



The dangerous side of online video calls

BY ANTHONY INGHAM & ALEXA WYSZKOWSKI
News Editor; Editor-in-Chief

Across the country, many instructors, schools and other organizations have reported cases to the FBI of their calls being taken over and losing control of the call. The New York Times published an article on April 3 titled “Zoombombing’ Becomes a Dangerous Organized Effort,” where they discuss how Zoom users around the U.S. have had issues with “Zoom raiders” coming into their meetings and interrupting them. Whether it’s through hate speech, shocking imagery, profanity, or other distracting actions, they’ve managed to disrupt many calls using every tool imaginable on the platform.

Zoom is a web-based audio and video server that allows people around the world to meet online. Many colleges, including County College of Morris, have been using Zoom to hold online classes, meetings and other events.

An NPR article from April 3 featured Patrick Wardle, a security researcher, formerly from the National Security Association, explained some of the ways that “Zoom raiders” could get into video calls. This research shows

that in Zoom, it was easy for these people to hack into not only the program, but also webcams and microphones to spy on the person using that computer.

“This product was designed to prioritize things other than privacy and security,” Wardle said to

NPR.

An April 6 article from NPR titled, “Schools Ditch Zoom Amid Concerns Over Online Learning Security,” explained that Zoom was “not designed as an education technology product.” But with the transition of

schools going online, they started promoting themselves to educators, and made their premium features available to schools for free, such as the 40 minute limit for free basic accounts in primary and secondary schools.

These “Zoom raiders” use

social media accounts and message boards to organize these harassment campaigns. Publicly and privately, these groups have worked together to orchestrate their plans for making these Zoom meetings chaotic.

Not every Zoombombing is by a malicious figure, however. Some are simply students frustrated with their current course load and being forced onto an online medium to perform all their work.

“Part of the reason we do it is a lot of teachers give us a lot of work right now,” said James, 16, who runs a Zoom raid account, to the New York Times. “It’s stressing us out. We just got home for quarantine and on top of all that we have all this schoolwork to do. We still have tests to do, I have more work to do sometimes now than before because every teacher will assign stuff every week and sometimes classes get in the way of each other. It’s really stressful to keep up.”

No matter who’s doing it, Zoombombing is considered criminal activity. Ars Technica published an article titled “Zoombombing is a crime, not a prank, prosecutors warn,” where they say that possible charges include “disrupting a public meeting,

