



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ADVANTAGE

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We're number 2!

MCCC Web site voted second best college site nationwide

By JOHN TITLOW AND
JIM KELLY

Montgomery County Community College's Web site was recently named the second best among institutions of higher education in the United States. The site was ranked number two by the Center for Digital Education (CDE) in its "Best of the Web" list for 2003.

The CDE is a research and advisory institute that encourages educators to incorporate technology into learning, something MCCC has strived to do over the last few years.

"The Montgomery County Community College site has a very professional look and is easy to navigate," said Janet Grenslitt of the CDE. "The site is well organized and its navigational system makes a lot of sense."

Pat Rahmlow, Assistant Professor of Computer Science at MCCC, said that the most important element of developing an effective Web site is ensuring the visitors' ability to find the information they are looking for. "The MCCC web team took the time to meet with faculty, students and staff to determine what information various users needed and where they expected to find that information," said Rahmlow.

The college's Web site, which is located at <http://www.mc3.edu>, tied for second place with that of North Shore Community College in Massachusetts. The first place winner was the University of Miami.

Web sites were reviewed by a panel of judges who looked for

innovation, web-based delivery of services, efficiency and functionality for students, and faculty and citizen access. The panel was made up of representatives of the Center for Digital Government, the Center for Digital Education, NYWired for Education, Inc., State Technologies, Inc., and last year's first place winners.

The judges were particularly impressed with the MCCC site's listing of legislative and faculty contacts, as well as the Web Advisor feature. "This was a



MCCC's web site is located at <http://www.mc3.edu>

unique addition and not one we saw in many of this year's entries," said Grenslitt.

MCCC's Web site "is attractive and useful," said Pat Rahmlow. "These elements cannot be overrated. There are so many sites that are difficult to look at and navigate. In addition, the site's home is updated regularly with current information. This keeps users coming back to check out the latest news."

The award furthers the college's goals of being a technology leader among educational institutions. In 2001, MCCC was recognized as one of the "most wired" college campuses by *Yahoo! Internet Life* magazine.

College radio station seeks funds, wider broadcast range

By MATT MATUSEK

WRFM, the college's student-run radio station, plays a variety of music; from rock to hip hop, from metal to indie; local bands to MTV stars; almost anything you can think of. Currently, WRFM's broadcasting range extends only as far as the campus perimeter, but the station can also be heard on the Internet at www.wrfm.net.

"Our long term and short term goal is become a legitimate station," said Jay Garton, the Music Director for WRFM.

The station is currently seeking a license from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to broadcast into the community. The station broadcasts from their studio downstairs in College Hall. It is here that listeners can go to make requests, inquire about working there, or enter a free-concert drawing.

Jen Kulp, a Biology major from Lansdale stopped by the station and got a surprise. She entered a drawing for free tickets to the recent REM concert at Temple University's Liacouras Center and was shocked to learn that she had won.

"All I did was enter a drawing at the radio station and I got a phone call that said if I came in and answered a few questions [correctly] on the air, then I would get free tickets to the concert," said Kulp.

However, the radio station is running low on funds, which affects their ability to give away concert tickets and buy the latest CD's.

"We have some money but it's just not enough to let us be able to do everything we want to do," said Jay Garton. "It costs \$4,000 just to be able to apply for a dial on the



Photo by John Titlow

WRFM DJ Tim Johnstone hosts his program, "The Sports Experience."

FM." Right now, MCCC's radio station reserves 105.9, but they must prove that they are worthy of keeping that frequency and broadcasting out into the community.

The station must go through a mandatory two-year waiting period in which the FCC observes the station to ensure that they can run their radio programming smoothly from day to day.

That poses a slight problem for WRFM because they currently do not have an overnight disc jockey and the station goes off the air at 10:00pm. Having the radio station broadcasting constantly would make the station look much better, said Garton. WRFM's broadcasting resumes at 7:30 each morning.

Garton said that in an effort to raise money, the disk jockeys are planning on having a car wash on campus sometime before winter takes over.

"I wish we could spread the word on the air that we're holding a car wash, but hardly anyone listens to the station and most people don't even know we exist," Garton said with a laugh.

WRFM's ever-growing staff hopes that the students of Montco will tune in to their regular programming and participate in the growth and success of the student radio station.

"Right now, we do a show weekly on WNPV called 'MC3 on the Air'," said Garton. "It's actually produced here at school, but then it's shipped off to be played on WNPV. One day we'd like to be the outlet."

MCCC forges transfer partnership with Villanova

By MEGAN CANDIDO

A new partnership has been established between Montgomery County Community College and Villanova University, allowing MCCC students to transfer to Villanova under a Core-to-Core or Dual Admissions transfer. The partnership was effective June 1, and was finalized in mid-July.

"They haven't been the easiest school to work with," said Peter Cubbage, Transfer Coordinator at MCCC. "For over 16 years, we've been trying to get a partnership with Villanova and they wouldn't even

allow a transfer guide to be sent out."

Both schools will benefit from the partnership, as MCCC students will have another option for transferring, and since this is Villanova's first partnership, a great deal of publicity and an increase in enrollment are expected for the university.

According to the agreement, in order for MCCC students to transfer Villanova, they must have earned an associates degree with a minimum GPA of 2.0, completed a Dual Admissions intent form, and satisfied all other Villanova transfer requirements for part-time study.

According to Cubbage, the program is geared toward adult students because it provides more flexibility. More elective courses and "FastForward" night courses will fit into an adult's busy and often chaotic schedule. Villanova will also provide special support services for adult students.

Students should apply to transfer by their last semester at MCCC. If they apply for the Dual Admissions program and are accepted, they will be guaranteed admission with a third year status at Villanova without having to pay the \$25 application fee. In addition to the money

saved by completing two years at MCCC, transfer students will be offered tuition savings at Villanova for courses offered in the evening.

Students seeking additional information on the partnership can make their way over to the lobby of College Hall on Thursday, December 9 between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. or the lobby of Parkhouse Hall on Dec. 4 between 5:30 and 7:00 p.m. for night students.

For more information, call Villanova's Assistant Director of Part-time Studies, Suzanne Allen at 610-519-4300.

Eighty-one Montco students inducted into honors society

Eighty-one students were inducted into the Montgomery County Community College Alpha Kappa Zeta chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the international honor society of two-year colleges, on Oct. 19 in Blue Bell and on Nov. 2 in Pottstown. To be eligible for PTK membership, students must maintain a grade point average of 3.5 and must have completed at least 12 transferable credits.

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