

The Youngtown Edition

COUNTY COLLEGE OF MORRIS AWARD-WINNING STUDENT NEWSPAPER

CCM president encourages students, faculty to help devise new budget

BY BRETT FRIEDENSOHN
News Editor

As County College of Morris president Dr. Anthony Iacono devises a new strategic plan for the school, he is encouraging students and faculty to voice their opinions on what they want to see continue and what they want to see change.

Iacono hosted meetings Wednesday, Feb. 8 and Tuesday, Feb. 14 in an effort to gain insight on what the college needs to revamp as the administration builds the new strategic plan, which acts as a blueprint for the college’s way of operating to meet the priorities on which the college will focus in the next few years. Iacono expects the plan to take about six months to fully develop.

Some of the issues that arose in these meetings were increasing accessibility for students who struggle to move around campus because of physical disabilities, registration difficulties for military personnel, community college stigma, and the quality

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*Dr. Anthony Iacono
President, County College of Morris*

and enrollment of CCM’s honors classes.

“Part of really developing a good strategic plan is taking time to listen to lots of people who are the stakeholders, which is anyone who has anything invested in the institution, so that might be someone who works for the college; it could be students, members of the community and so forth,” Iacono said. “So what we really want to do is have a chance to really listen, to hear what’s on people’s minds, so what we’re looking for is things that you think are working really well and things that you feel that we should do more of. It’s great to share that. Things that you think we’re not doing at all that you think we should be giving some attention to, we want to hear that, and if there’s things that you think we’re not doing that well, we want to hear that, also.”

Marisa Goglia, a CCM

journalism major with cerebral palsy, said that one major problem within Accessibility Services is the lack of accessibility to both the third floor and the bathrooms.

“I have to ask people to open restroom doors for me, and I like being independent,” Goglia said.

Iacono voiced interest in increasing accessibility at CCM, citing that about 1,000 students utilize Accessibility Services. Iacono said that he would look into installing accessible door buttons for the bathrooms and creating means to making the third floor accessible to students with disabilities.

“It’s a really important population, and we need to focus more on it,” Iacono said. “It’s hard enough to go to college, but for some students, it can be even more challenging than that because you have to learn the campus, what are the resources, and where are the resources.”



PHOTO CREDIT CCM

D’Angelo Torres, a soldier in the New Jersey National Guard and engineering major in his first semester at CCM, said that many soldiers experience an unwanted surprise when first registering for classes at CCM. Torres said that despite the Guard paying for its soldiers’ tuition at CCM, no one makes it abundantly clear that the Guard does not pay for additional fees, and many soldiers do not know that they need to pay for this until they submit their waiver documentation to the bursar’s office.

“I already knew that I already had fees and extra stuff to pay, so I wasn’t surprised, but at the same time, I didn’t really see anybody telling me that I had extra fees and all that other stuff,” Torres said. “But I did ask, and the veteran’s office, they were really helpful with everything, but there wasn’t anyone informing this, what the extra fees were until we got to the bursar’s office.”

Dr. Bette Simmons, vice president of student development at CCM, said that students have complained about this before, and she said that there is a disagreement on who holds the responsibility of clarifying this. Simmons said that some believe each soldier’s commander should hold the responsibility while others feel the obligation should rest on CCM.

Iacono asked Torres where he thinks this information should be available and asked if the college should add it on its website as the site undergoes reconstruction.

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Homeland Security, NSA honor County College of Morris

BY AMANDA ALLER
Managing Editor

County College of Morris received recognition from the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security for its cyber security program.

On Thursday, Jan. 26, CCM was designated as a Center for Academic Excellence by the NSA and Department of Homeland Security.

CCM is the only community college in the state of New Jersey and the 41st in the country, to have achieved this designation, according to the National Initiative for Education and Training Program.

Patricia Tamburelli, full time professor in the information technology department, has been building the cyber security curriculum at CCM since the early 2000s, after she and her husband founded an organization for cybersecurity education called Colloquium for Information Systems Security Education, or CISSE.

Tamburelli said she used the knowledge gained there to develop courses that met the federal standard which at the time was called 4011, a training standard which sets a minimum qualification standard for

information security professionals in the country.

Being the only two year school in New Jersey that had a cyber security curriculum mapped to the federal standard, CCM became a certifying institution for the NSA in 2003.

“We were required to teach knowledge units which are basically an updated version of the 4011,” Tamburelli said. “These knowledge units are areas of study, within cyber security, that include a whole list of specifics that we have to teach.”

The requirements to become a Center for Academic Excellence were a long time coming.

“We had to prove that we’ve met this criteria in the past, not that we’re just doing it now,” Tamburelli said. “I had to make sure our Information systems department has our systems secure and that we have the right policies and procedures in place to secure our whole school network.”

The specific criteria the cyber security education department had to meet included proving that the faculty who teach cyber security have some type of certification or recognition in their field, providing numbers on how many students were taught in the past three years, competing in cyber defense competitions



PHOTO COURTESY OF FACEBOOK

From left, Brian Seligson, Andrea Doucette, Mihir Kansagra representing Cyber Security Club at Safer Internet Day in Philadelphia.

and maintaining an official center for cyber security, with a website that correlates and shows what the department is continuously doing.

“The outreach activities that Professor Tamburelli and her students got involved in are things like hosting national cyber security awareness month in October, data privacy day in January, outreach presentations to the county, and they just recently came back from the board of county freeholders and did a presentation there,” said Professor Nancy Binowski, chair of information technologies. “So

the idea is to get the citizenry educated on how to remain cyber safe.”

The cyber security department will have to resubmit again and show everything they have done from 2017 to 2022 in order to still be designated.

“Once something like this is achieved, almost every school will re designate, because the initial time is the hard time,” Tamburelli said. “To become a center for academic excellence, means the whole school has to be committed to cyber security education and excellence. It’s a college wide initiative.”

Cybersecurity students at CCM are now eligible to apply for scholarships like the Scholarship for Service which is awarded by the National Science Foundation.

“If they pay for you for two years then you have to commit to two years of service when you graduate from that school, meaning you have to work for a government agency,” Tamburelli said. “Local, out of state, you get to pick where you work and it is a paid position.”

While the opportunities are available right now only to students in the program, Tamburelli discourages students from writing it off due simply to inexperience.

“Even if you have no technology experience I still say come in,” Tamburelli said. “The courses build. From week one to week 16 you’ll certainly be a lot more adept with technology. It doesn’t make a difference what your experience is or what your background is. Cybersecurity is for everybody. And everyone is capable of becoming a cybersecurity specialist.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF FACEBOOK

Transfer pathways open up with East Stroudsburg University

BY DAN BRODHEAD

Contributor

County College of Morris has made it easier for students looking to study biology, business management or criminal justice at East Stroudsburg University.

CCM has signed three credit transferable articulation agreements which will allow students who are graduating to transfer all credits from their major without the fear of having to retake classes.

"There are different types of articulation agreements that benefit students," said Kari Hawkins, coordinator of transfer services at CCM. "There is credit transfer, financial aid, tuition discount, [and] full admission agreements."