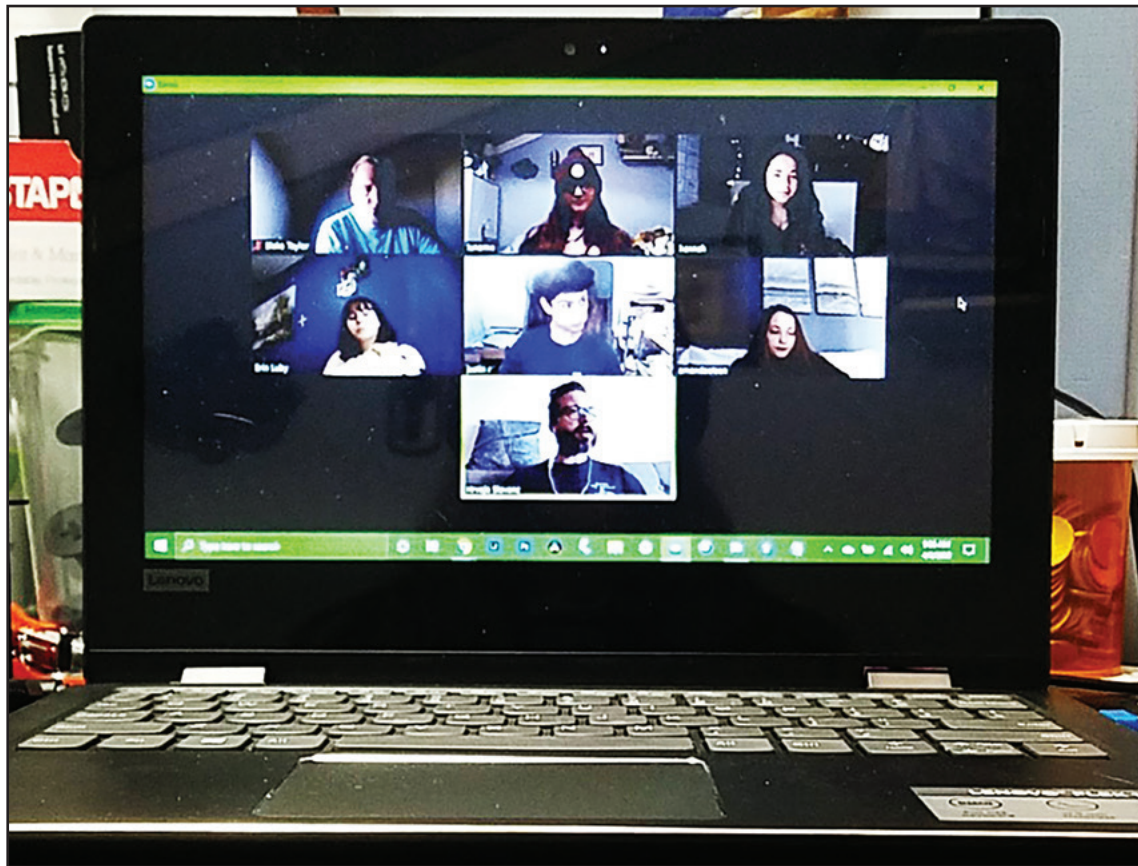


PHOTO BY LUNA WROBLEWSKI

Students in a Photographic Processes class meet via Zoom. From top left to bottom center: Blake Taylor, Luna Wroblewski, Hannah Steinel, Erin Luby, Justin Rusconi, Amanda Olson and Professor Hrvoje Slovenc.

CONTINUED IN ‘CALLS’, PAGE 4

Students, administration lay out changes to CCM

Classes will be held online until June 28

BY BENJAMIN M. RICHARDS & KATRINA IRHIN
Politics Editor; Copy Editor

For the second time this semester, various CCM faculty, staff and administrative members gathered online on Zoom to address students’ questions. This meeting, which took place on April 3, lasted about an hour and hosted fewer students than the first meeting on March 23. This meeting only had about 40 in attendance. It focused on key topics such as the P/F (pass or fail) grading system, payments, refunds, and tuition, and the plan of stay-

ing online for at least part of the summer.

The day before the aforementioned meeting, the Inter Club Council (ICC) also met online with Dr. Iacono, Dr. Simmons and other faculty to answer specific questions regarding the college and how to engage students and clubs for the duration of the rest of the semester. Student clubs and the Office of Campus Life are planning to host some virtual activities for students to participate in.

CCM LOT 1 coronavirus testing center

As previously reported in the Youngtown Edition, there is

a COVID-19 testing center set up in the CCM’s Parking Lot 1 area. Dr. Iacono, president of CCM, briefed students on the testing center and explained how to go through the process of getting tested safely and effectively.

“You go through several different checkpoints. You make your reservation online. When you come here, you gotta show your doctor’s prescription and your driver’s license to demonstrate you’re a Morris County resident. You do that without rolling down your window,” Iacono said.

Iacono then explained what happens when you get through the first part.

“You show that, then you advance on to the next checkpoint and get cleared again, and then you go into a huge drive-through tent. Morristown Medical Center nurses are out there in full coverage and you roll your window down for a minute to be swabbed. Once you get to the tent, the whole process takes under two minutes,” said Iacono.

Iacono also mentioned costs, saying that apart from a student’s insurance, “there’s no additional cost at all.”

P/F grading system

Dr. Iacono readdressed the topic of the ability for students to opt for P/F grades for their classes as opposed to a grade of A-F. Speaking on the technicalities of the P/F option, he said that “you

get to see your grade first and then you get 10 days after that to decide to either keep the grade or to change it to a P grade. You can decide by the class if you want to keep the grade or opt for a P for the class.”

At this point in time, CCM has a plan for the P/F grading system, which was emailed out to students and can be found on the CCM website. Dr. John Marlin, vice president of academic affairs, detailed the P/F grading system after he was asked when exactly students would be allowed whether they wanted a letter grade or a P/F option.

“It would be when you have received your grade,” said Marlin. “You would then have what

CONTINUED IN ‘LAY OUT’, PAGE 4

IN THIS ISSUE

Carrying on: juggling pregnancy with these uncertain times

“Everything was going smoothly up until a month ago...”

Page 3

‘CCM’s administrative team working around the clock.’

“To protect your health and support your academic success...”

Page 5

Semester abroad cut short

“Thanks to COVID-19, however, their semester was cut off three weeks before its ending.”

Page 6

Editorial: Youngtown Edition receives eight awards

BY THE YOUNGTOWN STAFF

In the 2019-2020 New Jersey College Newspaper Contest, the Youngtown Edition, the student newspaper of the County College of Morris, placed in eight of the 14 categories for two-year colleges.

The Youngtown Edition won

in several categories in the contest. The staff placed second in “General Excellence” for their Vol. 103 No. 3 and Vol. 104 No. 4 editions, and earned third in “Layout and Design” for pages one and four in Vol. 103 No. 2 edition. The Youngtown staff also placed second in “Editorial Writing” for their articles from the first edition of the 2020 spring semester, “Youngtown in

Turmoil” and “Youngtown advisor removed by CCM administration.”

