I have attended," said Dicks.

While at MCC he also had the opportunity to accompany former Dean of Student Affairs, Alfred Carter, on a leadership retreat in Washington D.C. By the time Dicks graduated in 1996, he had been president of Phi Theta Kappa honor society for two years, elected treasurer of the student council and wrote for the student newspaper, the *LiveWire*.

In "Something Missing," Dicks acknowledges two MCC professors who inspired him along the way, Patrick Sullivan and Jackie Dailey, who convinced him that he had something to say.

A few years ago, Dicks spoke at MCC's convocation about Carter, Dailey, and Sullivan.

After graduating MCC, Dicks continued his education at Trinity College in Hartford earning a bachelor's degree in English in 1999. In addition to classes at Trinity, he attended teaching classes at Saint Joseph College in West Hartford where he earned his teaching certificate. Since then, Dicks has graduated from American Intercontinental University with a master's degree in Educational Technology.

Along with teaching and writing, Dicks co-owns a disc

jockey company, Jam Packed DJ's, which performs for weddings throughout the year. He lives in Newington with his wife, Elysha, their ten-month old daughter, Clara, and their pets.

Not surprisingly, Dicks lives everyday like it could be his last. He

still keeps a detailed escape plan in his house in the event of a crime, which was updated when Clara was born.

In July, Dicks' second novel "Unexpectedly Milo" hits the book shelves.

Currently, Dicks is writing his third novel.



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*December 2009 survey by Payscale.com

Meet A Professor:

Deborah Simmons: Music

By Sara M. Berry
Live Wire Editor

Where are you from?

Greensboro, North Carolina.

What was it like there?

I was the youngest of four children. We lived near woods and we spent a lot of time outside. It was different then, we could go out all day and my parents knew we would be okay. It was towards the end of segregation in the South, but my mother and father tried to keep us from experiencing it.

Where did you go to school? What did you study?

I attended Winston-Salem State University in North Carolina for my bachelor's in instrumental music. It was a historically black college. There was a time in history when black students couldn't go to white schools.

The faculty was very diverse. The student body became more integrated as I was leaving. I went to graduate school at Teachers College Columbia University in New York, where I received my master's in music therapy with a background in special education. For five years I worked as a music therapist with geriatric and young adult psychiatric patients. I continued my education at Columbia, receiving a master's of education in music and a doctorate of education in music education, adult learning and guitar instruction.

What brought you to Connecticut?

A teaching job. My graduate school advisor told me that Columbia would not give me a doctorate unless I had classroom teaching experience.

How did you end up at MCC?

I had just received my doctorate. I had also developed asthma in the school that I was teaching at in Hartford. And, I felt it was time to move on. I had been told of a music position here at MCC. I applied for it and started teaching in 1995.

Why did you decide to teach?

Well, my mom and aunts were teachers, and my godparents were college professors. My mom taught night English classes at the local college. I was 5 years of age. She would often take me with her to the college during the day to prepare for her class. I would amuse myself by drawing farm scenes on the bulletin board of an empty classroom.

And, there were not a lot of other career opportunities for black women growing up in the South. I knew I was going to teach, but I wasn't sure if it was going to be music or visual arts.

What do you like best about it?

One great thing about teaching at MCC is when former students who still remember a particular piece of music or something that they learned in the class approach me. You've given them something that they haven't forgotten. Graduation is the best part; you can see how students have grown and you know of their struggles to get there.

What's the biggest challenge?

Remaining open and continuing to learn. Helping create a really good program and making it accessible and open to everyone who wants to be part of it.

What accomplishment are you most proud of?

Where the music program here has gone. There are more students than ever before and it's always growing.

What do you do in your free time?

I spend a lot of time with friends. I like painting and visual arts, riding my motorcycle, going to the gym, going to concerts and performances, visiting new places. I perform in a band, and I used to direct a church choir. I just spent three years researching, writing and illustrating a children's book on diabetes. I like the idea of using the arts as a teaching tool for other subjects.

What are your favorite music/movies/books?

I've been reading "The Brethren: Inside the Supreme Court," by Bob Woodward and Scott Armstrong. I read a lot to reinforce what I'm teaching. Right now I'm reading about the opera *Aida*, which the concert choir is performing parts of in this semester's class. I listen to all sorts of music, from classical to contemporary. I've been listening to a lot of clarinet performances, and I listen to things that help me prepare for what I have to play.

Any pets?

Three cats, all of which were adopted. One was born under my bandmate's garage; the others came from the Humane Society. One of them, Cagney, is 18 years old. The others are named Sammy and Boo.

If you won a million dollars, what would you do with it?

Before or after taxes?

After.

In 1 lump sum, or over time?

Lump sum.

Pay off my student loans and mortgage, put an addition on my house, travel, and help out my family and friends.

Meet A Professor was created to help Manchester Community College students better know their faculty. If you have comments or questions regarding this interview or would like to submit a question to be answered in a future interview send an email to the Live Wire, livewire@mcc.commnet.edu.



Photo courtesy of Deborah Simmons

If you have a Professor that you want to know more about write to us at livewire@mcc.com-net.edu, or visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pages/Manchester-CT/The-Livewire/341206773837



What's a Grit? MCC Students Find Out During The Big Read's Southern Luncheon

By Andrew Zebrowski
Special to the Live Wire

Manchester Community College hosted "Tom Sawyer and Foods of the South" earlier this month in the Cheney Dining Room. The free luncheon was part of the college's participation in The Big Read, a national initiative focusing this year on Mark Twain's classic novel "Tom Sawyer."

Paula Cook, a reference and instructional librarian at MCC, organized the event, which 42 students and teachers attended, she said. The Big Read is sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts to support reading across the country. Since its national launch in 2007, schools, groups and individuals have gotten together to celebrate and discuss classic books by different writers.

Jason Scappaticci, who is a Student Retention Specialist at MCC and also works as a tour guide at the Mark Twain House in Hartford part time, gave a presentation on Twain during the luncheon. It was very funny.

From a book Twain wrote about his travels, *A Tramp Around*, Scappaticci discussed Twain's many likes and dislikes when it came to food.

He liked baked apples with cream, fried oysters, stewed oysters, frogs, hot biscuits and other southern-style foods. The only thing that he disliked on his travels was the coffee in Europe.

MCC's luncheon, which was catered by students in the Culinary Arts program, featured pan fried catfish, grits soufflé, mustard greens, cornbread and chess pie.

Andrew King, president of the Student Senate, said he enjoyed the event.

"I went to the luncheon because I like to read and discuss literature," he said. "I read the books when I was younger and enjoyed them. I thought the speech was funny and enjoyed the luncheon and the food was really good."

Robert Kagan, a professor and chairman of the Communications and Humanities department at MCC, said he "likes the idea of the Big Read. I thought the food was excellent and I liked the southern flavors."

Continued from **Hypnotist**, pg 1

After figuring out who was susceptible to hypnotism, Clark gave each student a unique suggestion that they then acted out when they heard a signal. One student temporarily lost all memory of her first name, another forgot the number three, and when combined they made for a hilarious show for the audience.

