

THE WIKING

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

MERCER
County Community College
www.mccc.edu

Summer 2004

Commencement 2004



Assembled on the central quadrangle at MCCC's West Windsor campus, more than 2,000 graduates, guests, faculty and staff members enjoyed a beautiful day for the 2004 commencement ceremonies. Professor Framarz Khoushab (inset) was presented with the Distinguished Teaching Award.

Mercer County Community College conferred degrees on more than 800 graduates this year, bringing the total number of graduating students to 27,500 for the past 37 years. The May 27 ceremony began with a procession of faculty and staff members, who took their seats in the front rows and greeted the graduates as they marched in wearing caps and gowns.

Commencement speaker Dr. George Pruitt, president of Thomas Edison State College, urged the graduates to take their citizenship seriously. "Citizenship is a right. Stewardship is an obligation. Stewardship requires our responsibility for the welfare of society."

This year's student speaker Colleen Greene, a mother of two teenagers, returned to college to pursue a lifelong goal to teach. Active in the Phi Theta Kappa honor society, the Education major established a support group for returning adult students.

Dr. Thomas Wilfrid, MCCC's vice president for Academic and Student Affairs, presented Professor Framarz Khoushab with the 2004 Distinguished Teaching Award. A faculty member for 13 years, Khoushab coordinates the Business Administration program. He holds master's degrees in Economics, Urban Economics and International Business, and has completed all but his thesis for a Ph.D. "Professor Khoushab's greatest claim to academic fame," said Dr. Wilfrid, "is his overwhelming effectiveness as an instructor and his patient nurturing of and care for his students."

Fairleigh Dickinson University to Offer B.A. and M.A. Degrees at MCCC

Faculty members from Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) will begin teaching at Mercer's West Windsor campus this fall, giving students in busi-

ness and hospitality programs the opportunity to complete a bachelor's degree from FDU at Mercer. Students majoring in hospitality studies will even be able to take FDU graduate courses on campus.

The two bachelor's degree tracks are "Business and Technology" and "Hospitality Management," and the Master of Science degree will be in "Hospitality Management Studies." The programs are flexible, so students can tailor their studies to specific career goals. Classes will be held in the evening and on Saturdays to accommodate part-time as well as full-time students. Tuition rates will be lower than those at the FDU campus.

For more information contact Harvey Weiss at 609-343-4984 (e-mail hweiss@fdu.edu) or Chris dePagnier at 609-586-4800 ext. 3476 (e-mail depagnic@mccc.edu).



Seated, left, MCCC President Robert Rose and FDU President J. Michael Adams sign the new agreement. Standing, from left, are MCCC's Vice President Thomas Wilfrid, Transfer Counselor Laurene Jones, Dean Diane Campbell, and Hospitality Programs Coordinator Douglas Fee, with FDU's Director of Community College Partnerships Anthony Mastropietro, Campus Coordinator Harvey Weiss, and Dean Kenneth Vehrken. MCCC faculty member Chris dePagnier is at right.



NEW JERSEY
S * T * A * R * S
STUDENT TUITION ASSISTANCE
REWARD SCHOLARSHIP

Free Tuition for High-Achieving High School Grads

Mercer is pleased to launch the NJSTARS program (Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship), which will provide free tuition for high-achieving New Jersey high school students who graduate at the top 20 percent of their class. Governor McGreevey proposed the program in February.

"Mercer is eager to attract the best and brightest students," said MCCC President Robert Rose. "We want our top high school students to remain in-state and become part of our local economy." Students may apply now for entry in the Fall 2004 semester.

For more information call the Admissions office at 609-586-0505 or e-mail admiss@mccc.edu.

Your Best Choice!

Reverend Wayne Griffith: From Mercer Graduate to Board President



Reverend Wayne Griffith speaking during commencement 2004.

Wayne R. Griffith, a 1977 Mercer graduate, was appointed president of the college's Board of Trustees last November. Griffith's path from student to board president was varied and enriching. It included graduation from The College of New Jersey with a bachelor's degree in business management and finance, serving as a Baptist minister, and owning his own company. But, Griffith says, "It was Mercer that allowed me to really find out what I wanted to do in life and gave me a great foundation to build on."

Today Reverend Griffith combines a unique set of skills, serving as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Pennington and president and CEO of the Concerned Pastors Economic Development Corporation. He owns his own company, Griffith and Grace Consulting, a housing and commercial development consulting firm. Yet he still finds time to give back to his alma mater. "Mercer is a very community-minded college. We have great leadership and it is a wonderful place to volunteer one's time to improve the quality of life for Mercer County residents."

New Opportunity for Business Graduates at Penn State Abington

Mercer's Business Administration graduates have a new opportunity to transfer seamlessly into a bachelor's degree program in Business at Penn State University's Abington campus. Eligible graduates must earn at least a 2.5 grade point average and must enroll at Penn State Abington within one year of their Mercer graduation. The agreement will give transferring students access to an academic scholarship of \$1500 if they earn at least a 3.60 final grade point average at Mercer, or \$1,000 if they earn a 3.30 grade point average.

The Abington campus is approximately 45 minutes from MCCC's West Windsor campus, and offers a study abroad program in Germany. For more information contact Laurene Jones at 609-586-4800, ext. 3307 (e-mail jonesl@mccc.edu).

James Kerney Campus Trains Paraprofessionals for Trenton Schools

Beverly Richardson, provost of MCCC's James Kerney Campus in downtown Trenton, has established a mentoring support program for paraprofessionals and teaching assistants in the county's school districts, initially focused on the Trenton schools. The project was made possible through an \$85,000 grant from the New Jersey Department of Education.

The college is working with the paraprofessionals to help them meet the new "highly qualified" standards of the "No Child Left Behind" legislation of 2001. With a deadline of 2006, these staff members must complete at least 48 college credits, earn an associate degree or higher, or meet a rigorous standard of quality measured through academic assessment.

According to career mentor LeShay Johnson, "Many of the paraprofessionals have been away from formal education for years. They need support and tutoring as they face college-level courses." Johnson is now working with 100 Trenton school district staff members, offering individual counseling, advisement and group workshops. "I encourage them to pursue an associate degree, and possibly go on for a bachelor's degree," she said.

Johnson works under the supervision of Donald Jones, director of Enrollment and Student Services at the James Kerney Campus, who was instrumental in developing the program. Jones had been working with the paraprofessionals even before the grant became a reality. With his support, MCCC has established a new associate degree program, "Education/Special Education Assistant," specifically designed for those interested in careers as education assistants or teacher aides in schools, day care centers and similar institutions.

Richardson noted that the grant was written and coordinated by MCCC Grants Director Kay Eaton. "I have been so pleased to launch this program," Richardson said. "Returning to college often poses a real challenge to many of these school personnel, and it's great to see them learning and fulfilling their potential."

MCCC Hosts Forum on Civil Liberties

After the events of 9/11, what personal sacrifices are we willing to make to keep us safe? Is our democracy strengthened or weakened by the need for more surveillance? The third in a series of community forums at Mercer, "Civil Liberties vs. National Security," addressed these and related issues at the Conference Center on April 16.

