

THE COUNTY COLLEGE OF MORRIS' AWARD-WINNING STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Coronavirus concerns cause campus closure

BY BENJAMIN M. RICHARDS
Politics Editor

The campus of County College of Morris was closed Friday, March 13 and will not reopen until New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy allows it. His order caused all colleges and universities across the state of New Jersey to close in order to protect students, faculty, staff, and community members from the coronavirus. CCM classes moved online starting Monday, March 23, after spring break concluded. All in person meetings, activities and events, including the 2020 graduation ceremony, have been cancelled. Field trips, sports practices, and games have also been cancelled.

During CCM's spring break, the county of Morris set up tents in Lot 1 of CCM for Coronavi-

rus testing. New Jersey and at least seven other states have now been ordered to stay at home.

Almost immediately, many in the U.S. were aware of the spread of COVID-19 and the danger it represented to people physically and to the U.S. economy. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF), an American non-profit organization that focuses on the role of the U.S. in global health policy and major healthcare issues facing the United States, as of February 13-18, 2020, 56 percent of those polled said that they had heard a lot about the COVID-19 outbreak and 87 percent said they knew that there were already cases in the U.S. United States citizens were also worried about the economy, with 57 percent saying that they are very or somewhat concerned the COVID-19 outbreak will have

a negative impact on the U.S. economy. 43 percent of those polled also reported they were concerned they or someone in their family would fall ill. All this concern over personal health and well-being has prompted people to take precautions like stock-piling food and supplies.

Ryan Fitzpatrick, a sophomore communication major, was on a trip to Florida to visit family over spring break but was able to return with time for groceries.

"Right after my flight back from Florida, I went to ShopRite and got the essential food items I needed. Since then, I have been self-quarantining and haven't ordered food or eaten out for the most part," said Fitzpatrick.

U.S. citizens have not been laid back when it comes to buying food and essential items.

CONTINUED IN 'CAMPUS,' PAGE 8

Professors challenged by transition to online learning

BY KATRINA IRHIN
Copy Editor

Despite the challenges, CCM professors have been finding different ways to move to online lectures for their students, specifically by using the internet and digital platforms to either live stream lectures in real time or record and post them on the internet. Dr. Teresa S. Birrer, a professor of biology, has found several different digital platforms she is going to use to teach her students, and she is going to be using them in various ways to make easy-to-use lectures for her students.

"I will be recording audio on top of my Powerpoint slides using Techsmith Capture," Birrer said. "The result looks like a YouTube video that can be started or stopped at any point. These lectures will be posted for

students to view at their convenience, as many students must share computers with other family members."

Birrer is not the only professor who will be using digital platforms to make lectures for her students. Marcia Picallo, professor of languages and ESL, will also be using digital platforms to teach.

"Zoom seems to be... flexible when it comes to teaching and, especially, recording lessons that students can watch several times," Picallo said.

Lecturing is not the only way that students can learn in the classroom setting. They may also learn through performing science lab experiments. Professors such as Birrer not only lecture for their biology classes, but also teach lab sections for them. Despite the fact that most of her students this semester were sup-

posed to be doing their lab activities at the CCM campus, she nonetheless has found alternate methods to use the internet and make it possible for her students to complete their lab activities at home.

"Thanks to the generosity of many publishers, we have a multitude of virtual labs available at no cost for the remainder of the semester," Birrer said. "I am working with other faculty in our department to select appropriate online lab exercises that will cover the material we would be covering in person. It is not the ideal situation for science courses, but it will certainly work in the emergency situation we are experiencing. Although I normally teach a face to face, non-majors biology course, that course is already taught in an

CONTINUED IN 'ONLINE,' PAGE 5

SGA votes down transparency again

BY ANTHONY INGHAM
News Editor

At the March 10 public SGA meeting, Safety Committee Senator Caleb Doherty again pushed for a motion to have meeting minutes, voter results, and rationales posted publicly onto Blackboard so all students could see the results of their meetings after having it denied in the last meeting. In a vote of 2-9-3, the SGA once again denied the motion, with two members voting for it, nine against and three abstaining.

Doherty says that the motion was discussed again at his request, as he believes that the SGA is still not posting the voting records of members in an easily accessible manner.

"Students can request these records through the Office of Campus Life, but not posting the way each member votes on Blackboard certainly leaves us less accountable," he said.

Any student can ask Don Phelps, Director of Campus Life, for access to the meeting minutes and results of votes for certain motions, with students being able to see what members of the SGA voted for. However, Doherty says he has yet to see a single student do so. While this doesn't mean that students haven't done so or will not do so in the future, he simply wants voting records to be accessible to students in a manner consistent with the 21st century.

Doherty also compiled the names of over 100 students on a petition to make these votes and rationales available on Blackboard, believing it to be "clearly,

the will of the student body."

During the meeting, before the vote for this motion occurred, Vice President Bobby Yazdi suggested to Doherty that he separate the motion into four different motions, one for making the names publicly available on Blackboard, one for making their vote public on Blackboard, one for putting their rationale on Blackboard and another for reasons unnamed.

"A lot of people are gonna say no, so..." Yazdi said.

He claims that Doherty's motion is "bundling it up" into one larger issue. Doherty upholds his belief that the voting rationales be made publically available to the students, as he believes this is simply the next step in doing so.

SGA President Emma Mendoza expressed concerns for these votes being so readily available, believing that members of the SGA or the student body would no longer be incentivized to come to SGA meetings, as they could simply look at the results online and know exactly what was happening at meetings.

"Do you want students to be involved and actually come to the meetings, though? That's the point of the SGA is to get more students at the meetings, and putting them online might kind of defeat the purpose," Mendoza said.

Doherty "respectfully dissented," stating that very few students show up at SGA meetings to begin with.

Another student senator echoed Mendoza's concerns, and

CONTINUED IN 'AGAIN,' PAGE 8

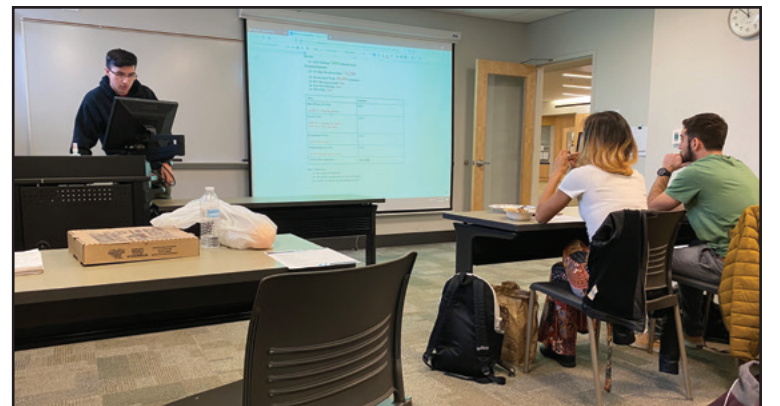


PHOTO BY ANTHONY INGHAM

The SGA publicly discuss their budget during the March 10 meeting. From left to right: Treasurer Jonathan Granda Acaro, President Emma Mendoza and Vice President Bobby Yazdi.

IN THIS ISSUE

Chosen first name forms now available for CCM students

"The things we can roll out, we are rolling out."