The department of biological services allows students to choose from a wide variety of majors. Fields of interest include biology, biotechnology, environmental studies, marine science and medical technology. Students who have a passion for research, animals and plant anatomy should consider this unique field. Possible career paths are research biologist, laboratory technician and environmental conservationist.

The department of business management introduces

students into the world of business. ESU offers a bachelor of science degree in management and has 600 business majors in their department, making it one of the largest departments on campus. With specializations in accounting, finance, general management and marketing, a degree in business management will give students a leg up in the business world.

The criminal justice program gives students the knowledge and expertise to pursue a criminal justice career. As the fourth largest major in ESU, students will be gaining information from professors that want their students to excel. Possible careers include criminology, criminal justice and law.

Whether students know what college they want to attend after graduation or not, all students should take advantage of the college fair. The college fair is an event hosted by Transfer Services on March 8 from 10:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. in the Student Community Center Davidson Rooms. Students can meet with over 60 colleges to talk about majors, tuition, scholarships and other information regarding the college. If students have any questions with transferring to colleges, they should contact Kari Hawkins

at Transfer Services.

"You are going to be able to transfer with a minimum of 60 credits," said Tara Wuorinen, manager of academic programs for Rutgers University at CCM. "Even if students aren't considering Rutgers, I would highly recommend a state school just so they don't spend too much out of pocket."

ESU is not the only school CCM has agreements with. They have recently partnered up with West Virginia University, Fairleigh Dickinson University (with a 40 percent tuition discount for CCM degree holders), Montclair State University and others.

"There are some schools that I know have these agreements," said Nicole Iorio, a nursing major at CCM. "Seton Hall is my dream school, but if I don't get into it then I'll look at a few of those schools."

Transferring to a four-year college can be stressful. Everything will be new and exciting and possibly overwhelming. Students need to know that the college they choose after graduating CCM is the best fit for them to finish their degree.

No wait for instant decision day

BY ZACK MARTINO

Contributor

Applying to further education from County College of Morris (CCM) involves fees, applications and transcript requests that stack up into an intimidating pile of work, but there are ways to streamline the process for graduating students at CCM.

The CCM Office of Counseling Services and Student Success is offering instant decision day sign-ups to those planning on transferring to four year schools.

"Instant decision day is an opportunity for graduating students to meet with close to a dozen different schools here on campus," said CCM counselor Kaitlin Najjar. "That instant decision day is an interview between the student and the admission representative that will give the student an answer on the spot on whether or not they've been accepted to the school."

CCM students have the chance to sign up for interviews with a variety of schools, from Fairleigh Dickinson University to William Paterson University.

In addition to meeting with an admission representative, students can avoid paying the application fee, along with skipping the required essays for most participating schools.

Trevor Hurst, a business

administration major at CCM, is one of the students taking advantage of an instant decision day. Hurst is applying to both Montclair State University and FDU and is signed up for a meeting with MSU.

"I absolutely do think most students should use instant decision day," Hurst said. "It's very quick, simple and you don't have to pay the fees you otherwise would pay."

Despite the convenience of the process, it might not be the best option for each student.

"I'm not using instant decision day, but I do think people should use it if they're dead set on where they're going," said Emily Martinez, a communication major at CCM. "I know my friend used it last semester and was able to get into the school really easily and didn't have any problems."

Instant decision day is designed to be convenient and streamlined, from registration to decision.

"If [students] are in their last semester and they want to do an instant decision day they come here to the Transfer Services Office in the Student Community Center," Nijjar said. "Then based on GPA minimum of the school, we can sign them up for a 15 minute appointment with a representative that will be coming on campus."

Bone marrow drive looks to diversify

BY MIRANDA SPETACCINO

Contributor

Giving blood is so last semester. Now students are looking to donate bone marrow.

County College of Morris Health Services, along with the Icla da Silva Foundation, are hosting a "Be The Match" Bone Marrow Drive from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23 in the Student Center Lobby and Tuesday Feb. 28 in the B Café Alcove area, located across from Cohen Café.

The drive will consist of a registration and a cheek swab, and is open to CCM students, faculty and staff ages 18 to 40.

The Icla da Silva Foundation is the largest recruitment center for the Be The Match Registry in the United States, with offices throughout the east coast and Puerto Rico, according to their website. Their focus is on diversifying the registry.

"Right now in the registry there are 13 million people and 70 percent is Caucasian," said Lauren Wollny, a community engagement representative at the foundation. "So that leaves patients that are of any diverse tissue type a very hard time of finding a match. You're more likely of matching within your same ancestry."

Joining the Be The Match Registry only takes about five minutes out of the day, and the results could possibly save someone's life, said Wollny.

"We're asking people to sign up, fill out a form, and do a cheek swab to potentially donate in the future. It doesn't mean that they're going to absolutely donate," Wollny said. "You only donate when you match someone, which is very rare."

Once a person joins the national registry, they remain eligible to match with a patient in need right up until the day they turn 61 years old. If matched, they would have a basic health screening over the

phone and from there go through a series of tests and exams to determine if they are a patient's best match.

According to Be The Match's website, 1 in 40 registry members will be called for additional testing, 1 in 300 will be selected as the best possible donor for a patient, and only about 1 in 430 will actually donate.

Wollny went on to say that a substantial challenge when it comes to drumming up donors is spreading the word about what the bone marrow registry actually is.

To her point, Jeremy Tsonton, a communication major at CCM, said that he is not sure whether he will attend the drive.

"I don't know enough about the drive," Tsonton said.

Tsonton said that maybe if he knew more about the registry, he would attend the drive. Tsonton said he would donate if matched with anyone.

"I mean I'm an organ donor so I'm kind of all for that stuff," Tsonton said.

Maggie Pierce, a humanities and social sciences major at CCM, said that although she was not aware of the drive, she, like Tsonton, would consider joining the registry and subsequently donating bone marrow.

"I always try to help people and make their lives more positive," Pierce said. "I've never really been freaked out about doctors or needles or blood or anything like that, so actually donating wouldn't be an issue."

For more information about the drive or about volunteering for the drive, contact Health Services at 973-328-5160, or Lauren Wollny at 973-647-5845 or by email at Lauren@icla.org.