A panel of distinguished experts was moderated by Nancy J. Duff, associate professor at Princeton Theological Seminary. Panel members included Katherine Flicker, former assistant attorney general-in-charge of the N.J. Office of Counter-Terrorism; Imam Hamad Ahmad Chebli of the Islamic Society of Central N.J.; Harold Eickhoff, past president of The College of New Jersey; Deborah Jacobs, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of N.J.; Hui Chen, former assistant U.S. attorney in the eastern district of New York; and William J. Atkinson, special agent with the FBI.

According to Lorna Strang, event coordinator, "The caliber of the panel was amazing, and I am so grateful to them for volunteering their time. We are committed to holding more of these forums in the year ahead to bring important issues to the community in a thought provoking, balanced and informative way."



Innovative Course Combines Fine Arts and Computer Graphics

Arts faculty member Yevgeniy Fiks has designed a new course, "Digital Fine Arts," to encourage students to explore the possibilities and implications of combining digital and traditional art techniques. Fiks wants to encourage innovative aesthetic expression, and sees the course as a way for students to broaden and strengthen their portfolios with a series of creative pieces for exhibition. The course begins this fall.

Explore the World of Entertainment Technology September 23-24

www.entech.mccc.edu



If you are a media professional, student or teacher interested in learning more about emerging technologies, plan to attend MCCC's Entertainment Technology Conference and "Make the Magic Real" on September 23 and 24. Now in its second year at MCCC's Conference Center, the event will offer hands-on training, expert presentations, and hardware and software demos. It will bring to light the newest technologies in interactive media, independent filmmaking, DVD authoring, corporate TV, animation, video games, and much more.

Keynote speakers are Brian McKernan and Pete Putman. McKernan is editor and associate publisher of *Digital Cinema* magazine and co-editor of "Creating Digital Content: A Guide to Video Production for Web, Broadcast, and Cinema," published by McGraw-Hill. Putman is president of ROAM Consulting, Inc., which provides services to manufacturers of projectors, monitors, integrated TVs and display interfaces. He is a senior editor for PBI Media magazines and the author of hundreds of technical articles.

Learn more at the conference's website: www.entech.mccc.edu.

Mercer Photography Program Is Picture of Growth


Eric Kunsman is at the helm of MCCC's Photography program, which has almost tripled in size since his arrival in September 2002. The faculty has grown from four to 10 instructors and class offerings have increased from seven to 19. "There is always someone working in the photo lab, which is great to see," Kunsman said.

Kunsman believes that the program's increasing popularity is due in part to the explosion of digital photography. "For professional photographers, use of digital technology has become a requirement for employment in the field. Even if you are a casual photographer, when you buy one of these cameras, you need to learn how to use it." He adds that traditional photography and dark-room techniques are still popular. "Mercer's program provides a balance between traditional and digital techniques so that students gain a comprehensive understanding of the whole photographic medium." Students pursuing their A.S. in Fine Arts in photography complete a case-bound book of their work, which is useful both for transfer to a four-year school and when applying for employment.

An influx of talented adjunct professors has enriched the program. "Some are professional photographers, while others split their time between Mercer and other area colleges," Kunsman said. "There are a lot of excellent people out there, so our adjuncts are highly qualified."

For the first time ever, from May 29 to July 8, the Photography program has taken to the road for a photographic workshop in the "Four Corners" region of the country -- New Mexico, Utah, Arizona and Colorado. After photographing nat-

Winning Image



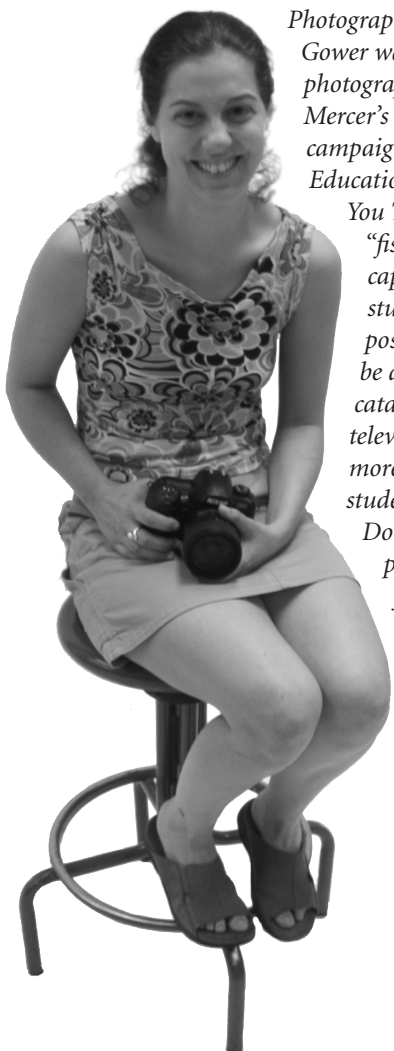
Dominic Lipira received first place in the Mercer County Photography Exhibit with "A Child's Dream." Lipira will continue his education at Pratt Institute in the fall.

ural wonders in Arches National Park, Mesa Verde National Park and many other scenic destinations, students ranging in age from 20 to 60 are expected to return to New Jersey with thousands of images in traditional, digital and large formats.

This year the MCCC Photography program

has opened its modern, well-equipped facilities to the community. For a nominal fee, "Community Darkroom" enables community members to use the traditional darkroom and digital camera computer lab every Friday from 5 to 10:30 p.m. For more information call (609) 586-4800, ext. 3715.

Tapping Student Talent for Ad Campaign



Photography major Cheryl Gower was selected to photograph students for Mercer's new marketing campaign, "A Great Education Is Closer Than You Think!" Using a "fisheye" lens, Gower captured 11 Mercer students in dynamic poses. They will soon be appearing in ads, catalogs, billboards, television spots and more. Featured students include Dominick Rodriguez, pictured on the front cover of this Viking issue, and Luis Sanchez, pictured on the back cover.

Art Schwartz Receives Mathematics Association Honor

Mercer Mathematics professor Arthur Schwartz has received a much-deserved honor from the Mathematical Association of America. He was selected for its 2004 Distinguished Teaching Award, which is open to professors in all institutions of higher education, not just community colleges. Schwartz is now in the running for a national award.

Schwartz has taught at Mercer for 35 years and has chaired the Mathematics program for 20 years. Known among students for his enthusiasm and his ability to communicate difficult concepts, Schwartz is typically described as "awesome" and as "a professor who made me understand algebra." His colleagues laud his tremendous impact on the lives of his students and on the college.

In 1991 Schwartz was selected by students and faculty at Mercer to receive the college's Distinguished Teaching Award. Then president John P. Hanley said, "He guides over three hundred students each year toward better patterns of thinking, problem-solving and analysis, which serve them well in their careers and in all of life."

Professor Schwartz earned his B.A. and M.A. from The College of New Jersey and M.S. from Rutgers University. Six years ago he participated in the Mid-Career Fellowship at Princeton University, studying differential equations, his special area of interest.

Schwartz has given his time to almost every college committee at Mercer. He has been president of the Faculty Association for 15 years and chief negotiator for 30 years. His published articles deal with math anxiety and the teaching/learning of mathematics.