Several members of the Youngtown staff won in different categories. Luna Wroblewski, the Photo Editor/Photographer of the Youngtown, received third place in the “Photography” category with her photos from the school year. In addition, Managing Editor Adam Gentile and

former Features Editor Michelle Walsh placed second in the “News Writing” category for their article, “I hope that in me speaking here tonight there will be no retribution.”

Many students who contributed to the Youngtown also received some awards. For the “Sports Writing” category, Guy Cohen earned first place for his article “CCM gets its game

on with a new eSports team.” Amanda Mazzari placed second in the “Column/Opinion Writing” category for his article “Opinion: Is the Wifi on?” For the “Biography/Personality Profile” category, David Fleitas-Guillen received third place for the article “A student’s journey to becoming an international women’s doctor starts on a Colombian pig farm.”

SATIRE: CCM Skandal

BY ASHLEY BURGAKING

Copy editor Senior (the better one)

As you may now, due to the outbreak of Coronavirus, a.k.a. COVID-19, aka sars cover 2, a.k.a. the spring break ruiner, classes will continue online. We here at the CCM understand that some students live on campus. We also

understand that you pay for this luxury, even if it’s just a closet or empty office in the library. Unfortunately, we will not be refunding the costs you paid for housing this semester.

Now you may be asking yourself “why aren’t we getting a refund?” And to answer your question, here is a quote from the director of campus housing, Mr.

Betsy Walters.

“Unfortunately, we are not able to refund your housing expenses because it’s not real, you morons. This is a county school, there’s no housing. You got skammed, kid! My job isn’t even real, I work at the MacDonalds spitting in salads.”

Here’s what an anonymous CCM student, who says she lives on campus

and, “I’ve been going here for six strong years. I’ve lived in CH 200 for almost all of them. There a nice room off to the right when you walk in. I paid like \$5,000 a semester for that place, now I’m getting kicked out? No refund? That’s hogwash! What am I gonna tell my kids?” End quote.

What are students to

do? What are the RA’s gonna do? And what is CCM going to do about the law suits? Oh the law suits, and there not from students or parents, their from the bored of health. I mean, I bet they didn’t even know students were living on campus. It was a skandal to match the virus, I’ll tell you h’what!

This is Ashley Burgaking signing off.

EPA suspends enforcement of regulations, cites COVID-19

BY BENJAMIN M. RICHARDS

Politics Editor

In late March 2020, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Trump administration postponed enforcement of all environmental restrictions and regulations on various industries. This will affect companies in sectors such as agriculture, automation, construction, utilities, oil and gas.

Corporate entities will still be expected to follow the rules as closely as possible, but based on the new decision to not enforce regulations, holding companies accountable is now more a matter of a non-binding promise than the law. For example, during this time, companies across the U.S. won’t be held accountable if they’re caught violating the EPA’s environmental rules by dumping chemical waste into protected waters on principle. Instead, it will depend on its version of the story and how it is presented. Each individual case of illegal activity will be examined and could be excused indefinitely if the company can show that the Coronavirus had an impact on their actions.

According to the Los Angeles Times, many industries, such as the oil and gas industries, were specifically seeking less strict environmental and public health enforcement, citing the possibility of staff shortages due to illness relating to Coronavirus. However, Gina McCarthy, a former Obama-era EPA chief and current president of the Natural

Resources Defense Council, isn’t convinced.

“It’s ludicrous,” she said. “This is standard work that takes very few people to do—especially when you’re trying to keep the factories running.”

McCarthy called the announcement “an open license to pollute.”

While many environmental factors take years or even decades to play out, this may have a more immediate effect.

“No one has ever seen anything like this. This is a complete pass for every industry,” McCarthy said. “It basically says that if somehow it’s related to COVID-19, then you don’t have to worry- and this is retroactive to earlier in the month- about monitoring or keeping records.”

Some local organizations, such as the California based organization Contra Costa County Hazardous Materials Program, an organization that monitors hazardous materials, have suspended all their nonessential inspections, furthering the lack of accountability companies in that county and state now have.

This is not an unfamiliar move for the current administration. In fact, according to the New York Times, out of 20 key positions in the government, being jobs in the EPA, Department of the Interior, Department of Energy, and the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, 15 hail directly from careers in the very industries they now regulate. Another three were former state-level officials who resisted regulations, and four have direct

ties to Charles G. Koch and the late David H. Koch, who have spent millions of dollars to prevent action on climate change and clean energy initiatives.

Additionally, a New York Times analysis concluded that over the course of the Trump administration, the president has rolled back or attempted to roll back more than 90 environmental rules and regulations. According to the same New York Times analysis, these rollbacks have an effect on air quality, drilling, infrastructure, animal life, toxic substances, and water pollution.

The repercussions of giving this much legal leeway to companies is multiplied by the circumstances of the COVID-19 outbreak. According to The Hill, lawmakers singled out multiple pollutants produced by the oil industry.