"I can do the same skit but

will get a new response depending on the people on stage," Clark said. Every show he has done has been unique.

The show was certainly something participants won't forget and that their friends who witnessed their transformation won't soon let many of them live down. For more information on Clark, check out his website: www.hypnotistunleashed.com.



Brad Clark (standing) places students left to right, Monika Skubisz, Nicholas Higgins, and Rachel Lima into a trance-like state.

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Photo by Rich Carpenter,
Staff Photographer

By Sara M. Berry
Live Wire Editor

One of the biggest challenges of going to college isn't the homework or going to class; it's picking a major.

From the time we are small children, we are asked what we want to do when we grow up. When we are in high school, our guidance counselors want us to decide what we want to do before we even apply to colleges. College applications ask what your major is going to be. When you get to college, you meet with an advisor in the field of study that you wrote down on your application, and they help you choose classes that will help you meet the requirements of that major.

But what if, like so many people, you

“Major” Decisions Never Come Easy

don't know what you want to do? Or, God forbid, you've picked a major, but you don't like it as much as you thought you would?

I was one of those students who knew as a high school freshman what she wanted to do with her life: I was going to teach history. Or, so I thought. When I started looking into colleges, I only looked into those that had the one major I thought I wanted. I applied to one school and got accepted, and took all the classes that would fulfill the requirements for my major. But halfway through my junior year, I realized I no longer wanted to do what I thought I did!

That was the easy part. The hard part came next: figuring out what I really *did* want to do.

As I went through the motions of finishing my bachelor's degree in history, I tried to figure that out. I had decided at some point that since I had four years of pharmacy experience, and pharmacy is a growing field that pays well, I would go to pharmacy school. But I had been a history major. I took one math class and one science class in my entire four years of college. Going right into a pharmacy program was not an option.

So, I came to MCC, planning on taking the prerequisites for pharmacy school. Unfortunately, my right-brained history major/writer self did not do well with things like calculus, chemistry, or anatomy. There was no way I would be able to survive six years of math and science. So I was back at square one.

That is when I discovered the beauty of community college.

You can take classes in essentially anything you want, for much less money than at a four-year school, and actually have a degree in the end! Community college has majors like General Studies or Liberal Arts, where you can explore all kinds of different subjects

and have them actually count for something.

After I gave up the idea of going to pharmacy school, I sat down with the MCC course catalog and took whatever classes had an interesting-sounding description. I dabbled in areas like literature, psychology, criminal justice, business, and music. Eventually, I found myself drawn into an Intro. to Human Services class and that is what helped me make a decision. I would get my associate's degree in Human Services and transfer to a four-year school for a bachelor's in Social Work and Psychology.

When I graduate in May, I will have been at MCC for six years. While most of my high school classmates have long since been done with college and gotten into their careers, I've just finally figured out what mine would be. But spending six years here has been worth it. When I do finally start my career, I will be doing something I enjoy.

Many people have asked me why I keep going to school, why I don't just go to work. My answer: Because I don't want to be doing something I hate for the rest of my working life. I've now spent 10 years working retail, and while it has its good points and I've learned a lot, I realize and appreciate the fact that it's not what I want to do for years to come.

I have also realized that at 16 years old, most of us don't really know what we want to do years down the road. Many of my classmates who decided early what they were going to school for and got jobs in that field are no longer happy with their choice.

So, my advice to anyone that doesn't know what they want to do, or who isn't sure that they are happy with the major they chose is to explore. You are lucky enough to be at a place where there are all sorts of offerings, and you should take advantage of them. You might find a new hobby, or even a career that you never thought of.

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Avoid the Sun and Practice Health-Safe Tanning

By Sara M. Berry
Live Wire Editor

Spring is coming, and bathing suits are out in stores, which means that soon many of us pale people will be searching for a tan. We all know that excessive sun exposure can lead to skin cancer, so how are we supposed to get that summer look without setting ourselves up for problems later on?

If you must go and lay out in the sun to get your tan, make sure you use sunscreen. Apply it prior to going out into the sun, and be sure to re-apply frequently. If you are going to be swimming, use a waterproof formula. It is best not to go out and tan between noon and 3 p.m. That is when the sun is most intense, and it is easiest at this time to get burned and not notice until it is too late.

If you want a tan but want to do it in a slightly safer way, go to a tanning salon. This is obviously more expensive than laying out in the backyard, but takes much less time. Tanning beds provide intense UV rays for a short period of time. You should stay in a tanning bed more than 10 to 15 minutes at a time. When you go to a tanning salon, the staff there can help you figure out how much tanning is safe for your skin type.

Also, you should not go tan-

ning more than once in 24 hours. If you do go tanning indoors, be sure to wear sunscreen when you go out in the sun, because you can still burn. It is important to realize that while indoor tanning in a tanning bed is slightly safer than lying in the sun for hours on end, it still provides UV rays that can be harmful.

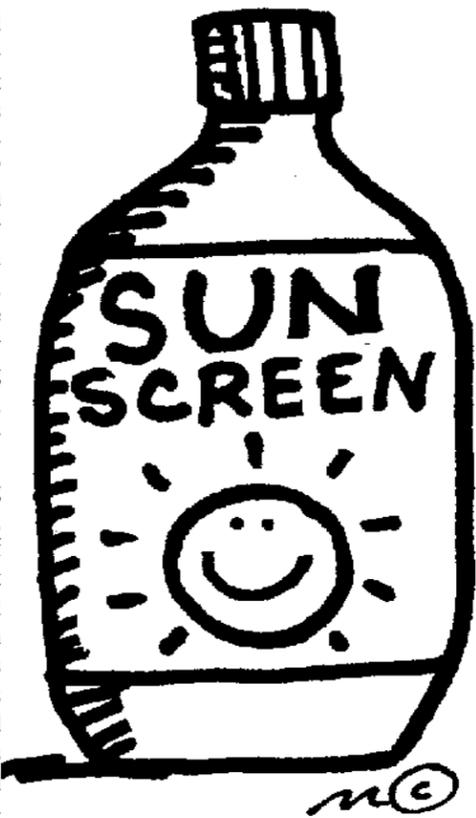
The safest way to get a tan is to

use sunless tanning products like lotions, sprays and creams. These products allow you to get a tan without exposure to harmful UV rays, real or artificial. Sunless tanning products work by coloring the outer layer of skin. The active ingredient in these products, dihydroxyacetone (DHA), reacts with the dead skin cells on the surface. The color stays until the dead skin cells are shed, which generally happens every few days. You can usually see results in an hour or so. Sunless tanning products usually do not have sun-

screen, so if you are going to be spending time outside, you still need to apply one.

Whatever tanning method you choose, make sure to be careful and follow safety precautions. You may have to be patient in order to get your tan, but the extra time now is well worth preventing health problems later.

For more information about safe tanning and the risks of sun exposure, visit www.mayoclinic.com, www.buzzle.com, or www.mastertanning.com.



Did You Know...?