Page 4

Coronavirus impacts primary voting

"I would hope the governors listen to the public health experts."

Page 5

CCM's first online video call meeting addresses concerns

"Everything is currently on the table. We anticipate we won't be back this semester."

Page 7

Ghost hunting with Kelly

BY KELLY ROMLEIN

Contributor

It's imperative to our soul's well-being to find passion, define ourselves, and, most importantly, learn and grow from this experience called life. My passion is ghost hunting, which involves much more than the cliché midnight graveyard stomp, and is surrounded by history, instincts, primal fear, and adrenaline.

There are many haunted places throughout America that are open to the public, allowing guests to spend sleepless nights roaming the remains of old hospitals and prisons. To smell the dank air of the past and feel the electricity of something other-worldly is a remarkable experience and one that not many people probably have.

Waverly Hills Sanatorium in Louisville, Kentucky is one of the amazing artifacts of American

history that has recently opened its doors to those brave enough to spend a night inside. The building, which was constructed in 1908 as a small tuberculosis ward, was quickly inundated with patients as this extremely contagious epidemic made its way across America. This patient overpopulation led to deplorable conditions riddled with human suffering, and as a result, many of those being restless souls of the unfortunate victims who still remain within Waverly Hill's walls.

Waverly Hills' lockdown began at midnight on a warm Kentucky night in August of 2012. The doors were closed behind me, and I was left, enveloped in darkness, to meander through the halls, looking to find the paranormal. Treatment for tuberculosis back in the early 1900's involved allowing patients plenty of fresh air, so each room was equipped with

a balcony that let the night flow freely through the vandalized and ravaged hallways. The balcony's windows allowed moonlight to spill in and streak across the floor.

The top floor of the ward was specialized for children, and the curator has a special relationship with the ghost of a small boy he calls Timmy. When the ghost of this boy was asked to turn on a flashlight with no one nearby, the light would get turned on without hesitation. Slowly the power drained from the flashlight and its light went out, all was silent for a few moments until the spirit was able to re-energize it. This spirit is notorious for interacting with guests, so visitors often bring him toys in exchange for communication. I myself approached Timmy once. The spirit fearlessly moved a ball across the floor right before me as if trying to play with me. As a witness to these events, I know

what I have seen is real.

As the cool air of that Kentucky night settled through the decayed structure, shadowy figures were undeniably drifting through the open-door, in the studded hallways of the lower floors. It felt as if the spirits were curious about their visitors and wanted to poke their heads out of their rooms to see what the commotion was. Eyes could be felt from every direction, and the depth of their darkness was visible against the moonlit doorways. I saw figures darker than the night shifting through paint-peeled corridors, and could sense that undeniable feeling that you are not alone in a room, although you're supposed to be.

Finally, perhaps the most irrefutable piece of evidence that ghosts are more than fictional is something that I captured with my own camera. The basement of the

Waverly Hills building featured a tunnel so infamously referred to as the "death tunnel." Its grim name was given by people due to how it was used to remove bodies of the deceased from the building, which was done to spare the living patients from having to see the dead, and their own potential outcome, rolling through the front door. While walking down the tunnel, with only my sister slightly ahead of me, I snapped pictures the whole way down. Around 7 am, when the lockdown was over, we were released. I was scrolling through the photographs I had just taken during my pancake breakfast at a restaurant and I saw someone in front of my sister in one of the photos. The figure appeared opaque and large, the silhouette clearly of another person, but I am certain there was no one else in the tunnel with us that evening among the living.

Editorial: Get Published

If you always wanted to get published and never had the time until now, there are plenty of online opportunities with the Youngtown Edition. Students of all majors are welcome to get involved, and professors, faculty, staff and CCM community members can as well. Here's how you can get involved with us:

All submissions must be sent to youngtownedition@gmail.com. Not all submissions may be published and all submissions may be edited.

1. Take part in an interview

Student journalists are looking for students, professors, faculty, staff and administrative members to interview for their articles. By

participating, you answer a set of questions from a student journalist, where you get to answer and provide your opinions. Your statements can be published in an article about the Coronavirus, online classes, cancelled events, community news and more. If you are interested in taking part in an interview, either through email or over the phone, please contact youngtownedition@gmail.com.

2. Write a Letter to the Editor

As always, the Youngtown accepts Letters to the Editor, which allows everyone at CCM to write to the newspaper. You may have read an article that was interesting and that you want to reflect on, or perhaps you have an opinion about

an article, or an event, or even just current happenings and want to share it. Maybe you want to write about your experience transitioning online, or how you have more time than you expected and don't know what to do with it because of the quarantine. Send your letter signed with your full name to our email.

3. Draw a cartoon or comic

If you are an art major or just really like to draw, consider creating and drawing your own cartoon and comics. Design your own characters and storyline. Any medium, including hand drawn and digital drawn, are acceptable. Cartoons can either be in black or white or color. Be creative and have fun with it. Be sure to scan in and send your cartoon as either a JPEG, PNG or PDF to youngtownedition@gmail.com.

4. Participate in Roving Reporter

Usually, student journalists and photographers search the halls of CCM looking for people to participate in Roving Reporter. This almost always requires providing a name, major, answer to a ques-

tion and a photo. However, with the CCM campus being closed, the photo requirement has been lifted. If you have ever wanted to participate in Roving Reporter, but didn't want your photo taken, now is your chance. Follow [@youngtownccm](https://www.facebook.com/youngtownccm) on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to participate in biweekly online Roving Reporter questions. Just send a direct message with your first and last name, major and answer to the question.

5. Create a puzzle

If you ever wanted to design your own word search, crossword puzzle, maze, riddle or any other type of puzzle, now is your chance. Create your own puzzle, design a theme for it if you so choose, and be creative. Also, be sure to include a copy of the answers to your puzzle. Please scan in and send your puzzle as a PDF or PNG to our email.

6. Share a recipe

If you enjoy cooking and baking, share a recipe for others to try at home. Either create your own recipe, share a family recipe, or provide a favorite recipe. If your recipe is not your own, please in-

clude what website or book you found it in. Please send your recipe typed out in either a word document or just in the email. Also, take some photos of what you made and send as JPEGs. Send everything to youngtownedition@gmail.com.

7. Offer recommendations

If you have any recommendations on TV shows to watch, movies to stream, video games to play, apps to download, Youtubers to follow, music to listen to and more, write a recommendation of things you enjoy for others to check out. Send your recommendations to our email.

8. Write an article

Perhaps you have always wanted to write an article for the Youngtown. Write about any topic of your choice, and make it at least 200 words. Please remember bylines will only not be given if the student is a member of a club or organization mentioned in his or her own article. Send your article to youngtownedition@gmail.com by Sunday, April 5, to be considered for the next edition of the Youngtown.

THE YOUNGTOWN EDITION

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.

Although the campus is closed, the CCM Library is open for remote services! All library loans are extended until the campus re-opens, and no late fees will be charged.

Students:

Get help with research questions by email, text or chat during CCM Library hours – "Ask a Librarian!" at ccm.edu/Library/
Access CCM Library databases and ebooks remotely. Login information is on the Library Database page <http://ccm.libguides.com/az.php>

Faculty:

For help finding online resources in your subject, email LRCRef@ccm.edu.
To change a scheduled instruction session to an online session, email infolit@ccm.edu.
To schedule an online instruction session: <http://www3.ccm.edu/library/FacultyInstruction-Request2.htm>

Online library hours:

7:30 am - 9 pm Mon-Thurs.
7:30 am - 5 pm Fri.
10 am - 2 pm Sat.