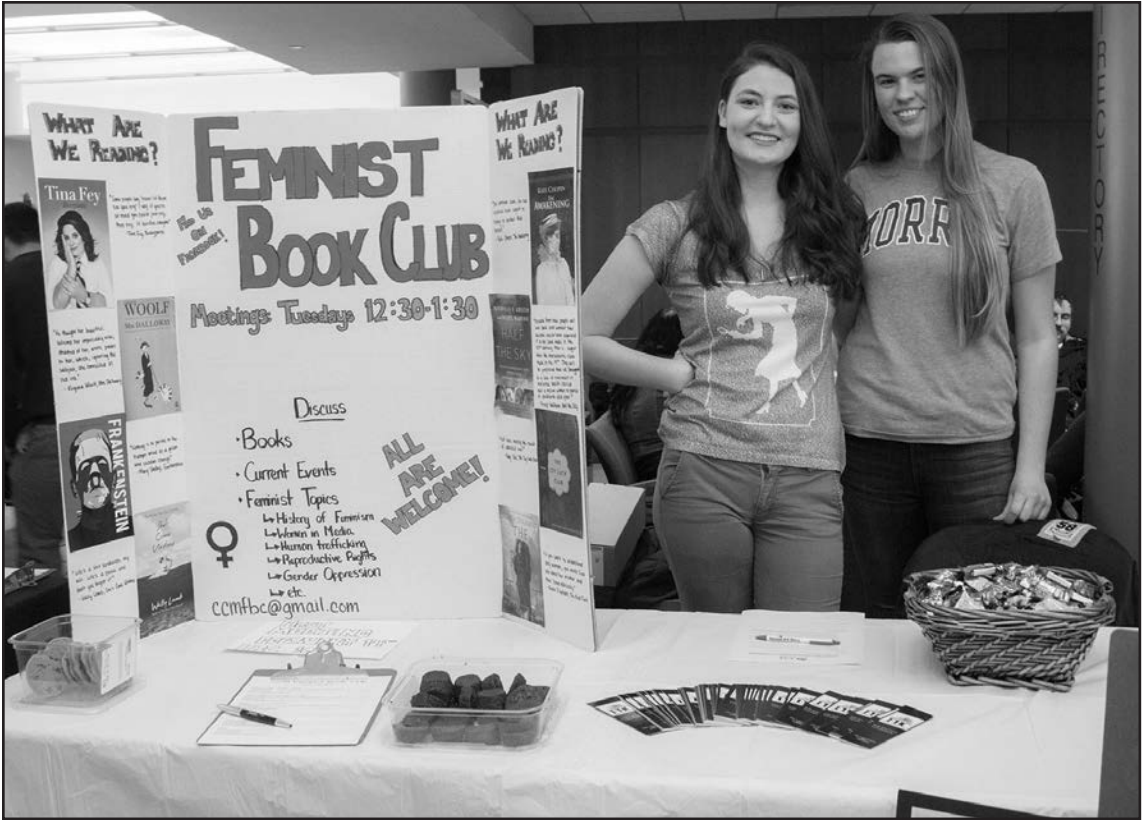


PHOTO BY MOE RAHMATULLAH

Rachel Work, Vice President and Chloe Smith, President

Feminist Book Club prepares for launch

BY VALENTINA MARMOLEJO
Contributor

The Feminist Book Club (FBC) preparing for its first semester at County College of Morris hopes to unite people with common interests and create a safe space for an open discussion.

“We just wanted to bring a group of like minded people together and we all like books, so we just thought it would be a good way to do it,” said Chloe Smith, liberal arts major and president of FBC.

When it comes to the books, Smith and Vice President Rachael Work hope to use the broadest meaning of the word feminist: equality of the sexes. Wanting to expand from classic male and female roles, Smith and Work wanted to make sure that the books represented all genders on the spectrum.

They have chosen books like “She’s Come Undone,” “Mrs. Dalloway,” “Frankenstein,” and “The Awakening,” as well as a few children’s books and short stories that have recently come out that question gender norms.

“People asked us at the fair, ‘Why not just a feminist club? Why not just a book club?’,” Work said. “It wouldn’t be truthful if we picked one or the other, because it’s not just a book club, and it wouldn’t be just a feminist club. We needed something that would keep things moving, to not get anyone into a rut.”

Work said she thinks it will allow people to more fully express their feelings about a piece if they can identify with the characters or situations.

“You can talk about all these issues without having to be the center of attention at that moment, so it was a great way to bring light into everything and get people to talk.” Work said.

Smith said she wants the meetings to be an open discussion where different opinions can be voiced.

“It’s not going to be the kind of thing where we’re schooling anybody, because I’m sure everybody has so much to bring to the table, and we’re really looking forward to that, because there’s so much other people get from books that we probably haven’t even thought about as we read,” Smith said. “That’s what’s going to be so fun about having these discussions.”

While it is too soon to say how successful the club is yet, the current social climate may lend a hand to its popularity.

“I think they probably will be popular, because I think a lot of the stuff in the political world will pique people’s interest with like women’s rights and what not,” said Nina Thoguluva, biology major at CCM. “I think that’s like a new wave of interest, like feminism as a whole.”

The officers for the FBC can be contacted at ccmfbc@gmail.com for more information.

Veggies on the mind with new club

BY LAURA CALDERON
Contributor

Vegans and vegetarians rejoice as County College of Morris welcomes a new club dedicated to them.

The Vegan and Vegetarian Club’s mission is to inform students about societal, ecological and ethical impacts of human-animal interaction, according to the club’s constitution.

According to Vegetarian Times, 3.2 percent of United States residents or 7.3 million people follow a vegetarian based diet. Vegetarian and Vegan Club President Daniel Twili has been a practicing vegetarian for four years now and is excited for the responsibilities the club is expected to entail.

“The definitions of vegetarian and vegan varies between cultures and individual people,” Twili said. “Typically, a vegetarian is a person who doesn’t eat meat and a vegan is a person who doesn’t eat meat or any animal products.

This means that every vegan is also a vegetarian, but not the other way around.”

Choosing to live life as a vegetarian in his youth, the club’s faculty advisor, Professor Philip Chase, now chooses to live as a pescetarian - an individual who doesn’t eat meat, but does consume different types of seafood.

“The club’s purpose is that it exists to celebrate vegetarian and vegan food,” Chase said. “And to provide a positive venue for social interaction for students who follow a vegetarian/vegan diet or are interested in one. In addition to meetings, there will be gatherings that include food, which is a wonderful way to bring people together.”

Twili, as well as Professor Chase, looks forward to future campus events that will hopefully, get more students interested in the club accompanied with delicious vegan and vegetarian recipes.

“It’s safe to say that all our events will,” Twili said. “In some

way focus on having students think about the ways they interact with animals and how that changes the world.”

Nursing major Amanda Lerner is excited for the club’s arrival to the CCM campus. There are numerous academic clubs on campus, but not enough dedicated to healthier lifestyles, according to Lerner.

“Vegetarianism looks extremely difficult,” Lerner said. “I think it would be really interesting to hear different experiences from other people and learn how to make the transition to a vegetarian lifestyle easier. Exercise is an important part of being healthy, but so is clean eating.”

Any student interested in the club is encouraged to join regardless of dietary preferences.

“The club is for everyone,” said Twili. “We only ask that students be respectful and keep an open mind.”

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Campus wildlife intrigue students

BY NICK SISTI
Entertainment Editor

Taking a stroll through the foliage-filled campus of County College of Morris, one will likely become acquainted with the various forms of wildlife that roam the area.

Most noticeable are the campus geese, who cross the sidewalks and accompany students on their way to class. Some students feel that the presence of the creatures adds to the aesthetic of the campus, while others are indifferent.

