

THE VIKING

A Publication for
Alumni and
Other Friends of
Mercer County
Community College

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Dr. Robert Rose's First Year: Vitality, Growth, Student Success

After 18 months as MCCC president, Dr. Robert Rose's many new initiatives are bearing fruit. Numerous and visible changes have brought a renewed sense of excitement and progress to the campus. The first thing a visitor will notice is the abundance of students. Full-time enrollment for fall was the largest in the college's history, up 12% from last year; credit-hour enrollment was up by 11%.

Rose said an increased emphasis on "getting the word out" is partly responsible for the student increase. "One of my challenges was to try and get more directly involved in the community and to increase the college's visibility," he said. Rose has spearheaded increased outreach through radio, cable television, print advertising and other publicity. Mercer is now more visible as an advertiser at area movie houses and has sponsored events at Waterfront Park and the Sovereign Bank Arena in Trenton.

Marketing the college has taken many forms. President Rose has developed creative partnerships to bring MCCC closer to community groups and leaders of government and business. This year the college hosted com-

munity breakfasts at the James Kerney Campus (see page 3), and participated in many other forums to gather opinions and assess new directions. "I have addressed a wide array of community groups," Rose said. "Part of my role is to let them know who we are and what we are doing." Rose continues to extend invitations to speak. "If there are community groups that would like to have me come and speak, I would be happy to participate," he said.

As part of spreading the word, Rose has put an emphasis on rebuilding the MCCC Alumni Association. A new committee of enthusiastic "Alumni and Friends" has been meeting and planning new projects. "As we market the college we have to look to the thousands of people who have taken courses here — people who are aware of our programs and appreciative of what the college has provided them," Rose said.

With lifelong learning so characteristic of today's society, Rose sees MCCC's credit and noncredit courses as benefiting alumni as well as their children and grandchildren. He also wants alumni and friends to know the value of a community college education. "With the es-

calating costs of higher education in the four-year schools," Rose said, "the benefit today of starting here and transferring may be even greater than it was in the past." Mercer alumni can also play a role in helping the college generate financial support, Rose said.

In the ever-changing realm of technology, MCCC has been undergoing a major renewal. "We have installed 400 new desktop computers in our student labs and have upgraded the technology capabilities in many classrooms," Rose said. "We have provided faculty members with laptops so they can work at home and then dock the computers in the classroom for demonstrations." As faculty member Mitch Canter said, "The flexibility of having the laptop — so everything is done on one machine — is wonderful. It has already made me more productive and efficient."

To better serve all its constituents, the college launched a completely restructured website in late November. Designed with a consultant, many college staffers, and focus groups, the new site is colorful and easy to use. Online registration for credit and non-credit courses has become increasingly popular. Registered students can even check their

(continued on page 2)



THE CONFERENCE CENTER AT MERCER *The Power of Excellence*

Over 200 events are already scheduled for Mercer's new Conference Center which opened Jan. 2. According to General Manager Dee Rosebrock, reservations have come from businesses and government agencies looking for Mercer's unique combination of the very latest technology, professional meeting planners, training and development programs, and catered food services.

Among the Center's first clients are the Mercer County Surrogate's Office, Johnson and Johnson, the University of Medicine and Dentistry, the Mercer County Chamber of Commerce, the Mercer County Economic Development Council and the Hamilton Partnership. The Best Practices Conference of the Community College Association of New Jersey is planning its April conference at the Center.

Rosebrock notes that the Center's strongest selling point is its state-of-the-art technology. "There is very little like this in our immediate area, so we are able to fill a definite need,"

(continued on page 5)

Conference Center at Mercer Opens Doors

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Drexel Partnership for Nursing Grads

MCCC nursing graduates have a new opportunity to transfer their credits and complete a bachelor's degree in nursing at Drexel University entirely through on-line courses. Students entering the Drexel program must meet the same academic standards as students who attend classes on campus. They need only a PC and Internet connection to enroll; Drexel provides the software. Although visits to the campus are typically not required, there may be an occasional need to attend a class on campus.

For additional information, contact Eric Hagan, senior program manager at Drexel, at 215-895-0500 or visit Drexel's website at www.drexel.com/nursing. Information about MCCC's Nursing program is available online at www.mccc.edu or through Admissions at 609-586-0505.

Medical Lab Tech Program Addresses Shortages

While the shortage of nurses often makes the news, the critical shortage of medical laboratory technologists is not as widely known. To help address the need, MCCC has joined forces with its affiliate hospitals in the region to revamp its Medical Laboratory Technology program.

Beginning in summer 2003, students who already have two years of college with a science or medical background can complete the associate degree in just one year. Those without the required courses can complete the degree in two years. "We have consolidated the professional courses to accommodate people with a science background," said Jane O'Reilly, program coordinator. "We expect it will appeal to people looking for a career that will use their biology or chemistry training."

The new program is a collaborative effort involving the five hospitals in the Mercer County region that provide clinical training and other support for students in the program. Joe Bonnano, vice president of the Medical Center at Princeton said "Our expanded partnership with the college comes at exactly the right time to meet the anticipated need for highly trained clinical laboratory workers."

According to O'Reilly, medical laboratory technicians provide information about the condition of the human body through the analysis of body fluid and tissue samples. Course work includes anatomy and physiology, immunology, immunohematology, microbiology, diagnostic microbiology and chemistry.

The job market is very promising. "I get calls often from private laboratories and clinical trial labs looking to hire our graduates," O'Reilly said. Recently the State Department of Health has been looking for people to work on bioterrorism issues."

While the program is designed to launch a career, many MCCC graduates transfer their credits and continue their education. The program is accredited by the National Accreditation Association of Clinical Laboratory Science. Contact Jane O'Reilly at 609-586-4800 ext. 3387 or e-mail oreilly@mccc.edu.



MCCC Nursing faculty members Sheila Krasnansky, left, and Donna Hull, right, with some of the students who participated in the nursing extern program.

Externship Helps Nursing Students Succeed

MCCC's Nursing program has long been part of the solution to the shortage of highly qualified nurses. In partnership with Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Hamilton (RWJUH), Program Coordinator Beth Perkins and faculty members Donna Hull and Sheila Krasnansky have pioneered a new way to give students more hands-on hospital experience.

Under the State Board of Nursing, externs are not allowed to perform certain tasks at a hospital. By pairing nursing externs with registered nurses and putting them under the supervision of faculty members, the students are able to perform most of the procedures of a registered nurse (RN). "The students will be acclimated much faster and will be better prepared for the job," Hull said. "In the long run they are going to be better nurses."

The program began last summer and was open to students from other colleges as well as from MCCC, as long as they had completed their second year of nursing studies. The students worked full-time for eight weeks, side by side with their RN preceptor, and were paid by the hospital. They also earned two college credits and kept a daily journal of their activities. Mercer's Nursing faculty members made daily visits, held weekly meetings with the externs and were available by cell phone. RWJUH paid the tuition for the two-credit courses for all of the externs and at summer's end all of the students said they would consider working at RWJUH after they graduate.