SATIRE: Inside CCM's most radical student organization... the Youngtown Edition

BY A.G. SWIZZLE

CCM's last true most accurate journalism student of all time the best fan of truth-telling

Around campus, one may see a curious amount of bins with the name "Youngtown Edition." A quick glance through the meek-looking publication one can quickly surmise that it is filled with nothing more than cheap propaganda from students who don't understand that cold can sometimes be hot.

The base of operation for the Youngtown Edition is constantly on the move. Meetings rarely stay in one room for too long, and the group often moves around campus in droves as if they were a flock of geese migrating south.

Recently, the entitled group started to nest in one of the cubicles within the new student club room, in which their claim to the room is the fluorescent pink sticky note on the door which they claim was already there. Adam Gentile, the managing editor for the Youngtown, referred to it as calling "dibs." Gentile denied accusations that the Youngtown put the sticky there themselves as some childish way of calling dibs.

"What? No, OCL [Office of Campus Life] probably just put those on the door as a simple indicator of who has what space," Gentile said with a condescending tone. "I'm pretty sure the room is ours because of OCL, not because of a pink sticky note, like why would that be a thing?"

Gentile squirmed around with more questions, unwilling to give direct and precise answers to the question "Why did you make up COVID-19 to drum up readership?" "Is it true that you people are funded by dark money orga-

nizations in order to bring down respected institutions?" "Why did you scrap Searching CCM?" Gentile's answers to these questions were as following:

"I'm pretty sure COVID-19 is very real and people should probably be taking it more seriously, and the last thing anyone should do is act as if it were concocted in the name of some sort of sensationalized media narrative," Gentile said long-windedly to a simple yes or no question. "Are we funded by dark money groups? I mean, it depends on who you're asking that to. I'm sure some people consider taxpayer money as some form of dark money. I personally don't, the documents are pretty transparent to the general public. As for Searching CCM, it was not my decision to scrap it, but, like, there are only so many random places on this campus."

Admittedly, Gentile's weaselly responses made me too irritated to deal with him any further. The fact that he has the audacity to call himself a "journalist" but can't bring himself to answer the simple and fair question is just so frustrating. But, hey, not everyone can consistently write solid pieces of journalism every time they put finger to keyboard like myself.

Putting aside small, weaselly, lying fish like Gentile, I again glanced through one of those rancid editions that are put out every two weeks, and decided to find the identity of the mastermind of this group of radical "journalists," and found on Page 2 the name of the ringleader of the organization. The name of this Machiavellian leader was Alexa Wyszowski, Editor-in-Chief of the Youngtown.

Wyszowski, like most dic-

tators, has held her position for some length of time, and, like most dictators, drinks water when she's thirsty. When Wyszowski was first confronted, I was taken aback by her meek mannerisms and by the fact that a first graders lunch box could apparently kill her, but clearly this must be part of the ploy she uses in order to stay entrenched in her power.

"Excuse me, can you not eat that granola bar around me? I am very allergic to peanuts," Wyszowski said without considering that I was hungry. "No, seriously, please, I can't speak to you if you are going to eat, I have a lot of different food allergies and everything in your bag looks like a trip to the hospital for me."

Wyszowski is obviously clever, in fact much more clever than the rambling lummoX whom I had the displeasure of interviewing earlier that week. However, I played her game and put my lunch away, and knew that I had t-minus five minutes before my hunger would incapacitate me. My back was against the wall, but as Sun Tsu would say, probably, "Finish this quickly so you can eat." And so the rapid-fire questioning with Wyszowski began.

How did you become Editor in Chief?

"I was chosen by the advisor and the former editor in chief"

Why do you people always move around a lot especially every other Wednesday?

"Oh, that's probably our distribution day. It's super fun, we all have a good time."

How do you choose what goes into the paper?

"We accept articles from students and try to have a wide variety of stories for our paper."

Who supplies you with the

articles?

"Again we accept articles from all students. Most of them come from our editors and from professor Soltes' classes, do you want to send something into us? You seem very passionate. We would love to have you send us stuff, though we won't accept anything on ourselves unless we feel it's really important."

Time was up, my stomach rumbled, my head felt light and I could barely see straight. Wyszowski was a worthy opponent, truly trained in the art at two-talking. But I got my information. I found their propaganda supplier, as well as a job offer. In spite of this, I refuse to censor myself, especially for these establishment skills.

Onward to my next source, Professor John Soltes, Assistant Professor of Journalism at CCM, and the only professor to ever give me a strong C+ and say that I have a strong potential for improvement. Finding out of his possible involvement with the student group was a heavy revelation that I had to know for sure.

"I encourage all of my students to submit their articles to the Youngtown Edition and make it mandatory for my advanced classes to submit their content as well," Soltes said while tapping his fingers three times behind a pen on his desk as if to insinuate that he is being bugged by the group. "Now I'm curious why you are asking about the Youngtown. Are you interested in joining them? I'm sure if you email them they will gladly have you as part of their team."

Sadly, it seems as though the group of radical journalists have compromised the freedom of Professor Soltes and are using him as one of the main drivers of

sending innocent students to their insidious cult. I bade Professor Soltes farewell and wished him well with his bug infestation, to which he responded, "My what?" without skipping a beat, but deep down I know we both understood.

So what have we learned from this in-depth exposé of the most dangerous group of students to ever disgracefully walk the halls of CCM? Well, to the layman, probably nothing. However, if I were to show this to my Twitter feed, they would see it for what it is, how consent is manufactured.

Allow me to break it down. First we have the reporters, or, in this case, you call them Gentiles. These people are lacking nuance, are unimaginative and are incapable of answering a simple question in a simple way, but that's not their job. Their job is simply to look at a window and call it a window, they can't possibly fathom that a window could also be used as a door, or a music stand, or a whiteboard.

Next up we have the Brains of the operations, or, in this case, they are called the Wyszowskis. Wyszowskis are unassuming yet devious. Unlike the Gentiles, the Wyszowskis are willing to answer questions in a deceptively simple way as if to give off the illusion of honesty to the reader.

Finally, you have those who are forced to comply with the entrenched power system, or in our case the Solti. Solti have a strong belief in the principles of journalism. However, due to the overall power of the entrenched systems of power, they cause them the Solti not to act as free as they can, and so they have to force people to contribute to the system because they lack the power to change it.

SATIRE: Dogs are morally abhorrent, a study on lonely students

BY CREIGHTON B. BASIL

The Unaccompanied Dust on the Typewriter

Every day, I hear the same brain-dead drivel: dogs are man's best friend, they're so "loyal"; cats are so much worse because they are loud and won't let me assault them at random with my fingers like a dumb, pathetic hound. Well, guess what? Dogs not only suck, they are also stupid. They're the dumbest animal known to man, not man's best friend. Where'd I hear that? Cats-da-best-wiki. A neutral source. Only utterly lost dog sheeple like Anthony, Luna, and possibly Arthur would not believe the sacred truth that cats are better in every way.

