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The Students' Voice

Issue 69

Serving Montgomery County Community College and the Surrounding Community

May 2017



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on Pages 12, 13 and 14.

Photos courtesy of MCCC Communications Dept.

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The Montgazette
The Students' Voice

from the Editor

Sara Wilkerson
The Montgazette Editor-in-Chief

Journalism is not dead. Despite the rising political tides in our nation today, traditional journalism is not dead. Rather, the reputation of journalism has been tarnished.

What has tarnished the reputation you ask?

Let's begin with the fact that the arrival of the internet has made clickbait, tabloids, you name it, rise into prominence. Social media sites like Facebook and Twitter make it easy to pass off any headline as an actual news story, even when it is just a fake news story published by media organizations to make headlines and to make a quick buck. For these reasons and more, fake news has now become a new norm.

In all honesty, I find these trends to be dismaying as a journalist. And as your new Editor-in-Chief of *The Montgazette*, I vow to disprove the belief that journalism

is dead through original storytelling in this publication. Which leads me to say...

Hello there! I am Sara Wilkerson and as your new Editor, I vow to not only prove that journalism is alive and well, but I intend to do so by having you, the students of MCCC, have your voices and your storytelling be heard through this publication.

My predecessor, David Aston, made it the paper's mission to have the voices of Montgomery County Community College be heard. I intend to carry out the same mission. Therefore, I'd like to make an invitation.

I want to invite you, the students of MCCC, to have your voices be heard through *The Montgazette*. Any story that you want to tell, whether that's through news stories about events happening on campus, to essays that you write for any of your classes, to opinion editorials on

what interests you, I want you to have your voices be heard. I am open to any and all stories that are submitted to *The Montgazette* via our email submission box: montgazette@gmail.com

I believe that through these stories, we as a team will be able to prove that traditional journalism is indeed thriving, not dying, in today's ever changing society. The only way we as a student body can do this, however, is through original storytelling.

With that being said, what you say, students of MCCC?

Let's prove to the naysayers and the critics that they are wrong; that journalism is indeed alive, that journalism does indeed exist, that journalism does have a place in a changing society such as ours.

Let's prove that storytelling matters, together.

About The Montgazette

The Montgazette is published at the beginning of every month from September through December and February through May by the students of Montgomery County Community College.

Printed by Journal Register in Exton, PA.



The Montgazette is printed on recycled paper.

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Protester with Hidden Agenda Visits MCCC

Sara Wilkerson, David Aston, Justin Oakes, and Emily Shim
The Montgazette Staff

“I pray that you have integrity and print the answers as I wrote them.” These were the words of shady Texas businessman turned Philadelphia-based “You’re going to Hell” Pastor Aden Rusfeldt who demonstrated on the Quad of Montgomery County Community College’s Central Campus on May 2. According to a press release from the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), the pastor has a 10-year history of fraudulent business practices and fake businesses that forced the U.S. CFTC to levy a \$3.2 million judgment against him in September 2016. Since then, he and his supporters have broadcasted a message of what many Philadelphia area colleges have called hate speech. This was Rusfeldt’s first visit to Montco.

In his book, “Open Air Fire: Principles of Open Air preach,” Rusfeldt outlines his reasons for preaching the way he does. Rusfeldt writes, “I love to ask people, ‘How loving is God that He makes a specific list you can read of sins that will keep you out of heaven? That is how

much God loves you.”

Rusfeldt said that his demonstration at Montco was against sin, “Because sinning hurts people.” His supporters held up signs that reflected his “specific list” of people “going to Hell.” These sinners on a particular banner, according to student eyewitness Mara Witsen included, “Homo[sexuals], Muslims, Cow worshippers... Racists [specifically] the KKK and Black Lives Matter, Money Lovers, Mama’s Boys, Witches, Gamers, Cutters, Brats, Emos, Rebellious Women, Punks, Liars, Sissies, the Pope, Party Animals, Gangster Rappers, Rock-and-Roll Freaks, So-Called Christians...” And the list went on.

“They’ve got a right to say what they want to say. But, I mean, at the same time I think it goes against what they were trying to say, because, I mean... Jesus also said ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ That’s not what they were doing,” Ethan Harris, who also witnessed the demonstration event, said.

Continued on Page 7.



Pastor Aden Rusfeldt and his group hold protest banners for MCCC students and faculty to read as they preached for several hours on Central Campus.

Photo courtesy of Brittney Baldwin

Saving the Environment One Trash Audit At A Time

Sara Wilkerson
The Montgazette Editor-in-Chief

During the spring semester, members of Montgomery County Community College's Central Campus Honors Club participated in a campuswide garbage audit service project that involved collecting and sorting trash from Parkhouse Hall, the Advanced Technology Center, the Science Center and College Hall to determine how much the College's students and faculty are not recycling on a given day. The results of the audit, which were revealed to the student body during Central Campus' Earth Day, show that on a given day, 46% of the trash collected in the audit could've been recycled.

Preparations of the garbage audit service project were made weeks prior to the audit day to ensure that participating members of the project knew the basics of how to conduct a trash audit to what materials are and are not recyclable. The preparations involved attending group discussion meetings and presentations, gathering supplies, and creating data charts and layout collection plans of the sampled buildings.