“The health impacts of these pollutants are well-established, and exposure is particularly dangerous for those with respiratory conditions,” they said. “We are currently facing a severe respiratory pandemic, taking lives and hospitalizing thousands—at this moment, communities need more protections from toxic pollution, not less. Waiving environmental enforcement will only add to the severity of the COVID-19 crisis.”

According to The Hill, the EPA claims that their “enforcement authority and responsibility remains active.” However, according to that same article, companies would be responsible for keeping records of whenever they break the rules, placing the burden of honesty on the com-

pany instead of any inspection or on the EPA itself.

The NRDC, a non-profit organization founded by law students and attorneys in 1970 to ensure clean water, air and healthy communities, emphasized the importance of the EPA and the agency’s work. According to the NRDC, since the EPA was founded in 1970, concentrations of common air pollutants, like sulfur dioxide, have dropped as much as 67 percent. As reported by the NRDC, when the EPA

was first created as an agency, the broad idea of tackling what were at the time common disasters was nearly unanimous and had broadly bi-partisan support. Since then, times have changed and new disasters are being seen. As stated by the NRDC, the United States of America in the 1960s was a gloomy and hazardous place that was saved by the EPA and the U.S. should save the EPA if its citizens want to keep reaping the benefits of a clean environment.

THE YOUNGTOWN EDITION

The Student Newspaper of the County College of Morris

County College of Morris • SCC 129

214 Center Grove Rd., Randolph, NJ 07869-2086

E-mail: youngtownedition@gmail.com

Editor-in-Chief	Alexa Wyszkowski
Managing Editor	Adam Gentile
News Editor	Anthony Ingham
Copy Editor.....	Katrina Irhin
Opinion Editor	Jared Brodsky
Politics Editor.....	Benjamin Richards
Entertainment Editor.....	Open
Sports Editor.....	Open
Staff Writer	Janna Grassano
Layout Editor	Christian Ingham
Photo Editor/Photographer	Luna Wroblewski
Staff Illustrator	Sarah Gallagher
Cartoonist.....	Samantha Shimabukuro
Social Media Manager	Rachel Eckert
Distribution Manager.....	Matthew J. Bristol
Circulation.....	Grant Shergalis
Technical Adviser	Drew Notarnicola
Faculty Adviser.....	Professor Kenneth Shouler

Staff: Katherine Buckley, Diana Ibarra

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.

Carrying on: juggling pregnancy with these uncertain times

BY DIANA IBARRA
Contributor

Pregnancy is supposed to be one of the most beautiful times in a woman's life. If you are currently expecting, we can agree that it has been a unique experience. Especially considering the times we are living in. The current pandemic has affected every single person in the world, and it seems like it is only going to get worse before it gets better. What does that mean for those of us who are going to bring a new life into the world?

Everything was going smoothly up until a month ago, when I started hearing news reports about the Coronavirus. At the time, I was getting ready to start a new job at a medical center. I was excited to be able to work a little before having my baby. That all came to a halt when I noticed that the virus was making its way to the U.S. My gut instinct kept telling me not to continue with the hiring process, and I am glad I didn't. So many soon-to-be mothers are still working because they are considered essential

workers.

"I am in constant fear because I am in my first trimester," said Jennifer Farina, an essential worker. "I have no choice but to continue to go into work and pray for the best."

This pandemic has meant that I have not been able to go to any of my scheduled prenatal appointments or ultrasound screenings. These appointments are what give us soon-to-be mothers peace of mind that everything is going well with our baby's health. I have had telephone conversations with the nurses and doctors at Morristown Medical Center (MMC) who remind me that everything is going well thus far. I have been told that my birthing experience is going to be different due to the current circumstances.

"Mothers are only allowed to have one person with them during delivery and after birth," said Stephanie Gonzales, a nurse at MMC. "No visitors will be allowed to visit mother and baby and mother will be asked to wear a mask during her time in the hospital."

I was alarmed to hear the new rules that are being implemented, but I have come to terms with the decision and that it is the best course of action given the current crisis.

I was looking forward to having a baby shower, but that will not be possible because everyone is practicing social distancing. I was also considering an at-home newborn photoshoot for my baby once he is born, but I am going to pass on that as well. It is hard not to focus on everything I am missing out on during this pregnancy and to be resentful. I remind myself that the most important thing right now is to remain calm and healthy so that I can deliver a healthy baby boy. I firmly believe everything in life happens for a reason and that this all has its purpose, even though I may not see it right now. A quote from the author Margaret Mitchell says, "Life's under no obligation to give us what we expect." This experience is teaching me to let go of expectations and to be grateful for what I do have and to remain hopeful through adversity.

GIVE BACK & GET PAID.

BE A PEER MENTOR!

College Steps is recruiting students to serve as peer mentors for College Steps students living with social, communication or learning challenges.