"It's unusual for a college to be involved with a hospital and to offer extra credit through an extern program," Hull said. She and her colleagues are now seeking funding to help the program grow.

Delaware Valley College Offers Transfer Opportunity

Under a new agreement, MCCC associate degree graduates who meet the requirements will be guaranteed admission to Delaware Valley College (DVC) in Doylestown, PA, with junior status. DVC is a comprehensive, four-year college located at the Philadelphia border. To qualify, students must take the course equivalents agreed upon by MCCC and DVC, and

must maintain a 2.0 minimum grade point average. Transfer students will be eligible for academic scholarships and financial aid.

grades and course history online.

One classroom innovation has been the introduction of six computer-driven "Smart Boards," which may someday make chalk and blackboards a thing of the past. The boards can be controlled with finger or pointer commands (see article on page 3 for more details).

Perhaps the most noticeable recent changes on campus have been in facilities. "One of the things that struck me when I first came to Mercer was that we had a 30-year-old facility that looked 30 years old," Rose said. "One of my goals was to try and refurbish it." Changes are now greeting students daily. Old desks and chairs are being replaced. In the Student Center cafeteria, new flooring, ceilings and furniture have transformed a dull area

into a bright and friendly environment that draws greater numbers of students. In other areas, existing space has been converted into classrooms to help accommodate the increase in student population. Upgrades are nearly complete in all 82 campus laboratories.

More changes are planned for the near future, Rose said. "Our lecture halls are not very attractive or comfortable for seating students of all ages, so we will be dropping ceilings, painting, and putting in new and more comfortable furniture." College heating and air conditioning systems are also being assessed for better comfort levels in classrooms.

As he looks forward to a bright future for MCCC, Rose said "In whatever we do, we always put student success at the fore-



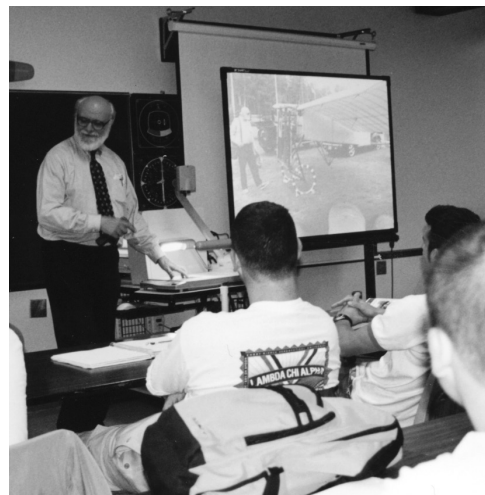
New Utility Technology Program Offered with PSE&G

MCCC President Robert Rose, left, with PSE&G Senior Vice President Dr. Ralph Izzo, County Executive Robert Prunetti and Freeholder Keith Hamilton at a recent press conference announcing a new Utility Technology program.

With technician shortages at PSE&G predicted for the future, the company has joined with MCCC to design a new Associate in Applied Science degree program in Utility Technology. The first of its kind in New Jersey, the program may be expanded to other community colleges within the state. Students will study math, science, utility technology, electrical construction and utility installations in MCCC classes and, during the summer, will receive apprenticeship training from PSE&G. Those completing the apprenticeship could earn more than \$13 an hour in PSE&G summer internships.

Smart Boards

Using light finger pressure, MCCC faculty member Jerry Kuhl controls a slide show of a pre-World War II Russian aircraft. Touching controls on a large screen in front of his "History of Aviation" class, he can write, change slides, switch programs, and add colored arrows and circles where necessary.



Kuhl is the first faculty member on campus to use one of the college's six new "Smart Boards." The state-of-the-art technology allows greater creativity and the use of color and flexibility in classroom presentations.

"This is a dream," Kuhl said. "You can get really vivid colors when you draw things and that's a way to get attention. It really makes a difference."

MCCC's Director of Telecommunications Tony Bruzaitis applied for and received a "SmarterKids" grant that reduced the cost of the boards significantly. Connected to a projector and a computer, the boards enable instructors to launch applications and electronically highlight and save materials, using a finger or a pointer. "You can upload the files you save to your website for students to access," Bruzaitis said.

Aviation faculty member Jerry Kuhl puts the new "Smart Board" technology to use during a lecture.

Nearly \$1 Million Available to Transferring Students

There is good news for community college students who plan to continue their education, reports Lawrence A. Nespoli, president of the New Jersey Council of County Colleges. The council is coordinating a state-wide scholarship program. "New Jersey's 19 community college presidents have raised nearly \$1 million in transfer scholarships from New Jersey's senior colleges and universities," Nespoli said. "These scholarships are available to deserving community college students who plan to pursue their bachelor's degree in New Jersey." For more information contact the MCCC Financial Aid office or call Jacob Farbman at the council, 1-800-334-NJCC, e-mail info@njccc.org or visit www.njccc.org/ptkschlrl.htm.

High Schoolers Get a Flying Start

High school students can now get a flying start on a career in aviation. The Tech Prep program, a partnership between MCCC, the Mercer County Technical Schools and area high schools, has added the Aviation program's nonflight courses to its list of offerings available to high school seniors.

"We looked at aviation careers, and there are a lot of jobs," said James Ponter, Tech Prep program director. "For every pilot there are 100 other people who keep aviation going." High school seniors can earn up to 12 credits through Tech Prep. The aviation courses offered are in aerospace development, aviation weather, concepts of flight, and aviation transportation.

According to Ponter, the program's goal is "applied academics," serving students who might not be interested in a four-year liberal arts program but who are talented and motivated in a specific field. High schools in Mercer County and several in other counties participate; 91 students are currently enrolled. The program's other subject areas are Professional Cooking, Fire Science, Business Communication, Computer Systems Network Technology, Radio and TV Production, and Criminal Justice.

MCCC's James Kerney Campus Hosts Community Meeting

Over 55 Trenton community leaders came together in November at MCCC's downtown Trenton James Kerney Campus to learn about the college's initiatives since the group first met in February. Participants were asked for their creative approaches to addressing the community's educational needs. President Rose said those suggestions have in large measure been included in the college's new strategic plan.

According to Provost Beverly Richardson, "We are all stakeholders in Trenton's future, and we as a community must address the educational needs of our people together."

A highlight of the event was the full-course hot breakfast prepared and served by students in the James Kerney Campus' Culinary Arts program

At left, President Robert Rose and Dr. Beverly Richardson, provost of the James Kerney Campus, with representatives at a recent community breakfast. They are Dr. James Lytle, superintendent of the Trenton Schools, Melinda Green, vice president of Children's Futures, and Freeholder Keith Hamilton.



Sports takes

Celebrating Twenty Years of Classical Radio and Cable TV



Members of the WWFM staff in the station's control room on the campus of Mercer County Community College. From left, front row are Darlene Berson, Sandy Steiglitz, and Nancy Fish. Middle row are Walt Gradzki, Marjorie Herman, Diana D'Ascoli, Jeffery Sekerka, and Phil Joiner. Back row are Bliss Michelson, Alice Weiss, Andrew Rudin, Glenn Smith, and Ross Amico.