“Just this week, a bunch of geese were crossing from the student center,” said Tatiana Campiglia, a communication major at CCM. “There were at least 10 of them. It was cool to see because they were so comfortable doing it. They weren’t scared of any of the students. All of the students were waiting as if there were a stop sign, and it was the geese’ green light. I like having so many animals on campus. They’re all part of the school in a weird way.”

Students learned first-hand that nesting geese can be violently protective.

“This past spring, we had a nesting in lot eight,” noted John Fichter, assistant director of Public Safety at CCM. “We actually had to tape off the area because the male would be aggressive to people who got too close to the nest.”

Typically when this happens,



PHOTO BY NICK SISTI

the Department of Public Safety does what they can to preserve the area. However, if it occurs in areas where there is too much foot traffic to adequately contain it, they’ll call for outside help.

“We’ve had a few [nestings] closer to the school, and in those instances, the Randolph Animal Control would get involved,” Fichter said. “We haven’t really had any issues with animals in the buildings, other than a stray dog once.”

Some students are tolerant of the geese yet remain largely indifferent to them.

“I don’t resent their presence, but most of what they add to the campus would be ... poop,” said Dr. Phil Chase, English professor at CCM.

Though it may appear a bit less prominent on the surface, an

entire ecosystem of critters exists alongside the geese. “I’ve seen groundhogs by the tennis courts and also some sort of a hawk, which will swoop down while I’m playing tennis as if I’m in his territory or something,” Chase said. “Don’t try to approach the groundhogs. ... They’re pretty vicious.”

However, Jacob Kokoshka, a biology major at CCM, sees the groundhogs in a different light.

“I like seeing them around,” he said. “My friends and I will often take Snapchats of them. We’ve even named some of them. ... The one that hangs out by Cohen Hall, his name is Henry. There’s another one that lives by the library, but we haven’t come up with a name for him yet.”

Blackboard: backbone of campus communication

BY JANNAT SHEIKH
Contributor

Grades, presentations, discussion boards and assignments are just moments away from students at County College of Morris through Blackboard Learn, an online learning portal.

CCM students are assigned to a Blackboard account from their first day on campus in order to access information for some classes. Not all professors use Blackboard, which frustrates some students who want to keep their work organized.

“I find Blackboard helpful when it comes to communicating with professors about homework assignments and material that was reviewed in class,” said Carsyn St.

John, an occupational therapy major at CCM. “I would find it even more useful if each professor was required to use the learning portal.”

St. John is not alone in her desire for a more universal adoption of Blackboard throughout campus.

“I actually like Blackboard,” said Faiza Khan, a humanities major at CCM. “It bothers me when professors don’t utilize it.”

The idea that Blackboard is a useful tool stems from its access to class materials and constant updates of grades.

“[Blackboard] keeps me organized and let’s me know how I am doing throughout the semester,” Khan said.

Other students consider Blackboard to be a bit outdated and in need for improvement.

“I would really appreciate if there was a chat, similar to Instant Messenger, to either chat with your professor or even a help desk,” said Jenny Carroll, a communication major at CCM. “Going back and forth from Blackboard to e-mail is tedious. Having a way to communicate on Blackboard fast and effectively would be ideal.”

Carroll said that she is a student that has had several online classes, and professors who love Blackboard. However, she personally feels that Blackboard was frustrating to navigate at first.

“Overall, Blackboard is very boring, and the layout is not interesting to maneuver whatsoever,” said Carroll.

Blackboard Learn can be accessed at courses.ccm.edu.



PHOTO BY DAN BRODHEAD

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The Student Newspaper of the County College of Morris

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All students are welcome to contribute articles to The Youngtown Edition either in person or via e-mail. However, students cannot receive a byline if they belong to the organization on which they are reporting. The deadline for articles is the Monday prior to a production.



Meetings at 12:30 every other
Thursday in EH-205

Contact us at

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Students sell stuff successfully online

BY AMANDA ALLER
Managing Editor

When overwhelming course loads prevent traditional employment routes for college students, turning to the online market provides a useful way to clear through clutter for a profit, or sell a handmade craft.

E-commerce has become a huge part of the way people consume and sell goods. Amazon is the most valuable retailer in the world, online or not, with a market value of \$250 billion according to CNN.

Amazon also allows you to participate in that impressive market, giving it another leg up on traditional retail giants.

The first step to selling successfully on Amazon is finding the right product. An ideal product is light and small, inexpensive to purchase and ship, and not seasonal.

“You may find an item that you think won’t sell but you’ll be surprised,” said Andrea Doucette, a computer science major at the County College of Morris. “I found some great finds in the clearance section of Walmart and made around a 200 percent profit.”

It’s a good idea to sell something that you wouldn’t normally buy, so you won’t be tempted to spend the money you could be making on the product. Another key is making your item as searchable as possible by being specific in its listing title or description. For example, you won’t just be selling a necklace, rather a sterling silver pendant clock necklace.

“The Amazon Seller app will become your best friend,” Doucette said. “Scan all the items you come across and try to stay in the top 1 percent of categories. You’ll make the most money within that margin.”

It helps to find a supplier, which should be contacted through an email address made specifically for that purpose. This will protect your personal email address from ad spam.

Alibaba is the largest online e-commerce company in the world, and is a good place to begin looking for a supplier for your goods. Filter your search by the categories most important to you, then pick from the top 20 to 30 and send a generic message, asking for a price listing of the product you want along with some samples of the product. You want to ensure that what you’re selling is quality.



PHOTO CREDIT AMAZON

When selling your product, make sure to ship the item immediately and do not use drop shipping when starting out. Drop shipping is the process where you pass along your customer’s shipping information to the drop shipper, who has all of the products in their storage space and sends them directly to your customer. Although this is very time and cost effective, it can be hard to find good drop shippers because there’s a level of trust that is needed, considering they’re selling the product to the customer, rather than going through a third party seller (in this case, you).

Start out by buying your products in bulk through Alibaba (after you’ve sampled them) and ensure a good relationship with

your customers that way. After you’ve done this you can use websites like WholesaleCentral.com to find drop shippers or find them through your existing supplier. After you’re ready to ship your product, don’t forget to add a customized thank you note! A little gratitude goes a long way.

Once you’re ready to brand yourself, you should create a landing page (the website’s home page) through a website like leadpages.com. Conversion rate, the percentage of website visitors who buy something on the site, is the key here. Having a clever tag line can influence your conversion rate greatly.

After you’ve done this you can run an Adword campaign through Google, LinkedIn or Facebook. After you’ve set up conversion tracking you’ll be able to see which keywords grab your customer’s attention and which don’t.

Once you’ve taken all of these steps, you’re already ahead of the game. Remember to do your research by watching other people’s success (and failure) stories on YouTube or reading an in depth blog like startupbros.com. Through extensive research, prepare yourself for the pitfalls of starting a new business.

“Keep track of all tracking numbers and triple check addresses when sending out packages,” said Mihir Kansagra, management information systems major at CCM. “Returns must be accepted or Amazon will suspend the account.”

Keep in mind that once your supplier sends you sample products, it will take about seven to twenty days to ship. So be patient, plan ahead and get ready to kick off your entrepreneurial career!