"I have been very fortunate to have had excellent mathematics professors, both as teachers and as colleagues throughout my life," Schwartz said. "Their dedication to helping students progress from fearing mathematics to understanding, applying and, in many cases, embracing the beauty of our subject has reinforced my love of teaching."



Short takes

Mercer Women Soar During "Women Take Flight"™ Workshop



MCCC faculty member Joan Jones, left, with flight instructors Tom Gillan and Diane Loving.

Twelve Mercer women with a spirit of adventure learned the basics of flying one sunny February weekend as part of a unique workshop called "Women Take Flight."™ The 10 students and two faculty members not only got to pilot a small plane, they also took a closer look at themselves, at their ability to take risks and at their self reliance. Mercer's Aviation program lent its facilities, fleet of aircraft and flight instructors for the two-day event at Trenton-Mercer Airport. Faculty member Joan Jones facilitated the event.

The workshop was part of a research project by licensed pilot Linda Castner, who is part-owner of Alexandria Field Airport and a former faculty member at Bryn Mawr College. Along

with co-researcher Sue Stafford, of Simmons College in Boston, Castner is gathering information on the link between risk-taking and the development of self-reliance in women. "The workshop places the learners in an unfamiliar environment and uses flight training as a tool to encourage examination of the choices they have made in their lives," Castner said.

The workshop began with classroom activities and hands-on exercises, using visualization and journaling to engage the students. During flight time, each of the women lifted off for a half hour of scheduled backseat observation time and a half hour of flight time in the pilot's seat.

"It was exhilarating, absolutely exhilarating," said MCCC professor Jennifer Dowd, who teaches business. "I was so psyched up. It was a crystal clear morning, and flying up the river was so beautiful. I would like to have stayed up a whole lot longer." Dowd said she always wanted to fly but never got around to taking lessons. While the flight instructors were in charge during takeoff and landing, the students were able to take some measure of control once the planes were in the air.

Why don't more women learn to fly? That question originally prompted Castner to conduct her research. She said only 5.84 percent of licensed pilots in the U.S. are women – a statistic that hasn't changed much since the early days of aviation. Mercer's Flight Technology program has had a similar percentage.

While the workshop participants probably

won't be changing their majors to aviation, all were happy they participated. "It wasn't just about the flying, it was about empowerment for us," said Natalie Brown, who plans to become a counselor or social worker. "The risk-taking part was good experience, especially for people who shy away from taking chances -- and I was one of those. After this experience I'm ready to take on the world."



Student Natalie Negron in the cockpit preparing for takeoff, and savoring the experience.

Alum Recreates Mercer's Radio Glory Days

What does a dispute resolution lawyer with a national consulting firm do in his spare time? If you are **Jeffrey Yuhasz ('89)**, former manager of WMCC, Mercer's student radio station, you combine your legal expertise with a passion for music. Yuhasz, a resident of Seattle, recently established an entertainment agency that keeps him at the cutting edge of Seattle's music scene. He has also created an Internet radio station that celebrates WMCC and those hard-rocking years of the late 80s.

In his "day job" with CDR Consultants in downtown Seattle, Yuhasz helps clients settle construction industry disputes before they become costly court battles, working with large capital construction projects, contractors, and the federal government's General Services Administration. At night and on weekends, he scouts talent for career number two, Yuhasz Entertainment Group LLC, building his knowledge base of the area's bands and entertainers by listening to live music all around Seattle.

As part of a website Yuhasz created to promote his new venture, he established the WMCC Internet radio network. He was motivated, he said, by a powerful sense of nostalgia for his days at Mercer. "I look back with great fondness on the times we had at Mercer. It's only later in life that you realize the value and special nature of those relationships. I hope that WMCC alums surfing the Internet will come across the station and that the website's user forum will become a telecommunication hub, leading to hundreds of reunions among old friends from Mercer."

On the website, Yuhasz states, "WMCC was, and still is, the student-run college radio station of Mercer County Community College. This site hopes to celebrate the music of that era (the



Alum Jeffrey Yuhasz outside Doc Maynards, a club on the cutting edge of the Seattle music scene.

1980s) and the fun and excitement of college radio which sets, rather than follows, mainstream trends."

Yuhasz has come very far from his days at Mercer. Dropping out of high school at the age of 16, he returned to night school at 18, taking only six weeks to earn his high school diploma. Acting on a friend's recommendation, Yuhasz enrolled at Mercer to study radio broadcasting.

He quickly joined the staff at WMCC and became radio station manager after his first year. "Because we implemented a fairly rigid professional format, our record rotations were published

in radio trade magazines and made available to hundreds of programmers throughout the country," Yuhasz said. "I believe the station actually helped the country embrace the 'hair-band' hard-rock genre so popular in the eighties."

Yuhasz was selected to and later became acting president of Alpha Theta Gamma, the Mercer chapter of the National Junior College honor society. He graduated with honors and was selected as student commencement speaker. He also won the Dean's Award for student leadership.

Just two weeks after graduation, Yuhasz headed west, relocating to Port Angeles, Washington, to begin work as an on-air radio personality. Then, after eight years in radio he decided to return to college. Transferring 90 percent of his Mercer credits, he graduated cum laude from Whitman College in 1999 with a B.A. in English and a minor in comparative religion. Earning additional honors in his field of study, he was awarded a full scholarship to the University of Washington School of Law. He graduated in 2002 with a Doctor of Jurisprudence; his doctoral dissertation was published by a major academic review.

"Throughout it all, I always considered Mercer my greatest challenge and accomplishment," Yuhasz asserted. "It was there that I went from high school dropout to someone who could actually consider attending one of those pretty colleges I saw on television. My Mercer experience gave me the confidence to succeed."

"It is my hope that the website I have founded and the station I have dedicated to WMCC will one day lead to an actual reunion of station alumni. I'll be on the first flight back to Jersey for that one!" Yuhasz said.

Visit Yuhasz' website at <http://www.entertainmentgroup.org/radio.html>

MCCC Business Student Wins East Coast Entrepreneur Award



Award winner Russell Hancock.

While most 15-year-olds were playing video games or instant messaging their friends, MCCC Business student Russell Hancock was starting a lawn service business that six years later has earned him the "East Coast Collegiate Entrepreneur Award." In the annual competition hosted by Rothman Institute of Entrepreneurial Studies at Fairleigh Dickinson University, Hancock was the top pick among college students in New Jersey, New York, Connecticut and Delaware for his lawn and landscaping company, RnR Services.

Hancock is the only community college student ever to win the award, which includes a \$1,000 prize for first place in New Jersey and an additional \$1,000 for the regional award. Hancock automatically advances to the North American competition, where the top prize is \$10,000. The competition is conducted in conjunction with the North American Collegiate Entrepreneur Awards program coordinated by St. Louis University in Missouri.

Nominated by Herb Spiegel, a Mercer Business faculty member and former director of the Small Business Development Center, Hancock entered the contest after seeing posters in the Business building. "I thought it would be nice to be recognized after working so hard since my sophomore year of high school. I figured I deserved it. But I didn't expect to be the winner from four states," he said.