On the morning of the audit day, from 9 to 11:30, Honors Club members split into teams to collect trash from public areas, open classrooms and offices of the sampled Central Campus buildings. Following a brief break after the trash collection, from 12 to 3pm, the members piled and sorted through all the collected trash on a tarp in the Campus' Quad for the college public to see the audit take place. The sorting of

the trash itself was organized into categorized buckets; categories included but were not limited to: "Trash: Food Waste", "Trash: Dirty Paper", "Recyclables: Plastics" and "Recyclables: Electronics".

When asked about what she found interesting about the trash audit, Dr. O'Brien, the faculty advisor of the project, replied, "I was surprised to find a cache of AAA batteries in the trash from the Science Center, as well as the large

Continued on Page 5.



Honors student volunteers sort through collected trash from Central Campus buildings.

Photo by Erin Ilisco



Honors student volunteers collect trash for sorting.

Photo by Erin Ilisco



MCCC student volunteers weigh buckets of sorted trash.

Photo by Erin Ilisco

Enviroment.
Continued from Page 4.

amount of plastic in [the building's] trash. I was also surprised at how much food waste is in our garbage, and we didn't even collect garbage from the cafeteria or the various cafes on campus."

The importance of the audit, despite its challenges that it presented to the Honors Club group, was not lost amongst its participating members.

When asked about why she personally wanted to conduct this trash audit on campus, Kaitlyn Aston, one of the many volunteers in the project, stated, "I think it's really beneficial to get a start on showing others how important it is

to recycle because being able to recycle things helps us to [reuse] more so we use less trash... It's helping our environment as a whole, even further down the road, and we're not only impacting the people today, but also the next generation on."

The Honors Club wishes to thank those who have helped make this service project possible, including but not limited to Montgomery County's Recycling Coordinator, Veronica Harris, Biology professor Jerry Coleman, the Supervisor of Custodial Operations at the College, Steve Choyce, the Honors Program Coordinator, Dr. Sam Wallace and Dr. Lynn O'Brien, the faculty advisor of the project.



Results from the audit conclude that 46% - nearly half of the trash sorted on the audit day - should've been recycled. To combat this issue, the Honors Club encourages the College comm to recycle as often as possible!

Photo by Erin Ilisco

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Striking Gold

David Aston & Sean Laughlin
The Montgazette Staff

In 1964, Montgomery County Community College started small. What would later become a gold mine of learning and an award-winning college with more than 190 full-time faculty members teaching thousands of students began with only 17 driven, student-focused teachers. Retired physics professor Alec Goldberg is one of them.

Goldberg, now 93, remembers those early years vividly. "Those were tough days," he says. He remembers the offices being held in a Conshohocken funeral parlor. Alec remembers more distressingly how many college teachers by 1968 seemed more interested in the how much they made instead of being interested in teaching. A fact a New York Times syndicated analysis published that same year picked up on.

David Selden, the president of the American Federation of teachers at the time, called for a nationwide strike "to bring about the vast improvement in schools that we need." The analysis also noted that the Philadelphia area was one of the major "hot spots" of the teacher strikes because classrooms were overcrowded and the "remoteness from policy making in the school system and a sense of repression from telling the public about their working conditions."

Instead of joining the strikes, Alec Goldberg focused on helping his students succeed and feel at ease. He began every semester

by telling his students, "Look, I know what it is, physics can be hard." This simple statement made many students taking his class less anxious.

This attitude is what landed Goldberg the job in the first place. Dr. Leroy Brendlinger, the College's first president, called up Goldberg after hearing of his student-focused attitude and his credentials that took him from the Franklin Institute to Rider College (now a university) to the Frankford Arsenal. With his Master's Degree in physics from USC, Goldberg began a legacy that is still fresh 17 years after his retirement.

Now residing in Elkins Park, Alec Goldberg looks on his past fondly and knows what it takes for students to succeed. "Find the good teacher, that's [the] important part."

To the teachers here at the College he says, "You have to have knowledge of the subject. You have to be able to show enthusiasm. Otherwise, you're not going to transmit your knowledge to the students. You also have to let go, have fun with the students."

More than a half-century later, we keep finding nuggets of Alec Goldberg's attitude and focus in the faculty that are here today. His dedicated focus on his students is part of what helps make Montgomery County Community College the great school it is today. To which we, the students who cherish that legacy, say: Thank you Mr. Goldberg.

Protesters

Continued from Page 3.

The signs and shouting drew in a crowd of dozens of Montco students who kept their distance and later drowned out the preaching with music and heckling.

"I'll be honest with you, [I've been] here almost 20 years, I don't remember anything like that before," Montco's Senior Producer and Technical Services Supervisor Matt Porter said of the demonstration. "They have a right to be here. Let them have their [say] but let it be known [the students] didn't necessarily agree. And I think I was proud of our students for keeping it

peaceful, but voicing their opinion loud and clear that this was not necessarily the opinion that they agreed with." Harris added, "I think it was a positive experience in that it united a lot of people in the college setting. Which with community college it's harder to do that than per se a four-year [college]."

Rusfeldt's group's hate speech-laden preaching didn't last long. They still shouted at the students as they left Campus at their own will, with an escort from Montco's Public Safety Team at 2:45 p.m.

The question remains, however, will a preacher with little business integrity and a long list of his own sins return to Montco?