At a time when bottom-line concerns have nearly eliminated radio's classical music format in the New York and Philadelphia markets, Mercer County Community College's WWFM - The Classical Network is filling the musical void. Celebrating its 20th anniversary on the air, WWFM is the only full-time broadcaster in the region providing classical music programming 24 hours a day.

According to Program Director Alice Weiss, listener enthusiasm for an all-classical music format has flourished. "WWFM responds to listeners with the kind of music they want," she said. "We offer a wide variety of classical music including complete symphonies, concertos, choral works, operas, even classic scores from Broadway and film added for color, and people appreciate that." Weiss said the station's announcers all have music backgrounds. "You can't fool the listeners," she said. "They know a lot about the music we play."

After the early years of combining classical and jazz formats, WWFM's programming gradually changed to become fully classical. "By the time we were ten years old, we knew exactly what we needed to be as we grew," said Walt Gradzki, General Manager and Chief Engineer. "Our goal was to be the best classical FM station!"

As other regional classical stations went out of business, WWFM continued to expand its network. Four full-service stations are located in Trenton (89.1), Toms River (91.1), Cape May (89.1) and Pen Argyl, PA (89.5). Translator stations are located in Atlantic City (93.9), Harmony Township (96.9), Lebanon Township (105.7), and Chatsworth (107.9), New Jersey, and in Pennsylvania in Allentown (92.7), Easton (93.1) and Philadelphia (107.9). WWFM even has translator stations as far away as Colorado. "Listeners there had no outlet for classical music," Weiss said. "We

WWFM The Classical Network

were contacted about the possibility of sending our broadcasts via satellite, and now WWFM can be heard on six frequencies in Colorado. Listeners there love us." Affiliates in Colorado include Steamboat Springs (91.7), Canyon Valley (92.7), Carbondale (100.9, 88.1), Aspen (101.7) and Thomasville (106.3).

WWFM's staff numbers 25 members, including seven full-time employees, plus a complement of part-time staff, three volunteers who serve as program hosts, and 150 membership volunteers who answer pledge calls during two annual fundraising campaigns. "If it wasn't for listener-donors, the station wouldn't exist," Gradzki said. Donations make up about 70% of the station's budget. WWFM's basic membership is \$50, entitling the donor to receive the bimonthly member magazine. Promotional items are offered at various levels of giving – from \$65 to over \$1000 – and include items such as CDs, mugs, shirts and tote bags.

"Volunteers like our family atmosphere," said Weiss, who has been with the station since 1988. "They get to know us, and I think they feel a real sense of satisfaction from volunteering during our membership campaigns. Even in times of national distress or economic hardship WWFM still does well because people turn to music as a source of healing and comfort."

Gradzki, who began working at the college in 1977 as chief engineer, was instrumental in establishing WWFM's broadcast facility. Originally hired to build radio and TV studios for a new academic program, he subsequently had the idea to start a professional listener-supported radio station. Then Assistant Dean of Telecommunications George Schwartz took up the cause and the two applied for grants and approvals.

The programming at WWFM draws from an extensive music library and includes some news and public affairs programming. The station plans to resume live webcasting in the near future. Visit www.wwfm.org for further information.

Around the same time the radio station began, the college's cable television network was born. "It was a time when the cable companies were starting to come into the county and to negotiate for franchises," says Ron Spych, coordinator of cable TV and distribution at MCCC since 1975. Through all municipal cable systems in Mercer County, MCCC transmits telecourses, bulletin board announcements, and special programs including the college's annual commencement ceremonies.

"Despite Mercer County being one of the last counties in the state to get cable television," said Tony Bruzaitis, director of telecommunications, "we were the first community college to get on every cable franchise in our county. It made us a role model for other community colleges." Bruzaitis, who has been with the college since 1980, said the original telecourses were the beginning of distance learning at MCCC and continue today through "The Virtual Campus," which now serves nearly 2,700 students a year with both telecourses and computer courses. "The number of student enrollments in telecourses has consistently averaged 1,000 a year," Bruzaitis said.

Clubs and Organizations Enrich Student Life

It was lunch hour on a typical Tuesday at the Mercer Student Center. The Student Activities Board (SAB) was hosting pumpkin painting. The Cheer Dance Team and the African American Student Organization were holding bake sales. The Criminal Justice Club was selling candy as a fundraiser for the Sunshine Foundation. And representatives from four-year New Jersey colleges were on hand for Transfer Day. In short, it was a bustling, dynamic scene that challenges any preconceptions about life at a commuter college.

According to Danielle Garruba, acting director of Student Activities, hundreds of students participate in one or more of the 40 clubs and organizations at Mercer. Their participation adds to every aspect of their college lives – social, educational, in service to the community and in helping them develop as students and as people. Tobia Buckle, SAB president, attended Mercer for over two years before she decided to get involved. “My friends pushed me to run for office and I won. I really enjoy organizing events. Being active has made my experience at Mercer much more fun.”

There are a number of campus organizations that have formal missions. The Student Government Association (SGA) is the governing body for all students. “It has a constitution and elected officers and representatives,” said Garruba. “It is issues oriented and gives Mercer students a voice on campus.” This year’s SGA president is Erlan Fera.

The Student Activities Board is recreationally oriented, but it has more than fun on its agenda. “The events organized by SAB raise money for good causes,” explained Garruba. This year, SAB has selected Angel’s Wings, which provides temporary foster care for children, as its annual charity.

Other student organizations include the college radio station (WMCC), the student newspaper (The College Voice), and Phi Theta Kappa (for honors students). Every fall, Mercer hosts a conference at Chauncy Conference

she said. The 38,000-square-foot facility offers a 219-seat conference-style auditorium with individual laptop ports, five high-tech computer training labs, satellite teleconferencing, videoconferencing, webcasting, Internet connectivity and professional technical support. Eight conference-style meeting and breakout rooms are designed for small to mid-sized groups. The atrium is an ideal setting for exhibits and social events.

MCCC will also offer a wide range of training and development programs at the center through the resources of its Division of Corporate and Community Programs. According to division Dean Rose Nini, “We have been designing courses and certificate programs for businesses, government agencies and other organizations for over 25 years. Now we can offer our services in an exciting new environment.” Skilled facilitators and trainers will be available in areas such as strategic planning, executive leadership, customer service and information technology. Clients will have the flexibility to design their own programs or use the college’s program development services.

To schedule a tour of the facility contact Dee Rosebrock at 609-689-0908 or e-mail rosebroc@mccc.edu. Information is also available at www.mccc.edu/cc/.



Center where selected student leaders attend two days of workshops that focus on team building, communication skills, values, and personal development.

Of the many clubs, some are academic – in areas such as art, architecture, aviation, horticulture and graphic design. Others promote ethnic identity and culture, including the Fuerza Latina Club (West Windsor Campus)/Hispanic Club (James Kerney Campus), the African-American Student Organization, and the International Student Organization. Still others are recreationally focused, such as the ski, chess and yoga clubs. Each club has a faculty or staff advisor.