If you think dogs are smart, try again, dingus. What kind of "intelligent" beast would willingly walk into a minefield for their master? Dogs. A dog is truly stupid enough to blow its own four furry legs into infinity and

beyond just because hurr, durr, mAn WhO FeEdS mE sAiD tO. Get wrecked, dog lover.

On the other hand, I do suppose that dogs do serve a purpose—WRONG. Dogs serve no purpose, anyone who tells you they do is lying. All dogs these days know how to do is bark, lie, eat hot chip treat, and puppy-twerk while pooping at the exact moment you've run out of bags. "But, but, but my parents told me that dogs were the descendants of wolves. Aren't wolves cool?" Yes, obviously wolves are cool. However, the idea that dogs descend from wolves is actually a myth. They are actually direct descendants of a type of elusive Goblin Shark.

Dogs aren't loyal either. Every year, over five million U.S. citizens are viciously attacked by their "loving" pets resulting in thousands being hospitalized with brutal, bloody wounds. Think those are mistakes? Think again. In 1981, a man was in Yel-

lowstone National Park with his friend and his dog Moosie. His dog jumped into a hot spring that measured over 200 degrees Fahrenheit—like a true idiot—and his owner foolishly leapt in to save his weak, mindless animal, ignoring the pleas of his rationally minded friend.

Not convinced? Wow. Aren't stories about princes and princesses just wonderful? Don't they inspire the air of proper décor and give children grace and respect for their status in society? Dogs don't think so. In 1920, Alexander, King of Greece, was mauled by a domesticated Pomeranian that tore out his throat and lapped up his blood as his wife and small son of five years watched. Don't care about kings? Think they oppressed their workers and subjected the masses to state-capitalist, feudal-anarcho-Communist terrors? You'd be right. Unfortunately, dogs also straight-up no scoped Diane Whipple, an intergalactically fa-

mous lacrosse player, in 2001. Is there anyone dogs won't yeet out of this world? The answer is none. All humans are destined to be devoured by the dirt-adoring runts these "pets" truly are.

Another myth is that cats are descended from a middle eastern domesticated cat. In truth, their ancestors are hyper-intelligent feline aliens from the planet Pluto and even the most common cat has an IQ of well over 263. To be fair, you have to have a very high IQ to understand cats. Their humor is extremely subtle, and without a solid grasp of theoretical physics, most of the jokes will go over a typical viewer's head. There are also cats' nihilistic outlook, which is deftly woven into their characterization - their personal philosophy draws heavily from Narodnaya Volya's literature, for instance. Cat fans understand this stuff; they have the intellectual capacity to truly appreciate the depths of these jokes, to realize that they're not just funny- they

say something deep about LIFE. As a consequence people who dislike cats truly ARE idiots- of course, they wouldn't appreciate, for instance, the humor in cats' existential catchphrase "Meow, meow, mewto meowers," which itself is a cryptic reference to Turgenev's Russian epic "Fathers and Sons." I'm smirking right now just imagining one of those adlepted simpletons scratching their heads in confusion as William Thaw's genius unfolds itself on their cat-inspired television screens. What fools... how I pity them. And yes by the way, I DO have a cat tattoo. And no, you cannot see it. It's for the kittens' eyes only- And even they have to demonstrate that they're within 5 IQ points of my own (preferably lower) beforehand.

Cats love us. We love cats. In light of this new reality, I propose that we, as students of this great college, elect my cat candidate, Smokey Oreo-Patch the new president of CCM.

Chosen first name forms now available

BY ALEXA
WYSZKOWSKI
Editor-in-Chief

County College of Morris students can now fill out a Chosen Name Request form to have a different first name than their legal name appear in certain places and documents. Even with the CCM campus closed, students can still access the new Chosen Name/Preferred Pronoun webpage of the CCM website to download the form, fill out and send back in an email to Records and Registration.

The form became available to CCM students on March 23 and allows students to have a chosen first name, such as those who have a preference of middle name, nickname, anglicized name, or a name that aligns with their gender identity.

The form can be filled out and submitted at any time during any semester. Once the form has been accepted by Records and Registration, the student's chosen name will appear in Titans Direct and Colleague for the student and their professors to view. Their

chosen name will also appear on alumni records, Titans Direct class rosters, commencement programs, Dean's lists, their graduation diploma, Titan's Direct faculty advisee lists and student ID cards.

Registrar Laura Lee Bowens has been working on having a chosen name option for two years now. Information Systems and the Diversity Committee also assisted Bowens during this time, as the different websites and programs had to be updated and reworked to allow for the chosen name fields to exist.

"The things we can roll out, we are rolling out. The things that have to wait, hopefully won't be too long in the future. I'm excited about this. We have been waiting. Honestly, I started this process two years ago. We had to wait for the software company to have an upgrade that included that field [chosen name], and once we got the field, it was a matter of mapping it to everything. It became complex," said Bowens.

There are plans for the near future that Blackboard will also

be updated to include the chosen name field, but as of press time, Blackboard still displays student legal names. CCM student email accounts will also still consist of student legal names. Bowens explained why the student email accounts won't yet have the chosen name field.

"To change the student email account, there are thousands of email accounts that would have to be changed, it has been discussed, but there's been no closure on that discussion yet, so we keep battling around a few things to see how we can make this work. It's something that we do want to do in the future, because it makes sense for a lot of reasons," said Bowens.

Students' legal names will continue to appear on financial aid and billing documents, official and unofficial transcripts, health records, paychecks, travel forms, transfer credit evaluations, parking permits, tax records and in the time entry system.

CCM students Robin Goodfellow, biology major, the president of LGBT+ Student Union and Valentin Espey-David, sociol-

ogy and art major, the secretary of LGBT+ helped Bowens and the Diversity Committee with rolling out the Chosen Name Request form. Goodfellow explained how essential this form was for students.

"It [the chosen name form] would definitely make trans people more comfortable in college, it would be much less anxiety inducing than to have to email our teachers beforehand, I know trans students [before the form existed] have to email their teachers beforehand, and go out themselves," said Goodfellow.

Karen Danna, professor of Sociology and a member of the Diversity Committee explained how the form will help students not have to explain their change of names in every interaction.

"The idea certainly with some of the chosen name initiatives here is to take burdens off of students and put them onto systems, put them onto structures, have structures that can do that, and then make it administration, faculty burden. We don't want this to come back to the student, where

the student still has to do the legwork of negotiation and interaction. The structure is supposed to handle some of that," said Danna.

Bowens explained how Titans Direct will allow students some additional choices under their user profiles.

"Once you see it, it's really cool. Once everything comes together and you see how it works, then you discover new things in the system that you didn't know before, which is on Titans Direct students will be allowed to choose their preferred pronouns too,"

Students are also now able to select their preferred pronoun and gender identity on Titans Direct under their user profile. Students in Professor Karen Danna's spring 2020 Sociology of Gender class helped create the preferred pronoun table that can be found in Titans Direct.

Students with any additional questions can find out more information by visiting the webpage <https://www.ccm.edu/admissions/records-and-registration/chosen-name-info/> and sending an email to registrar@ccm.edu.

Roving Reporter:

What are you doing to cope with the quarantine?