FIND YOUR

Club

Start at the

Student Leadership Office

Spotlight: Class of 2017 Graduate David Aston

Sara Wilkerson
The Montgazette Editor-in-Chief

Commencement is upon us. It is that time of year where soon-to-be grads are cramming for finals, solidifying their plans on transferring to four year institutions, and saying farewell to their fellow classmates as they move forward in their academic endeavors. This issue, The Montgazette would like to shine a spotlight on one of the many graduates graduating on May 18th, 2017, and this graduate is our outgoing Editor-in-Chief, David Aston.

Aston's journey at Montgomery County Community College started all the way back in 1996 when he was taking college credit courses while still in high school. Taking these college credits proved challenging, considering Aston had failed his junior year english class yet was taking English Composition 101 on Tuesday nights for three hours here at the College as a senior. With the help of the College's professors, Aston managed to not only graduate high school but also further his education by taking a creative writing course in 2000.

Despite his initial success at the start of his college career, Aston's personal life began to interfere with his studies. In the middle of his first semester, Aston lost the full time job he had and ended

up moving to Lafayette Hill with his family. The sudden shift in his personal life caused Aston to not return to the College for over a decade as his concerns were focused primarily on supporting himself and his family.

Aston did not want to settle for the life that he had, which is why he came back to Montgomery County Community College as a digital audio major. Aston is grateful for his time at the College, stating, "This is the place where you achieve your dreams... it is where you have the freedom to be who you are without the pressures of having it forced upon you what somebody else wants you to be. You have the freedom, you have that openness. Grasp that, and God can't stop you. And you become better because of it."

With the support of many individuals on campus, including but not limiting to professors Gail Ramsey, Jerry Collom, Allan Schear, Jeff Asch, Stan Feingold, Matt Porter, David Ivory as well as former College President Karen Stout, Aston was able to complete his studies and find his passion. Aston claims that the professors at the College, "...find the importance and value in you and make you realize that you matter to yourself, if to no one else."



David Aston; 2017 Graduate

Photo by Erin Ilisco

Through the many obstacles that Aston has faced over his time in college, from dealing with age differences, adjusting to his editorial position of The Montgazette, and being a part time student while balancing his full time job, family and school life, Aston has remained optimistic and passionate about his future as he transfers to West Chester University in the fall as a communications major.

Based on his experiences over the past two decades,

David Aston has proven that second chances do exist, as long as one believes in themselves. This is why Aston's advice to readers that when it comes to self doubt, one should not let doubt cloud their ambitions, "Put the worries away, just do it. The worries will be there, they're not going to go away... but if you focus on the worry, you won't get anything done. Take it from someone who let the worry drag him down for 15 years. Don't do it."

CAMPUS



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Creative Writing Course for MCCC's Veterans

Rahul Thevar
The Montgazette Contributor

Montgomery County Community College will have a new course at West Campus. The course was created by Professor Susan Buchler and Veterans Resource Specialist Denise Williams. The course is English 265 and it is a Creative Writing class specifically for veterans. It will be available in the alternating Monday nights in the fall, starting on Sept. 11, 2017 for those of all military experience.

When asked for comment on the newly created course, Denise Williams stated, "Montgomery County Community College has [a] large veteran population. Professor Buchler and I felt there was a need for a course where it [was] tailored to the veteran population where they can talk with others that share similar experiences. Several Vietnam vets live in the Pottstown area. English 265 is a pilot program that will hopefully aid in

instilling a sense of pride and satisfaction in past military experiences, encourage camaraderie, and encourage creative thinking."

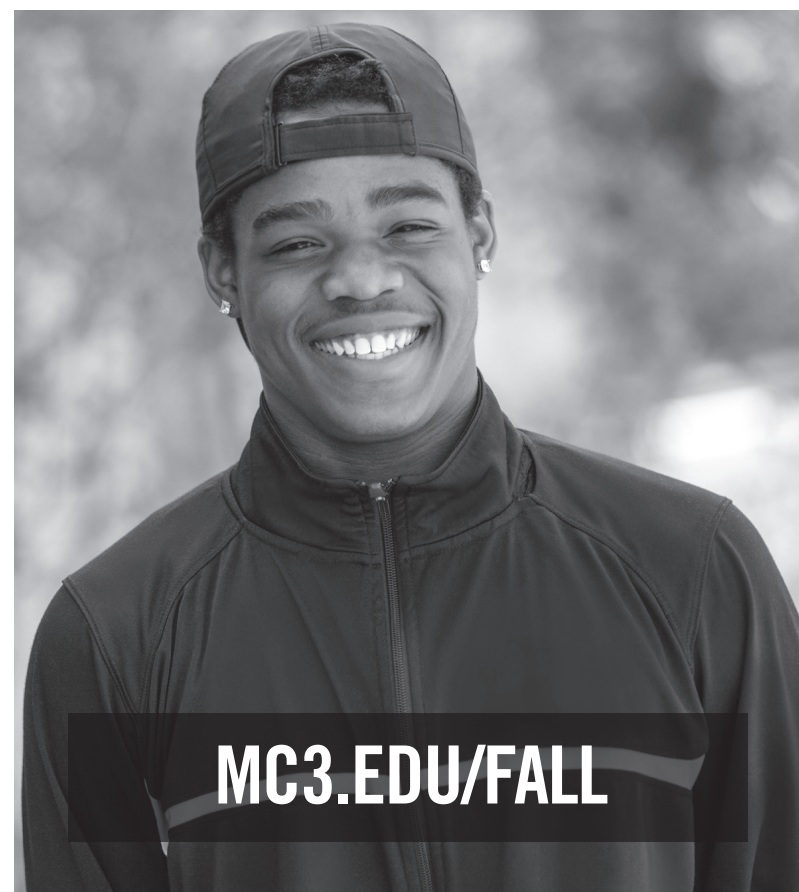
Professor Buchler also commented on the English 265 course by stating, "If the course is successful, the college may consider offering it at the Blue Bell Campus. I love to read and write. I think writing is cathartic... like a balm to the spirit. It is my hope that veterans who register for this class will be encouraged to tell stories that they haven't told, sing songs in writing that they have not sang, and create wonderful tapestries that they haven't yet created."

