

Features

TITLE III BRINGS AID TO LLC

By Barbara Miller

Dr. Chantelle MacPhee, the chair of the Language, Literature and Communication department, is planning major changes in her department. MacPhee says that she plans to "shake up the communications major" increasing equipment and moving curriculum forward. MacPhee says her first move will be against the equipment shortages, with 90% of this year's title 3 money going towards new equipment for the major. Her next goal will be to restructure the curriculum, moving to concentrations in journalism, television and radio.

The mass communication major lost five faculty members through attrition and retirement three years ago. Budget woes created a freeze on new hires, preventing those positions from being filled. Dr. MacPhee feels that this "huge hole in the department" has caused many of the current problems. Every major needs teachers passionately dedicated to their subject to inspire students. This year, two communication positions have opened up. Dr. MacPhee intends to use these openings to include specialized instruction.

Speaking with communication students, Dr. MacPhee discovered that the majority were not

interested in "true communication studies." Usually considered to be more theoretical, communication studies often includes classes like inter-cultural communication. Dr. MacPhee intends to keep some of these classes as foundation courses, but will increase technical training. She wants to add new classes like editing and lighting, and expects some classes will overlap between TV and Radio. New faculty will need to have technical expertise and practical experience to be considered for the department.

Presently, there are 66 communication majors enrolled at ECSU. Dr. MacPhee and Mr. Branch both feel that students need to have a better understanding of what the mass communication major requires. Communication require a great deal of writing, from radio pieces to television scripts.

The radio and television stations "should be reserved for communication majors," especially classes like advanced tv production. Smaller class sizes, 10 to 15 students, should also be implemented. Majors next fall will require a computer. LLC is working with financial aid to expand tuition to include the cost of a computer.



Photo by Tasha Lewis

Dr. Chantelle MacPhee, chairperson for the Department of Language, Literature and Communication, works diligently in her office in Johnson Hall. MacPhee has been chairperson since January 2010.

facebook

FACEBOOK MAY BE BAD FOR GRADES

By Jody Armstrong

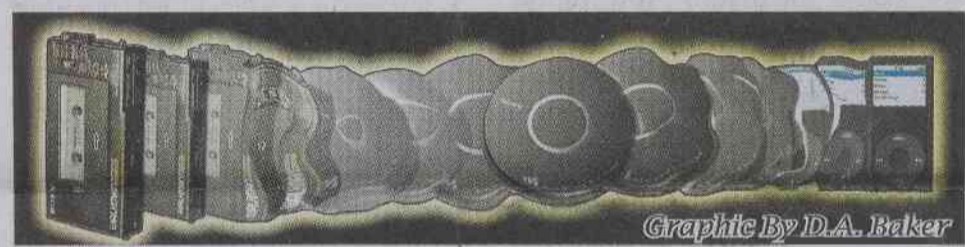
"I log onto Facebook hourly, whether it's on my phone or at a computer. I always have to post a new status or upload my latest pictures, and it's an easy way to keep up with all of my friends," said Brittaney Toston, a senior, at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. Facebook attracts the attention of over 500 million users daily. According to Facebook's designated statistics page, people spend over 700 billion minutes per month on Facebook. Regardless of Facebook's immense popularity, its daily users have commonly overlooked its national impact on individuals and society.

Facebook activity goes far beyond one's home page or newsfeed, and the activity associated with Facebook is no stranger to the media. Recently, Facebook made its Hollywood debut, with the feature film *The Social Network* which reached number one in the box office and brought in \$25 million the first week. The owner of Facebook, Mark Zuckerberg, made a massive impact on the northern New Jersey public school system, donating \$100 million dollars to the troubled school system. These are merely two examples of Facebook's impact on today's society since

its creation in 2004.