Starbucks: The Price You Pay

Students, faculty weigh in on monetary indulgence of their Starbucks drinks

BY ERIN POST
Contributor



PHOTO BY ERIN POST

Tarra Frawley drinks a Starbucks coffee in the LRC Cafe.

The benefits of having a chain coffee store located in the Learning Resource Center at County College of Morris may be offset by its prices.

The prices at the LRC Café, which serves Starbucks drinks, versus an actual Starbucks chain store, do vary. One of the most popular drinks -- a White Chocolate Mocha -- is \$3.75 for a Tall at the Morristown Starbucks chain store location, whereas it is \$3.99 at CCM.

Because of the Starbucks prices on the CCM campus, some students did have to rationalize buying multiple Starbucks drinks on campus. “It is a little expensive and I have to ration it over the semester. I would pay more if I had to,” said Tarra Frawley, a non-matriculated student at CCM. “The fancier stuff could be cheaper. The thing that bothers me the most is that you can’t use gift cards.”

Other students shared the same opinions as Frawley and did not seem to mind the prices of their drinks, such as Jacinta Courter, an interior design major at CCM. “My drink was okay – good not great. I thought it was tasty, so I was okay pay-

ing \$3.99 for it,” Courter said. “I wish it was free, but I know that wouldn’t happen.”

While some enjoy the deliciousness of a Starbucks beverage, others prefer a different brand altogether. Professor David Palant, a communication professor at CCM, said, “I normally go to Dunkin. I like their prices better.” When

asked if he would pay more for his drinks, he said, “Absolutely no!”

College students cannot be separated from their coffee, and that is increasingly true. According to a 2014 study by the NPD Group, a national organization that tracks trends in eating and drinking habits, from 2002 to 2012, there was an increase by 14 percent of 18 to 24 year olds drinking coffee.

It could be that college students are willing to pay more for their Starbucks because of their beloved caffeine boosts. The NPD Group reported that this age segment is turning to coffee as their pick-me-up of choice. The Center for Science in the Public Interest, a consumer advocacy group, reports that a 16-ounce Grande at Starbucks contains 330 mg of caffeine.

All in all, the prices for Starbucks drinks may not be a problem for many college students, as long as they get their caffeine fix.

STRATEGIC PLAN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“It’ll happen in two phases,” Iacono said. “One is just to tweak it out a little bit and make the registration process easier, what have you, and get our catalog online, and then, after that, we’ll spend about a year redoing it, and there’ll be some listening sessions with the committees and so forth as well. Is that where it should be? Where should we be telling people? Because you would not be too thrilled if it was just a sign right in front of the bursar’s window. It’s a little late at that point, right? Where can we make you aware of that?”

Torres said that both CCM and the National Guard should make soldiers’ necessary payments clear to them.

“I feel like it’s on both sides,” Torres said. “The commander, they should really emphasize that, ‘Yeah, we pay for the college but just the tuition not the fees and whatnot,’ and it’s just really a communication between the military and states schools.

Online would be nice, maybe registration’s office at some point, at some point before the bursar’s office so that when you go there, you already have a good idea of what you’re paying and why you’re paying it.”

Iacono also acknowledged the stigma surrounding attending community college, and took suggestions for how to combat that stigma.

“There’s roughly 1,300 community colleges around the country, and they’ll all tell you, if there’s one thing we all have in common, it’s the stigma factor,” Iacono said. “Talk to us about the stigma factor. Did you experience that? What does it sound like? What is the stigma, really?”

Brian Gilligan, a criminal justice major at CCM, said that he noticed many students in his high school considering themselves more elite for attending universities; however, he said that many of these students have not had successful academic careers.

“Usually the kids that perpetuated the stigma, they went

to a university and failed out in another year,” Gilligan said. “I think that if someone’s at a university, they think it’s more elite. Like, they go to Rutgers, and they think they’re more elite than the community school, and it could be wealth, like, ‘Oh, my parents have enough money to afford Rutgers, and so I’m richer,’ so it’s wealth-based, or it’s elitist, kind of.”

Arrik Leman, a Sussex County resident who graduated Boonton High School in 2015, said that many students and faculty members pushed stigmas of community colleges, directing those stigmas especially at Sussex County Community College (SCCC). Lehman said that this was one of the reasons he decided to attend CCM over SCCC.

“When I was in high school, there was a huge push of if you’re going to county, go to CCM, which is good for you guys,” Leman said. “The big problem when people look at county colleges is that they are not reliable is the feeling I get, and that’s why a

lot of people from Sussex County end up coming here because they’re worried that if they get into a program, a class that’s required to graduate won’t be able to fill up, and the class won’t be available, and they’ll have to wait until next year or next year.”

Leman expressed satisfaction with choosing CCM over SCCC.

“It’s normally worth the drive, and it’s more professional because this is comparable to a real school,” Leman said.

When Simmons asked students for ideas on how to combat community college stigma, Gilligan said that CCM should publicize some of its successful alumni.

“We need to find success stories of people graduating and from here and going to some good school or getting a really good job,” Gilligan said. “And maybe that might help. And advertizing it.”

Jodi Petrakian, a humanities and social sciences major who takes honors classes at CCM, said

that she would like to see more enrollment and consistency in CCM’s honors classes.

“I think that we need to maybe push them,” Petrakian said. “There’s not a lot of students in them ... There are some professors who have just decided to do whatever they want, and it doesn’t always turn out well, or it’s just kind of gibberish that you’re listening to for a while.”

Iacono said that he was considering creating an honors program at CCM rather than only having individual honors classes.

Petrakian said that an honors program would benefit students.

“Definitely, I think an honors program would benefit a lot of people,” Petrakian said. “I think a program would be nice to be able to say that you’re doing it even and then to be able to have specific classes that are a little bit more rigorous and a little more attentive.”

CCM softball team works to build off past successes

BY BRETT
FREIDENSOHN
News Editor

The softball team at County College of Morris has begun practicing for its 2017 regular season which will open Sunday, March 5 against Rowan College at Gloucester County.

The Titans look to repeat their region title victory after winning the 2016 National Junior College Athletic Association Region XIX Championship May 6, 2016.

Softball head coach Greg Wardlow said that a lack of pitching depth may hinder his team.

During the fall preseason, the team had three pitchers, two of whom have since announced that they cannot play this season because of injuries. Since then, the coaches have been working to find players who have had some experience pitching and train them so that they can pitch behind starter Mary Mastriani. These backups consist of infielder Carly McDaniel, outfielder Taylor Van Sant, second baseman Kellyann McClain who pitched one inning for CCM last season, and Vincenza Megone who pitched for Bloomfield High School until her graduation in 2015 and played for CCM in the fall 2015 preseason but not the spring 2016 regular season.

Despite this, Wardlow said that this season's team is akin to last year's.

"Other than the pitching depth issue, I think our team is comparable to last year," Wardlow said. "And we're always optimistic. Maybe we're a bit better... I think our overall defense is shaping up to be a little bit better than last year. I think our team speed is definitely a little bit better."