There is evidence that the right combination of herbs or everyday food, can cure various types of cancer in patients, but those treatments are not allowed to be practiced in the U.S.? There is a material that can protect the polar ice caps from melting. Research shows that the drugs and hormones injected into the animals in factory farms may lead to various health problems in humans ranging from cancer to infertility. That together we can make the price of organic food cheaper than non-organic? Did you know that "microwave safe" means it prevents the container from melting, not that it prevents traces of plastic from being leached into your food? And scientific trials have shown planting trees on top of landfills can reduce the emission of greenhouse gases that are harmful to our environment.

To learn more, teach others and advocate for healthier alternatives for humans, animals and the environment, contact Kellie Gilbert at kgilbert.mcc@gmail.com. We need more students to officially form a club addressing these issues.

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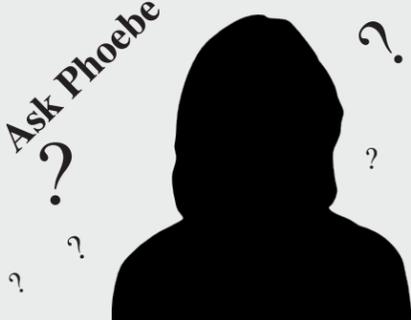
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Ask Phoebe



Dear Phoebe,

This is my first year at MCC, but I don't know anybody here. How can I put myself out there and make friends?

Every student goes through this same exact thing when starting college. In high school, we get so accustomed to seeing our friends every day at lunchtime and in study hall that we get to college, we all feel like a one man wolf pack. However, there are several ways to make friends on campus.

The first is to find someone with a common interest. This could be by joining a club, through class discussion, or even seeing someone in the hallway wearing a t-shirt of a band that you like. All you have to do is say to them "Hey, nice shirt!" and it could lead to a conversation and the next person that you go to a concert with for that very band. Don't be afraid to approach people. Everyone is in the same boat that you are and I guarantee that they are all looking for friends as well.

Another idea is to have a friend from high school that also goes to MCC introduce you to a friend that they have already made. That way, the three of you can be friends and hang out at MCC and outside of school as well.

You can also strike up a conversation with someone that a professor may pair you up with for a group project. Many students have made friends that way. The longer you are at MCC, the more friends you will end up making. You don't have to befriend everyone, but the best thing you can do is make genuine friends. Take what you know now and use it to your advantage.

Dear Phoebe,

My girlfriend and I just can't agree on music in the car. I want to listen to one radio station, yet she wants to listen to another! How do we compromise?

It appears as though you and your girlfriend don't have the same tastes in music. The radio is definitely not your best bet here. It is certainly a good idea to compromise rather than listening to just one person's favorite radio station for the entire ride.

What you could do is burn a CD with music that the both of you like. It would be much more enjoyable to listen to a CD full of music that you can both agree on rather than playing tug of war with the radio dial.

Another option is to hook up your mp3 player to the car and surprise each other with song selections that you can both enjoy. You could even surprise her with a new song that she has never heard before that she could end up loving. Here's a fun idea: you could make up your own radio station in the car. Pretend to be a radio DJ in between songs, letting the listener (your girlfriend) know what song is coming up next.

However, you both should be open to new music. There could be those times where you feel generous and want to let her listen to her favorite songs, and who knows, she may do the same thing for you. Keep in mind however, that there are times where you may just want to chat in the car and turn the music off. That's okay too. Don't forget, when on scenic trips, you can check out the view and you won't even be focusing on what music you are listening to. Music is great to listen to in the car, but it shouldn't lead to arguments.

To ask Phoebe a question, send an e-mail at askphoebemcc@aol.com.

Alice in Wonderland is Straight Through the Looking Glass



Courtesy of Google Images

By SallyAnn Garvey Lumumba
Live Wire Assistant Editor

In Tim Burton's re-imagining of *Alice in Wonderland*, we meet a 19-year-old Alice Liddell who finds social constraints tedious. The very Jane Eyre-esque opening scene sets a witty lighthearted tone, while re-enforcing the uniqueness of Alice. The film is faithful enough to Lewis Carroll's original that most fans of the books "Alice in Wonderland" and "Through the Looking Glass" will find much on the screen to be as they have always imagined.

Fans of Burton's directing will find the sly jokes and levity just to their liking. The film is exceptional in IMAX 3-D, and certainly adds something new to Burton's repertoire. His talent lies in the details that make Alice seem like his own creation. The film manages to appeal to little ones and grown-ups alike. I headed to New York City to Lincoln Square to the biggest theater that I have ever encountered; every show was sold out except the 10:40 p.m., which gave me a chance to explore New York with no talking caterpillars or Mad Hatters to be found. The film was spectacular on the giant screen and proved that Carroll's tale is as timeless as ever.

The film's few rough patches were few

and far between. The big-name cast managed for the most part to avoid anything they had attempted before. Instead of hurting the film by being too well-known to fit into character, the lead actors came across all the more entertaining to those who have seen them a few times before. Thankfully though, Burton cast the unknown Mia Wasikowska as Alice, and her anonymity was an asset. Her performance remained at the forefront even when surrounded by her renowned cast mates.

Alice's ensemble cast included Alan Rickman (*Harry Potter's* Severus Snape) as the Caterpillar and, my favorite, Stephen Fry as the Cheshire Cat, who made the film all the more memorable. Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter, as the Mad Hatter and Red Queen respectively, brought their usual crazed bravado to the film, and their performances overshot my expectations. Depp has a sizable role in the film as companion and protector of Alice. Crispin Glover has become so adept at portraying creepy thin guys (*Charlie's Angels*, and perhaps as The Riddler in the next *Batman* film) he barely needed a costume to portray the Knave of Hearts.

If you happen to see a white rabbit heading toward your local theater, don't hesitate to follow him down the rabbit hole.

RISING FROM THE ASHES



Photo by Rich Carpenter

The landscape of Arizona is flat and arid compared to Connecticut in February.

Six members of the Live Wire staff traveled to Phoenix, Feb. 24 through 26 for the 26th Annual Associated Collegiate Press National Journalism Convention. The convention featured three days of workshops on a range of journalism topics from the influence of social media on story to the influence of technology on changing journalism in the 21st century.



The delegation from MCC in Phoenix. From left: M. Berry, Susan Garvey, Sara M. Berry, Rich Carpenter, Dan Dobby.

Susan Garvey
Live Wire Staff Writer

When *The Live Wire* staff hit Phoenix last month to attend the 26th Annual Associated Collegiate Press National Journalism Convention, it was obvious to everyone that we were from out of town. One man who saw us dressed in tee shirts and flip flops shook his head; he remarked that in Phoenix everyone reached for a jacket as soon as the temperature hit 72 degrees.

Downtown was noticeably deserted except for those of us attending conventions and in fact, Arizona State University's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism was sponsoring a total of four conventions that weekend. We soon found out that Arizona is one of the states, along with Michigan and Florida, hardest hit by economic hard times so Phoenix was glad to receive out of state

visitors. Over 50,000 homes are currently in foreclosure and two thirds of the state parks will soon be closed for financial reasons.