I've been working on making my room the way I want to be in order to distract myself, and focusing on my writing because I haven't had the time recently to do so. I've spent time with my boyfriends family, carefully trying not to expose each other though, and using apps to watch movies with my friends over the phone instead of in person.

  Erin Luby - Photo major

okay so i've been trying to stay on a strict schedule so i don't start being disorganized like waking up at a certain time and eating at certain times and working out

trying to stay motivated i guess

Isabelle Wilders - Photo major

Nothing out of the ordinary for me... i stay in my room watching tv shows, playing video games, drawing/painting, and keeping up with the latest news. However i do still have to work, just because i work in ups.. and ups dont want to loose money... #corp.america

I do clean my camera gear though because i have the chance now..

Nico Tenorio - Photo major

I'm baking cookies three times everyday and because of this anticipate doubling my bodyweight by the end of the quarantine



Hannah Steinel - Photo major

Coronavirus impacts primary voting

BY ADAM GENTILE
Managing Editor

The Coronavirus pandemic caused chaos and uncertainty in the 2020 democratic primary as poll stations shut down and moved. Elections in some states have been postponed to a later date. The possible impacts of Coronavirus on the democratic primary can be shown using the Tuesday, March 17 democratic primary as an example, where the effects of the Coronavirus on the four scheduled states have had different scenarios.

Democratic frontrunner and former vice president Joe Biden has won Arizona, Illinois, and Florida, increasing his delegate lead to about 300 over his primary rival, Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders. This secured Biden a total delegate count of 1,153, almost 800 delegates shy of crossing that 1991 delegate threshold and securing the nomination.

Originally, Ohio with its

136 pledged delegates was also supposed to be decided. However, on Monday, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced that Ohio polls would be closed due to health concerns from Coronavirus and rescheduled the election to June 2. DeWine released a statement explaining his decision to postpone the election.

"During this time when we face an unprecedented public health crisis, to conduct an election tomorrow would force poll workers and voters to place themselves at an unacceptable health risk of contracting coronavirus. As such, Health Director Dr. Amy Acton will order the polls closed as a health emergency. While the polls will be closed tomorrow, Secretary of State Frank LaRose will seek a remedy through the courts to extend voting options so that every voter who wants to vote will be granted that opportunity."

The New York Times reported that election officials in Flor-

ida and Illinois have noted that there has been lighter in-person voter turnout than in 2016.

"As of 1 p.m., about 126,500 people had voted on Election Day," said Jim Allen, a spokesman for the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners. The Times reported that Allen said that in 2016 voter turnout was at that time [1 p.m.] around 300,000. Allen also mentioned that over 200 polling places had been moved within the past few days.

Voter turnout in Illinois, according to the Illinois Board of Elections, was around two million voters. According to the Associated Press (AP), last night's election turnout, with 99 percent reporting, was around 1.5 million voters, a decrease of 25 percent compared to 2016. In contrast, according to 538, nearly all of the primary states that voted before last night have seen at least a small increase in voters since 2016.

Unlike Illinois, the voter turnout in Florida in 2020 is on track to be roughly the same as it was in 2016. According to the AP, with 99 percent of votes reported in the 2020 Florida primary, total turnout is just under 1.7 million voters, while the voter turnout in 2016 was just over 1.7 million.

Despite the national emergency, the total votes in Arizona were higher than it was in 2016 by about 60,000 votes.

According to the Arizona Board of Elections, roughly 466,000 people voted in the 2016 Arizona Democratic primary, and according to the AP, with 88% reporting, about 522,000 votes have been cast in the 2020 Democratic primary. Of the total amount, 380,000 votes cast in Arizona were absentee ballots that had to be requested by March 6.

Earlier this week, Sanders told Anderson Cooper his concerns of still holding the March 17 primaries due to the health risk presented to voters due to Coro-

navirus.

"I would hope the governors listen to the public health experts and they're saying is, as you just indicated, we don't want gatherings of 50 or more people," Sanders said to Cooper. "And when I think about some of the elderly people sitting behind the desks, registering people and all that, does that make a lot of sense? I'm not sure that it does."

A memo the Biden campaign released on Tuesday insisted on keeping the schedule for the upcoming primaries the same, claiming that elections have remained as they were during other times of national emergencies.

"We held elections during the Civil War, the 1918 flu pandemic and World War II," said Kate Beedingfield, the deputy campaign manager for Joe Biden, in the memo. "We are confident that we can meet that same challenge today and continue to uphold the core functions and values of our democracy."

ONLINE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

online format, so I have been able to adapt some of the materials from the online course for the rest of this semester."

Besides lecturing and, for some professors, doing lab activities, professors must also conference with their students. In addition to doing lectures and lab exercises on the internet, conferences are being conducted with the use of digital platforms. One platform that professors are using to conduct conferences is Shindig, which, according to its own website, is a platform that "enables a host to give a video conference, lecture, seminar, interview or media event in front of an online audience of thousands."

"After checking out Shindig, I feel that that program will work better for office hours," Picallo stated.

Shindig is what some professors are going to be using for video conferencing with their students. Other professors have found different platforms that will suit them better.

"As the semester continues, I may teach myself to use some new technology that could benefit my students, but for now I have Zoom which can be used for video meetings with students if they would like," Birrer stated.

Despite the fact that there are digital platforms that professors are going to use to help totally move their teachings and conferencing to an online environment, this transitioning does not come without its hardships. As stated by Birrer before, many students share computers with other family members, so some students will not be able to attend the lectures that some professors video stream. There are other conflicts, technology-related or not, that will arise with this

transitioning to an online environment.

"I do understand that some students were taking my face to face class because they do not do well with the online format," Birrer stated. "For those students this will be a challenge. I will work as much as possible to help them be successful in a learning environment that might not be best for their learning style. I also have a good rapport with my students in person and will miss seeing them. My non-majors evening class was particularly active in asking questions in all areas of biology. I hope they will continue to seek answers to their questions." In addition, Birrer stated that she knows she has some students who do not have access to any cameras, and others who only have wifi on their phones. "We have some obstacles to overcome, but we will figure out how to work with everyone."

Birrer is not the only professor who acknowledges that some students find that they work better in an in-person environment, as Picallo recognizes this as well.

"I love teaching and interacting with students in the class. I'm going to miss that. The online format is just not the same in that sense. Some of the disadvantages, although I don't want to call them disadvantages; they're obstacles that a person may have that have nothing to do with their own doing-and that's why they take a lecture-type class. For example, when I was in college, I had very limited financial resources. If I would have had to deal with something like this, I would have had a lot of trouble finishing my semester. I would have had many obstacles to overcome financially. My survival would have come first. I'm being honest. I've already encountered challenges

that this situation is presenting. A student may not have Internet or enough data on his/her phone. CCM has reached out to professors, staff and students to provide help to all of us. I'm hoping we can work together to solve some of these issues and get through the semester successfully. I don't want my students to suffer. I teach because I want all of you to have better lives."

With there being these types of conflicts that not only students must face but also professors, both Birrer and Picallo want to offer students advice on how to deal with college and life in general during the pandemic.