Any Veterans interested in taking English 265 in Fall 2017, contact Denise Williams at the Veterans' Resource Center by phone: 610-718-1839 or by email: dwilliams@mc3.edu for more information and to enroll.



Veteran's Resource Center on Central Campus. Visit the Center to find more information about ENG 265!

Photo by Brittney Baldwin



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What Career Services Can Offer Students

Christian Knaub
The Montgazette Contributor

What is the first thought that pops into your head when you think of Career Services? It might be that they are targeting the graduates with helping them find jobs and to figure out their next steps in their journey. Whether you have visited Career Services, given it little thought, or this is the first time you have heard of Career Services, here are some reasons to explore their assistance.

Career Services is for the graduate by helping in job searches, mock job interviews, resumes and cover letters. But many do not realize Career Services does much more than just for the graduate, it is also for the first semester student planning their career path.

Nickolas Lantz, the Director of Career Services, has said that Career Services has been labeled as the place for graduates and alumni, but is being missed as a place for any student. Lantz

wants to break that stereotype by promoting what Career Services can offer students who are still exploring their options for the future, as well as students who are looking for a second opinion in their decision-making process.

What Career Services offers for students and alumni is MyCareerPlan, which helps with narrowing down a career path for students and career coaching, which according to their page on the College's website, "help[s] in selecting a career path, clarifies job hunting and getting help with the job search process ." Career Services also offers workshops and special events on topics like resume writing, having a successful job interview, cover letter writing, and much more. They also offer on-campus job recruiting, they help students find internships in their field of study, as well as offering online resources such as Skype job appointments,

PA JobGetaway, College Central Network, and with finding job listings. Jason Kidwell, a student at Montgomery County Community College, noted that Career Services came and "gave a speech on resume writing in [my] exercise science class, which was cool [and] very helpful."

Career Services is a great tool for students and Alumni alike. Whether you are looking for help in finding the right career path, internship, or are preparing for your job interview, Career Services can help with guiding and supporting you in your walk to success.

To get in touch with Career Services on Central Campus, visit College Hall, 2nd floor or call 215-641-6577. On West campus, visit the Student Success Center in South Hall or call 610-718-1906. Both locations can be emailed at careerservices@mc3.edu.

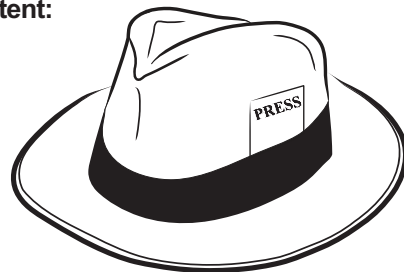
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Campus Coffee Commotion

Hannah Nearpass
The Montgazette Contributor

Calling all coffee lovers! Coffee holds a very special place in the hearts of the 83% of adults in America who consume coffee daily. "I'd be so groggy without it," says Sarah Haplin, a student at Montgomery County Community College, who drinks two to three cups of coffee a day, seven days a week, but where does she get her coffee? Sarah spends thirty dollars a week, one hundred and twenty dollars a month on coffee at Wawa. She does not buy her coffee on campus.

"It tastes awful," Haplin says in regards to the coffee that she has experienced on campus. The College offers four food services on Central Campus. Other than the College Hall cafeteria, Park Place in Parkhouse Hall, Books and Bytes in College Hall, and the Portal Café or One Village Coffee in the Advanced Technology Center all offer coffee to students on campus.

Books and Bytes is referred to by students

as the campus Starbucks. The café carries Starbucks products and serves items such as ice coffees, Frappuccino's, lattes, and so forth. However, some students are unsatisfied. "Starbucks here is awful," says student Jared Jackson. He continues, "I hear they leave (the products) out too long."

An employee at Books and Bytes in College Hall, self-proclaimed lifetime Montgomery County Community College student Jake Harrison, unveiled the truth behind all the gossip. "Not all of our products are from Starbucks," Harrison informs. With a couple of people waiting in line for the coffee services, it did not seem that everyone shared the same opinion of Sarah Haplin or Jared Jackson. Jake also went on to say that Books and Bytes is open to hearing student suggestions. If suggestions are within reason

and realistic, the staff is more than willing to take them into consideration.

One Village Coffee, too, is open to suggestions. Mary Koutsouros runs the coffee spot located in the Advanced Technology Center and offered her input on behalf of her café. "All of our coffee is (distributed by) One Village Coffee, right out of Harleysville." Mary elaborates, "I grind my beans fresh, measure them, and brew." Mary also is willing to consider advised preferences and potential improvements.