Rob Curley who is the editor of the new media division at the *Las Vegas Sun*, began his keynote speech by asking the audience to raise their hands if they had already heard about the earthquake that had devastated Chile a few hours earlier. Most of the audience had heard via alerts to their cell phones or other electronic media sources while attending the convention.

Curley stressed that in order to survive, print media sources such as the *Sun* had to realize that the days when the early morning edition broke a new story are long gone. Instead of trying to compete with the headline news sources, the *Sun* has survived by doing

in-depth analysis of the stories that people first hear about from CNN or from a message on their cell phone. Their daily edition now resembles what once was considered a Sunday format and caters to people like me who love to savor all the details on the traditional printed page.

Other sessions of the conference included investigative reporters such as John Dickerson who had done an expose on the Arizona's lack of control over doctors who are substance abusers for the *Phoenix News Times* and *The Arizona Republic's* Robert Angleri who did an expose on the danger of death by heart attack for people who are stunned. These enterprising reporters gave those of us considering a career in journalism the strategy for survival in a time of media change.

By Sara M. Berry
Live Wire Editor

A Phoenix is a mythical symbol for change. A four day journalism conference in the city of the same name provided *The Live Wire* staff with plenty of opportunity for change, the change that comes from learning.

I learned a lot in Phoenix, both about journalism and otherwise. Of course, I went to the workshops and got lots of ideas for paper and how to improve my stories. But I also learned a lot through meeting new people and seeing new places.

I spent more time with my staff members in the four days that we were away than I ever have in the past. By spending more time together, we got to know each other better and knowing each other better has helped us become a more unified team, working toward one shared goal.

While we were at the convention, I had a chance to see our paper in a different light, through the eyes of a critic. I saw lots of things that we do right, and I saw lots of things that we can improve on. When we came back, I began to come up with practical ways to



Photo by Rich Carpenter

Downtown Phoenix features buses and a light rail train system, as seen from the convention hotel on the right.

AN INDUSTRY IN FLUX

The Live Wire staff traveled to Phoenix on Feb. 28 to attend the Press National College Staff members went to and speakers addressing topics from the basics of a new technology on the industry.



Included, left to right, Sara, AllyAnn Garvey Lumumba, and Alex Obert.

those changes work for us.

I got a chance to meet different people, from different places. I discovered that college newspapers come in all shapes and sizes, and like colleges themselves, they were daily papers, weeklies, and monthly papers. Some were papers represented by staffs of over 30 people, while others were staffs of nine, like mine. I talked to many editors, all with the same concerns and as mine, some with drastically different situations than mine, but all with ideas to share.

While in Phoenix, some of us took a trip to the nearby Heard Museum of Native American History. At the museum, I got to see representations of numerous Native American tribes. I was intrigued by many of the artifacts there, including the intricate designs of the woven and beaded baskets, and the wall of ceremonial dolls. It was interesting to see not only the differences between New England and the Southwest, but also the differences between present day and the past. Illustrating again how change is inevitable.

By Dan Dobbyn
Live Wire Sports Writer

Phoenix is a different place. Desert cacti and palm trees replace the green grass and oak trees we are accustomed to in the Northeast. The locals put on coats in 60-degree weather because it's colder than what they're used to, and there's a more apparent influence of the Native-American history. It is an almost drastic change in scenery.

Just as the change in scenery, we find change in media today. The printed press is learning to complement the Internet instead of compete with it. Webmasters are being taught how to stream live news to the net with a laptop webcam and a 3G card. Journalists are learning to profile people and make it relevant to the reader. The shrinking newsrooms of the country are learning to become more efficient.

I've learned that adaptation and creativity are always a necessity in writing and delivering effective news. You must be able to give a concise message with an objective point, and always be willing to view the news from outside the box.



Photo by Rich Carpenter

Stephen Benson, winner of the 1993 Pulitzer Prize, is an editorial cartoonist for *The Arizona Republic*. Benson spoke on effective and ineffective uses of media and humor.

By Alex Obert
Live Wire Staff Writer

I must say, I had a great opinion of journalism before the convention and now I have an even greater opinion of journalism afterward.

I learned that there is a lot of time and hard work that goes into putting a newspaper together, whether it be a local paper or a campus paper such as *The Live Wire*. Every single speaker that I listened to had a great mind

and inspired me to want to become a better writer. One of the most memorable moments was when a copy of *The Live Wire* was submitted for a critique. I learned a lot there about what we could do to make an even better paper. I also learned that we have a great looking paper as it is, with even greater content.

Throughout the seminars, I learned about various ways to inform students of the paper as well as events happening on campus. Those ways

include blogging, podcasts, and even putting together video packages. I was glad to see that there are many other campus newspapers displayed at the convention because a campus newspaper is a tremendous way to get your voice out there to fellow students and faculty.

I joined *The Live Wire* because I love to write and I love to get my thoughts out there in the form of an

article. The convention motivated me to keep doing what I love to do. People feel as though the Internet is taking over everything including television, radio, and of course, newspapers. To me, it feels much more genuine to read an article in the newspaper rather than on the internet. The campus newspaper industry is still going strong to this day and I am honored to be a part of it.



Photo by Rich Carpenter

A Volkswagen bus stopped along the side of the road with the Arizona landscape in the back.

More from our Trip to Arizona!

By SallyAnn Garvey Lumumba
Live Wire Assistant Editor

It's hard to deny that journalism is changing; the archetype of print media has been losing strength for years. The Associated Collegiate Press conference was filled with equal portions of pessimism and optimism.

After lectures and seminars, I came to the conclusion that in the end the fate of journalism is up to the reader. If people decide they don't want newspapers they will be gone; it's just one of the tenets of society: supply and demand.

Working on *The Live Wire* isn't the same in 2010 as it was when the paper was first published on October 6, 1975. We've modernized and changed, and so have other college and professional papers. *The Live Wire* and the print industry are going to have to continue to change and adapt. But, the essence of journalism shouldn't make a radical switch.

Newspapers aren't the most forward thinking of all media; we haven't changed too much since our early days. But being in Phoenix, I became only more certain that the print media's "old-timer" status isn't a drawback but something to be embraced. At the conference I encountered many people that were unsure of the future, and

jumped to Twitter and Facebook to "save" them, throwing content haphazardly online and hoping it would help.

Journalism isn't a popularity contest, and making an app or a blog or following the next online trend isn't going to lessen the plight of the newspaper industry. The fundamentals of journalism are sound; we just need to realize things have changed.

If you pick up a newspaper like *The Hartford Courant* and look at the front page, most likely you've already heard about the top stories from a teacher, on TV, or online. Newspapers are less likely to be the first to report a story but we can still find our place by being the best.

Instead of obsessing that this "age of technology" will choke us out, journalists instead need to hone our craft, with fresh designs and some modern components. There's nothing wrong with a facebook page (by the way *The Live Wire* has one now) or web content, we just need to realize that first and foremost it's the print that matters.

So sure, the industry is changing and newspapers have been around the block a few times. As long as you want us around, I think we'll be here.