Wardlow expressed confidence in Mastriani as the starting pitcher. Mastriani pitched in 2016 with a record of 22-6, and was named by international softball news agency Fastpitch News as an NJCAA Division II All-American for the fall 2016 preseason,



PHOTO BY BRETT FRIEDENSOHN

CCM softball holds its first outdoor practice of 2017 Wednesday, Feb. 8.

along with four other pitchers nationally.

"She was one of the principal reasons why we won the regional championship," Wardlow said. "And she's back and continues to give us optimism, but our pitching depth behind that took a bit of a hit, so right now, we have quantity, not sure of the quality in our second and third pitchers, but we're working on that... They're not as experienced as the two pitchers we lost, but we're still optimistic that with Mary leading the way, when we get to the big games, we'll still be okay."

Magone said that she was adjusting back into the pitching role.

"I feel confident," Magone said. "It's fine. I did it all my life, so it's just like muscle memory."

Softball assistant coach John Baccolini has focused in on training the backup pitchers this season.

"They're all well-quality athletes," Baccolini said. "We start off with fastball and changeup first, and then, we've been doing mostly that in late December and January, and then, as we move into the middle of February, we'll start working on their breaking pitches."



PHOTO CREDIT FACEBOOK

The cast of 'The Good Place,' which airs on NBC.

NBC's 'The Good Place' revives intelligent network comedy

BY STEVEN
HERNANDEZ
Contributor

Intelligent TV has become commonplace. Cable networks like AMC and HBO are turning out long-form stories now (Breaking Bad, The Sopranos) that are better than most films, and that is to say nothing about the quality behemoth of Netflix, with recent addition A Series of Unfortunate Events wowing critics.

However, these well-financed cable networks are leaving basic cable networks like NBC in the dust. Sure, NBC had 30 Rock and Parks and Recreation, but the intelligent, hilarious minds of Amy Poehler and Tina Fey have left a hole filled by sick star vehicles like Kevin Can Wait and pseudo-intellectual, mind-numbing, trite chuckle pieces like The Big Bang Theory.

So imagine my surprise at the depth created by Michael Schur's (The Office and Parks and Recreation veteran) new NBC show The Good Place. Instantly establishing a lore of heaven that is both inoffensive

to salient religions, and based on utilitarian principles of morality, The Good Place is set in The Good Place, where only the spectacularly moral are allowed access to the afterlife. Now imagine again what would happen if you placed an accident in heaven. Due to a clerical error, Eleanor Shellstrop (played by Kristen Bell), an all-around "bad person," has been placed in The Good Place, while the woman who shares her name (who spent her life saving sick children in Africa) is condemned to The Bad Place. Top it all off with a soulmate who spent his life as a philosophy professor of ethics, and the maelstrom of transcendent consequences due to a "bad" person being in The "good" place, and we have a potential masterpiece for character development in a conceptually boring, perfect land.

The cast is led by the aforementioned Kristen Bell with Ted Danson playing the angelic/creator role of Michael. Newcomer William Jackson Harper plays Eleanor's soulmate, Chidi Anagonye, and is a welcome addition to an already talent-addled cast. His moral deliberations are

refreshing in a world of supposedly objective, but alternative facts.

The seeds are laid for truly spectacular character development in The Good Place with Lost-esque expository flashback scenes interwoven between the current events unfolding in each episode, and what's even better, it's actually funny. Poking fun at the esoteric and incomprehensible nature of philosophy in Chidi's ethical manuscript, the upbeat but emotionless omnipotence of The Good Place guide and assistant, Janet (played by D'Arcy Carden, another spectacular fresh face), and the pretentiousness of Eleanor's next door neighbor, Tahani (Jameela Jamil) all left me with more than a smile on my face.

The Good Place convinces me that fresh ideas can still be broadcast on broadcast networks, and that intelligence is being catered to in the realm of television. It will make you smarter, and it might even make you a better person.

PARKING PULSE: CCM parking lots drive students into fervor

BY RACHEL GANGEL
Contributor

"It's insane how long some students are willing to wait for a parking spot," said Drew Mautz, a visual arts major at CCM.

The school has eight parking lots accessible for students, which should be enough for each student and faculty member. But when location preferences come into play, all the space in the world is

not enough.

"It goes without saying that lot seven is the most popular," Mautz said. "I personally refuse to even try and find a spot there since I know numerous people who try every day and they sit there for a while waiting for classes to end and students to give them their spots."

Mautz usually tries for lots two or three, which often have available spaces.

Other students are not as willing to take a longer walk to avoid the wait in lot seven.

"I think waiting for the closest spot possible is worth it," said Victoria Jones, a liberal arts major at CCM. "I hate walking from the far lots to the buildings for classes, I feel so exhausted by the time I reach my classroom. I refuse to park anywhere other than lot seven and will wait however

long I have to in order to find a spot."

Nighttime students have the advantage of using lot five, which is a faculty-only lot during the day.

"A majority of the classes that I take are night classes which begin at 6:30 p.m., meaning I can park in lot five because I park after 5:30 p.m.," stated Giana Phillips, a liberal arts student taking a few courses at CCM. "I work

full time so the night classes were my best option, and parking is super easy to find later at night. If I park in any other lot other than five, which isn't often, I go to lot seven. The spots there are equal distance for me."

Whether distance or hour of day determines the spot, CCM students feel strongly about their parking lots.

President Trump's first weeks in office

Immigration, economy among top concerns

BY MARISA GOGLIA
Copy Editor

At 11:59 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 20, when Donald John Trump was inaugurated as the 45th president of the United States of America and immediately set the tone for his administration with a flurry of rhetoric and action.

Thus far in Trump's first 100 days he has worked at a consistent pace on putting pen to paper on a plethora of executive orders. Through the hallways and cafeterias at County College of Morris these orders have sparked conversation.

Mark Washburne, an associate professor of history and political science at CCM, said it is not unheard of for a president to take swift action once entering office.

"Most presidents try to get things done in their first 100 days when their popularity is usually at its peak," Washburne said.

Washburne cited Franklin D. Roosevelt as a president who took advantage of those first 100 days in 1933.

"During FDR's first days in office," Washburne said. "FDR along with Congress enacted legislation to deal with some of the problems the nation was facing during the Great Depression."

Serving three consecutive terms in office, FDR managed to sign 3,721 executive orders. That is more than any other president, according to the American Presidency Project, a database of presidential documents hosted by the University of California, Santa Barbara. During President Barack Obama's first two weeks in office he signed a total of eight executive orders in 2009 and his successor is following a similar path with a current total of eight actions, according to the LA

Times.

A few of Trump's orders brought to fruition include, defunding sanctuary cities, increasing border security and to begin construction on a U.S.-Mexico border, according to FOX News.

Construction on the U.S.-Mexico border was a prominent campaign promise made by Trump during his campaign for president last year.

"I think Trump is doing a pretty good job," said Billy Gleason, an information technology major at CCM. "Trump has come through with just about everything that he said, whether it's building the wall, he's putting that in place...I believe something needs to be done about immigration in this country"

With the U.S.-Mexico border stretching 2,000 miles long, Trump is concentrating on erecting a wall towards the southern border, according to CNBC. While a cost has not yet been announced, it may cost up to \$21.6 billion according to Reuters.

