

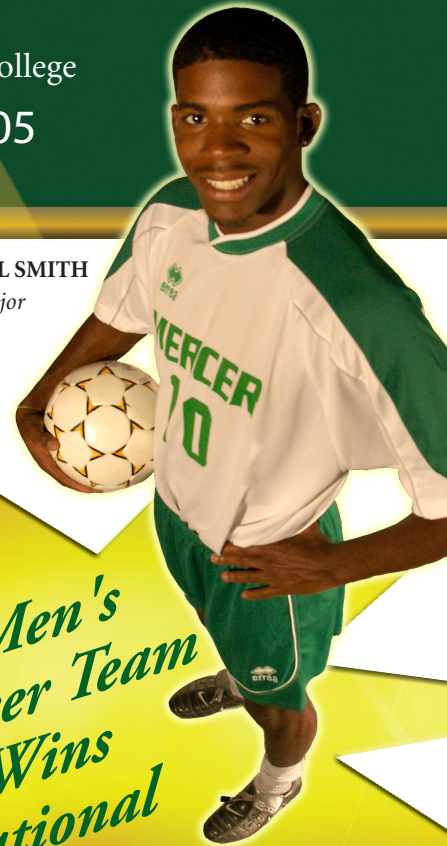
THE VIKING

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

Winter 2005



DARNELL SMITH
Dance major



*Men's
Soccer Team
Wins
National
Title* (see page 10)

MCCC Wins Intercollegiate Flying Association Top Prize Flight Team Going to National Competition



Members of the top-ranked MCCC Flight Team: (from left, back row) Flight Instructor Jonathan Turman with students Gary Latham and Adam Feldman; (front row) Rich Osborn, Dean Tzitzis, John Tokash and Edson Jerez.

MCCC's Flight Team really took off this fall -- winning first place in the National Intercollegiate Flying Association's Safety Competition for the Northeast region. The team competed against Bridgewater State College, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and Schenectady Community College in flight and ground events, and was rated on accuracy landings, navigation, and pre-flight and flight simulation. The next challenge will be competing against the best teams from other regions of the

country this spring at the national championships. Jonathan Turman, who coached the six-student flight team in preparation for the event, is a 2002 graduate of MCCC's Aviation program. He went on to complete his bachelor's degree at Hampton University and is now a flight instructor at Mercer. "The students put in a lot of extra time. They're skilled pilots who are going to do great things in aviation," he said.

Building Program Prepares MCCC for the Future

It won't be long before both campuses of Mercer County Community College present a shiny new face to the public.

In West Windsor, plans are underway for a new Welcome Center, with one-stop registration, a new bookstore, expanded space for student activities and eight new classrooms. Scheduled to be built in 2006, the new building will connect the Library and the Student Center.

At the James Kerney campus (JKC) in downtown Trenton, a new entranceway on Broad Street will centralize operations for the campus' two buildings and provide more classroom and office space (see article on page two). The campus has recently undergone a facelift with new floors, ceilings and paint.

The campus renovations are in response to rapid growth in credit enrollment over the past four years -- more than 16% since Dr. Robert Rose took the reins as president in 2001. With the support of the college's Board of Trustees, the ambitious building program will utilize the resources of more than \$22 million in state and county dollars through New Jersey's Chapter 12, which funds community college facilities.

Already completed at the West Windsor campus are renovations on the first floor of the Administration Building, now housing five new classrooms equipped with the latest technology, plus redesigned office space. The Learning Center, located on the second floor of the Library, has been greatly expanded. A much-needed replacement of the college's heating and air conditioning systems is underway, and the indoor pool has been undergoing major repairs. Scheduled for a January completion is a state-of-the-art demonstration kitchen for culinary students.

According to President Rose, "Our new and renovated facilities will help us to provide an environment where students will learn and thrive for decades to come. Mercer is poised for the future with a renewed sense of the spirit that has helped us grow into one of the best community colleges in the region."