By Rich Carpenter
Live Wire Staff Photographer

Hope and inspiration. Both of these drove us, the staff of *The Live Wire*, to the grand ballroom of the Wyndham Phoenix hotel. The room was packed full. The crowd around us, made up of young student journalists from across the country, was indeed something to see. They buzzed with excitement about the upcoming speaker, who promised to reveal the "secret" for newspapers to stay relevant. But their buzz was tempered by something else: a palpable fear for their future.

It is in fact our future as well, since as we all strive to be effective communicators and journalists, our window of opportunity is closing. Perhaps closing is the wrong word, though it aptly describes the situation in some metropolitan news agencies. Evolution, this fits more comfortably. It is this evolution in the field that brings with it a high level of uncertainty. Uncertainty rules the day on our constantly evolving, ever-changing landscape. One could argue that though the tools themselves change, the story; rather the "art" of telling the story is what counts. Yet one thing is certain, the days of being comfortably static, or even complacent are gone.

As Saturday's keynote speaker took the

stage, the buzzing increased.

"This speech should be called I don't know," Rob Curley, editor of the new-media division of the *Las Vegas Sun*, said. This tidbit of information really set the tone of the weekend. Here was a long time veteran of multiple news industries giving his version of the cold hard truth. Curley was alluding to the rest of his speech, regarding the vast insecurity threatening so many journalists today. His tone rang true and was balanced by so many of the other fine instructors throughout our days at the National College Journalism Convention.

As the lectures passed, I was lucky enough to attend many. One of the most compelling was Video and multimedia storytelling facets by Michael Roberts, the Deputy Managing editor of *The Arizona Republic*. The focus on tools was high, but Collins said it the best, "Don't become a slave to your tools." In essence we all desire the latest and greatest, while learning exactly what every button, every toolbar does. Falling prey to this trap is what causes us as communicators to become static, and static in this day and age is tantamount to a death sentence.

Curley's response to the above issue of complacency was to vehemently declare that "[We're] doing a lot of things but sitting on our keister is not one of them". He went on to say

that although the landscape is changing, and readership for hardcopy is in decline, the *Las Vegas Sun* is aggressively charging towards the solidification of old school "art" and delivery. The mixing of good storytelling with the means to broadcast the story to the largest audience possible today and into tomorrow is key.

It has been said that story trumps tech, yet the case he presents is that of a cooperative union. Only through a constant and dynamically evolving news system will we survive as communicators. This was the "secret" advertised in the title of Curley's speech. The expectant masses teeming with nervous excitement swallowed every word, and hung on every syllable.

Our trip to Phoenix has brought new life to the entire staff and should be called a great success. Though filled with new inspiration, it is but one of the tools needed to sustain us for the coming road ahead. While constantly evolving and reinventing itself, the journalistic world is in a state of flux as never before. Difficult times lie ahead. However, armed with inspiration, new skills, and no small amount of hope, gleaned from the convention, we shall continue to adapt and thrive as this new and uncertain world becomes ours.

A Z



Live Wire staff, left to right, Alex Obert, Dan Dobbyn, SallyAnn Garvey Lumumba, and Advisor Stephania Davis, purchase light rail tickets for a self-guided tour through Phoenix.

Photo by Sara M. Berry

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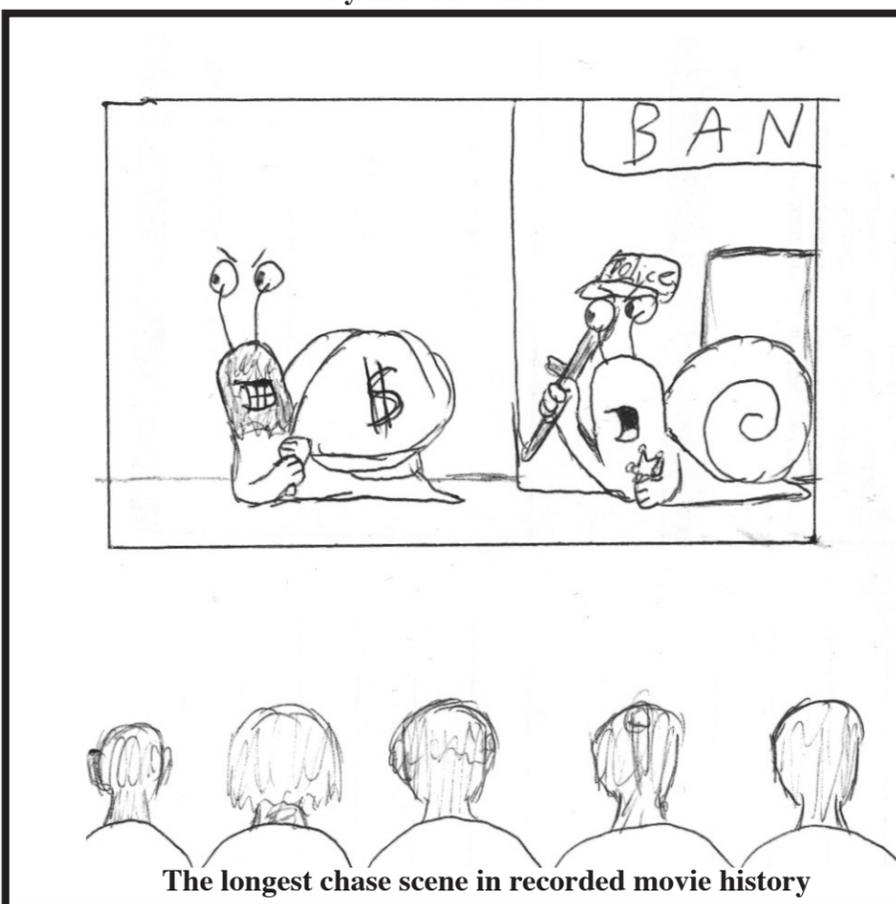
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Easter Sunday 4	5	6	7	We The Kings @ Oakdale Theater 8	Hoobastank @ Mohegan Sun Evening of Fine Wines @ MCC, 6-11 9	Kenny Rogers @ Foxwoods 10
11	12	13	MCC Library Book Sale @ MCC, 8 a.m. -9 p.m 14	MCC Library Book Sale @ MCC, 8 a.m. -9 p.m 15	Skillet @ Mohegan Sun 16	Foghat @ Ridgefield Playhouse, Ridgefield 17
Hotel California (Eagles Tribute) @ Mohegan Sun 18	19	20	21	Mastodon @ The Webster, Hartford 22	ZO2 @ Fairfield University 23	24
The Fray @ Foxwoods 25	26	Kobra Kai @ Mohegan Sun Murder Mystry Dinner Theater @ MCC, 7-9 27	OK Go @ Toad's Place 28	Who's Bad (Michael Jackson Tribute) @ Toad's Place 29	Johnny Winter @ Mohegan Sun 30	May 1
2	3	Student Senate Spring Fling @ MCC, 10-3 4	5	6	7	8

Cartoon By Eric M. Valad



If you would like to submit cartoons, drop by our office in Lowe L253, or email us at livewire.mcc.comnet.edu

Randy's Wooster Street Pizza: a Must Eat

By Jon Peskin
Special to the Live Wire

*Randy's Wooster Street Pizza
1000 Tolland Turnpike, Manchester CT 06040*

Most people use words such as wonderful, great and tasty to describe a great restaurant. I use words like augment, hyper-accentuate, majestic and synergistic to describe Randy's Wooster Street Pizza in Manchester. We can presuppose that this is just another pizza restaurant, but our premise would be incorrect. The same effort that is made of utilizing the finest ingredients for the menu is also enigmatically used to create an ambiance that is second to none.