Noted Spiegel, "Russ is a student who sits quietly in the first row and seems to absorb everything the instructor presents. He is very open to constructive advice."

RnR Services started small. Moving to a new housing development in Plainsboro in 1998, Hancock was about to drop off a job application at McDonald's when his dad suggested that he consider mowing his neighbors' lawns. Taking \$2500 – his life savings at the time – he bought a used commercial lawn mower and started Russ' Lawn Service. "I had six accounts that first year, all within the development. I would ride around the street every day after school," he recalled.

The next year Hancock was up to 25 lawns and had hired a friend to do the "weed wacking" while he did the mowing. "When I finally got my driver's license I bought a truck and trailer. I advertised with flyers and notices on people's doors. I was up to 65 customers."

Clients began to request other services, including fertilizing, landscaping and mulching. But Hancock was limited by the hours in a day. "By the time I got home from school, I only had about three hours of sunlight to handle 65 customers a week," he said.

That's when Russ' dad, Russell Sr., joined the operation to oversee the landscaping portion of the business. "He was the boss until I got home," Hancock said. Following his graduation from West Windsor-Plainsboro South, Hancock set his sights on college and decided to spend two years at MCCC. "Why not stay local and firmly establish the business? If I had left, it would have crumbled."

With eight employees, RnR Services now serves close to 200 clients for lawn mowing and landscaping, both residential and commercial, in West Windsor and Plainsboro townships. On a typical day, Hancock rises at 7 a.m., is on the job until 5 or so and then heads for Mercer, where he spends his evenings in class.

Hancock said his Mercer education has been invaluable, teaching him skills he has applied directly to his company, including accounting know-how and the development of a business plan. He particularly enjoyed Mercer's International Business Practice Firm, a simulated business environment where he directed the marketing department. "We designed business cards, a logo and a marketing plan for our simulated business. Everyone was always coming to me asking questions. I took charge. I'm used to that," Hancock said.

In August Hancock will transfer to Arizona State University, which has accepted all 48 of his Mercer credits. He has a business plan in place to insure that his operation will run smoothly in his absence and plans to be back on the East Coast during some of RnR's busiest months.

Other 2004 winners of the Entrepreneur Award were from Syracuse, Columbia and Quinnipiac universities, and the University of Delaware. Sponsors of the competition included the Edison Venture Fund, Wachovia and Bloomberg. This year's competition was judged by business media executives from each of the four competing states. Criteria for the award include entrepreneurial spirit, overcoming obstacles, the success of the business, concern for quality and customer service, and the estimated potential for future success.

Students Learn On the Job Through Internships

Mercer students are learning on the job as well as in the classroom this year, thanks to new outreach efforts by the college's Career Services staff members, Pat Corozza and Gail LaFrance. "Internships can provide the leg-up when it comes time for job interviews," Corozza said.

This spring, Mercer students served internships at Merrill Lynch's television production studio, at the Princeton Hyatt, and at a local Morgan Stanley brokerage office. While some internships are paid, others are for college credit only; some provide both.

For Jim Conway, a career changer in his 40s, an internship at Fort Dix has provided essential job experience. A college graduate with a master's degree in materials science, Conway seems an unlikely community college student. But after being laid off, he decided to pursue a completely new career in a field he truly enjoys -- computer technology.



Daniel Caprio, a Mercer Television major, working at Merrill Lynch's production studios.

Conway said he has learned a great deal about how information technology systems work in a complex organization. "I had heard and read about all of these things, but without actually being there and seeing the day-to-day operations, it was hard to get a good handle on them. To work with the equipment and see how operations are done has been very valuable." The payoff for Conway was finding a full-time job. "The internship helped significantly," he said.

According to Joy Primavera, intern coordinator at Merrill Lynch in Plainsboro, "The students bring a different perspective and are very willing to learn. They are having a well-rounded experience."

Mercer provides career counseling at both the West Windsor and James Kerney campuses, offering group workshops, individual interviews, career testing and a career library. Counselors help students write resumes and cover letters, and prepare for interviews. The college hosts job fairs regularly and employers visit both campuses for recruitment on career days and throughout the year.

"We help students learn about themselves and the world of work," Corozza said.

THE EAST COAST

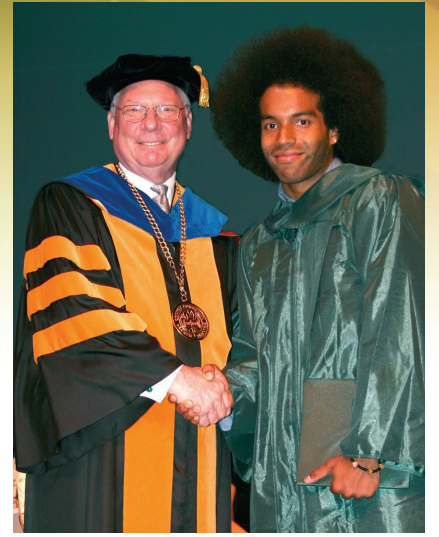
COMMENCEMENT 2004



Cliff Pollard was one of three students who earned a Scholar Athlete Award. He is pictured with his mother Marie (left) and grandmother, Dorothy Anderson, both of whom are graduates of MCCC's Nursing program.



Donors Anthony (left) and Ann Conti Salvatore presented the Theresa Ann Antinoro Memorial Scholarship to student Lori Anne Rao (middle). The newly endowed scholarship is in memory of their daughter, a 1978 MCCC Radiography program graduate. They are pictured with Dr. Rose and Theresa's daughter, Francesca Antinoro (far right).



Pictured with President Rose is Steven Gordon, who was selected for the Academic Affairs Award for his contributions to student life.



Janssen Pharmaceutica, a generous supporter of MCCC, recently established the Dr. Paul Janssen Scholarship for Achievement in Science and Allied Health in memory of the company's founder. Peg Forrestel, center, Janssen's director of Contributions and Community Affairs, and President Rose presented the award to nursing student Kpehe Carter, right.



With her family on hand, Jilan Elsarha received the Fred Anker Memorial Award for outstanding achievement in business administration.



Graduating student Gerald Carbone Jr. (front) received the Joseph Ridolfi Scholarship for academic excellence in business. He is pictured with Mr. Ridolfi and President Rose. Carbone plans to continue his education at Rider University.



Two Generations of Success at the James Kerney Campus

Joneen Ruffis and Robert Stroman, daughter and father, both earned associate degrees this month and were honored as part of the James Kerney Campus Celebration of Academic Achievement at Trenton's War Memorial on May 11. Ruffis majored in Humanities and Social Science and will transfer to Thomas Edison State College. Stroman, a graduate of the Ad-

ditions Specialist program, will complete more studies at MCCC, then transfer to The College of New Jersey.

The awards evening honored 281 students who completed a program at the college's downtown Trenton campus, including the GED high school equivalency program, the Career Training Institute, and the English Language Institute.



Landry Shelley was the winner of the Tennis Scholar Athlete Award. She played two years of tennis in the first singles and first doubles flights and helped Mercer to two consecutive regional championships, and fifth (2004) and sixth (2003) place finishes nationally. Shelley will attend The College of New Jersey in the fall to study journalism. She is pictured with Athletics Director John Simone.