Faculty Honored for Excellence

Seven members of the MCCC Faculty Association were recently introduced to the Board of Trustees as "Examples of Excellence." From left are Don Reichman, professor of Computer Science and Mathematics; Dr. Gianna Durso-Finley (front), assistant professor of Humanities and Social Science and faculty assistant to the vice president of

Academic and Student Affairs; Alwyn Haywood, assistant professor of Communication; Kathy Paluscio, instructor of Communication; Diane Hilker, interim dean of Science and Allied Health; Josie Mathias, associate professor of Accounting and coordinator of the Accounting program; and Robert Smith, associate professor of Funeral Service and director of the Funeral Service program. At far right are MCCC President Robert Rose and Faculty Association President Robert Pugh.

Your Best Choice!

short takes

New Entrance Will Unify James Kerney Campus

By the end of 2005 the James Kerney Campus (JKC) will have a new face and more space. Major renovations to Mercer's Trenton campus are expected to begin in late January.

Said JKC Provost Dr. Beverly Richardson, "The plans call for a grand, new façade on Broad Street that will unify the two buildings as one connected campus." Students and visitors will enter a large lobby with a reception desk and security office. A central staircase will lead to the Kerney Building on the left and the Career Training Institute on the right. The building will be handicapped accessible.

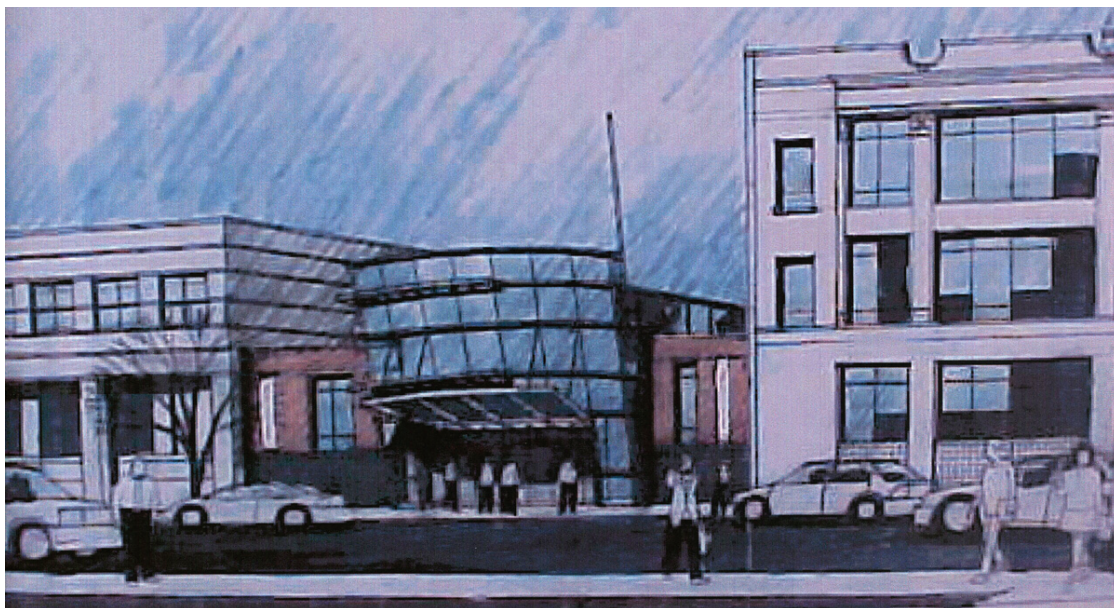
Richardson said that the new entrance will replace the current design, which has two entryways, one with a ramp on the corner of Broad and Academy Streets that leads into the Kerney Building, and the other on the corner of Broad and Hanover Streets that leads into the Career Training Institute. The two buildings are currently joined by an indoor skywalk.

"By taking away the ramp on Academy Street, we will be able to build out in that area," Richardson said. As a result, the JKC Culinary program kitchen and student cafeteria will double in size.

Richardson notes that JKC's new entrance will create a striking presence. "We hope that it will serve as a magnet for developers, encouraging them to refurbish surrounding structures and become our neighbors on Broad Street," she said.