There is simply no other restaurant in the state of Connecticut that serves an Italian menu with pizza and has the ambiance of Randy's. Randy's has served

more than 1.5 million pizzas. Their cooking process is an art form. Some call it majestic. To augment the superior menu, each wall is adorned with memorabilia from Mattel's line of Hot Wheels cars.

Now, for the food. Like any normal American male, I ordered a small cheese pizza, with garlic (great for the heart). The crispy crust and bubbling cheese were heaven. Randy's only utilizes the best tomatoes and their flavor profile shows. I partnered the entrée with a beverage from Canada, the Jones soda (cherry), a rare treat-synergy to its highest form. We also ordered the chicken parmesan. All I can say is come hungry; the tender chicken married with tomatoes is taking this entre to the "next level." My only disappointment was that I was too stuffed for dessert.

This restaurant should be included on any tour of Manchester (I'll make the recommendation to a tour company). Also, do not come alone. The experience is enhanced with tons of college guys and gals. Run, don't walk to Randy's- a hop, skip and a jump from MCC.



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FOZZY: CHASING THE DREAM

By Alex Obert
Live Wire Staff Writer

Chris Jericho had two major dreams in life. The first was to become a professional wrestler. Anyone who has watched World Wrestling Entertainment, better known as the WWE, over the last decade knows that he has excelled in the world of professional wrestling and is constantly referred to as one of the best all-around wrestlers of all time.

His second dream was to become a part of a rock band that would not only make great music, but would tour the world and release albums for the ages. When the perfect opportunity came along, Jericho decided it was time to make his dream a reality.

In 1999, Jericho called Rich Ward, the guitar player for rap metal group Stuck Mojo, and received an intriguing offer. With Jericho's experience of singing in bands for years, Ward offered to let him sing for his cover band, Fozzy Osbourne, at a couple gigs. On the night of the first show, Jericho and Ward felt a connection when they shared the stage. This connection would turn out to be a blessing. Shortly thereafter, the band was offered a record deal by Palm/Megaforce Records.

In order to get their name out there and invigorate people with their music, the band (now shortened to Fozzy) realized they would have to find a way to stand out, especially since there were count-

less cover bands already out there. The members decided that they would create their own characters to use on stage with a story to help explain who they are. The story that was explained to Fozzy fanatics was that they spent the last 20 years in Japan being huge rock stars and when they came back to America, they discovered that numerous bands performed covers of their songs for their albums. This is exactly what inspired



Courtesy of Google images

the first album, the self-titled "Fozzy." The album was packed with covers from huge names in the world of rock, including Iron Maiden, Motley Crue, and the man who inspired the band's original name, Ozzy Osbourne. The album also featured two original tracks entitled

"End of Days" and "Feel the Burn."

In 2002, the band signed with Megaforce Records and released its second album, "Happenstance." For this album, the songs were an even mix between covers from bands such as Black Sabbath and Judas Priest and original recordings. It was throughout the next couple of years that the band would get more exposure across the world. However, the band made the decision to drop

on "Wanderlust" and the incredible vocals from Myles Kennedy of Alter Bridge on the first track, "Nameless Faceless."

In January of this year, Fozzy released "Chasing the Grail," through the independent record label known as Riot Entertainment. This album features Jericho on vocals, Ward on guitar and vocals, Sean Delson on bass and Frank Fontsero on drums. "Chasing the Grail" has something for every rock fan.

One of the tracks, entitled "Broken Soul," is the band's first ballad. If you're looking for a rock song that you can bang your head to, listen to "Martyr No More." My favorite track off the album, "Wormwood," is a 13-plus minute progressive rock song influenced by the band Dream Theater. Other influences for this album range from The Beatles to Rush and many more.

It's truly amazing to see the band go from their all-cover debut album in 2000 to their latest, and to me the greatest album, "Chasing the Grail," in 2010. The current album tops the Amazon sales charts, as well as the iTunes metal charts.

Fozzy is a tremendous heavy metal band with an incredible sound. Fozzy will be performing at B.B. King's Blues Club in New York City on April 28 alongside ZO2 and Razer. This is a show that any MCC student who is able to attend should, because this is a show that will blow you away.

Even though wrestling is Jericho's primary passion, he has been able to become what he always wanted to be, a huge rockstar. He is able to balance both passions as he wrestles for the WWE on Tuesdays and he currently tours with the band and promotes Fozzy throughout the rest of the week. He is also a living example that, with hard work and dedication, any dream can come true.



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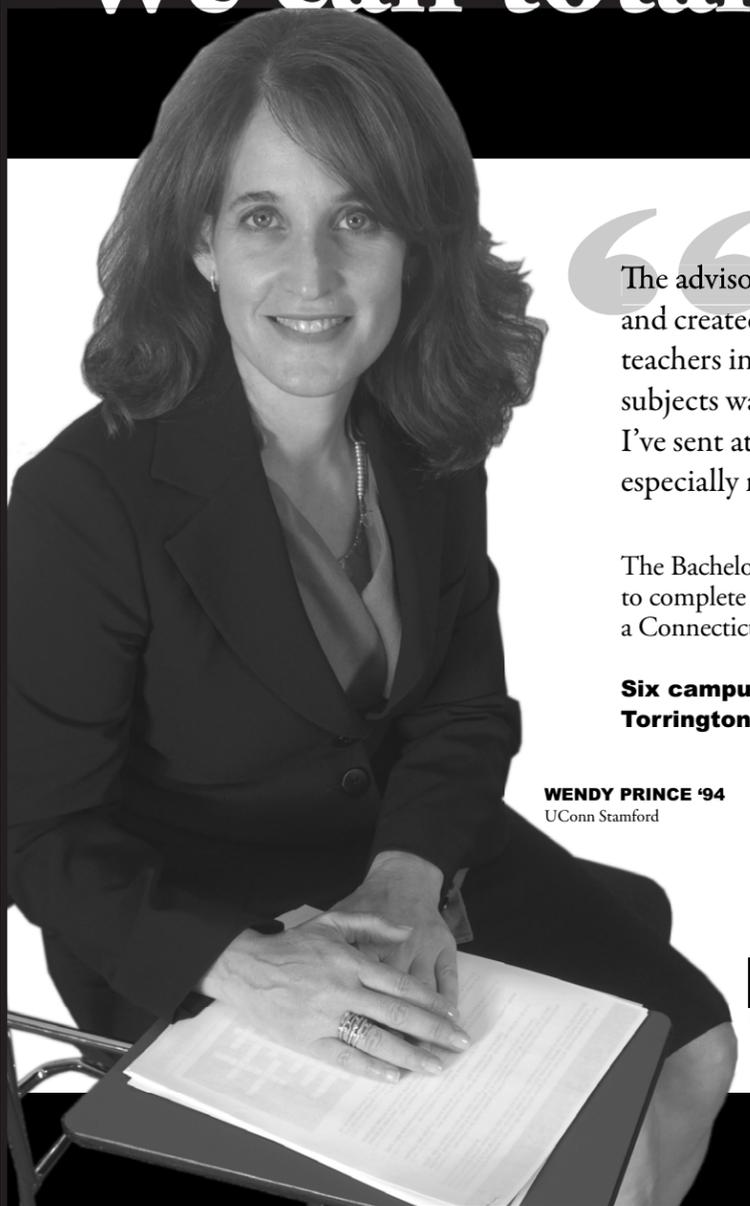
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MCC Baseball Team Looking for a Three-peat to National Tournament