If you are an unsatisfied student that has a craving for coffee, you can improve the circumstances and be the change. Express your opinion and share advice with the local cafes on campus. The businesses are more than willing to listen and they're likely to adapt to customer preferences within reason to brighten student's days, with a little help of caffeine!



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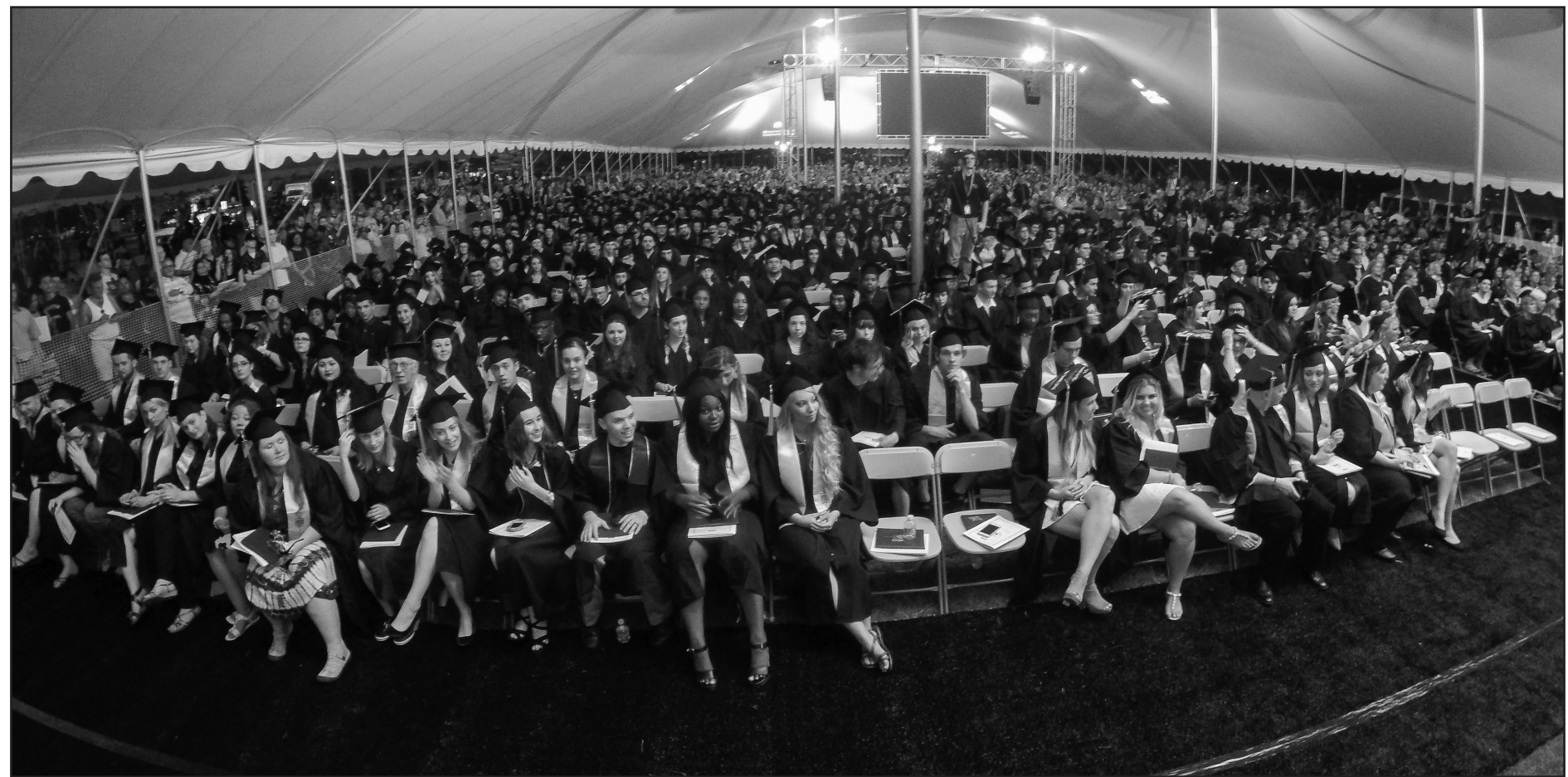


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My Dream Job

Ariel Angelichio
The Montgazette Contributor

I hope to be a child psychologist. Working in the field of psychology has always been a dream of mine. What would make my career perfect would be working with children who suffer with mental health problems. Also, learning about psychology has always been interesting to me, especially here at Montgomery County Community College.

First, I love psychology because I love learning about it. I love the field and how complex it can be. You can work almost anywhere with a degree in psychology from a school to a prison. Taking courses at the college for psychology is great, and I only have two left after this spring semester. Classes are always interesting and the professors share personal stories that make me even more eager to start my career someday. My favorite class so far has been Abnormal Psychology with Professor Kathleen Nash.

Secondly, I want to be a psychologist because of my own struggles. When I was younger, I suffered from severe depression and anxiety. A psychologist helped me cope and solve the issues at my lowest points in life. They put me on a prescription regime that helped me get back to being myself again. This made me realize that that's what I would love to do for someone else, help them get their life back in control.

Thirdly, I wish to work with children. I am great with them and I can relate to a lot of children's issues dealing with mental health because I have been there. Through all of it, life wasn't easy for me growing up,

dealing with abandonment issues, physical abuse, and even mental abuse. My parents were always in and out of my life, at times I wouldn't see them for months, even years. I had nobody to talk to, or vent my feelings to without being judged or yelled at by someone in my family. I was always told to "suck it up", or "stop being a cry baby, Ariel."