Kristen Liedtka won the Phi Theta Kappa Transfer Scholarship to The College of New Jersey. She attended MCCC on a full scholarship provided by the MCCC Foundation Board, which raises funds each year through its dinner dance and golf outing. Over 220 students received foundation scholarships this year; 15 were full scholarships for high school students.



EOF Celebrates Achievement



Celebrating the students who participate in the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) program at an awards dinner are, from left, faculty member and EOF counselor Maria Rodriguez, Director of EOF and Retention Services Dr. Khalida Haqq, and Dean for Student and Academic Services Diane Campbell. In addition to receiving financial aid, EOF students are given individual and group counseling, academic advising, tutoring, and leadership training. A summer enrichment program helps first-time students adjust to the demands of college.



Dean's List student Luis Sanchez is part of the EOF program. Twenty-three EOF students graduated this year. Seven achieved President's List status and twelve were on the Dean's List.

International Students Honored at Awards Banquet



Members of the International Student Organization pose after learning their group was chosen as "Organization of the Year" at the Student Government/Student Activities Association Awards Banquet on May 1. The evening honored 43 student clubs and organizations, their advisors, and their outstanding student leaders.

What the Badge Stands For Alum Visits MCCC Campus During Book Tour

Experienced police officers often have powerful stories to tell. They are stories of honor, courage, compassion, sadness, and sometimes, humor. Mercer alum Randy Sutton ('80), a sergeant in the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, visited New Jersey and the Mercer County Community College campus in February to promote a book he has compiled -- *"True Blue: Police Stories By Those Who Have Lived Them."*

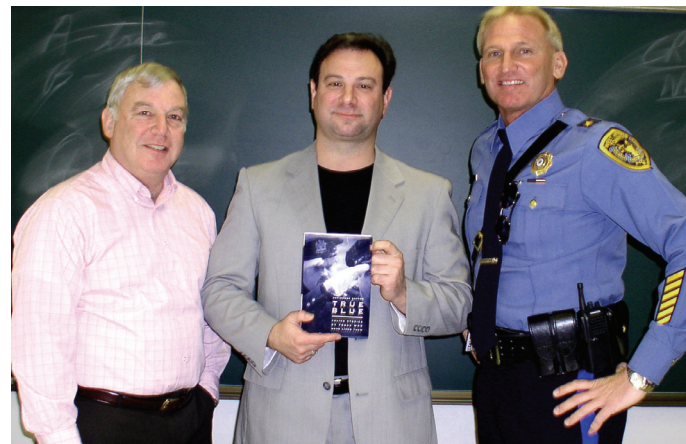
Sutton said his inspiration for the book stems from the Sept. 11 attacks. "I felt frustrated at not being able to help those officers who lost their lives." He decided that by publishing stories contributed by police officers nationwide, he could honor his profession and help to bridge the "chasm between the police and the people we serve." Proceeds from the book will be donated to the families of 9/11 police officers.

According to Sutton, *"True Blue"* contains

stories on "everything from the World Trade Center to small-town policing. All of the officers talk about their feelings towards their jobs. I hope this book will change some of the perceptions that citizens have about us."

In addition to writing the prologue, epilogue, and chapter introductions, Sutton contributed a story of how he saved the life of a one-month-old baby. "That baby is now a happy five-year-old girl. It was a life-changing experience," he said. The book (St. Martin's Press, \$23.95) is available through Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble.

Even as a teenager Sutton knew he wanted to be a police officer. After graduating from Princeton High School, he attended the New Jersey Police Academy, starting work on the Princeton



Randy Sutton (center) is pictured during his Mercer visit with Professor Peter Horne (left) and West Windsor Police Chief Joe Pica ('72), another Mercer alum and Sutton's old friend.

Oral Interpretation Class Knocks 'Em Dead

Is it possible to read Mercer's academic probation policy and make it fascinating? Or how about reading your income tax return aloud? Mercer students did it -- and yes, it was fascinating to watch.

Faculty, staff and students who saw one of three performances by Kathy Paluscio's Oral Interpretation class this semester were bowled over by the students' energy, enthusiasm and skill. Paluscio is now in her third semester teaching the course she started at Mercer. The upper-level communication class attracts students majoring in theatre, speech and communications.



Students in MCCC's Oral Interpretation class ham it up before a performance.

Borough Police Force in 1976, when he was 19.

Sutton also began taking classes at Mercer, studying criminal justice and general education from 1975 to 1980. "While many police departments require only a high school education to start training, having college credits is helpful both for promotions and for developing into a well-rounded person," he said.

After 10 years on the job in Princeton, Sutton grew tired of writing parking tickets for his friends and neighbors and decided to take on the challenges of policing in a bigger city. His job search led him to Las Vegas, where he essentially started over at the age of 30. "When I started out in Princeton I was the youngest on the force. My mother had to buy my ammunition for me. When I went to Las Vegas, I was the oldest one in my class at the academy."

With 18 years on the job in Las Vegas, Sutton has seen most everything, some of it a grim reflection of human nature. Still, he said, "I believed in what the badge stood for when I started, and I believe in it now. In the beginning, the world was very black and white. It has taken me a long time to learn compassion and wisdom, and what motivates people to do certain things. I'm still learning."

“Motown Madness” Raises Scholarship Dollars

Supporters of MCCC came out in force on March 20 for the 2004 Scholarship Dinner Dance, which netted \$175,000 for student scholarships, including full scholarships to one student from each high school in the county. As always, Mercer drew a large and enthusiastic crowd that thoroughly enjoyed the silent auction, very special dinner and dancing at Princeton’s Hyatt Regency.

Honored as “Alumnus of the Year,” **Steven Zagoreos**, owner of McGrath Pharmacy, said he is appreciative of the start he received at “Trenton Junior College,” which became MCCC. Zagoreos is pharmaceutical consultant to Morris Hall’s St. Mary’s Residence and to the infirmaries at the Lawrenceville School and Princeton University. He was named National Pharmacist of the Year by Amerisource, and was recognized by Congressman Rush Holt as the first area pharmacy owner to ban the sale of cigarettes.

Merrill Lynch Corporation, this year’s “Distinguished Corporate Friend,” is a longtime supporter of college initiatives. The company currently funds a program that enables Mercer to join with the New Jersey Council on Economic Education in promoting economic literacy. MCCC provides training to teachers in economic education, curriculum development and related areas.

The “Community Service Award” recipient, the **Hyatt Regency, Princeton**, has hosted MCCC’s dinner dance for 15 years. The Hyatt works with the college to provide employment opportunities for students, particularly those in the “Hotel, Restaurant and Institution Management” degree program. The Hyatt is active on the Mercer County Workforce Development Board. They host an annual “Groundhog Shadow Day” for high school students and provide summer internships for disadvantaged youth. The annual Camp Hyatt introduces fifth graders to jobs in travel and tourism.