- Earn \$11/hr, flexible schedule, while attending CCM
- Work to support your fellow students with their academic and independent living goals
- Receive free specialized training and supervision

COVID-19 Note: While we anticipate a return to in-person work for the Fall 2020 semester, in the case that the County College of Morris extends remote learning past August, College Steps Peer Mentors hired for the Fall will be trained to work with students remotely. At this point, we will guarantee that all interviewing and onboarding of Peer Mentor applicants will take place remotely. Let's all stay safe; stay well.

For more information, contact Marybeth Burt at marybeth@collegesteps.org or call (201) 280-4043

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS:
<http://bit.ly/PeerMentorApply>

Environmental Club Update

The Environmental Club is connecting with Soyocan to create homemade masks that can be donated. The project is being organized by Vivian Burns, founder of Soyocan. She will be organizing the drop off of material and supplies necessary for making the masks. Tutorials are available on the @soyoudesign instagram. Anyone interested can email her directly at Soyoustudio@gmail.com.

GET A

FREE RIDER COURSE

IN YOUR MAJOR!



- Maximize your transferrable credits with Rider's Guaranteed Transfer Agreement
- Get ahead with a free* Rider course while completing your associate degree

Our top transfer awards are worth more than 50% of tuition!

NEW!
FULL-TUITION TRANSFER TRUSTEE SCHOLARSHIPS
Open to PTK graduates of a community college with a 3.5 GPA or higher.

* Does not include registration and/or course fees

TRANSFER SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS For Full-Time Students

AMOUNT (PER YEAR)	MINIMUM CUMULATIVE GPA	VALUE OVER 3 YEARS
\$25,000	3.5 - 4.0	\$75,000
\$22,000	3.0 - 3.49	\$66,000
\$18,000	2.75 - 2.99	\$54,000
\$16,000	2.5 - 2.74	\$48,000

Rider also offers **NJ STARS II Awards** of \$2,500 annually. **PTK members** receive an additional annual \$1,000 scholarship.



Schedule Your Personal Appointment Today
Contact **Jen Cook** in Transfer Admission
609-896-5042 • admissions@rider.edu

CALLS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

computer intrusion, using a computer to commit a crime, hate crimes, fraud, or transmitting threatening communications," the prosecutors in the article warn. All of these charges come with the potential for fines and jail time, the authorities say.

Zoom is being sued for sell-

ing their users' information to Facebook, including users who don't have accounts on their platform. They sold peoples' personal information, such as name, email address and password and information about the device that was using Zoom. According to NPR, Zoom stopped sharing information at some point in March.

For all these reasons, many people have chosen to avoid using Zoom. People such as Lisa Volante, a CCM counselor, feel

much safer just not using it.

"With all of the talk of Zoom bombing and data breaching however, I do not plan on using Zoom anymore when meeting personally with students," she said. "We have other online video chat platforms that we can use so that the conversations remain private and everyone is safe."

Zoom is currently working to improve security within the platform. Kathleen Brunet, Director of Marketing and Public Rela-

tions, said that CCM recommends that the college community abide by the FBI guidelines for using Zoom.

"Do not make meetings or classrooms public. In Zoom, there are two options to make a meeting private: require a meeting password or use the waiting room feature and control the admittance of guests. Do not share a link to a teleconference or classroom on an unrestricted publicly available social media

post. Provide the link directly to specific people. Manage screen-sharing options. In Zoom, change screen-sharing to "Host-Only." Ensure users are using the updated version of remote access/meeting applications. In January 2020, Zoom updated their software. In their security update, the teleconference software provider added passwords by default for meetings and disabled the ability to randomly scan for meetings to join."

LAY OUT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

amounts to about two weeks to contact your department chair or another department chair that you would prefer a "P" instead of ... the grade you actually received."

Marlin said opting for a P/F grade involves considering many factors such as employer-provided education benefits, financial aid, transcripts and going out of the state to a different college.

Marlin reaffirmed that students who will choose to opt for the P/F system will not have to worry about their GPA. "If at the end of the semester you got four A's and a C, you know, you wanna retain that semester 4-0, you can change that C into a P, no impact on your GPA."

Marlin also explained that the choice to opt in for P/F grade would be course by course.

The P/F grade also may not work for every course, and Marlin explained why.

"Yeah, there are some academic programs that we have. Some are nursing and health sciences, but also education where there are minimum GPA requirements," Marlin said. "In order to remain in the program.... In some of those there's a minimum GPA required to transfer into the senior-level program at a four-year institution, and so those programs would not be eligible for pass-fail."

CCM will stay online at least through June 28

As students are preparing for summer classes and with the fall semester coming up, students want to know how much of the summer will be in an online format. Dr. Iacono and Dr. Simmons commented on the CCM plan for the summer.

"We are telling folks that we are definitely online until June 28," Simmons said. "That will take us to the end of the first five-week session and half-way through the 10-week session."