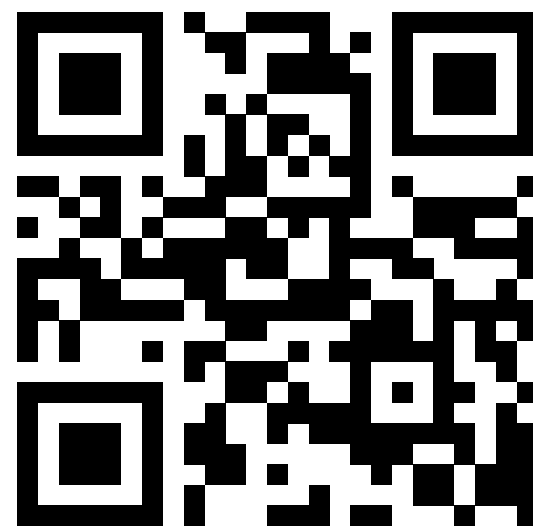
Eventually, I learned that I needed help on my own, and not from someone close to me. I needed an outsider's view on things, I had fallen apart. I first went to a mental health clinic when I was fourteen, and I stayed there a few times after that. They gave me the help I needed, at Horsham Clinic, and I was always better when I returned. Finally, in 2014, I felt complete and whole again when I came out. I knew that was the last time I would allow myself to stoop that low, and I was strong enough to face the world head on all by myself.

Therapy was my next step in life. After coming out of Horsham Clinic, I voluntarily went to therapy. The therapist soon learned that my family was a major component in my mental health, and we had therapists come to our house twice a week for the next eight months. This helped us enormously and today we have functioned much better as a family.

As a result, I hope to become a child psychologist. I will do anything to fulfil this dream of mine. Going to school for so long and putting all of my effort into something I love and not achieving my goal is not an option for me. I will help children someday soon.



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EDITORIAL



The Montgazette
The Students' Voice

Catching the Fun: My Day at the Phillies

Michelle Harbison
The Montgazette Contributor

Andrea Guest, Manager of Phanatic Events for the Philadelphia Phillies, came to my Mass Media and Society class to tell us about her job working for the Phillies, after graduating with a degree in Communications. Guest offered me the opportunity to shadow her for a day at Citizens Bank Park and meet some of her co-workers. Most exciting of all, I got to sit down and chat with the Phillie Phanatic.

When you think of the Phillie Phanatic, what do you think of? Do you think of a large, overly-excited, fluff ball? Well, there is more than meets the eye when it comes to the Phanatic. According to Forbes Magazine, the Phillie Phanatic is baseball's most recognizable and popular mascot.

During my day at the Phillies organization, the morning started out with a tour of the stadium. Ms. Guest showed me the media room, the Diamond Club for ticket holders, and even the Phanatic's dressing room. He has banjos, all sorts of interesting costumes, and a ginormous suitcase – Phanatic-sized, of course!

Scott Brandreth, Director of Merchandise, was a Communications major in college. He and his team come up with ideas for giveaways for fans. When Guest visited my class, she gave us lots of fun giveaways. Brandreth's office has lots of those giveaways and more bobbleheads than I could count and even a cardboard cutout of Phillies Infielder Ryan Howard's face.

I sat down with the Phanatic's main man, Tom Burgoyne, next. A marketing major in college, Burgoyne began his job with the Phillies in 1989 as the back-up for Dave Raymond, the original Phillie Phanatic. Burgoyne said, other than feeling like a "rock star" when he is in costume, his job has opened doors for him to work with all departments at the Phillies and even write books. The reaction that fans have when they see the Phanatic – and the love they have for him – was the inspiration for one of his books, Pheel the Love. Burgoyne has also written numerous children's books for a Phillies reading program called Phanatic About Reading.

The one thing that everyone

I talked to agreed with was that they love working for the Phillies. According to Guest, "No two days are ever the same." I met John Brazer, Director of Fun and Games, and the fun appears to be catching. Many of the people who work with this organization have been with the Phillies for twenty-plus years, and by spending the day at the stadium I could tell why.

As a student interested in Communications, I found it cool to learn about managing the Phanatic, marketing and promotions for the Phillies, college nights, and the Phillies Fitness program. But as a Phillies fan, being able to follow Guest and see all the behind-the-scene aspects of the Phillies organization was an awesome experience.



On a tour of the Phillies' stadium, Harbison met the Phillie Phanatic

Photo by Michelle Harbison



Andrea Guest (left) and Michelle Harbison (right)

Photo courtesy of Michelle Harbison

Colin Kaepernick: More Patriotic than the President

Justin Oakes
The Montgazette Contributor

A dashing young quarterback takes the field, bushy hair bouncing, looking fit and ready to put up a good preseason fight. There's a heat in the air and the crowd is pumped and looking forward to a terrific game. As the people in the crowd are asked to rise and remove their hats for the "The Star-Spangled Banner," people gape in horror as the young quarterback refuses to rise, instead opting to take a knee.

Colin Kaepernick made headline news in the Fall of 2016, not for his football skills, but for the social justice movement he started by taking a knee during multiple games while the national anthem was playing. Under normal circumstances, it would be safe to assume that anyone who takes a knee during the most patriotic song of the nation's history would be, himself, unpatriotic. But Kaepernick's message was as loud and clear and as patriotic as a social justice message should be: police

violence against unarmed African Americans must end.