"It is difficult for all of us to stay at home and feel isolated," Birrer stated. "My family and I have been watching movies most nights and going for walks during the day. Try to do everything you would to keep your immune system healthy. Quarantine junk food seems to be a thing, but a

healthy diet is important as well as regular exercise and sleep habits. Fresh air and sunshine are not good for the Coronavirus, so as the weather warms up go outside more and more. I plan to record lectures from by deck soon. Finally, I would like students to know that the faculty are there for them should they just need to talk. These are stressful times, and we must help each other come through with both physical and mental health intact."

In addition, Birrer states that what would be the biggest benefit for students during this pandemic would be for them to follow the medical advice of staying safely at home.

Picallo also offers advice for students to help them get through what is currently going on.

"Stay healthy; stay in touch with your professors; and stay calm. We'll get through this together."



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THAN A STUDENT
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'For most of the semester, things will be different but college life continues in nearly every way'

BY DR. ANTHONY IACONO
CCM College President

First and foremost, I hope you are all healthy and adhere strictly to Governor Murphy's Executive Orders that, with few exceptions, orders New Jersey residents to stay home. This is a critically important executive order that will save lives. As we now know, in spite of earlier reports, people of all ages do contract the COVID-19 virus and it is fatal to a wide spectrum of ages. We also know that one person can spread it to 2.5 people and, because of the multiplier effect, those 2.5 people quickly become more than 400. I have posted a good infographic on my twitter page @CCMProud. Please take a look.

Although the campus is closed, CCM's administration, faculty, and staff have spent weeks moving classes, student support services, student government, honor societies, clubs and activities, and more online. The campus is closed but the college is open - online. As classes resume, it is important that you remember a few key items:

Check and read your CCM email carefully throughout the day and monitor the CCM COVID-19 webpage at <https://www.ccm.edu/covid-19-information->

center/. Changes are likely to continue with limited notice as the situation with the virus evolves; so check your email and the web page regularly.

Every class is unique, and just like when you met in a traditional classroom, your professors will continue to provide directions, instruction, feedback, and support. Work closely with your professors. They will provide clarification to issues related to your specific class.

Use TASC+. This new resource is designed to help you succeed. It is a powerful resource center designed to answer your instructional and non-instructional questions and help you obtain the resources you need quickly. You can access TASC+ by going to CCM's COVID-19 webpage and clicking on the student tab. To further support your academic success, continue using tutoring, library services, accessibility services and more. Additionally, if your club is meeting online, join your peers. The online environment can be a highly creative space that is rich with opportunities. For most of the semester, things will be different but college life continues in nearly every way.

In a recent online open student meeting I was asked a few key questions. First, students want to know when classes will resume

on campus. The answer, unfortunately, is that we do not know. The decision to reopen will be based on many factors including directives from Governor Murphy, reports from state, county, and local health departments, and other criteria. Because of the uncertainty of the duration and impact of the COVID-19 virus, it is highly likely that we will remain online for the remainder of the semester. Should we return to campus before the term ends, it would most likely be for classes that require a hands-on component such as science and manufacturing labs, art and music studios, testing and a few other exceptions. Such cases, however, would be extremely limited and under very strict operating conditions. Again, this remains an unlikely scenario but, because the situation is highly fluid, this possible scenario, like many others, could change. Students in our nursing, radiography, and respiratory therapy programs should work very closely with their professors. Clinicals are suspended indefinitely. As are other colleges and universities around the state, we too are working closely with area medical facilities to determine when this learning experience can resume. Students also asked about graduation. While it is true that we will not hold our traditional commencement exercises,

students will still graduate upon completion of all requirements. Graduates will receive diplomas and will be supported in all the same ways past students were regarding transfer into four-year schools, immediate placement in the workforce, and assistance with military eligibility. As for the ceremony, we are exploring alternative ways we can celebrate your milestone accomplishment. Finally, students wanted to know how they will take exams. This depends upon your classes but the college is planning on expanding testing services with ProctorU, our online testing service. Again, talk with your professors, watch your CCM email, and monitor the CCM website. Regarding open student forums, we will be hosting more through Zoom, so please watch your CCM email for future dates and times. These sessions are open to all CCM students and are a good opportunity to ask questions, share concerns, and let us know how we can help you.

Finally, while many students are understandably experiencing increasing levels of anxiety, I want to encourage you to visit the resources section of the COVID-19 section of our website. At that site, you will find a comprehensive list of social services, including mental health counseling, information about income, hous-



ing and food insecurities, and a range of other services. Please also remember that CCM's counselors are well prepared to help you as completely as they have in the past. Many of them have mental health backgrounds and certifications. Again, I encourage you to contact TASC+ if you need additional information.

In closing, I know this is not the semester you expected. In truth, no one expected a semester quite like this one. I urge you to take care of yourself mentally, physically and spiritually. Try to maintain or create healthy routines and ask for help as often as necessary. The one thing that has not changed is that you remain our priority. Let us help you and, remember, together we will get through these challenging days.

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CCM's first online video call meeting addresses student concerns

BY MATTHEW BRISTOL
Distribution Manager

Dr. Anthony Iacono, the president of CCM, along with other members of the CCM administration and staff, organized a meeting in Zoom, an online video call platform service, on Monday, March 23. The intention of this meeting was to address concerns and questions from students related to how the college plans to handle the COVID-19 mandatory school shut down.

With over 300 people in attendance at the meeting, the call lasted about two hours and covered a wide variety of topics. For those who missed the meeting, or may have been overwhelmed during the call, this is a breakdown of some of the topics that were discussed.

Student emails and counseling services

Students were told repeatedly to keep an eye on their student emails. Students should be checking their email and the CCM website for updates and contacting instructors and departments as needed. A major resource for information at this time is CCM's "COVID-19-information-center" webpage. Iacono reassured that while the college may be playing it by ear, they are working closely with the government and following all government procedures. In addition, he said they are doing what they can to pivot the college to handle as much content online as possible.

"Assume we are not returning to the campus," Iacono said. "Watch your college email."

During the meeting, it was also established that CCM was originally hoping to do limited activity on the campus. However, the governor's office has mandated that everyone stay home, which means that all potential in-person activities have been cancelled.

Students who may be feeling very stressed, anxious, and overwhelmed about everything going on can contact Counseling, as they are present online to speak with students in need of anything.

"Our office of student success is still in full [online] operation. The counseling services are still fully open [online] for any students in need," said Dr. Bette Simmons, Vice President of Student Development and Enrollment Management.

Transitioning to online classes and exams

The administration is viewing the first week of returning to classes for professors to be a form of "soft launch," and are asking students to please be patient with faculty and staff during this time as this is a major adjustment for both professors and students.

There are some professors who have done online classes, and others who have not. Some



DR. JOHN MARLIN

professors lack the "technological know-how" for this sudden shift and to help them, the college has employed the "Center for Teaching and Learning," which professors can use to help learn more how to use Blackboard. The site also provides tools that the professors will need to be able to teach their classes effectively.

Each professor will conduct their online classes differently. It will vary whether or not professors will host online video classes at the same time as when they usually meet or not. Some professors may instead only use discussion boards and expect work to be completed by the end of each week. Talk to your faculty member if you're having a conflict issue or need to speak to them.

Dr. John Marlin, Vice President of Academic Affairs, explained that professors must be in contact with their classes on a regular basis.

"Professors should be making regular contact with you, whether asynchronously through discussion boards or synchronously through video calls. If they are not that can be a concern," said Marlin.