Financial aid application extended

Many students are going to be applying for financial aid for the fall semester. Since this area is being affected by Coronavirus just as many other areas of college are, the deadline to apply for it is going to be extended, as reported by Simmons.

"So much like everything else in the state where the governor has asked for extension of deadlines for filing of taxes and so forth, he was able to convince

the New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority to also extend the deadline dates for the filing of financial aid for the fall semester," Simmons said.

Simmons explained that CCM would like to be able to push the deadline for the financial aid application even further.

"So whereas the deadline would normally have been April 15, they have now pushed that date until July. And so, we're still gonna work on pushing it out a little bit further because we're not so sure that families are still gonna be ready to do that, but to have another three months for families to do what they need to do to apply for federal and state financial aid is critically important. We're also seeing that the federal government is talking about trying to provide additional dollars to support students in families, whether that'd be for direct financial aid or for basic needs, and so, as we get the information," said Simmons.

Send questions to TASCplus

With classes being moved online, students have many questions in regard to how to navigate CCM as it is now. Dr. Simmons, vice president of student development and management, explained that TASCplus is like a catch all system for questions. Any questions a student has can be emailed to tascplus@ccm.edu and the question will be sent to the person who can best answer it, and the student will receive a response from that person.

"TASCplus is very simple. It is an email box, and there are a variety of people from around campus who are monitoring that email box, so when people don't know who to go to directly, they can go to TASCplus, and our job is to look at the email and then connect you to the right resource," said Simmons.

There appears to be a recurring theme of questions that students have sent to TASCplus so far.

"What we've been getting predominantly have been questions from students,

about the technology, the technology requirement, how to process your financial aid, how do people get ready for registration for the fall semester, how do I connect with my advisor, so it's kind of like your one place, your one stop to put in whatever question you have, and then our job is to get that question either answered directly or refer you to the person or the office can answer it for you," said Simmons.

Navigating the CCM website

Finding anything on the

CCM website can take some searching, and even though there is not just one page with direct links to everything a student would need, the COVID-19 Resource Center is starting to display more information. To find the COVID-19 Resource Center, go to the CCM homepage and click the green box under the main image. On the side of this page in a yellow box includes multiple links to various resources and information.

Some of the newly posted information includes lists of the names and contact information for all of the deans, department chairs and departments. This essential organized information was previously missing from the CCM website.

When attempting to find the new TASCplus center on the CCM website, it is actually not a physical location on the CCM website, it is just an email address, tascplus@ccm.edu. There is also posted information about how to use the new virtual career

center and more information for those registered under accessibility services. Everything is displayed in list format and appears to be organized by the date it is added to the website, and not categorized by department.

Textbook Rentals and Library Books

Students who rented textbooks from the campus bookstore or took out books from the library do not have to worry about returning them while campus is closed. There will not be any late fees or fines for overdue books.

Contact counseling

For students in need of someone to talk to, contact counseling services by emailing counseling@ccm.edu. All of the CCM counselors are available through video chat for one on one personal sessions.

Student clubs

Club leaders did not begin to

discuss ideas at the ICC meeting for their clubs until after Iacono and Simmons left the meeting. Most of the clubs were planning to just use social media to continue to interact with their members.

Catrina Bennett, the president of Active Minds, had one of the more specific plans for an online event.

"We've got some work in planning. I've been talking to Don [Phelps] and counseling and we're gonna be doing an information session about how quarantine and being away from people, just all the stress, can affect your mental health. I'm getting in touch with counseling because I want a counselor there so as soon as I hear from them you'll hear from me," said Bennett.

For more information see "CCM's first online video call meeting addresses student concerns" on pages seven and eight in edition five of the Youngtown, and continue to check the CCM COVID-19 information webpage.

THE YOUNGTOWN EDITION

letters to the editor

Letters must include the
writer's full name to be
considered for publication. All
letters may be edited. Not all
letters may be published.

Submit your letter by emailing
youngtownedition@gmail.com

'CCM's administrative team working around the clock'

BY DR. ANTHONY IACONO
CCM College President

As we approach the end of our first month online and continue to live through unprecedented times, I hope everyone is following the CDC recommendations and closely adhering to Governor Murphy's executive order to stay at home unless you fall into an exemption category. Even then, I encourage our students and employees to restrict their time in public places. County College of Morris (CCM) is proud to support Morristown Medical Center and other healthcare providers. Working closely with Morris County's Emergency Operations Center, we have sent ventilators and personal protective equipment to Morristown Medical Center. The men and women who work for that incredible organization, led by last year's CCM commencement speaker, Dr. Trish O'Keefe, are literally putting their lives at risk to help others. At the very least, let us show our respect and appreciation to them by staying home and following the recommended precautions. As a final plea for your support, please know that a number of CCM's healthcare professors and students in our nursing, radiography and respiratory programs work in our local hospitals. You can thank them by taking every opportunity possible to simply stay at home.