The newest of the academic clubs is the Future Teachers Club, which has already invited several guest speakers who have supplemented classroom learning in special areas. “Last year the ‘Open Mind Society’ was born out of the Sept. 11 tragedy,” she continued. Students had a chance to talk about their emotions and reactions to world events. Some clubs have five or ten members; others may include 60 or 70. The James Kerney Campus has its own clubs and uses the Mercer shuttle to send representatives to SGA meetings.

Garruba notes that students must have at least a 2.0 GPA to join any club and a 2.5 to hold elected office. “You’re here to get an education above and beyond everything else. If you can’t get the grades, you really don’t have time for the extras.”

Brian Russo, vice president of the Criminal Justice Club, one of Mercer’s most popu-

Officers of the Student Activities Board are (left to right): Tobia Buckle, president, Robert Sutton, public relations, and Teresa Contor, secretary.

lar groups, says his involvement has been a great supplement to his education. “Activities include ‘ride-alongs’ with area police departments and trips to Trenton State Prison, the New Jersey Department of Corrections, and the Trenton Canine Unit. It’s given me a perspective on what it’s really going to be like in the field. Plus, you get exposure to a broad range of possible careers including the FBI, the Marine State Police and the Bomb Squad.”

A Mercer alumnus, Garruba was herself an active SAB member before transferring to Rider for her bachelor’s and master’s degrees. “Getting involved made me take my academics more seriously,” she said. She also made important connections, returning to Mercer for an internship with the former student activities director, Diane Dickson, until her retirement in 2001.

When parents attend “Parents Night” with their high school children, they are usually greeted by five or ten SAB members. “They’re happy to see how much is going on at Mercer, and so are their kids,” said Garruba. “It’s especially important at a commuter school. We give students a place to socialize, but more importantly, we provide a way for them to enrich their college experience on every level.”

Center to Host Workshops for Business This Spring

The Conference Center at Mercer will offer a series of eight workshops this spring for the business community. Participants will enjoy discussion of important business issues in central New Jersey’s newest, most technologically advanced conference setting. Attendees who sign up at least one month prior to an event will receive a 10% discount. Discounts are also available for groups of three or more registering together.

Workshops include: “Charter Schools: Are They Making a Difference?” on March 14, sponsored by MCCC and the Trenton Times; “All You Need to Know About N.J. Employment Law in Six Hours” on March 27; “Project Management

– A Tool for Organization Success” on April 3; “Starting/Expanding a Small Business in the Age of the Internet” on April 10; “FISH! A Remarkable Way to Boost Morale and Improve Results” on April 24; “Mercer’s 15th Annual Administrative Professionals Conference” on April 25; “How to Avoid Costly Legal Problems for Human Resource Professionals” on May 22; and an “Entertainment Technology Conference” in June.

The workshops feature speakers who are experts in their field, timely content and networking opportunities. Most programs include breakfast, lunch and refreshment breaks. For more information, call 609-586-9446.



Calling All Alumni for Special Event at Kelsey Theatre

On Friday, April 11, all MCCC alumni and friends are invited to Kelsey Theatre for "Alumni Night" and business card exchange. From 7 to 8 p.m. a "meet and greet" with refreshments will be held in the MCCC Gallery, Communications Building, 2nd floor. Then guests will enjoy "Damn Yankees" presented by Playful Theatre Company. This fanciful homage to baseball features a middle-aged fan who sells his soul to the devil in order to become a hitter for his favorite team. The show boasts many hit tunes, such as "Whatever Lola Wants" and "You've Got to Have Heart." Call 609-586-4800 ext. 3601 for more information or to register. A modest fee will be charged.



Governor James McGreevey shakes hands at the podium with President Rose prior to being introduced to an overflow crowd, when Mercer hosted the Governor's Town Meeting in October.

Alumni and Community Homecoming

Mercer's newly invigorated Alumni & Friends Association held a Homecoming celebration on September 14 to commemorate the college's 30th anniversary at the West Windsor Campus. The beautiful sunny day kicked off with a 5K run. Vikings fans watched Mercer men's and women's soccer games and men's baseball exhibition games. A barbecue lunch on the central quadrangle drew old and new friends, who met with President Rose, faculty, staff and students.

"Homecoming Day was the first major alumni event in several years, and the Alumni & Friends Association will be planning more activities for the future," said Bill Mate, Dean of College Advancement. "It was great to see so many staff and alumni board members volunteering their services for registration, cooking and serving."



MCCC Marketing Wins Gold & Bronze

In front of a "Your Best Choice" sign are staff members whose work won Gold and Bronze awards from the National Council of Marketing and Public Relations District I for 2002. Mercer competed against two-year colleges from 12 states and five Canadian provinces. From left are Director of Marketing Lynn Holl, Graphic Designer Francis Paixao, Public Information Coordinator Saveria Symons, and Athletics Director John Simone, who contributed the "Your Best Choice" theme.



The runners take off at Homecoming Day's 5K run. The certified course circled MCCC's West Windsor Campus.



MCCC President Robert Rose (left) at the Homecoming picnic with alumnus Ken Wolski, who earned two degrees from the college – one in 1969, which led to a B.A. from Rutgers University, and one in 1976, which led to a career as a registered nurse. Wolski is a member of the MCCC Alumni & Friends Association.



September 11 Commemoration

(above) Hundreds of MCCC students, staff, faculty and community members remembered those who died in the terrorist attacks, including 29 from Mercer County.

(right) County Executive Robert Prunetti speaks at MCCC during a commemoration marking the one-year anniversary of September 11. Co-hosted by MCCC and Mercer County, the event featured Brigadier General Thomas Sullivan of the New Jersey National Guard, the West Windsor Color Guard, and many elected officials. MCCC's talented Don Jones sang a beautiful rendition of "God Bless America."



You're Invited!

Join Us for the Scholarship Dinner Dance

Happy days will be here again as MCCC hosts its 2003 Scholarship Dinner Dance on March 8, featuring the "Golden Oldies" of the 1950s. The "Fabulous Grease Band," a very popular area group, is ready to "Shake, Rattle and Roll" with a blast from the past, so put on your wing tips and your zoot suit and come out to Princeton's Hyatt Regency for an evening of cool food and lots of jitterbug. After all "Memories are Made of This!"

Chairperson Jamil Faridy of MCCC's Foundation Board has "Got That Magic Touch." A long-time supporter of MCCC, he is now asking for the help of Mercer alumni. "We'd love to see our alumni make this event a mini college reunion by getting their friends together and filling some tables," he said. Faridy, of the Faridy Veisz Fraytak architectural firm, has endowed his own scholarship for architecture students.

This year's Distinguished Alumnus Award will be presented to Scott Kent, director of cash management, credit and point of sale at WaWa. The Distinguished Corporate Friend Award will go to PSE&G's Al Koeppe, President and COO, and Donald Tretola, Regional Public Affairs Manager.

Each year, proceeds from the dinner dance enable Mercer to offer a variety of scholarships, including those for full-time entering students from Mercer County

Golden Oldies



high schools, achievement awards for academic excellence, grant funds for high-risk students and funds for emergency student loans. Proceeds from the art auction will

go toward scholarships for fine arts students.