Jumping ahead to March 22, President Donald Trump spoke to a seemingly enthusiastic crowd in San Francisco, the city that Kaepernick is based out of, about the potential reasoning behind Kaepernick's future unemployment possibilities. The President stated, "It was reported that NFL owners don't want to pick him up because they don't want to get a nasty tweet from Donald Trump," while egging on the crowd and welcoming the boos directed at Kaepernick.

But it was Kaepernick who proved that actions speak louder than words. Meals on Wheels, a company that provides elderly citizens with food, is expected to receive major funding cuts due to the new budget plan proposed by Trump. On March 23, the day after Trump made his remarks, Meals on Wheels publicly thanked Kaepernick for his generous \$50,000 contribution to its program.

In addition to his donation to Meals on Wheels, Kaepernick has been very active in giving back to the community. The Million Dollar Pledge was set up by Kaepernick as a way of giving back to various organizations all over the world. Through the help of fundraising, as well as donating proceeds of his football jersey sales, Kaepernick is donating \$100,000 each month for ten months to different charitable organizations of his choosing.

Also, Kaepernick's Know Your Rights Campaign was started in response to the atrocities being committed by certain police officers

against primarily black youth. The campaign focuses on informing children and young adults about their rights as individuals and how they can interact with law enforcement officials of whom they feel threatened by. According to its website, the goal of the campaign is to "create the change that is much needed in this world."

Trump's remarks may not be presidential, but they certainly aren't un-Trump-like. And while the President is off spewing his hatred of a football star, said football star is out making a difference. In a nation founded on the actions and hard work of brave men and women who vow to stand up for what's right, it's refreshing to see a man like Kaepernick start to move it in the right direction. Specifically, Kaepernick seems to be helping the inner cities, the one's that Trump said he would save.

Score 1: Kaepernick. Score 0: Trump.

Patriotism is all a matter of perspective. If taking away meals from the elderly is one's idea of what patriotism should look like, so be it, that's life, as they say. But I've always known in my heart that the America I grew up in and came to know and love was only made possible because of the people like Colin Kaepernick who chose to stand up for what's right.

In the end, it seems that Mr. Kaepernick is giving more back to U.S. citizens and working harder for the people than the president himself. Not bad for a guy who kneels during the national anthem, not bad at all.



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Trevor Noah Brings Down the Tower

Justin Oakes
The Montgazette Contributor

South African comedian and talk show host, Trevor Noah, performed at the Tower Theater in Upper Darby on Friday, April 7 to a more than enthusiastic crowd of Philadelphians and Daily Show fans.

When the show was originally announced back in February, tickets sold so fast that a second event had to be scheduled on the same night, leaving Noah to perform for one sold out show at 8 PM and another packed one at 10:30 PM.

His topics of discussion ranged anywhere from tacos in America to the native tongue that his mother spoke back in South Africa. However, it was when Trevor began to speak about the crisis in Syria that the audience seemed most engaged. Noah had a most ingenious way of broaching the topic: by combining humor and satire with a real, down-to-earth message about the cost of military spending and the hypocrisy of closing American doors on refugees while claiming to help them.

Noah's approach to taboo subjects is quite remarkable, considering most would have no idea where to begin when it comes to the issues that matter but are just too hard to talk about. Yet, Noah seemed to be in his element, taking topics like racism and Trump family affairs in stride and spinning everything he says to have a positive message for Americans.

The message?

Stay "woke."

He urged people to never be afraid to ask questions about topics like race and politics, because, according to him, it's better to have an ignorant person be educated than to stay ignorant.

Leah Schick, a resident of Whitmarsh Township in Montgomery County, spoke directly about Noah's honesty, saying how he told his jokes but then "turned them around into all these profound statements about life and hatred and love and the state of our country." The Daily Show host showed that he'll never miss a comedic beat and he'll never cease to entertain a crowd.

Social Involvement and Graduation Rates in Community College

Sashea Cooper
The Montgazette Contributor

The Community college is not like high school. Students don't have their old cliques anymore, the classes are hours long, and it is almost impossible to get through it alone. Community College is the best way to get a higher education economically, but even with cost-efficient education, students drop out. There are plenty of reasons why this happens. One reason in particular would be social involvement within the college.

Students join clubs that are relative to their major or interests to connect with the college more. Getting more involved helps build friendships with other students. Having a friend in college is beneficial because the students can form study groups together. It gives them the motivation to keep up with their due dates and attendance.

Bill Gates once said, "The problem isn't that not enough people are going to college. The problem is that not enough people are finishing." Gates is a college drop-out himself and he told The New York Times that it is important that you do graduate. The advisors at community colleges encourage students to take the opportunity to join the clubs on campus and participate in all classroom activities. Montgomery County Community College has many clubs to offer that fit a variety of interests. They will also work with anyone dealing with a tight schedule.

The website collegescorecard.ed.gov has the community college graduation rates from 2014: Delaware County Community College was 15%, Bucks County Community

College was 12%, Community College of Philadelphia was 10%, and Montgomery County Community College was 16%.