As the situation continues to evolve, rest assured that CCM's administrative team is working around the clock to guide our college through the turmoil. Many of us are working 15-16 hour days, weekends included, to resolve individual challenges faced by our students, employees and community members. We



PHOTO BY ANTHONY INGHAM

Iacono meets with students and staff during SGA's March 24 public meeting to discuss what clubs and students should do to stay connected with one another via Zoom.

are making tough decisions, and we are doing everything we can to help all members of the CCM community, while also working hard to support the communities we serve. Our college's participation in the county's multi-agency COVID-19 testing site at CCM is one of many examples of our work to support Morris County residents.

To protect your health and support your academic success, we have made a number of new decisions over the past week. If you have been monitoring your CCM email and checking the college's webpage, you know that we will remain online through the end of June. We will reassess by May 1 to determine if we will remain online for an extended period. To date, we have not made any decisions about the Fall Semester but we will do so by mid-June. It is my hope that the crisis will soon pass and we

will be back on our beautiful campus by mid-summer. That being said, we will not return until it is safe to do so.

Another decision we made is to offer students a Pass/Fail grading option. In a nutshell, students will receive a traditional letter grade for each of their classes. Students will have 10 business days after receiving their grades, and after consulting with their academic department chair, to decide if they want to convert a passing grade to a P. For more information, please check your email and the college's website. There are a few exceptions to the P/F option. So it is best to take the time to familiarize yourself thoroughly.

To continue supporting our students, we have been lending them computers and other equipment since the college campus closed. This past Saturday, we held a large distribution event in

which laptops, art supplies and other academic materials were shared with students. If you have a need, please contact TASCplus (TASCplus@ccm.edu) and we will do our best to support your request.

Similar to the administration, your professors and the college's support staff are working very hard to support your success. Remember, these are unprecedented times and, while I am proud of the work we are all doing to continue moving forward, there are new challenges that present themselves on a daily basis. Please work closely with your professors and use online support services such as TASCplus, our library, Counseling Services, Accessibility Services, online tutoring and more. We are all here to support you.

Going forward, I hope you will join me in one of our open Q. and A. sessions hosted on Zoom,

WebEx and other platforms. You can learn more about these meetings by monitoring your CCM email. I appreciate the opportunity to answer your questions, hear your suggestions on how we can improve your CCM experience, and enjoy seeing your faces and hearing your voices. Like you, I, too, miss our daily campus interactions but, remember, although we are doing many things differently, we are still CCM and we are still focused on teaching, learning and supporting your progress. Again, work closely with your professors, use resources like TASCplus and do not hesitate to contact a member of our administrative team. Contact information for CCM's administration is on the COVID-19 Information and Resource Center section of our website. And, remember, you can always contact me directly at tiacono@ccm.edu. I am here for you. Stay well!

Pandemic profiles: Coronavirus changes daily lives of students

BY KATHERINE BUCKLEY
Contributor

The impact of COVID-19 has wreaked havoc on the lives of millions of Americans, forcing many to make major life adjustments. People have had and are still having to dramatically change their everyday lives and adapt to their new situations caused by the virus.

Jonathan Campbell works as a data and automation engineer for Wisdom Tree Asset Management, a New York-based exchange-traded fund and exchange-traded product sponsor and asset manager. He works and lives in New York City, where he was forced to make the switch to working virtually from his apartment.

"While I have more time to develop tech solutions given my ability to work from home, I find my work is impeded by the increased difficulty to maintain strong relationships with the many diverse teams around our firm," Campbell said.

New York City has strict lockdowns in place, requiring residents to stay at home to prevent further spreading of the disease.

"Given that bars and restaurants are shut down, I find I am more able to save money as I am not spending money on overpriced New York City food or cocktails," Campbell said.

Isolation and its long-term effects are concerning, particularly for those individuals who live alone in the city. Campbell is finding ways to cope with his loneliness and is using the extra flexibility in his schedule to reach out to others.

"My family and friends and I have started sharing meals over Zoom, which gives a feeling of togetherness despite the time apart," Campbell said. "I've been able to connect with some friends from years ago during this time."

Campbell knows of a dozen people who have contracted COVID-19 in his circles, and he is taking the necessary precautions to avoid putting himself at risk.

Nyanjugu Githui is a col-

lege student living in Dallas. She works for Seed Company, a global Bible translation group.

"I live in Dallas, but right now I'm currently at my parent's house in Massachusetts," Githui said. "I left Dallas for a work trip on Feb. 21 and while I was in Africa, the travel restriction happened, so that I could not fly back to Dallas."

Rather than returning to Dallas to work from her apartment, Githui decided to stay with her parents in Massachusetts for the foreseeable future.