Wyatt Wiegman, a liberal arts major at CCM, would also like to see Trump deal with immigration, but he finds the funds for the wall should be allocated towards another area.

"I would like to see Trump deal with immigration," Wiegman said. "But not in the way that he is doing it by building a wall. To me, building a wall seems like a waste of taxpayer money. Most immigrants are not coming in through the border, they are coming in through flights and boats. Trump should go through the airports and find a way to check for fake passports and visas"

On Jan. 27, Trump signed another executive order pertaining to immigration that has ignited conversations on both sides of the

aisle. The action states for 120 days the U.S. Refugee Admission Program is suspended and anyone arriving from Syria, Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen face a 90-day visa suspension, according to the British Broadcasting Company.

"Presidents have done this before from Bush to Reagan," Gleason said. "I don't think it's unreasonable that Trump put the suspension in place just to try to figure out what to do with the problem. The countries that Trump has listed, there have been known terrorists that have come from these countries. It is not like these people are not allowed to come to America. You can still come to America; you just have to go through an interview process and I don't think there is anything wrong with that. My mother came from England and my father is from Ireland and they came through the right way."

Wiegman said his main argument is the United States of America is a country established on immigrants and feels President Trump acted hastily.

"I'm not a big fan because we are a country based and built off immigrants," Wiegman said. "We can't really deny a group that are being religiously persecuted in their own countries and are seeking to get away from that... I think President Trump should have made this order more specific. I don't exactly agree with the way it's worded. I do agree that Trump is trying to make it work, but it's turning away a lot of people who don't deserve to be turned away."

According to the Pew Research Center, 76 percent of people surveyed say that defending the country from terrorism and 73 percent of people surveyed say



PHOTO COURTESY OF FACEBOOK

that strengthening the economy should be a top priority for the president and Congress.

Gleason who is currently serving in the Navy reserves applauded one of Trump's first executive orders where he imposed a federal hiring freeze.

"Trump stopped civilian employment and is continuing with military," Gleason said. "I can still get a federal job. A lot of the civilians that were hired were under qualified, whereas you have military personnel who are still trying to find jobs and this will just give them a great opportunity."

Trump stated that he vows to create 25 million jobs during his years as president, according to his campaign site.

Gleason said Trump's job creation goal is not out of reach while he is president.

"I do believe Trump will bring jobs in," Gleason said. "Stopping certain trade from other countries and bringing it back to America whether it will be steelwork or in another way."

However, Washburne said there are positives and negatives to Trump renegotiating the North American Free Trade Agreement,

or NAFTA, a trade deal between the U.S., Canada and Mexico which eliminates tariffs on imported and exported goods, according to the Business Insider.

"Free trade agreements have been good for our country's economy as a whole," Washburne said. "This is not to say that free-trade agreements are not without their faults. NAFTA did lead to some manufacturing jobs leaving our country for Mexico, where the cost of labor was cheaper. On the other hand, the agreement also helped create a stronger middle class in Mexico, who went on to buy other American goods that were of a higher technology and profitability for our companies... It is in the best interest of the United States to see Mexico and other Latin American countries succeed. When these countries succeed, people find jobs in their own country and do not try to enter our country without proper documentation."

While Trump's first weeks in office have come, and gone, one will have to wait and see what the next four years will bring.

COLUMN: President's Corner

BY DR. ANTHONY IACONO
College President

In my Feb. 8 column I encouraged students to get involved. I also extended an invitation to listening sessions for CCM's next strategic plan. Since writing that article, I have had a chance to meet with several groups of students. On each occasion, I came away thoroughly enjoying the experience and having learned a great deal about what's on the minds of some very smart and creative people. I heard a call for more technology, more information on extracurricular activities, and more opportunity to promote CCM to area high school students so they could hear directly from CCM students about what it is really like to be a student at our great school. I also heard students expressing their appreciation for classes that employ active learning where students are cooperative partners in the learning process and are gaining hands-on experience. Some students felt

very strongly about increased internship opportunities. It is exciting to hear ideas that, I believe, will help us build on nearly 50 years of success. If I had to synthesize these sessions, I would have to conclude that we have a student body that is both engaged and engaging. CCM is fortunate to have students with strong leadership abilities who are willing to get involved. If you did not have a chance to attend a student listening session, please keep your eye on The Youngtown Edition, CCM Facebook and Twitter pages and my own Twitter account @CCMProud where additional dates and times will be shared.

On another note, as we move through the spring semester, other changes are in motion. As covered in the Feb. 8 Youngtown Edition, our Student Disabilities program has been moved under the direction of Dr. Bette Simmons, Vice President of Student Development and Enrollment Management. This move will allow CCM to better serve an important group of stu-

dents. Not only has the area been moved but it is also undergoing a name change from Student Disabilities to Accessibility Services to allow a more inclusive environment. CCM is proud to serve more than 1,000 students each year who need accommodations to ensure that they too can earn a high quality education. One of the most exciting things about being an educator is hearing students share their educational and career goals, understanding that we all learn differently and creating an equitable environment where every person is valued and ensured an opportunity to succeed through hard work and sincere effort. In the past, I have been asked to explain the difference between equality and equity; and I find the simplest and clearest explanation to be one I heard some years ago at a conference – equal means giving everyone a size nine shoe and expecting them to run a race with a chance to win, regardless of foot size. Equitable means giving people the shoe that actually fits so they can have a reasonable opportunity to compete with other runners and have the same opportunity to win the race. To be sure, education is not a race where we want only one winner. We want as many people to cross the finish line as possible and we must recognize that giving every student the same sized shoe

is a recipe for failure. So, while equality definitely matters, so does equity.

To further advance student learning, equal access and equitable outcomes, one idea currently under consideration is a re-designed student tutoring center that offers expanded services that could potentially include live/interactive online tutoring, increased one-on-one and small group tutoring as well as increased peer tutoring where students can better support one another. Interactive technologies will also likely be a part of this new environment that provides greater student support.

On a more definitive note, if you have not had a chance to upload the new CCM app on your android, iPhone or other devices, I encourage you to do so. These apps were created by Department Chair and Professor Nancy Binowski and her students and they are absolutely fantastic. If you are one of the students who worked on this project, I thank you for a job well done. I really enjoy having the College at my fingertips. Your apps have made my work easier and a little more fun too! Great professors like Nancy Binowski and her talented team of students definitely make me CCM Proud!

CCM students set for travel adventure

BY NICK SISTI
Entertainment Editor

Students with a love of art, history and travel will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in all three as part of a pair of trips being offered to students at County College of Morris.

From March 8-18, CCM students will embark on two trips: one to Paris and Barcelona, as well as an art-based trip solely to Paris. The Paris-based trip has been coordinated by CCM art history professor James Adkins.

"It's really about exposing the students to another culture, a world capital," Adkins said. "I'm really excited to share that with them. In addition, they'll be able to see many of the art pieces we've gone over in class in person. We'll be going to the Nostredamus Museum, the Louvre, the opera house, and Versailles."