Built in 1975, the Kerney Campus expanded in 1998 to include the Career Training Institute, which houses classrooms, computer labs, a business practice lab for the application of learned office skills, a Learning Center, and a conference room.

"JKC is a dynamic institution whose mission is to serve the changing educational needs of the community. With additional space we will have greater flexibility to provide for the educational fulfillment, career development and personal enrichment of our students," Richardson said.



The proposed new entrance at the James Kerney Campus. Drawing by Spiegle Architectural Group.

Students Model for Marketing Campaign

When Dominick Rodriguez of West Windsor travels Routes 33 or 29, or Olden Avenue in Trenton, he sees himself made large. As a student model for Mercer, his photo is prominently displayed on billboards stationed along all three routes.

Like Rodriguez, dozens of students have volunteered as models for the college's marketing campaign. Their images are displayed throughout the county, not only on billboards, but on busses, in theaters and supermarkets, at Quaker Bridge Mall, Sovereign Bank Arena, and in newsletters and newspaper ads.

Using the college's new slogan, "A Great Education Is Closer Than You Think," and edgy fisheye-lens photos with quotations from students where possible, the campaign has generated three awards from the National Council of Marketing and Public Relations for the Northeast region. The region includes states from Maine to Maryland, plus all of eastern Canada and the United Kingdom. Materials for the

campaign were created in-house by the college's Marketing staff with student Cheryl Gower as photographer.

"The goal of our marketing campaign is to highlight our enthusiastic and very engaged students," said President Robert Rose. "We want the community to learn more about what we have to offer here – and to consider Mercer when they are making plans for college at all ages and stages of life."

Mercer students who modeled for the college's new marketing campaign, and college president, Dr. Robert Rose, point to a new billboard moved via computer magic to the college's West Windsor campus. From left are Tashema Whittaker, Nicole Scott, Dr. Rose and Dominick Rodriguez.



New Transfer Opportunities Abound

Four new agreements will help Mercer students transfer and achieve their goal of earning a bachelor's degree, as more than half of the college's graduates do.

At Peirce College, Mercer students with an associate degree in a business or information technology program will be eligible to transfer into the junior year provided they meet academic standards.

At Penn State Abington, Business Administration graduates can transfer seamlessly into a bachelor's degree program in business, provided they earn at least a 2.5 grade point average. Academic scholarships of \$1,500 and \$1,000 are available.

At Rider University, where Mercer has had an agreement for many years, students are now eligible for scholarships if they earn at least a 2.75 grade point average. Scholarship amounts are dependent upon a student's average at graduation, and are as high as \$7,500 per year for those with a 3.5 or better grade point average.

Students who plan to transfer to Saint Peter's College can now enroll in a Dual Admissions Program when they enter Mercer. They will be accepted with junior status and will be eligible for a \$2,500 transfer award provided they complete the program with a minimum 2.5 grade point average.

For more information about these and other transfer opportunities at Mercer, contact Transfer Counselor Laurene Jones at 609-586-4800 ext. 3307.

First Graduates of Utility Tech Program Employed by PSE&G

The Utility Technology associate degree program proudly honored its first group of graduates this fall. The innovative program, which began in 2002 through a partnership with Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSE&G), started with 12 students in response to the utility company's need for trained technicians. Today, with Essex County Community College joining the program last year, 52 students are enrolled. PSE&G is exploring plans to further expand its partnerships, using Mercer's program as a model.

Five students from this first group of graduates have secured jobs with PSE&G, where they served apprenticeships while at college. The sixth is pursuing a bachelor's degree at NJIT.



The first graduates of the new Utility Technology degree program during a recent breakfast in their honor: (from left) Corey Fowler, Nevdon Hylton, Randy Dardzinski, Jarriett Robinson, Sorin Luca Chis, and Mackington Joseph.

short takes



SASHA
GIBOYEAUX
Theatre major

Degree Proposed in Entertainment Technology

Students interested in the exciting new field of entertainment technology will be able to pursue an associate degree when final state approval is granted to MCCC's newest program. The degree will be the first such community college program in the state.