CCM is also weighing options for how to handle online tests, such as ProctorU. Part of the struggle of using ProctorU is that it usually requires the students to pay a fee for each test.

"As things are currently set up—and we are aiming to change it—the student is bearing the cost of taking an exam, which is \$6-\$8 an exam," said Marlin. "However, we are working with ProctorU and with our finance people to get the college to bear that expense. We are aiming to take that expense away from you."

CCM is exploring other options for exams as well, as explained by Dr. Patrick Enright, Vice President of Human Resources and Labor Relations.

"As Dr. Marlin said, there are faculty who may change the evaluation process they use. Maybe they were going to do tests but will look for alternatives. So, I think it will really depend from class to class and is a matter of connecting with each individual instructor you have," said Enright.

Accommodations and special needs

Accessibility Services is open online and is continuing to assist those with accommodations and special needs. Those who are registered with Accessibility Services will be contacted with more information.

"A separate Zoom meeting for students that have accessibility needs has been planned," said Simmons.

Maria Schiano, Director of Accessibility Services, explained that the office is able to resend accommodation letters to professors if needed.

"We are fully online, so we will be providing accommodations. If you are unsure if your faculty know about your accommodations, please email us at ASO@ccm.edu and we will resend your accommodation letters to your professors. Let's say the professor gives you an exam in Blackboard or ProctorU, they will have the option to go in and extend your time indefinitely," said Schiano.

Tutoring center

Asking about the tutoring center, Britney Carnes, a liberal arts major, said, "When I go to the tutoring center, I look forward to that type of face-to-face interaction with the tutor. Is there a way we can go on Zoom to ask our questions to our tutor instead of typing them out?"

"That's exactly what we're setting up for CCM students at home. We have the SmartThinking, which is what you're talking about, you type in the questions and they answer. The CCM tutoring center will be open on March 30 and will do everything by video chat," said Marlin.

The tutoring center appointments will be available online using WEBX.

Tutoring can also be obtained in a text-only format from SmartThinking on Blackboard 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Once set up on March 30, everything on the tutoring center will be done through video chat, much like Zoom. This will give the face-to-face experience that many students need.

Pass-Fail system

CCM is allowing students to opt in for pass/fail grading for this semester, but there are some potential transfer issues with that. Marlin explained the pros and cons of selecting pass/fail.

"Right now, the college's policy is that the grade of "P" is only awarded in classes that don't receive academic credits. We are amending that for this semester only to allow students to opt in for pass/fail grading. Some majors or students won't be able to do that. That is because their GPA is part of receiving professional credentialing. Education students have to maintain a certain GPA, for instance. I want you to understand

that there are implications in taking a grade of P instead of a letter grade like A, B, C, D, or F. Some four-year institutions won't accept a P grade in transfer. In some very narrow special categories, it can affect financial aid. It also doesn't help your grade point average," said Marlin.

Financial aid

On getting compensated for things supported through the college, Harvey Willis, director of financial aid explained that emailing them is the best option.

"Please drop us a quick email at finaid@ccm.edu... because there's a lot more involved than I can say on this call... so, just send us a quick email and we'll get back to you."

Withdrawals and refunds

The college administration has decided to move many dates. Monday, April 30 is now the latest day to withdraw from courses.

"If you wish to withdraw, discuss with TASC+, [they] will help with the process of withdrawal and what can be done for refunds," said Simmons.

The college is uncertain as to how they will be handling potential refunds and when or if they will be available. The college is working their way through many problems as it stands, and it's clear that this one will take time to work out.

Applying for graduation

As the process for applying for graduation used to be in-person only, the Office of Records and Registration and the Bursar Office are changing this process. Students who have not applied for graduation yet will now be able to do so online through Titans Direct.

"We are going to be setting up graduation applications online through Titans Direct this week," said Bowens. "We will let the students know when it is up and ready, I expect it to be done most likely by Wednesday or Thursday morning."

Requesting official transcripts

For students in the transfer process who need their transcripts, they can be requested online.

"We are fully online with our transcripts now. You can order them through the National Student Clearinghouse," Bowens continued. "The best thing for you to do is to go to the Records and Registration page at www.ccm.edu and click "request transcripts" and all the instructions are right there. The best part is that you can request it, pay for it, and it will be sent for you electronically within a day or two."

Registration for summer and fall classes

Summer registration has already opened and Dr. Iacono said that they are still planning for courses to run in the summer se-

mesters.

"Make the assumption that we will be moving forward for the summer," said Dr. Iacono.

Fall registration will still open on April 6 and students can email their academic advisors for advisement on what courses to take. Registrar Laura Lee Bowens explained how to register for courses.

"Registration for fall 2020 will open on April 6th. We strongly suggest students 'speak' with their advisors, plan their courses in Titans Direct and when registration opens on April 6th make sure you click 'register' to move those planned courses into a registered status. Class closed, no worries put yourself on the waitlist," said Bowens.

Students who need a waiver to get into a class can also now go through that process online.

"If you need prerequisite waivers for any courses have your Program Department Chairperson send an email to registrar@ccm.edu or <mailto:registrar@ccm.edu> this way we can build the waiver in the system and you can register without a problem," said Bowens.

On-campus jobs

Early on the question was raised as to whether or not students who have worked on-campus jobs would be receiving their pay. Dr. Simmons established that she is currently in ongoing conversations with the accounting and payroll department to make sure that student workers get paid.

"We've gotten some guidance from the federal government that strongly encourages institutions to continue paying our students who are working under the federal work study program. This is not a time for people to not have access to dollars to support them. We are working with the accounting and payroll online to make sure student workers get paid for the work they have performed up to the closing and those during spring break," said Simmons.

"What you need to do is talk to your supervisors. They're getting information from the career services department as well," said Dr. Simmons.

Clinical rotations for the nursing and radiology program

Medical centers are not currently allowing clinicals for nursing and allied health students. Dean Monica Maraska, of the Health and Natural Sciences Department explained the current situation of clinical programs.

"Everything is currently on the table. We anticipate we won't be back this semester. Summer is still very much an open book... everything is under investigation right now," said Maraska.

Decisions remain with the hospitals, though, as to when such things can begin. It's important to

CONTINUED IN 'MEETING,' PAGE 8

MEETING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

bear in mind that hospitals are currently overwhelmed, and is why clinicals have had to be postponed.



DEAN MONICA MARASKA

The chairpeople are working very rigorously to get this settled, and it was stated that Professor Denise M. Vill'Neuve, chairperson of the Department of Allied

Health, is in direct contact with hospitals and many individuals in the field to see what can be done to sort this out.

"I hear all the concerns of the radiology students. Please note that professor Vill'Neuve is in contact with hospitals, with the crediting agencies, and licensing boards. They are on top of it and will get answers out to you as soon as they have definitive information," said Maraska.

Other courses that have in-person requirements

At least five times throughout the call, the question was asked about what different departments will be doing to help make sure that in-person requirements are met for different courses. There are many majors that may have required students to complete in-person assignments and projects and are now finding alternative ways to fulfill these requirements. For each department and class, specific answers should be provided by the professor, as every course is being handled differ-

ently.

Iacono, speaking on what to do with online courses that have mandatory in-person aspects, said, "Having heard from a number of instructors, they've done a really great job doing some redesigning and reconsidering assignments.... I think the safest thing is to wait for your professors if they haven't communicated".