For Githui, the most difficult part of the COVID-19 crisis is the uncertainty that is brought on from it. Simple tasks like grocery shopping bring angst and a level of uneasiness.

"Life demands that you keep living, you know, but then there is this fear and anxiety that comes with it," Githui said. "We got to eat. We have to go to the grocery store. While you may still be social distancing and trying to do your part, there is just this fear that you don't know who could

potentially have it and pass it on to you."

Githui felt this fear most while traveling from Nairobi, in Africa, to New York, as the plane was full. It was difficult to practice the CDC's social distancing guidelines when not a single seat in the plane was empty.

"There is a helplessness that comes with this whole thing, so I have been praying a lot," Githui said.

Erik Trapani is a first-year college student at a local four-year college in New Jersey. He is feeling the academic stress brought on by the virus.

"It's a little bit daunting seeing all my work lined up and not taking it day by day being in class," Trapani said. "I am just adjusting to the online course style. I haven't done that before."

Trapani is one of millions of students across the country learning to adjust to an online way of learning. According to an article by The New York Times, taking a class without a teacher or professor requires high levels of self-

motivation, self-regulation and organization.

"It's overwhelming," Trapani said. "Some of these things I haven't done before, or done in school at all."

Trapani feels that he lacks face-to-face accountability in his various classes. He is teaching himself concepts that otherwise would have been explained by the professor in a lecture setting. In order to combat this issue, most schools are implementing video platforms, such as Zoom or Shindig, in an attempt to emulate the classroom feel.

"I just feel like with videos you kinda have limited time with them, and you feel like you want to rush off," he said. "But in person, you kinda have them so you can hold them up after class, pin them down and talk to them."

There is no telling how long Americans will remain in these uncertain times. The full effects of COVID-19 are ongoing, and only time will show the positive and negative impacts in greater detail.

COVID-19 cuts semester abroad short

BY ANTHONY INGHAM
News Editor

Careers, education, and travel have all been cut short by the sudden rise of COVID-19, as well as the self-quarantine people are having to do due to it. On an international level, traveling has been stopped entirely and some people have been forced into a two-week quarantine at the airports. One especially interesting instance of the travel bans concerns students who have been taking semesters abroad, such as student Gabriella Bracciale.

Gabriella Bracciale is a student at a four year public university who said that she started her semester abroad this January, where she was studying at a university in Scotland. She went on this trip with a friend who wanted to tour all of Europe while they were there. Thanks to COVID-19, however, their semester was cut off three weeks before its ending.

"We had set plans to visit Gdansk (Poland), Brussels (Belgium), and the Isle of Skye (Scotland), but those had to be canceled so we could come home," she said. "We were also hoping to visit some cities in Italy, some islands in Greece, maybe Croatia (Game of Thrones was filmed there), and Dublin again before leaving, but we never had a chance to plan those."

Bracciale said that a part of

her was disappointed that she could no longer continue her studies and touring abroad, but she understood the gravity of the situation and was home within two weeks of the announcement. Her university told her to self-quarantine for the time that she was there until they all got on their plane home.

Bracciale says that the only change to her everyday life was a couple of posters around campus asking those who had traveled to Wuhan recently to self-quarantine. However, this did not stop her from worrying about her family back in New Jersey, which hindered her ability to do work for her classes.

"From the announcement of the travel ban from Europe (Wednesday night for me) until I came home, I was just running off anxiety and stress," she said. "I stopped doing all school work, and it wasn't until I came home and saw that everything was (relatively) fine that I felt like I could finally relax."

Bracciale also says that during her time there, her transportation around Europe and back to the US was completely unaffected.

"I came home the last day my college offered to pay for it, Monday, the 16th, and I think the ban against the UK went into effect on the 17th, so the global team really knew what they were doing," she said.



PHOTO BY GABRIELLA BRACCIALE

Gabriella Bracciale in Parc Güell, Barcelona, during her semester abroad.

She went into self-quarantine for 14 days after returning home from Scotland. Bracciale is still quarantining herself and advises others to do the same.

"What about the people I could spread it to? The average person is two to three contacts

away from someone in an at-risk group for serious complications from COVID-19," she said. "I know staying home all day is boring, but it's the most important and selfless thing you can do right now."

After returning home, Brac-

ciale still had three weeks of classes left. All of her college's remaining classes were moved online for the remainder of the semester, and any international travel sponsored by the college for this semester and the summer semester was cancelled.

You're invited to our OPEN HOUSE* APRIL 25

Annunciation Center

**Registration
opens at 9:00 a.m.**

Spend the day exploring
our beautiful campus and
learning what makes
CSE so great!

* Students who attend the Open House will receive a \$1,000 grant towards their CSE tuition if they enroll this fall.



REGISTER NOW
www.cse.edu/visit

COLLEGE OF
Saint Elizabeth
MORRISTOWN, NJ