By Gary Covey
Special to the Live Wire

The 2010 MCC 2010 baseball team is coming off back to back NJCAA Division III Region 21 titles and a pair of trips to the national championship tournament in Tyler, Texas. To make it three in a row, eleventh year Head Coach Chris Strahowski, put together an ambitious 56 game schedule, which will be the most in the program's 40 year history.

Strahowski, who is 161-125-3 over ten seasons at MCC, is also a math teacher at Cheney Tech. His team this year includes a solid core of returning players, two transfers and one of his strongest recruiting classes of freshmen during his tenure.

The sophomore class is headed by return-

ing All-American Catcher A.J. Lowers (Newington) who led the team in batting (.419), runs scored (46), and RBI (42) as a freshman last year.

Lowers will be asked to maintain those numbers while guiding a young pitching staff through a rugged college season that started on March 2 at Cheney with a pair of games against Eastern Connecticut's JV team.

Juan Bisono (New Britain) is an outstanding defensive shortstop who stole 25 bases last year and Clinton's Vin Sommo, who had eight homers last year, will be counted on for production from the middle of the order this year.

New Jersey import Tyler Wenz moves from the closer role, where he saved five games last year, into the rotation while Kevin Wodatch (Wallingford) looks to build on his impressive numbers (4-1, 3.28 ERA

in 35.2 innings) from last year. Wodatch will grab a glove and play in the outfield when he is not pitching.

Ryan Carroll (Newington) developed a solid mound presence last year and will be in the mix for a spot in the starting rotation time this year.

"Our team has a little different dynamic this year," Strahowski said. "We are much younger than we have been in the past, and our key to this season is how fast the freshmen can progress."

Strahowski said he feels the team will be strong up the middle with Lowers, Bisono and Joey Allison, a transfer from Keene State who covers a lot of ground in center field.

Among the freshmen, Kevin Madera (Newington) is a strong lefty with good mechanics and control and won two games in the first week of the



Photo by Paul Ofria

Catcher A.J. Lowers (right) talks with a fellow Cougar before a game.

season. South Windsor's Adam Scanlon is a righty with a three-pitch repertoire, who Strahowski calls a "competitor," which is another way of saying he's a bulldog on the mound. Scanlon can also help out at the corner infield positions.

Lefty Justin Sitaro (Rocky Hill) is raw, but has staff ace written all over him once he gets acclimated to the college game. A.J. Silberman, a former Wilcox Tech player from Meriden, is a sure-handed second baseman who will provide

offense at the top of the order.

Alec Brown (Montville) is a solid third baseman and will be counted on to drive in runs from the third spot in the order. Luis Sanchez (New London) is a right hander who pitched in the state championship game for the Whalers as a high school senior in 2009. He has excellent control and a killer curve ball. And Bristol's Mike Methot has closer stuff and, Strahowski said, he expects him to do just that this year - close out MCC victories.

Ardy
Class of 2009
Bronx, NY
Architecture

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A.J. Lowers Fired Up for 2010 Season

By Derek Turner
Special to the Live Wire

Coming off a third Team All-American selection season, Manchester Community College sophomore, A.J. Lowers and the rest of the Cougars are fighting towards another spot in the National Junior College Athletic Association, Division III World Series.

It was a surprise to many that Lowers was named an All-American last season as a freshman. He was a fixture behind the plate throughout

both catching and hitting," Lowers noted, even though he only got in four games at the end of what turned out to be the final season of Silkworms baseball in Manchester. The team was sold and moved to Laconia, New Hampshire. "The level is a lot higher."

Lowers plans to play for Torrington in the (Atlantic Collegiate Baseball League), which is a similar league to the NECBL, this coming summer along with MCC teammate Juan Bisoño.

Coming into this season, Lowers has some lofty goals.

"I want to go to Texas, I want to hit .500 or higher and hopefully All-American again," he said.

SU's sub-varsity, dropping the first game 4-3, but got their first win of the season in the nightcap, shutting out the Warriors 4-0. Since opening day, MCC defeated ECSU's sub-varsity four more times, losing once. They also split a doubleheader with Sullivan County Community College on March 7. Their record stands at 6-3 (as of March 13).

The makeup of the 2010 Cougars differs from the one that successfully defended the Region 21 title a year ago.

"The team size overall is smaller, we don't have as many impact bats as we did last year," Lowers said. "We're also a lot younger than last year, we don't



Photo courtesy of MCC Athletics

Juan Bisoño's infield single was the difference as MCC gained a split against Sullivan Community College March 7. Adam Scanlon scored the game's lone run while Kevin Madera, Tyler Wenz and Luis Sanchez combined on a three-hit shutout. MCC won 1-0.

the 2009 season, except for the select games when MCC Head Coach Chris Strahowski played him in left field to keep his bat in the lineup. Lowers hit .419, drove in 42 runs and scored 46 runs - all team highs for the 2009 NJCAA Division III, Region 21 champions. He also stole seven bases and led the team with a .500 on base percentage.

Behind the plate, Lowers has few peers at the junior college level in New England and Strahowski trusts him with calling the game.

"New guys are comfortable and they know he calls his own game, because we've gone through this 18 month process of getting him to the place where we're pretty comfortable with what he calls," Strahowski said. "If he puts something down, you'll see the guys don't shake off that much."

At the end of the summer, Lowers, who was playing for Foss Insurance of the Greater Hartford Twilight League, was invited to play for the Manchester Silkworms of the New England Collegiate Baseball League (NECBL), a league where some of the top college talent in the country comes to play for two months and see how they stack up against the rest of the best.

"It definitely helped to see better pitching,

Going to Tyler, Texas, where the National Junior College Athletic Association, Division III World Series is played, is a goal for the entire team.

MCC began its journey to Tyler on March 2, when Eastern Connecticut State University's sub-varsity team came to Cheney Tech High School, a short drive from the MCC campus, to play the first outdoor collegiate baseball game in the state in 2010.

In the fall, while the MCC athletic department was focused on both the men's and women's soccer teams, Strahowski ran tryouts for almost 100 potential players.

Both Strahowski and Lowers have confidence in the 22 players selected to represent MCC this spring. And it starts with pitching, Lowers said.

"Just about half the team pitches," Lowers said of the depth and variety of pitchers on the roster.

Preseason workouts began at the brand new Great Path Academy Gym and Connecticut Baseball Academy in East Hartford on January 15.