An influx of demand for the March excursion has driven a second identical trip to be booked for this May.

"I studied abroad in Italy during my junior year of college," Adkins said. "I think that the profound impact of going somewhere like this and being immersed in the culture... it's hard to measure how much of an eye-opening experience it can be. It can be intimidating not being able to speak the language, but you can really have some great interactions and experiences when you're outside of your comfort zone."

Craig Pilant, history professor at CCM, is hosting his seventh trip with CCM over spring break, in conjunction with EF College Study Tours, which will spend three days in Paris and nine in Barcelona.

"The main driver for this



PHOTO BY: BRETT SMITH

2016's trip to Scotland, England and Ireland

trip is Spain, however I'm hopeful that students will get a good flavor for Paris' culture as well," Pilant said. "The students will get a chance to see a different side of Spanish life, as we'll be visiting a few smaller towns in addition to the cities."

Similar in style to Adkins' Paris jaunt, much of the time in Spain will be spent exploring its artistic quarters.

"Largely, a lot of the emphasis is on history and art" Pilant said. "There's an evening we spend in Flamenco, and we'll be visiting three museums focused on Spanish art going all the way from the middle ages up until Salvador Dali."

When considering checking yes to a trip of this magnitude, a breadth of concerns can arise, either financially or emotionally.

"Students very often will look at the trip and say 'this is too much, this is just too big for me,' or they'll have some kind of fear about going overseas," said Pilant. "But you can't let that fear stifle you. A very important part of travel is that you're saying yes to life."

According to Pilant, this particular venture is unique due to the high amount of returning travelers.

"I went on the last trip to the UK and Ireland, which was a lot of fun," said Annamarie Luongo, a communication major attending the Paris and Barcelona trip. "When we all came home, we found out that this trip was going on and we were all like 'we should go!' I've always wanted to travel to France and Spain, so it's such a golden opportunity to

just like snatch it up and go. I'm especially excited to finally see the Eiffel Tower lit up at night, as well as the Louvre."

Some students have enjoyed Pilant's trips so much that they continue to attend even after graduating CCM.

"I went on the 2013 trip to Greece, Athens, Delphi, Italy, Florence and Rome," said Zack Blackstone, a CCM alumnus. "I didn't know anyone when signing up but I made a ton of friends."

Even though the trips do not offer academic credit, students have found ways to tie it into their studies.

"I think this trip should very fruitful academically," Blackstone said. "I studied a lot of French literature throughout my education, so I'm excited to see where they lived their lives

and gained inspiration for their works."

In addition to artistic and cultural ambitions, some are excited to connect with their heritage.

"My whole dad's side of the family is from Spain, and I've always wanted to reconnect with that piece of my family culture," said Sabrina Alvarado, a communication major.

When traveling to a foreign country for the first time, one's mind will likely be populated with a range of hopes and, sometimes, fears. For Alvarado, the best option is to go in with a blank slate.

"I don't want to sound like a pseudo-philosopher or anything, but I feel like expectations can breed unpleasant emotions," said Alvarado. "If I expect to specifically get anything out of it, then what I actually do end up getting out of it probably won't be as good. I just want to get there, come back safely, and figure out everything else in-between."

Alvarado said that although she does not embark on her journey anticipating anything in particular, the one thing she can be sure of is a feeling of fulfillment from achieving a travel goal.

"So many people have approached me since I've decided to go on this trip, and they've said 'oh, I'm gonna travel as soon as I'm done with this.' Or 'I'm gonna travel as soon as I retire'," said Alvarado. "They all tell me how jealous they are of me for being able to do this, but I say that if you're someone who has any desire to travel, you won't feel fulfilled until you go for it."

Goodwill trip to Ethiopia set for spring break

BY PASCALE ANGLADE
Contributor

County College of Morris offers its students a chance to be the next generation of global citizens by providing educational tours and school trips around the world and this spring break is no exception.

This year's trip is scheduled during spring break, from March 10 to March 19. The destination is Addis Ababa in Ethiopia.

Sponsored by the criminal justice department and the Criminal Justice Club, this voyage is open to everyone from CCM students, faculty and staff, to family and friends. The cost is approximately \$2,500 and includes flights, hotel, three meals a day, all activities, guided tours and transfers. A Criminal Justice Club member will be accompanying the traveling team.

The travel agency, InConTra Inc., has been providing Santa Goodwill tours since 1985 for volunteers interested in doing benevolent work around the world.

"This is the third CCM spring break trip, the first time we went to Guatemala, last year to Peru,"

said Dr. William Solomons, assistant chair and professor of criminal justice at CCM.

Generally, these trips occurred during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays and the team dressed as Santa for the goodwill visits in November, but now CCM goes during spring break instead.

"Spring break is not Santa, but they will do the same things," said Solomons.

Last year, the travel group visited a troubled high school outside of Lima. They sat in the classrooms, met the teachers, played soccer and volleyball with the kids. They brought them sports equipment, toys, and exchanged pictures on Facebook and other social media.

This is not quite a vacation, and is not for the comfort zone addicts.

"In Ethiopia, travelers will be visiting either a senior center, an orphanage, a daycare, or a hospital," said Solomons. Beside the goodwill visits, there will also be other enriching activities such as sightseeing tours with a local guide. "Everyone who has been there agrees that it's the most spectacular trip they've been to,"



PHOTO BY WILLIAM SOLOMONS

CCM students on a previous Goodwill trip.

he said.

The experience of another country alone is enough to entice students.

"If I could, I'd go to this trip," said Kosim Akmarov, a business major at CCM. "It's cool to experience a new culture, a beautiful country, and different types of foods."

Ethiopia's rich culture is varied. It is the oldest Christian civilization in the world having embraced Christianity in the 4th Century, long before Europe, but both Christians and Muslims live there peacefully. Additionally,

some people believe that the Lost Ark shown in the movie "Raiders of the Lost Ark" and King Solomon's gold mines are hidden somewhere in Ethiopia.

The capital city Addis Ababa, with a population of approximately 7 million, is a buzzing hub of economic, social and political activity. No matter the economic or social circumstances, Ethiopia is a destination where spreading goodwill is most welcome.

One CCM student, Stephanie Garcia, is fulfilling a long-time goal of visiting the continent of Africa by embarking on this journey.

"This is the first time I'm going to Africa and I'm super excited," Garcia said. "I always said if I could pick one place in the world it would be Africa, I can't wait to see this beautiful and different culture. I am going by myself, but I'm okay with that because I love meeting new people."

All U.S. citizens attending the trip are required to have a passport valid for at least six months for international travel. The flight itself may be daunting; flying from Newark to Addis Ababa takes approximately 13 hours.

"The flight leaves Friday night, gets there Saturday evening, and comes back the next Sunday. It's basically the entire spring break" Solomons said.

Spending break experiencing a foreign culture while engaging in goodwill activities just might be the perfect adventure for some.

"What makes the trip even more special is that we get to interact with and help the kids there," Garcia said. "I can't wait to see the smiles on their faces."