The dinner dance committee was chaired by Rafe Sharon, psychologist and former architect, who has been a Mercer supporter since he designed the college’s art gallery years ago. Mercer Dean Bill Mate spearheaded efforts for the administration with Elaine Stout, administrative assistant.

Dinner Dance Sponsors

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Chairperson Rafe Sharon, left, and MCCC President Robert Rose, right, with the evening’s honorees Helene Garcia of Merrill Lynch, Heinz Gartlgruber of the Hyatt, and Steven Zagoreos of McGrath Pharmacy.



MCCC students enjoy the evening.



Roma Bank Donates for Scholarships

Roma Bank has established a scholarship fund for students majoring in allied health professions. In recognition of the bank’s generous support, the college has named the auditorium of the MCCC Conference Center the “Roma Bank Auditorium.” President Robert Rose said the donation will help the college train qualified health care professionals.

Presenting the donation in the auditorium are, from left, MCCC Board of Trustees President Wayne Griffith, Roma Bank Vice President Marge Norton, who is a member of the MCCC Foundation Board, Roma Bank Chairman Maurice Perilli, Roma Bank President and CEO, Senator Peter Inverso, and President Rose.

Class Notes

Georganna Croker Hall '75 has illustrated a children's book entitled "A House for Miss Mouse," authored by Diane Belinfanti and published in 2003. Having received her B.A. in art education from Trenton State College, Hall has been a teacher since 1979. In addition to illustration, she paints watercolors and has had several one-woman shows.

Robert E. Untig '76 has served as the Sussex County Sheriff since 1989. He is on the Board of Trustees of SCARC, a Sussex County organization dedicated to the empowerment and support of people with disabilities and their families.



Glenn E. Falcey '78 is senior associate and director of operations at Maser Consulting in Matawan. He has more than 31 years of experience in transportation planning, design and construction. After Mercer, Falcey attended Rutgers University.

Jeff DePiano '81 has been promoted to senior vice president of information systems for the Credit Union of New Jersey, where he oversees data processing and information technology. Employed by the Credit Union for 21 years, DePiano previously served as executive vice president. He continued his education at Jacksonville University.

Edward Krisak '81 graduated from Rider University after receiving his A.A. at Mercer. He is an assistant vice president at Commerce Bank and manages the bank's new East Windsor branch. Krisak has continued to update his skills with noncredit computer courses at Mercer. His daughter currently attends Mercer.

Louis Ruggiero '83 and Domenick Ruggiero '89 are joint owners of two funeral homes: the Iliff-Ruggiero Funeral Home in Newton, NJ, and the Smith Taylor Ruggiero Funeral Home in Dover. Domenick has served two terms as president of the Tri-County Funeral Directors Association and is an executive board member of the N.J. State Funeral Directors Association. He is treasurer of the Karen Ann Quinlan Center of Hope Hospice Charitable Foundation. Louis, a certified eye enucleation specialist, is a member of the Morris County Funeral Directors and National Funeral Directors associations.



Robert Poli '91 has been promoted to manager of estimating for HIGH Concrete Structures, located in Denver, PA. Hired in 2001, Poli has helped the firm achieve a record number of estimates. Poli is completing his bachelor's degree in Business Administration

at Albright College.

Erik Daniels '94 received his bachelor's degree in 1998 from The College of New Jersey. He is a special education teacher at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South and is pursuing his principal's certificate at Rider University.

Lisa Tuccillo '94 is the treasurer and assistant secretary of Roma Bank at the corporate office in Hamilton, where she previously served as assistant vice president. She joined the bank in 1986 as a clerk and has held positions in customer service and student loan administration.

Kyle Wilson '94 has been promoted to chief of police in Chesterfield Township, after serving as interim chief since February, 2002. He joined the department in 1996 and was promoted to sergeant in 2000. Wilson supervises eight full-time officers and has increased police coverage from 20 to 24 hours.

Matt Lucash '01 was co-curator of an exhibition of 18 contemporary artists entitled "IGNITE!" at the ARTWORKS Gallery in Trenton from May to June, 2004. He graduated from Pratt Institute and is currently completing his MFA at the Pennsylvania Academy of Art. The show, which was the third in a 25th anniversary series

by TAWA (Trenton Artist Workshop Association), drew work from trend-setting young artists from four continents and 11 major cities.

Jennifer Cadoff '02 is enjoying a second career as an artist and curator of art for the Jewish Center Gallery in Princeton. With an undergraduate degree from Dartmouth and a former career as a journalist, Cadoff is continuing her fine arts studies at The College of New Jersey. She has exhibited at the Jewish Center Gallery, the Mercer County Artists 2003 and 2004 exhibits, and the Small Works Show at the Arts Council of Princeton.

Mercer Alum and Instructor Named "Chef of the Year"

Anne Lumberger '01 has been selected "Chef of the Year" by the American Culinary Federation Professional Chefs Guild of Central New Jersey in recognition of her numerous volunteer activities in the culinary field.

Lumberger is a volunteer for Eden Institute, a Princeton based center for children and adults with autism. She plans menus and helps with cooking for Eden's summer camp program in Connecticut, and participates in fundraising events. She has served as a judge for high school cooking competitions at the Sypek Center of Mercer County Technical Schools, and was an active volunteer for "Childhood Hunger Day," an annual Chefs Guild event.

Lumberger, who has just completed her first semester teaching "Professional Baking" at Mercer, is finding much satisfaction in a budding new career as a pastry chef and teacher. In 1996, as she approached retirement after 28 years at AT&T, she began taking cooking classes at Mercer. By 2001 she had earned certificates in professional cooking and professional baking. She especially enjoys teaching. "My students are very receptive," she said. "They are eager to learn. There is a nice energy in the classroom."



Anne Lumberger in the Culinary Lab at Mercer. The MCCC instructor and alum was awarded the "Chef of the Year Award" from the Professional Chefs Guild of Central New Jersey.

MCCC Golf Classic a Winner for Everyone

One hundred twenty MCCC friends and supporters hit the links for the Thirteenth Annual MCCC Golf Classic on June 15 at Mercer Oaks East, held in memory of Foundation board member Dr. Cynthia Schaffer.

Said Bill Mate, Dean for College Advancement, "We are grateful to the community for such a strong turnout. People who attended the event made a meaningful statement of support for Mercer's student athletes, one that encourages these young people to continue their pursuit of athletic and academic excellence. I know that Dr. Schaffer, who was committed to higher education and was a real golf enthusiast, would have been pleased."

The winning team was Rosemary Morrison, Harry Morrison and Gerald Tsarnas. Special thanks to major contributors Steve Ritzau (Dr. Schaffer's husband), Waters & Bugbee

Inc., Yardville National Bank and Borden Perlman. Other contributors included AAA Mid-Atlantic, EMTEC, Inc., Faridy Veisz Fraytak Architects, Johnson & Johnson, PaineWebber, Ritchie & Page Distributing, Simkus & Ventura, Spiezle Architectural Group, and Stark & Stark.

Enjoying their golf day are, from left, Buzz Ritzau, Rosemary Morrison, Steve Ritzau (husband of Dr. Cynthia Schaffer), and Harry Morrison.