Faridy and the Dinner Dance Committee are looking for lots of "Earth Angels" to be corporate sponsors and to purchase ads and tickets. Ticket prices are \$175 each, or \$1,750 for a table of 10. Corporations may participate as platinum sponsors for \$10,000, silver sponsors for \$5,000, bronze sponsors for \$2,500. For every advertising dollar goes directly to scholarships.

Committee members giving much of their time to make the event a success include Peter Dawson of Leigh Photo, Terri Galaro of the Hyatt Regency, E. Karen Kennedy of Dow Jones, Richard Kisco of the Princeton Power Shop, Timothy J. Losch of Yardville National Bank, Nina D. Melker of Marlinton National Bank, Marie A. Puca of the N.J. Division of Health, Rafael Peron of Princeton, Amy Smith of Westster Wallpaper & Printing and Marsha L. Man of Mercerville. Many members of MCCC staff are participating, led by Director of College Advancement Bill Mate.

"Only You" can help us make this event a success. Please call our Foundation Office at 609-586-4800 ext. 3607 or 3601.

Prof. Barbara Behrens Writes the Book for Physical Therapist Assistants



Professor and author Barbara Behrens, PTA

For ten consecutive Octobers Mercer Prof. Barbara Behrens attended the "Balloon Ascension," a major hot air balloon festival held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. But since arriving at Mercer in 1996, she's had to skip it. She's just been too darned busy.

Behrens came to Mercer to develop and implement the Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA) program, now thriving with a solid job placement record and some 70 students who are either PTA majors or considering the field. She also published a book in 1996, *Physical Agents: Theory and Practice for the Physical Therapist Assistant*, with F.A. Davis. It has become the standard textbook for PTA programs, utilized by approximately 85 percent of PTA programs nationwide. Two years later, Behrens published *Physical Agents Laboratory Manual*, a companion to the book that can also be used on its own.

"A text like this had been needed for many years," said Behrens. "There were no books that addressed physical agents comprehensively with an emphasis on patient outcome." Among the topics covered are the safe and effective use of treatment modalities such as

electrical stimulation, heat/cold therapy and ultrasound. The accompanying lab manual offers exercises that help students put theory into practice.

Behrens is currently at work on the second edition of her book, due out in December 2003, which will use one of her photos from the "Balloon Ascension" on the cover. "I'm really excited about that. The physics behind hot air balloons relate to the field of physical therapy, so the photo truly fits the topic area," said Behrens.

The revised edition will include an additional chapter on manual techniques and massage. "We rely on our hands tremendously. It's not generally deemed a 'modality,' but it's central to what we do," she said. The second edition will also incorporate standardized language that has been adopted by the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) to promote unity in the profession. Mercer grad Larry Petraccaro will do illustrations for the book.

When she's not teaching and writing, Behrens is involved in numerous professional organizations. She is New Jersey's PTA representative to the American Physical Therapy Association and an active member of the state legislative committee. She regularly lectures on physical therapy topics at conferences in the United States and abroad. She was the recipient of the APTA Award for Outstanding Physical Therapist Educator in 2000. Behrens was recently appointed to the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy and, in Au-

gust 2002, was one of 12 professionals to review the national licensure exam.

Behrens notes that nationwide there are only ten instructors trained as physical therapy assistants, not physical therapists, who coordinate training programs. "As physical therapist assistants, we function as role models for PTA students," she said. "It's important for students to recognize the distinct role of PTAs and how their efforts contribute to patients' positive outcomes."

That Behrens functions as a mentor for her students is clear from their accomplishments. One graduate of the program, noting the lack of books about children with disabilities, wrote her own version of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, which features Goldilocks in a wheelchair. Another grad came back to campus and conducted a seminar on strategies for taking the licensure exam. A third alum teaches aquatics to Behrens' students.

Even with all this energy focused on her profession and her students, Behrens still managed to earn a master's degree in adult education in 2001, pursuing her degree through Capella University's online graduate program. Her experience encouraged her to set up her own online course, *Introduction to Physical Therapy*, offered for the first time this fall. "My students are generally older than the average undergrad. I truly understand that they have many demands on their time. I hope to make it easier for them to pursue their degree."

Bliss McClister, M.D., and Fiance Albert Lang Thank Mercer for a Good Start

Emergency room physician Bliss McClister began her educational journey at Mercer in 1981. She had never planned to attend college and hadn't even taken the SATs in high school. "I had been working full-time for a veterinarian since high school graduation and had grown up on a dairy farm, where education was not stressed," she recalled.

It was the veterinarian who convinced Bliss that she had a good mind and could succeed in school. And so she began her educational journey, starting at age of 26 by taking basic math and English classes. Her academic potential quickly became apparent as she pursued courses in the sciences under the tutelage of professors Carlo Alfare, Bruce Chorba, Ron Slezak and Naomi Rose.

"I enjoyed everything about Mercer," said McClister, "from its affordability and close proximity to the easy accessibility of the staff and faculty. I found the faculty overwhelmingly supportive in helping me achieve my goals." McClister had more than college on her plate at the time, juggling her energies between schoolwork and the demands of raising four children.

During her Mercer years McClister began to formulate the ambitious plan of becoming a doctor. Graduating from Mercer with high honors in 1991 and bolstered by awards in chemistry and letters of recommendation from her Mercer mentors, she received a scholarship to continue her education at Rider University. She graduated from Rider in 1994 with a B.S. in Biochemistry. Five years later she

earned her medical degree from the University of Medicine and Dentistry. She completed a three-year residency in emergency medicine at Morristown Memorial Hospital in June, 2002.

Since June, McClister has worked at Capital Health Systems in Trenton. She took her medical boards in October. On a typical shift at the hospital, she'll treat everything from ear infections and sore throats to congestive heart failure and cardiac arrests. "I love the variety, the team atmosphere among the physicians, nurses and technicians, and the ability to have an instant impact on a patient's condition," said McClister. "I need and enjoy the pace of emergency medicine."

McClister sees Mercer as a pivotal experience in her life. "When I graduated from MCCC at the age of 31, it was one of my biggest accomplishments up to that time. I realized I had worked very hard to earn this degree as a mother of four children. It was the first major stepping stone to obtaining my goal," she said.

"Though the majority of my colleagues graduated from big-name, four-year schools, I never felt as a non-traditional student that I was any less prepared or deserving of my medical degree. If anything, some life experience and putting myself through school have made me appreciate my education and my job even more."

McClister is engaged to Albert Lang, manager of Chemsampco Inc. in Trenton, a company that specializes in fine organic chemicals. Lang also studied the sciences at

Mercer, completing his B.S. degree at Rider in 1993. "I chose Mercer for its proximity to home, its attractive campus and its excellent reputation for transferring to a four-year school," he said.

Lang was intent on earning his degree in chemistry, but was working full-time. "At that time, my primary responsibility was my job. The faculty was very flexible in accommodating my needs as a part-time student. I was very happy with the college. My best memories are of the many great people I met at Mercer, both students and faculty."