Regardless of its accomplishments, there are those who feel as though its impact on academic performance is far from positive. A study done by Professor Paul Kirschner has found that the exam results of those who used the social networking site while working, even if it was in the background, were 20 percent lower than non-users. *The Daily Mail* quoted Professor Paul Kirschner, "Our study and other previous work suggests that while people may think constant task-switching allows them to get more done in less time, the reality is it extends the amount of time needed to carry out tasks and leads to more mistakes." His team studied 219 students aged between 19 and 54 at an American university. It was observed that Facebook users had a typical grade point average on a 4.0 scale of 3.06. Non-users had an average GPA of 3.82. Dante Berry, a senior at Elizabeth City State University agrees with these studies. "If I gave my homework half of the attention I gave Facebook, I would be a 4.0 student. It's the chatting that gets me stuck at the computer every time," said Berry.

AN INTRICATE LOOK AT THE EVER EVOLVING WORLD OF MUSICAL DEVICES



Graphic By D.A. Baker

By Alan Miller

The evolution of musical devices continue to grow at a rapid pace. According to *The Routledge Guide to Music Technology*, the first device capable of recording sound signals

was Léon Scott de Martinville's 1857 invention called the "phonograph." His device could not, however, reproduce sound signals, but the idea was adapted by Emile Berliner into a disc music player he called the "gramophone." As time began to shift, so did technology itself. *Beginnersguide.com* states that a boom box was most commonly found on the shoulders of most young people around city areas in the 1970s. A boom box is a portable stereo system that is capable of playing radio stations or recorded music at a relatively high volume.

In 1978, Sony developed a new device called the Walkman portable cassette player, initially called the Soundabout. Over the next few years compact disc technology started to emerge. With this craze of technology evolving, companies wanted to expand the way that music was listened to as well as the technology.

The MP3 was the first commercially digital audio player in America. Digital devices are the ones and zeros version of the analog equivalent. By the turn of the millennium, audio players were being integrated into PDA's and cell phones. However, when problems involving napstar and MP3 illegal sharing files surfaced, it left the door open for Steve Jobs and the Apple computer to release their iPod.

The iPod is a device that acts as an MP3 player. The iPod allows you to instantly upload music and applications into it. With its applications, such as iTunes, the iPod constantly makes it easier for us to tap into all types of media such as videos, songs, and international information.

Ask Derrell...

Dear Derrell,

I spend a lot of time taking pictures and updating them online. In doing so, I seem to get a lot of attention from the guys online. My fear is when meeting them in person, are they going to see the girl in the picture that they were into? If not, how do I take the rejection without letting it interfere with my self-esteem?

From,
Pixel Perfect

Dear Pixel,

First off, let me say that you should NEVER allow anyone to interfere with your self-confidence. They never gave it to you, so why should they be allowed to take it away? Secondly, if guys judge you by your photos and don't take the time to get to know the beautiful personality you have to offer, they are not worth your time. You shouldn't waste time or energy on "shallow" individuals. Handling rejection is a task we all have to deal with at some point in our lives. My best advice for that is to take it one day at a time. Just look at it as one fish that you're happy to throw back!

Send questions to:
thecompass@markecsu.edu

VIKINGS ARE BIKING AROUND CAMPUS

By Corey Carrington

Elizabeth City State University's "Bicycle Transit Program" is one new program to assist students in traveling across campus. The program is designed to help students arrive to class on time, especially for those who have classes throughout various parts of the campus. Bicycle riding is a great source of exercise and can help reduce overcrowded parking lots. Tiffany Harris, a freshman, said that the bicycle rental service is a great idea. "I feel that the bicycle rental is very beneficial to students," said Harris. "Students who stay in Viking Village will greatly benefit from the bike rental if they participate."

Students are issued a cable lock after renting the bicycle, and it is their responsibility to properly secure it. If the bicycle is lost, stolen, or damaged it must be reported immediately. Will students continue to rent out bicycles during the fall and winter? According to Michael Vontoure, a senior, more students will participate once the season changes. "I feel that the bicycle rental service will be beneficial and become more popular once the weather changes and people are rushing to class to escape that cold air," said Vontoure.

There are sets of rules and procedures that have been posted for students who may be interested in renting a bicycle.