Men's Basketball

The men's basketball team experienced the excruciating agony of defeat in the first round of the Region 19 play-offs on Feb. 25 when Essex County College scored a three-pointer from 30 feet out at the buzzer to win the game 60-59. Observed fifth-year Head Coach Kelly Williams, "In a situation like that, you don't believe what just happened. It was a tough loss, but a true learning experience for our players about how every possession counts."

Williams is extremely proud of his team and its 16-13 final record. "The highlight of our season came in the first half, when we were ranked as high as sixth in the nation," Williams said.

While the national ranking was good for the Mercer basketball program, it also made the Vikings a target during the second semester, a particularly tough role when two key players didn't join the roster as expected. After the win-

ter break, Williams recalled, "We had a few close losses that shook our confidence. There were five or six games that came down to a possession or two." Injury also played a role, as the Vikings were forced to play their last five games without starting forward Anthony DaBronzo.

Williams' early season prediction that Lackawanna was the team to beat proved true as Lackawanna went on to compete at the national tournament. In assessing Mercer's two losses against Lackawanna, he noted, "Both games were close. We proved that we can play at that level."

Williams credits four sophomores with serving as the team's backbone: guard Dwayne Washington, forwards Cliff Powell and Cliff Pollard, and center Stephen Taylor. Washington and Powell were selected to the All-Region Second Team; freshman Anthony DaBronzo was selected to the first team.

Despite the rocky second half of the season, the Vikings' commitment remained intact. "These players gave a lot on the court and also did well in the classroom," Williams said. "That's what it's all about." His greatest satisfaction is that Washington, Powell, Taylor and Pollard are all planning to continue their education and playing careers at four-year schools.

Williams is upbeat about the Vikings' chances for next year. Freshmen DaBronzo, Miroslav Babiarez, Jesse Carter, Shariff High, Craig Phillips and Xaviar Vinyals are all expected to return. "They will be a better team for the lessons they learned this year," Williams said. "The early national ranking, the drought we experienced, the last second loss in the play-offs -- these are all important tools to build on for next season."

Women's Basketball



A sideline conference with Coach Mike Tenaglia during the Northeast District Championship.

When can a loss in some way feel like a win? The Mercer Lady Vikes know the answer. After regaining the Region 19 title – its sixth title in seven years – Mercer faced the Community College of Rhode Island in the Northeast District Championship on March 6, with the winner to head for the national tournament.

Taking the lead early in the game, the Vikings then fell behind, but managed to come back at

the buzzer to tie the game, forcing overtime. They could not convert on several chances to tie or take the lead, and ultimately time ran out on the 2003-04 season, as CCRI won 75-72.

Still, with a team record of 23-4 and an undefeated season in Region 19, the Lady Vikes were at the top of their game this year. It was a great season for Head Coach Mike Tenaglia too, who notched his 200th win in a 74-32 rout of Passaic

Community College on Jan. 8. "We had a nice nucleus. I expected them to do well and they lived up to expectations," he said.

In the Region 19 tournament prior to the district game, the Lady Vikes gave a solid performance with a 92-60 win over Salem in the semifinal round and a 72-63 victory over Union in the final.

Tenaglia noted that the Lady Vikes were fierce competitors. "When they stepped onto the court, they were there to win. There was a real depth of talent. If one player was stopped, a teammate would step up."

The list of standouts is long, including sophomore Vicki Jenkins, who broke the school record with 32 double doubles in her 42-game career at Mercer. Joining her were several other sophomores: forward Katy McCormack, center Alison Werkman, forward Ewa Mozdyniewicz and guards Courtney Williams and Rachel Graham. Freshmen contributors included: guards Nicole Brown, Tashema Whittaker, and Nicole Riley, center Gina Broach, and forward Amber Oliver. Jenkins and Brown were named to the All-Region 19 first team; Whittaker was named to the second team.

Tenaglia emphasized that this team was so much more than a group of stars. "Their cohesiveness and team chemistry were truly their greatest asset." He is looking forward to a solid season next year with six or seven freshmen expected to return to the lineup.

Women's Softball

After dropping to club status last year, the women's softball team returned to varsity competition this season with some success. Despite a disappointing showing at the Region 19 tournament with a 6-1 loss to Del Tech and a 3-2 loss to Lackawanna, the Vikings finished the season with a respectable 11-17 record.

Mother Nature proved to be the team's most daunting opponent as the season schedule changed almost daily due to rain. Nine games were cancelled with no time for make-ups. In the games that were played, the women split in six of their 13 doubleheaders. In two doubleheaders they won both games: 9-1 and 7-0 over Cumberland on March 30, and 19-5 and 22-6 wins over Salem on April 10.

Under the leadership of second-year Head Coach Kelly Darcey and assistant coach Regina Brown, the Vikings benefited from the experience of returning infielders Tiffany Heller at first base,

Jennifer Woodruff at second base, Jamie Frascella at short stop, Kristen Lup at third base and Theresa Hoffman in right field. Also in the lineup was Laura Stackhouse, who missed last season due to injury. Solid contributions were made by freshmen Jamie Janzer, Dana Pallotta, Lisa Dey and Samantha White. Second-year player Christine Selfridge was counted on for pitching, along with Dey.

All-Region honors went to Janzer, Pallotta and Heller, with Pallotta also receiving an All-American nomination.



Back row, l. to r.: Head Coach Kelly Darcey, Tiffany Hiller, Samantha White, Kristin Lup, Lisa Dey, Alison Werkman, Nicole Brown, Laura Stackhouse and Ingrid Measor; front row: Kristin Selfridge, Theresa Hoffman, Jennifer Woodruff, Jamie Frascella, Janie Janzer and Dana Pallotta.

Men's Baseball

The men's baseball team started off strong this season, compiling 13 wins and only 5 losses by the end of March. Then April came along and the Vikings went 2-15. Their final 19-22 record was a disappointment, acknowledged first-year Head Coach Kip Harrison.

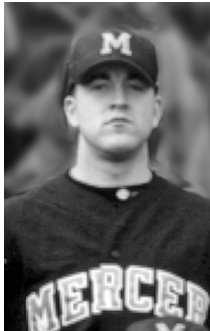
"From the first game of the season, we were plagued by injuries, the kind that keep players out of the lineup for weeks," Harrison said. Especially painful was the loss of center fielder Charlie Iacono, who missed almost half the season due to injury.

Numerous rain-outs forced cancellations that in some cases couldn't be made up. "It was tough to get into a groove. Some weeks, three out of four days were rain-outs. Still, the players never got down on themselves. We played through it all and made it to the Region 19 Tournament Final Four," Harrison said.

To qualify for the tournament, which MCCC hosted May 7-9, the Vikings participated in the "play-in" round on May 1, defeating the County College of Morris in a doubleheader, 4-1 and 10-2. Mercer

Former Mercer Star Signs with Yankees

Shaun Parker, a star pitcher on the MCCC Men's Baseball Team during the 2001 and 2002 seasons, has signed a free agent contract with the New York Yankees. The offer came after Parker participated in a pre-draft try-out on May 28.