Mercer alumni Bliss McClister, M.D., with Albert Lang



Robert Burger '74, an award-winning illustrator and computer graphic designer, has joined the arts and humanities department at Penn State University's Abington Campus. Burger is a graduate of Pratt Institute and a recipient of a design arts fellowship for illustration from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

Col. Robert E. Watson '74 has assumed command of the 254th Regiment (Combat Arms), training non-commission and commissioned reserve officers. He graduated from Officer Candidate School as a Second Lieutenant in 1977. His most recent assignment was as chief of military support at the N.J. National Guard headquarters at Fort Dix. Watson has a bachelor's degree from The College of New Jersey and a master's from Rutgers in Public Administration. He also holds a master's in strategic studies from the United States Army War College. Watson has been employed by the state for the past 29 years and is currently a manager with the Office of Information Technology.

Yvonne LaMons '78, '81 retired as Camden County's trial court administrator in June. She is currently working for the East Brunswick law firm of Clara Smit, which specializes in the legal problems of the hearing impaired. LaMons earned her B.S. degree in Business Administration from The College of New Jersey, a master's degree from Rutgers University's Graduate Program for Administrators, and a law degree from Rutgers University School of Law. In previous jobs LaMons was administrative aide for two State Supreme Court chief justices, family division manager in Middlesex County, and civil division manager in Passiac County.

Diane Wargo '83 was recently honored for 15 years of service by the Parent-Teacher Association of Notre Dame High School. An English teacher, Wargo is a graduate of The College of New Jersey and Villanova University. She has directed several recent productions at Mercer's Kelsey Theatre.

Jeff Daniel '84 and Sharon Bush Daniel '85 met while studying aviation at Mercer. Jeff became a commercial pilot and Sharon was a flight instructor after they got married. Both pilots have enthusiastically launched a second career growing and marketing high quality cranberries at their farm, the American Cranberry Co., in Pemberton. This fall the Daniels had their fourth commercial harvest, selling thousands of pounds of high quality white and red berries to local specialty markets. Jeff continues to fly as a commercial pilot, while Sharon primarily minds the farm. The couple are third generation berry growers.

David Biddle '86 recently exhibited dozens of paintings in a show entitled "Heaven Explained" at the Queenstown Gallery in Pennington. Five of his large works were recently on display at a branch of the Mercer County library, including one entitled "The Construction Site" that was part of an exhibit that traveled to the Soviet Union in 1990. Biddle had been a history teacher for many years before coming to Mercer at age 56, when he decided to change his career path and develop his talent for drawing and painting.

John C. Brown Jr. '91, funeral director for the Christy Funeral Home of Millville, has been

re-elected president of the West Jersey Funeral Directors' Association. As part of his duties, he serves on the board of the state association.

Donna Lere '91, a professional photographer, recently received the Milt Techner Humanitarian Award for Outstanding Service in the Photographic Industry from the Guild of Professional Photographers of Delaware Valley. Lere has a studio in Upper Makefield, where she specializes in family photojournaling. She has worked as a photojournalist for the Bucks County Courier Times.

George Wagner '91 is warden of the Hunterdon County Department of Corrections. Employed with the county since 1980, Wagner has served as warden since 1994. He is a board member of the American Jail Association, vice president of the New Jersey County Jail Wardens' Association and a board member of the New Jersey chapter of the American Correctional Association (ACA). Wagner is a certified jail manager, a certified public manager and an accreditation auditor for ACA. He holds a bachelor's degree in Law and Justice from Trenton State College and a master's degree in Public Administration from Rutgers University. This fall he was a guest speaker at MCCC as part of the college's Distinguished Lecture Series.



Sherry Esteves '95 has been promoted to assistant vice president of marketing for the New Jersey Business and Industry Association. She has been a member of the staff since 1982. Currently she coordinates the association's numerous seminars, major events and publications. She is a member of Meeting Professionals International.

Jeannie Sconzo '95 took both nursing and acting classes at Mercer. Following graduation from the Nursing program, she worked for Biomedical Applications as a hemodialysis nurse, for New Horizon Treatment Services as a rehabilitation nurse, and for Capital Health Systems on the medical/surgical unit. She is now studying theater and hopes to continue her studies in Manhattan.



Erica Garrett '97 has been promoted to senior sales manager at the Sheraton Rittenhouse Square Hotel, where she is responsible for sales of all leisure and noncorporate business while also assisting with day-to-day hotel operations and marketing. Before the Sheraton, Garrett worked as a national accounts manager for MeriStar Hotels and Resorts at the Embassy Suites Hotels in Center City and Philadelphia International Airport. Her HRI career began as a catering and sales assistant with the Holiday Inn in Jamesburg.

Thomas Kelly '97 was part of a three-artist exhibition at the Trenton City Museum at Ellarslie Mansion in the fall. Fifteen of his paintings were selected for the show. Kelly has also exhibited at other venues in the region and was the subject of a feature article in the Home News Tribune in July.

Jacques Chancy '99 is the new music teacher

at Rogers Elementary School in Hightstown. Chancy, who was student speaker at Mercer's 1999 commencement, completed his B.A. in music at The College of New Jersey. In addition to teaching music classes at Rogers, he gives group lessons on a variety of instruments and leads the school band and chorus. Chancy plays saxophone and is a well-known recording artist in Haiti.

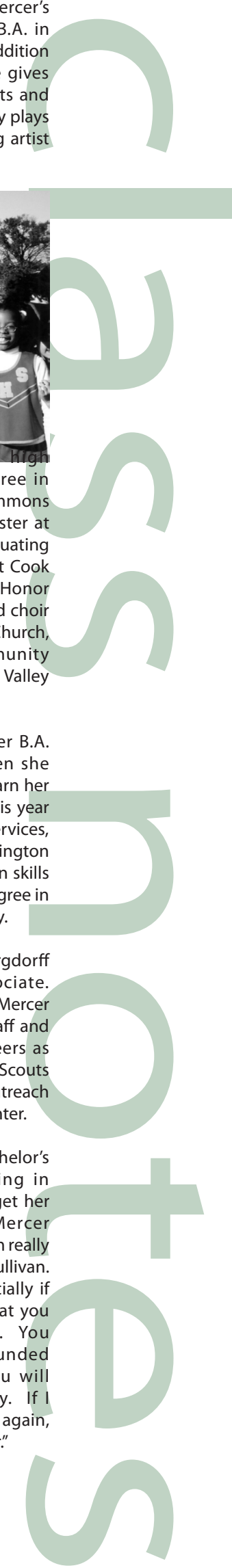


John Emmons '99 graduated with high honors from Cook College with a degree in environmental planning and design. Emmons maintained dean's list status each semester at Cook and was in the top 10% of his graduating class. He received several scholarships at Cook and was inducted into the Golden Key Honor Society. Emmons is active as an elder and choir member at Lawrence Road Presbyterian Church, plays trumpet in the Lawrence Community Concert Band and sings in the Hopewell Valley Chorus.

Laura Lingenfelter '99 already had her B.A. in sociology from Juniata College when she returned to school at Mercer in 1995 to earn her A.S. in art history. After retiring earlier this year from the State Department of Human Services, she joined the teaching staff of the Pennington School, where she teaches communication skills and writing. She is pursuing a master's degree in humanities from California State University.