The community college graduation rates are so low because of the students' lack of interest. When most students drop out, they go straight into the workforce, making less than what they could be making if they graduated and received a degree. After speaking with four college dropouts, one claimed to just like the workforce better than school and three out of the four admitted that they were companionless and unmotivated. These graduation rates can increase with a little help from college advisors and leaders.

On the College's website in the campus life category, there is a section called Student Leadership and Involvement. In that section, there is a paragraph about getting involved that says, "Being engaged in campus life can make all the difference in your time here. Our Student Leadership and Involvement Office supports your academic, social, cultural and personal growth through programs and activities that create a true sense of community among students, faculty and staff." This shows that community colleges are trying to increase their graduation rates by getting their students to connect with the college.

Social involvement within a college is what pushes students to graduate. Students should join clubs and participate in campus activities to stay connected with the college and successfully graduate.

Going Beyond Limits: An Interview with David Aston

Thea Howey
The Montgazette Contributor

He was three or four when the bullying started, “Hey, four eyes, you walk like a cripple!” The Norristown bullies had spotted his braces.

“I didn’t walk right,” says David Aston, former editor-in-chief of *The Montgazette*. “I had problems with my speech. [And by] the time I was eight or nine, the bullying was commonplace, and I accepted it. I thought, ‘This is who I am.’”

Born with cerebral palsy, scoliosis, and other complications, David lives with daily pain. Yet you probably never know it. Today at 38 years old, he looks like any other Montgomery County Community College student. He wears jeans, a baseball hat and a scruffy beard. He stands 5’ 9” and walks without support.

“The seminal moment in my life came when I was about 5,” David says. “One fine morning I

woke up. I looked at the band that cuffed my waist and the two solid connecting rods that went all the way down my legs into a specially made pair of orthopedic shoes.”

He didn’t want to put on the braces. “The fear in the back of my head was that my Mom would scream at me.”

And he was right. “She fought with me tooth and nail.” Still, he refused. This was the mother who had devised physical therapy for her son—on her own.

“She saw the need intuitively,” David says with great pride and love, “because of her medical background” as an EMT. “She came up with a long and hard series of therapies for me,” he says.

Thanks to his mother’s selfless devotion and rigorous discipline, young David could walk without braces and talk, though many

others with cerebral palsy can’t.

That was a big turning point in David’s life: He discovered that cerebral palsy was not going to stop him. “It’s done the exact opposite!” he happily exclaims. “Knowing that these conditions exist in me has been positive because I must go beyond my limitations.”

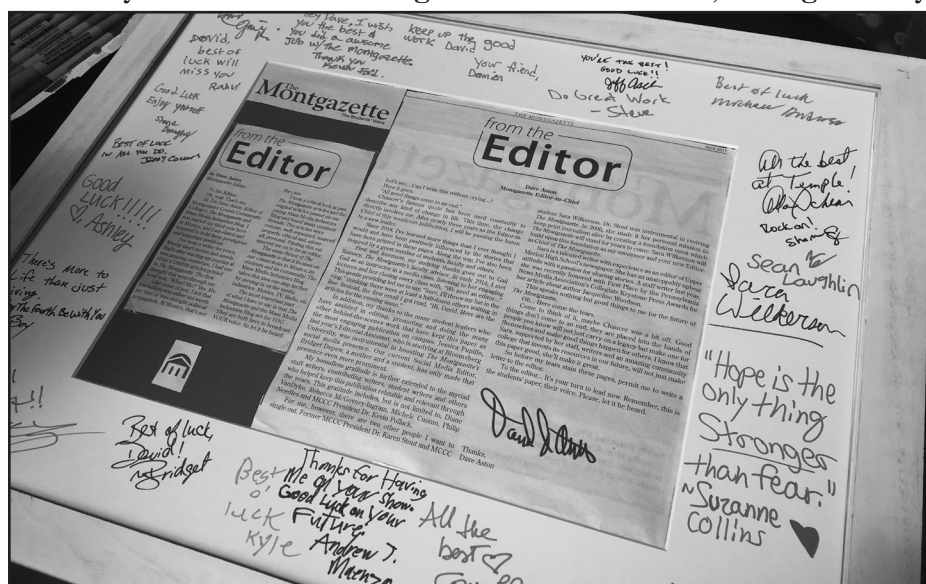
And he has. David is an academic high achiever with a GPA of 3.8. He is a member of Phi Theta Kappa. He also has produced, directed and hosted a weekly news show on Montco Radio.

In addition to attending classes and doing homework, David puts in 38 hours a week or more as the technology sales supervisor of an office supply retailer. “I have an aptitude for basic computer repair,”

he explains. But even with three people working under him, he still has to haul printers that weigh thirty pounds or more.

“That can be taxing for someone with my conditions,” David admits. “I’m constantly in pain. That’s why I’m here [at Montco].” Once again, Aston is blasting away any obstacles in his path. “I want to move forward with higher education, progress beyond where I am now in terms of career and earnings.”

David’s goal, however, is to be a spokesperson for others with disabilities, “I want to champion people who have conditions like mine. I look back on my life not to be depressed but to remember where I’ve come from. This is the foundation upon which my future is built.”



Gift of Appreciation to outgoing editor David Aston of his first letter from the editor to his last letter as editor for *The Montgazette*.

Photo by Sara Wilkerson



Sara Wilkerson, the new editor of *The Montgazette*, presented David Aston with the Gift of Appreciation at a surprised event sponsored by the paper.

Photo courtesy of Rahul Theva



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