Parker was Mercer's no. 1 pitcher in 2002 with a record of 6-1 and in 2001 tied sophomore Bryan Kelly for pitching victories with eight and led the team in strike-outs and innings pitched. In both seasons he was named to the All-Garden State Athletic Conference and All-Region 19 first teams. As a sophomore he was selected to the first team All-Northeast Region and earned Mercer's 2002 Male Scholar-Athlete Award.

earned the no. 4 seed at the tournament, which also included Del Tech, Sussex and Lackawanna.

Facing Sussex in their first game on May 7, the Vikings couldn't get the hitting going and were defeated 2-0. The second game, against Lackawanna, remained scoreless for four innings until the Vikings finally opened it up with five runs and held on for a 6-4 win.

But capturing the title was just too tall an order for the Vikings as they lost to Sussex 11-2 on May 8. Del Tech went on to beat Sussex in the Region 19 final.

Harrison points to many players who continued to shine despite the team's setbacks. "I feel really positive about their contributions. Freshmen pitchers Tom Giambrone, Matt Perks and Jay Karmazin were all strong on the mound," he said. Other standouts included first baseman Mike Roman and center fielder Charlie Iacono, who were selected to the All Region first team, and left fielder Doug Ford and pitcher/infielder Patrick Sharples, who were named to the second team. Roman, Iacono and Ford were also selected to the All Conference first team, while Giambrone and catcher Brian Stuetz were named to the second team.

On the brightest note of all, 10 of the team's 11 sophomores will be transferring to four-year schools, where they will continue their academic and playing careers.

Assistant coaches for this year's team were Fred Carella and John Kalinowski.

Mercer Freshman Pitcher Heads for Montreal

After just one season on the Mercer Baseball Team, pitcher Matt Perks has been recruited by the Montreal Expos. With a record of 4-4, Perks was recognized this season by Head Coach Kip Harrison for his pitching prowess. Perks was a standout player for Steinert High School before coming to Mercer.



Race Date Set for Oct. 1



The MCCC Alumni Association invites area runners and walkers to participate in the third annual "5K Run & Fun Fest" to benefit student athletes. Participants will meet outside the Physical Education building for a 6 p.m. start. The event features music and a picnic dinner following the race.

For a race application call (609) 586-4800, ext. 3742.

Men's Tennis

Joining the women's team on the national stage, the men's tennis team placed seventh out of 13 teams at the NJCAA National Championship in Plano, TX, May 9-13. And they did it with just two players.

With a regular season record of 5-4, the Mercer men placed second after Brookdale CC in the Region 19 Tournament. Standouts at the tournament were Gerry Aparicio and Sean Patrick, who won at no. 1 doubles, and Shay Sharaby, who won at no. 6. "Our team really grew and matured as the season progressed," said Head Coach Stan Dlugosz. "They listened and learned."

With their doubles win in the region, Aparicio and Patrick qualified for the trip to Texas. Between them, they compiled six points in national competition. In the first round, they defeated the no. 1 doubles pair from Holyoke Community College, 6-1, 6-1. In singles action Aparicio won at no. 1 against Harford Community College, 6-4, 6-3, while at no. 2, Patrick defeated the player from Holyoke Community College, 6-2, 6-1. Both Mercer players were eliminated in the quarterfinal round in very close matches.

The team roster included Aparicio (no. 1), Patrick (no. 2), Felipe Faundez (no. 3), Brian Bunn (no. 4), John Gordon (no. 5), Danillo Delibert (no. 6), and Shay Sharaby (no. 7).

In regular season contests, the Vikings dominated Gloucester (8-1, 6-3), Morris (6-1, 5-2), and Bergen (8-1). Dlugosz completes his 30th year as head coach; he was assisted by Ralph Bencivengo and Marc Vecchiolla.



National tournament players Gerry Aparicio (left) and Sean Patrick.

Women's Tennis

The women's tennis team set out for the national tournament in College Station, TX, on May 1 with six talented players, three of whom were returning to the nationals for the second year. What was missing this year, according to Head Coach Marc Vecchiolla, was a consistent practice schedule to help prepare the women for their toughest competition ever.

"The other teams looked better than in the past," Vecchiolla said. "Between scheduling conflicts and uncooperative weather, our players were only able to get on the court once or twice a week, which hurt us."

The Vikings placed fifth out of 12 teams, with Maureen Haggerty at no. 3 singles going to the finals and achieving All-American status. Haggerty started playing tennis just two years ago and hopes to continue playing when she transfers to TCNJ in the fall. Landry Shelley at no. 1 singles had a bye in the first round and then lost in the quarterfinals in three sets.

At no. 2 was Silvina Wills, who sat out the fall season with an injury, but made it to the semi-final round in her very first tournament experience. Sherry Lin at no. 4 singles also lost in the semis. Wills and Lin also made it to the semis in doubles, while Janice Wilcox and Desiree Noel at no. 5 and 6 singles lost in the first round.

While they didn't come home with a trophy this year, Vecchiolla is proud of the Vikings' stellar record of achievement. "We have gone to the nationals for the past seven years. This year, we were fifth out of 60 teams in the country. The worst we've ever placed is sixth." The women have earned three national titles and two second place finishes.

According to Vecchiolla, this was the last national tournament to be held in the spring. "The NJCAA will start holding the nationals in the fall immediately following the regular tennis season. That's a big break for our players. They're peaking in October and then they're not playing competitively again for five months."

Of his two returning players, Sherry Lin and Silvina Wills, Vecchiolla is upbeat. "Lin has shown remarkable progress and Wills has tremendous talent and great leadership skills."

Vecchiolla was assisted this year by Barbara Pleva and Ralph Bencivengo.

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THE VIKING

Check out MCCC's 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.



2004

Mercer Arts Calendar Good vs. Evil at Kelsey Theatre

Fall 2004 Schedule

Full Length Productions

Early One Evening
at the Rainbow Bar and Grill
Sept. 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26

How to Succeed in Business
Without Really Trying
Oct. 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10

Of Thee I Sing
Oct. 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24

Quilters
An MC³ Studio Theatre Production
Oct. 22, 23, 29, 30, Nov. 5, 6, 7

Heaven Can Wait
Oct. 29, 30, 31; Nov. 5, 6, 7

The Tamburitzans
Nov. 13, 14

Oliver the Musical
Nov. 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28

A Christmas Story
Dec. 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19

The Foreigner
Jan. 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16

Kelsey Kids Series

Dinosaur Rock
Sept. 25

Rainbow Fish
Oct. 9

Rapunzel
Nov. 6

'Twas The Night Before Christmas...
Dec. 3, 4



The Gallery

A full slate of exhibits will be coming to the MCCC Gallery this fall. View the schedule soon at www.mccc.edu/community_gallery.shtml

Academic Calendar

Plan your fall courses now.

AUGUST 24 Last day to register for most fall semester classes before late fees apply

30 Classes begin for 5-week, 7-week and 15-week sessions

OCTOBER 5 Classes begin for 5- and 10-week sessions

26 Classes begin for 7-week session

NOVEMBER 9 Classes begin for 5-week session

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.

For Kelsey events call (609) 586-4800 ext. 3566 or visit our website at www.kelseyatmccc.org.