Kimberly Steinnagel '01 has joined Burgdorff ERA's Princeton office as a sales associate. Previously she was an administrator of the Mercer chapter of ARC, where she supervised staff and managed daily operations. She volunteers as service unit director of the Princeton Girl Scouts and is the program coordinator of the outreach program with the Clay Street Learning Center.

Laurie Sullivan '01 is pursuing her bachelor's degree at NJIT, where she is majoring in construction technology. She plans to get her professional engineering license. "Mercer opened so many opportunities for me. I am really pleased with the education I got," said Sullivan. "I say go to a community college, especially if you don't know what you really want to do. You will get a well-rounded education and you will save lots of money. If I could do it all over again, I would go to Mercer."



Men's Soccer Team is No. 2 in Nation



The Vikings Men's Soccer Team fell a goal short of the national championship, as it lost to Yavapai (Ariz.) 2-1 in the NJCAA title game on Sunday, Nov. 24 in Tyler, TX. The two schools are familiar rivals, having met in four other national finals, with Mercer victorious in three of them. The Vikings ended their exceptional year with an 18-2 record.

Head Coach Charlie Inverso, completing his 17th season with the Vikings, was looking for a few more scoring chances when time ran out. He had changed the alignment at half-time, keeping Yavapai to just one shot the entire second half, which unfortunately for the Vikings found its way into the goal on a fluky bounce. Mercer's lone goal was scored by Richie Arenas on a penalty kick in the 67th minute. Freshman Faouzi Bendaoud defended in goal.

Mercer advanced to the finals by beating Barton (Kan.) Community College 4-0 in the quarterfinals on Nov. 21 and Schoolcraft College (Mich.) 1-0 in the semi-finals on Nov. 22. The Vikings earned their tournament berth by defeating Essex (NJ) 3-0 in the Region 19 championship on Nov. 9 and Essex (MD), the only team to beat the Vikings during the regular season, 3-0 in the District Final on Nov. 14.

It was a year of showcase soccer at Mercer as the talent and chemistry of this team became evident from the season's opening whistle. While the Vikings handed out many crushing defeats to lesser opponents, there were a number of close, satisfying games, including a 2-0 win over Bryant Stratton, last year's national champs.

Inverso considers this squad as good as

any he has coached at Mercer. What the team lacked in size, it made up for in pure athleticism. The team's depth was unusually good; six players tallied between eight and 12 goals on the year. Three brothers – returning sophomore David Tuesta and freshmen Jorge and Anthony – were a family force to be reckoned with. Ruben Mingo, Richie Arenas and C.D. Harris worked together skillfully up the line along with Leon Browne, Oleksandr Stakhiv, Leon Malca, Umit Angis, Kinson Jean and Walid Hassan. Goalies Bradley Lowyngs, Faouzi Bendaoud and Anthony Quarino allowed only 18 goals on the season.

Stakhiv was named to the NJCAA All-Tournament Soccer Team. Arenas, Harris, Mingo, and David and Jorge Tuesta were selected for the All-Region 19 First Team and the GSAC All-Conference Team/Division 1.

Coach Inverso recorded his 300th win with the team on Oct. 18, as the Vikings defeated Ocean County College 10-1. Ironically Ocean's assistant coach was Jason Asch, one of Inverso's former players from the 1996 national championship team. Inverso's record stands at 315-28-10.

Inverso was assisted this season by Larry Povia, Bill Daily and John Pietrowski.



Men's Soccer Coach Charlie Inverso is congratulated by Mercer President Robert Rose at a special ceremony with the MCCC Board celebrating Inverso's 300th win.

Women's Soccer

What can you say about a team that scores four goals in the last 10 minutes of the regional semi-final game to tie it 5-5 and take the match into overtime? And then holds on against the tournament's eventual winner, only to lose with just 13 seconds left? Clearly this is a team that plays soccer the way it should be played: with intensity, composure and courage.

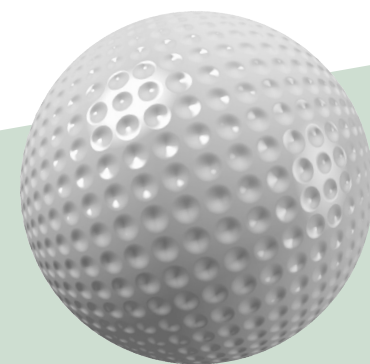
Their stellar effort against Gloucester Co. College was not quite enough to give the Mercer women the Region 19 title for the second consecutive year. Still, they had much to be proud of during their 10-6-1 season.

Under the leadership of Head Coach Shelly Dearden, now in her seventh year with the Vikings, the team had many gratifying wins, including routs of Morris County College 11-0, Ocean 8-2, Essex 11-1 and Sussex 6-1. Top scorers for Mercer were forwards Melanie Pollack, Courtney Williams, and Nikki Carr,

and midfielders Ayesha Fitchett and Michelle MacInnes. Other key players included Christina Gutch, Kristen O'Donnell, Jackie Lewin and Jen Brokaw. Defensive strength came from Dina Palmieri, Jazmin Fuschini, Heather Anderson and Suzanne Larson with Michelle Brown doing a great job in goal.

Fitchett and Palmieri were ranked among the top five players in Region 19 and were named to the All-Region 19 First Team along with Melanie Pollack. Fitchett and Palmieri were also selected for the GSAC All Conference Team/First Team along with Nikki Carr.

Mercer built on its solid nucleus of six returning sophomores and had a number of freshmen stand-outs. They are likely to serve Mercer well when next year's soccer season rolls around. Shelly Dearden was assisted this season by Cindy Astore, Krissy Bucchino and Chelsea Dixon.



Save the Date!

The MCCC Athletic Department invites you to tee off with friends and supporters of the college at the Twelfth Annual MCCC Golf Classic on Monday, June 16, 2003. The outing will be held at Mercer Oaks Golf Course in West Windsor. Proceeds from the tournament will be donated to the MCCC Student-Athlete Scholarship Fund.

Mercer Honors National Tennis Champs



The MCCC Board of Trustees honored the 2001 - 2002 Women's Tennis Team with championship rings for athletic excellence. The women were winners of the NJCAA National Tournament in College Station, TX, in May, 2002. Pictured from left to right are: Mercer Athletic Director John Simone, Assistant Coach Ralph Bencivengo, Janine Hicks, Assistant Coach Barbara Pleva, Barbara Pal, Sarah Bucon, Jill Matasovsky, Ya-ting Hsu, Mai Fujita, and Head Coach Marc Vecchiolla.

With only two returning players from last year's national championship team, Marc Vecchiolla, head coach for the Mercer Women's Tennis Team, was considering the possibility there would be no regional title for the Mercer women this year. But the Vikings did it again, winning their sixth consecutive Region 19 championship at Brookdale Community College on Oct. 18 - 19.

"At a two-year school, there is a big turnover," said Vecchiolla, now in his sixth year as head coach. "With only two second-year players, Ya-ting Hsu and Mai Fujita, we really felt it this season. This was clearly a rebuilding year."

