

News

My MCCC Story: How I Got Here

By Kevin Devine
Editor-in-Chief

At each Montgazette staff meeting we discuss the possibility of having a "How I Got Here" story. We have not yet interviewed anyone, so I figured I'd start with myself.

I was a "fairly bad" student throughout high school. I say "fairly bad" because my poor grades resulted from my attitude and lack of caring. I was a transplant from Philly and couldn't stand the suburbs. To me, everyone was a snob – I didn't make too many friends. My senior year of high school, I picked up a pen, a guitar, a girl and a class on acting.

I went on to help my high school win first place in the first Pennsylvania Shakespeare Competition. Being on stage gave me a great feeling, so I decided to attend college for acting.

I applied to nine universities, but due to my poor grades, I was rejected by eight. My number one choice accepted me into their conservatory based on my audition. To fix my grades, I'd have to attend MCCC for the summer – just a week after my high school graduation.

Things went well and I made it to the acting school. It didn't take long for me to slip up, and I began skipping class to write poems, songs and short stories. I also missed my girlfriend and as the great Bob Dylan said: "You can't be wise and in love at the same time."

I dropped out of college to be with the girl. I came home and got a full-time job as a cashier at a grocery store. On the side, I pursued a career in music. I had saved up \$300 (not much, but cashiers at grocery stores make almost nothing) for an apartment. I was ready to start a new life when (drum roll, please) I GOT DUMPED!

What did I do? I quickly spent the money and wrote

(yeah, crybaby over here) a notebook of music. I recorded an album with a good friend – in his basement – and released it. Out of nowhere, I was in magazines, music blogs and on TV. I was being called the next Bruce Springsteen. It was great, but I wanted a second chance at school.

I enrolled at Montgomery County Community College again to take some writing classes. I took creative writing with Dr.

Tiffany Rayl, who encouraged me to write more short stories and poems. I owe her a lot. Then, my life took an unexpected turn.

I took a journalism class. The instructor's name was Clark DeLeon. I remember sitting at my computer when a large man with broad shoulders and glasses walked in. "Hello," he said, sipping from an ATC coffee. "My name is Clark DeLeon and I'm here to change your life."

I laughed, but he did. He inspired me so much that I tried to get a job with *Philadelphia City Paper*. I received only

an internship, but I went on to interview Channing Tatum (*A Guide to Recognizing Your Saints* and *Step Up*) and published an article on him.

Here I am now. I'm taking classes, and enjoying the life of a 20-year-old college student (it only happens once). My plan is to attend Temple University in the near future. But who knows

what will happen? As you can see, life is unpredictable.

So I'm here to ask you: what's your MCCC story? How did you get here?

Email me:
 kdevine0604@students.mc3.edu

I'd love to hear from you.

Montgomery County Community College's Center of Entrepreneurial Studies

Entrepreneur: A person who organizes and manages any enterprise, especially a business, usually with considerable initiative and risk – *dictionary.com*.

So you think you have what it takes to be an entrepreneur?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Disciplined	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unstoppable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dedicated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Persistent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Visionary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Driven
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Focused	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Resourceful	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Compelling

Now what?

It is time to begin the process to make your dream turn into a reality. There are two paths that you can choose to follow.

Navigate Alone

First - surround yourself with people that will encourage and support your aspirations.

Second – educate yourself with regard to key business matters.

Third - establish alliances with key professionals that will influence the day-to-day operations of your firm.

Fourth – secure a property from which you can operate your business.

Sail to Success

First (and only step) - All you have to do is make one trip to the MCCC Center for Entrepreneurial Studies (CES) a full service business resource center located in Parkhouse Hall Room 194 that provides all the services you need to start a business in one convenient location. Available resources include credit and non-credit courses, a certificate in Entrepreneurship, FREE business counseling sessions, FREE business consulting services in the vital areas of Accounting, Legal, Marketing and Technology; and a business incubator facility that provides a fully furnished office suite from which you can conduct your business operations.

Don't wait any longer – visit the CES in Parkhouse Hall room 194, call the CES at 215-461-1140, or visit the CES website at www.mc3.edu/CES