Dr. Enright, who spoke on hospitality majors being able to take culinary courses during the summer, said, "I know that I've been monitoring some emails from Professor Cosgrove setting up how he's going to be doing these labs online. I think he said in one email, you are going to be benefitting from a lot of recipes that you will make at home [and] videotaping and taking pictures of the meals you've created. So, I think the hospitality department and culinary program is well positioned to have this go smoothly. It may not be optimal, but Professor Cosgrove's thought through a lot of options."

The construction of the engi-

neering building

The construction of the engineering building is continuing on plan as construction has not stopped, unless the governor says otherwise. Nick Carrillo, an engineering major, asked "Is this going to affect the opening drastically or is it still set to have a soft opening in the fall?"

"The great part is that on the Governor's list of exemptions to keep working is construction and manufacturing," Iacono said. "So, while we are home, the building is being constructed and all deadlines are in good shape."

In conclusion

In closing, these may be scary and difficult times for all of our community, but the staff and faculty are doing their part to try to make things work. The college's administration plans to hold additional meetings such as this one throughout the year, along with one in the coming week, to help keep the students and faculty informed. In these times, safety is what is most important, but it's

still good to know that educators and staff are working together to accomplish such difficult goals. To remind everyone, Margaret Ball, Dean of Liberal Arts offered some valuable advice.



DEAN MARGARET BALL

"Be kind and patient with each other," said Ball.

Students with additional questions should contact TASCplus@ccm.edu and visit <https://www.ccm.edu/covid-19-information-center/>.

CAMPUS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In fact, they've taken to hoarding them in massive quantities. According to Newsweek, commercial stores in the U.S. have had such a difficult time keeping their shelves stocked that some people have resorted to traveling elsewhere for goods. Until the U.S.-Mexico border closed, Californians had been heading down into Northern Baja, Mexico to buy toilet paper, water, and other goods as stores in the state struggled to maintain a stock of said items.

Of course, access to food and toiletries isn't the only issue facing CCM students. Another problem that students are feeling presently is the shift from in-person classes at campus to a completely online second half of the semester. Fitzpatrick mentioned that having all of his classes online is an uneasy thought. He said that he has taken online courses before and hasn't been satisfied, as he believes that there are core aspects that just aren't transferable to an online experience, like asking your professor questions and engaging with the class in

real life.

The CCM approach to transitioning classes from a campus experience to an online platform has been tough. Updates have been sent by the administration via Blackboard notifications and emails to students' college accounts, but that may not be enough.

"Translating classes from IRL to digitally taught will be a learning experience for both faculty and students. As time goes on, people will become more comfortable with the format shift. Something that might help students stay aware of the constant changes and know the basics of what the college's plan is for this transitional period would be if CCM sent updates through Titan Alerts instead of just email, as many students check their phones more often than they check their academic email addresses," said Fitzpatrick.

As diseases and pandemics can cause fear and mistrust, they can also bring xenophobia and racist assumptions to the forefront of civic life. According to The Atlantic, an American magazine, there has been an uptick in instances of racism related to the irrational fear of anyone who appears as Asian, regardless of their

nationality, as they are assumed incorrectly to be carriers of the disease. Some of these instances are simply being avoided on public transit or getting a wary eye of distrust. Others are more extreme, as one student from Singapore was violently attacked in London, U.K., just because of his "foreign" appearance. Another instance was when a Vietnamese artist was disinvited from a London art fair just because the organizers thought the other attendees would fear her being contagious.

Katherine Grosso, a part-time student at CCM and a digital media major, sees that these social interactions are the wrong approach to handling the COVID-19 outbreak in a social setting.

"The Coronavirus has changed my community and home in that everyone is living more simply. When I go out for walks, I see children playing with baseballs and bicycles and sidewalk chalk. This virus has stripped everybody of security in belongings because even if we can get belongings, we must ration them... I have found that the people I have passed by on my walks have been incredibly nice, and overall, people just seem to be more compelled to be kind during this time than before,"

said Grosso.

Continuing in Grosso's outlook, she believes that, while the CCM administration has a new and complicated situation to deal with, they are doing a fair job at managing all the aspects of the transition. However, something Grosso believes would make the transition easier on the student body would be if the coursework online weren't too heavy or overbearing. There is little time left in the semester and as the world spirals into a scary place, it is extra important to have a balance of work and leisure. Grosso also cites her personal faith as something she can rely on in these times of confusion and hardship.

Despite all the worry and apparent national awareness of the COVID-19 outbreak in the U.S., only 19 percent of those in the KFF poll said that they had taken any measures to stay safe. Those numbers are more than worrying, as while the estimates for how many U.S. citizens will contract the disease vary on available data and testing ability, many experts believe the true number of cases far exceeds the previously calculated number of U.S. citizens that officially have the virus. According to The Atlantic, as of March 21, 2020, on the last

day of February, 15 U.S. citizens tested positive for COVID-19; by early March, more than 17,000 have tested positive. Yet, in that same article, virologist Trevor Bedford claimed to have found evidence that COVID-19 began rapidly spreading in the U.S. as early as January and that it has likely already infected approximately 87,000 U.S. citizens. It may seem grim, but a study recently published by Imperial College London predicted that, unless strong and swift measures get put in place, the Coronavirus could kill 2.2 million U.S. citizens in the coming months. It all comes down to how many individuals take this matter seriously and take the necessary precautions like social distancing and self-quarantining and actions the U.S. government and each of the states take to combat the spread of the virus. Stay safe by washing hands for at least 20 seconds on a regular basis, avoid coughing or sneezing openly or directly into your hand, and stock-pile necessary food and other essential items to prepare for long weeks of isolation. With all of these changes, CCM students have been asked to contact the new TASC+ with any challenges they may be dealing with.

AGAIN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

asked if he believed that students would no longer want to join the SGA due to being able to see the results so readily online and feeling as if they had learned everything they needed to know about the last SGA meeting. Doherty responded by saying that "Easily accessible, transparent voting records is worth the cost of students joining the SGA."

As of presstime, meeting minutes and vote tallies have been made accessible via Blackboard, but not names of who voted for what motion or why.

Due to all classes meeting on-

line, however, the SGA met March 24 in a Zoom meeting at 12 pm exclusively online. This means that if students want to access voting results, they must email Don Phelps at dphelps@ccm.edu. Any students are welcome to join the meeting or email Mr. Phelps.

Doherty will be graduating from CCM this May and says that he continues to stand by his statements made in the previous article, believing that the best thing students could do to make this motion a reality is to run for a position within the SGA.

"I have done what I can, and I would challenge any concerned student to address this issue by running for a spot in the Senate or applying to be on the executive board for next semester," Doherty said.

Scholarship Applications Update

Due to the current situation, the scholarship application process dates have been adjusted to better serve current and future CCM students for the upcoming 2020-2021 academic year. The application opens August 15th - September 30th for annual awarding. As usual for any scholarships that remain un-awarded or become available mid-year, we will open the application for a limited time January 15th - February 15th for Spring posting.

The webpage has been updated to reflect this information.

<https://www.ccm.edu/admissions/financialaid/fa-scholarshipsonline-application/>