The team got a late start in order to give the new players additional practice time. The women lost their opener against Gloucester Co. College 6-3 on Oct. 3, their toughest competition in the region. They followed that match with two wins, beating Brookdale 9-0 and Ocean 6-3. Poor weather resulted in the cancellation of two matches and then the women lost a close repeat match with Gloucester 5-4.

With no time for make-ups and just four matches under their belts, the women entered the regional tournament. "I was predicting that the players would have a good time. I wasn't willing to predict beyond that," said Vecchiolla.

The tournament's winner was not decided until the last match was finished. "Every point counted," said Vecchiolla. "At the end we were tied with Gloucester 10-10, but the rule states that the team that advances the most players to the finals of their respective flights

is the winner. We advanced seven; Gloucester advanced six." The Vikings took the first two flights in singles competition and finished second in three other flights. Landry Shelley won first singles and Ya-ting Hsu won second singles. Jana Sulerova, Mai Fujita, and Desiree Noel finished second in fourth, fifth and sixth singles.

At the no. 1 position, Shelley was a consistent stand-out on this year's team, losing only one match during the season. The other players, Hsu (#2), Maureen Haggerty (#3), Sulerova (#4), Fujita (#5), Noel (#6), Casey Stout (#7) and Kim Carella (#8) all contributed to the team's success.

"The improvement I saw in this year's squad with just two months of playing together makes me optimistic about what we can accomplish at the nationals," said Vecchiolla. He notes that the team is like a family. "The players are so close. They really help each other. I think it's a big part of our success."

Since the women's tennis program began in 1997, Mercer teams have earned three national championships, two second-place finishes at the nationals, and six straight regional titles. "It's been hard work and great chemistry. We've also had some good fortune with things going our way when it counted most," said Vecchiolla. Assisting Vecchiolla this year are Ralph Bencivengo and Barbara Pleva, a player from the 1999 and 2000 championship teams.

The women begin practicing for the national tournament in January. They will defend their national title May 3-9 in Texas.

The strength of this year's Women's Basketball Team lies in a guard-oriented attack from the returning backcourt of sophomores Ayesha Fitchett and Kamika Harden. Lacking in size, the Lady Vikes look for contributions from every player, especially the team's tallest starter, 5'10" freshman center Alison Werkman. The only other returning player is guard Michelle MacInnes. Strong freshmen players include forwards Vicki Jenkins and Katy McCormack, and guard Courtney Williams, who starred with Fitchett on the women's soccer team.

Last year Mercer finished 18-13 and, against expectations, captured the regional title for the fifth consecutive year. Head Coach Mike Tenaglia is hoping that the Lady Vikes' ability to run, press and distribute the ball will wear out their opponents and give Mercer another Region 19 championship. He is assisted by Tameka Turner and Kim Webber, manager.

Men's Basketball

The Mercer Men's Basketball Team has plenty of talent on the court this season. Lacking in big men, Head Coach Kelly Williams is counting on unified team play and solid support from the bench to take the team to the regional championship. "Our goal each year is to win the region," said Williams. "I think we have the ability to make a serious run. Our chemistry is extremely good — the best I've seen in my four years at Mercer. That should pay huge dividends in February when it really counts."

Williams, in his fourth year as head coach, continues to be successful in recruiting strong players from local high schools. The starting line-up mixes a number of talented freshmen with the team's only experienced player, returning small forward Sydney Francis. The regular rotation goes nine or ten deep, with the offense feeding off defensive pressure. The team's best scoring opportunities come from Francis, shooting guard Jose Rodriguez, and forward Clifford Powell. Good things are expected from freshmen forwards Reggie Kelly and Stephen Taylor, and guards Dwayne Washington and Clifford Pollard.

"I feel very upbeat about this year's team. The players have a great attitude, which will help them be a better team as the season goes on," said Williams. Last year the Vikings' season ended with a close loss to Morris in the semi-final round of the regional tournament.

Assistant coaches for the team are Gary Williams, Greg Grant and Jose Aviles.

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THE VIKING

Check out MCCC's redesigned website, (www.mccc.edu), with its easy online registration. Browse open sections in credit and noncredit courses. Previously registered students can look at their grades and course history.

2003

Mercer Arts Calendar Something for Everyone at Kelsey Theatre Spring 2003 Schedule

Full Length Productions

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum
 Jan. 10, 11, 17 and 18 at 8 p.m.
 Jan. 12 and 19 at 2 p.m.

Agatha Christie's Ten Little Indians
 Feb 7, 8, 14 and 15 at 8 p.m.
 Feb. 9 and 16 at 2 p.m.

John Brown Angel from Hell
 Feb. 21 and 22 at 8 p.m.
 Feb. 22 at 1 p.m.
 Feb. 23 at 2 p.m.

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest
 Feb. 28, Mar. 1, 7 and 8 at 8 p.m.
 Mar. 2 and 9 at 2 p.m.

Heather MacRae Songs of my Father
 March 23 at 2 p.m.

Damn Yankees
 April 4, 5, 11 and 12 at 8 p.m.
 April 6 and 13 at 2 p.m.

Kiss Me Kate
 April 25, 26, May 2 and 3 at 8 p.m.
 April 27 and May 4 at 2 p.m.

MCCC Student Musical
 May 16 and 17 at 8 p.m.
 May 18 at 2 p.m.

Mercer Dance Ensemble
 May 24 at 8 p.m.
 May 25 at 2 p.m.

Kelsey Kids Events
 Music, Maestro, Please!
 Feb. 1 at 2 and 4 p.m.

The Ugly Duckling
 March 8 at 2 and 4 p.m.

The Hobbit
 March 14 and 21 at 7 p.m.
 March 15, 16 and 22 at 1 and 4 p.m.

Just So Stories
 April 5 at 2 and 4 p.m.

Highlights for Children Onstage
 May 3 at 2 and 4 p.m.

Sarah Plain and Tall
 May 17 at 2 and 4 p.m.

The Little Engine That Could
 May 31 at 2 and 4 p.m.

The Gallery

Organics
 Recent work by Illia Barger and Jim Toia
 Jan. 14 through Feb. 20

Mercer County Artists 2003
 March 4 through April 3

Visual Arts Student Show 2003
 April 22 through May 15



Illia Barger, Kiwi (#6)
 Oil on linen, 1999

Academic Calendar

January	21	Classes begin for 15-week, 7-week & 5-week sessions
February	25	10-week and second 5-week sessions begin
March	17-23 25	Spring recess Second 7-week session begins
April	7 8	Second 5-week session ends Third 5-week session begins
May	12 13-16 30	Classes end Final exams Commencement and Honors Convocation

THE VIKING, a publication for alumni and other friends of Mercer County Community College, is published by IMPACT (Information, Marketing, Publications, Art Gallery, and College Relations Team). Editorial offices are located in room 250 of the Administration building on the West Windsor Campus. THE VIKING welcomes suggestions for feature stories and articles. Mail to Public Information, MCCC, PO Box B, Trenton, NJ, 08690, or email: saveria@mccc.edu.