"Right now everybody's pretty comfortable with each other," Lowers said. "But it's tough to play when it's 30 degrees or below. We'll see what happens when it gets a little warmer and guys get looser."

Manchester split the doubleheader with EC-

have as many sophomores, but we do have more depth in pitching."

After the season, Lowers will have many offers to play at the next level, but he has not made any commitments after graduation.

"I'm going to play somewhere else, I just don't know where yet," he said.

Strahowski said he sees Lowers as a leader behind the plate and with a bat in his hand.

"We can lean on him for leadership on the field defensively and he can knock in runs," said Strahowski of his sophomore catcher, adding that Lowers could put up even better numbers than last year if the guys around him get on base and do their part. "He could easily knock in 55-60 runs this year."

Lowers likes playing for MCC.

"I enjoy playing for Straw; he's a great guy, good coach. It's really relaxed, not like always having a coach down your throat; it's a whole different experience from high school," Lowers said of Strahowski's style around the team.

MCC was one of the first New England teams to play outdoors this season and with A.J. Lowers in the lineup, the Cougars could easily be one of the last teams playing in Texas this May.

Hey, Baseball, Can You Spare Any Change?

By Dan Dobbyn
Live Wire Sports Writer

I've determined that baseball is viewed like this by the general public:

1. The players are overpaid
2. There are too few true fan bases.

The problem is this view is right. Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez once had a higher annual salary than the entire team of the Florida Marlins, who recently won the World Series!

Which brings me to the next point: there are very few baseball superpowers. There's New York and Boston and then there's...well, that's basically it. Plus, the Yankees-Red Sox rivalry is generally considered the best in baseball, if not in all American sports. The Yankees-Sox rivalry sells out stadiums faster than Microsoft sold the XBOX 360, has more action-based games than the PS3 and gets the fans moving more than the Nintendo Wii.

Major League Baseball has a major league problem, however, because they only have these two major teams. Ratings showed that in 2004, the American League Championship Series between the Red Sox and Yankees got more viewers per game than the World Series. If more people are watching the semi-finals of a tour-



Photo by Rich Carpenter,
Staff Photographer

nament than the finals itself, than you've got to find a way to make the tournament more interesting.

Professional baseball is 134 years old, and old habits die hard, but it's not that hard to believe that change can help baseball.

People disagreed in 1994 when they altered the National and American leagues into 3 divisions (East, Central, and West) and included a wild card, but that has ultimately improved the game.

People disagreed in 1973 when they gave the American League a designated hitter, someone who bats in the lineup but doesn't play the field, instead of making the pitcher bat. This has made the American League more interesting at least.

People stood shocked in 1947 when Jackie Robinson became the first African-American baseball player, breaking the color barrier.

All these events have one thing in common: they didn't change the game of baseball enough. Maybe Robinson became the racial precedent for profes-



Images courtesy of Google

sional sports, but I don't think he changed the game.

The major change that stuck to baseball happened on Dec. 19, 1919. Boston Red Sox owner Harry Frazee (whose name is normally associated with a variety of cusswords in Boston) sold the legendary player Babe Ruth to the New York Yankees for \$100,000. Ever

since, the Yankees have acquired the majority of baseball greats, and the MLB today totally depends upon what happens to the Yankees.

Another trade as major as Ruth to New York will not happen again, and wouldn't have changed the game enough anyway. Also, the recent squabbles with putting in instant re-

play won't make the game more entertaining either.

The only way for baseball to become America's pastime again and to not remain the northeast classic is to find a way to spread the wealth, even if it means the Yankees' evil empire losing a few battles. Otherwise, the MLB may ultimately lose the war with fans.

Picking March Madness Winners a Lot Like Picking Lottery Numbers

By Aaron Scheinblum
Special to the Live Wire

With March Madness in full swing for the NCAA Men's Basketball Championship, now is the time when people either throw their brackets in the trash and wait until next year to try again, or the time when people gloat about how most of their picks are still intact (and then they themselves get thrown in the trash by the people they gloat to). Every participant has his or her own method of "madness" in regards to making selections for who is going to win each game.

Some people go with whatever their gut says, looking at the two teams and "feeling" who the winner is going to be. Others

spend time researching. After taking surveys across campus, it was discovered that some people even call and ask telephone psychic Ms. Cleo. The million dollar question is: which strategy is the best for making sure your bracket goes unscathed?

Garrett Schyns, a student at Manchester Community College, said that he researches online and picks the highest ranked teams to win. In the perfect world, that would easily work itself out. Lucky for the bracket managers, only once have all #1 seeds reached the Final Four (in 2008). To make it more complicated, only twice have three out of the four #1 seeds reached the Final Four. Needless to say, the basketball follower can always look forward to an upset or two.

Another student from MCC said normally he picks upsets for most of the games. He added that one year he had Alabama A&M (a 16-seed at the time) winning the championship. They lost their first game. Maybe not the best strategy, but you never know until the clock hits 0:00. Plus, if Alabama A&M is your favorite team, that is completely respectable. It is also a popular selection strategy.

Many brackets are constructed through favoritism. One MCC student said he picks his winners based on the teams he knows and the teams he likes. On the flip side of the coin, many people also make their picks based on who they dislike.

But what if someone knew nothing about college basketball? So

what? Brackets are fun... at least until the Sweet 16. There are many "bracketologists" out there who know nothing about basketball, and sometimes they are the ones who have the most success.

Erica Leabman, another MCC student, said she makes her picks based on the colors of the school's mascot and logo. A fellow student said he used this strategy last year and won more than \$500.

The odds of creating a perfect bracket are 1 in 18.5 quintillion (18,446,744,073,709,551,616 to be exact).

Every bracket manager has his or her own strategy as to how to be that one. People spend hours trying to figure out the perfect equation, but the question still remains: which creation method is the best? There's no right answer, do whatever works for you.

If you could have dinner with one famous person, who would it be and why?

Word

on campus



Mikhail Markov
Accounting & Business Administration, Windsor
“Sigmund Freud, I think he would be fun to talk to. I like his theory on the three people inside of us, the id, ego and superego.”



Dwayne Samuels
Engineering, Hartford
“Martin Luther King Jr., so I could talk to him about his role in history.”



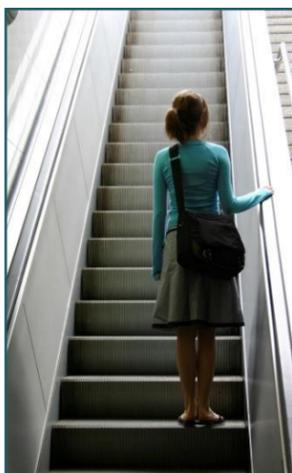
Tom Doyle
Criminal Justice, Manchester
“Michael Jordan, because he’s my favorite basketball player.”



Jenna Hurty
Great Path Academy, Windsor
“George Washington because he was a founding father.”

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Meghan Spielman
Occupational Therapy, Somers
“Ronald Regan.”

Rhunela Fuchs
Occupational Therapy, Middletown
“I would have to say Johnny Depp.”

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