With courses beginning this January, the proposed program will prepare graduates for careers as technicians, managers and designers in booming new fields, combining elements of theater, television, audio, lighting, video, electronics and computing. An internship will be required.

According to Robert Terrano, program coordinator and former dean of Arts, Communication and Technology at Mercer, the job market has expanded significantly as a result of the growth of theme parks and arenas, the marriage of mall development and amusement, and the expansion of cable and independent television. Also sparking growth in New Jersey was the approval last summer of a \$10 million revolving loan fund for companies that want to produce films in the state. The money will be administered through the state's Economic Development Authority.

To help students more easily transfer for a bachelor's degree after they complete MCCC's proposed program, the college is working on an articulation agreement with New York City College of Technology of City University of New York, which has the only four-year baccalaureate degree program in Entertainment Technology on the East Coast.

For more information contact Robert Terrano at 609-586-4800 ext. 3828 (terrano@mccc.edu), call Admissions at 609-586-0505, or visit www.mccc.edu.

Election 2004

With a grant from Public Broadcasting Services' (PBS) "By the People," MCCC co-hosted a well-attended community forum in October -- "Election 2004: How Will New Jersey Vote and Why?" A diverse audience included representatives from the League of Women Voters, interested area citizens, students from a Trenton charter school, and MCCC students and faculty members. *The Times of Trenton* and the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University were forum partners.

Differing perspectives on the issues were presented by a distinguished panel of experts moderated by Ingrid Reed, director of the Eagleton New Jersey Project. Panelists included Miguel Centeno, director of the Princeton Institute for International and Regional Affairs of the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University; Joseph Seneca, professor at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning & Public Policy at Rutgers University and chairman of the New Jersey Council of Economic Advisors; Roger Bodman, senior partner, Public Strategies Impact and Republican political analyst; and Julie Roginsky, political and public relations consultant, Comprehensive Communications Group and Democratic political analyst.

New Job Resource for Alumni and Students Goes Online



Student Erica Zak tries out the college's new online job board, "College Central Network Services." With her, left to right, are Dean for Information Technology Mark Meara, Career Counselor Patrick Corozza, and President Robert Rose. The new service enables students and alumni to search for jobs posted by employers and to upload their resumés that, with permission, can be searched by employers. Visit <http://www.collegecentral.com/mccc/> or call 609-586-4800 ext. 3304.



A historic torah is dedicated and installed at the Mercer County Holocaust/Genocide Resource Center at MCCC's West Windsor campus library. Participating in the ceremony are, from left, Steven Some, Adam Kaufman and Rabbi David Wisnia.

Torah Dedicated at Holocaust/Genocide Resource Center

A torah that has been through 150 years of history, a horrific war and a rescue, has been donated to the college by Mercer County residents Steven Some and Adam Kaufman. Now on permanent display at the Mercer County Holocaust/Genocide Resource Center located in the college library, the torah is housed in a special glass display case designed by Spiegle Architectural Group.

"The college is honored to receive this historic torah, so meaningful to Jewish history and the history of the Holocaust," said President Robert Rose. "This is a poignant addition to our resource center."

An October ceremony to install the torah included Phil Kirschner, chairman of the State Commission on Holocaust Education; Rabbis Keith Zakheim, David Wisnia and Eric Wisnia; and Mercer County Executive Brian Hughes. According to Some, also a member of the State Commission, "The torah will be a powerful educational tool for students and teachers as they learn about the Holocaust and the Jews of Europe and the former Czechoslovakia in those tragic years before and during the Second World War, 1933 to 1945."

The torah scroll originated in the village of Susice in the former Czechoslovakia, and is one of 1,564 scrolls rescued from the Nazis, who were planning to put them in a museum to a "destroyed" race. After the war the scrolls lay in a Prague synagogue for over 20 years. In 1963 custodianship was given to the Czech Memorial Scrolls Trust at Westminster Synagogue in London. Inspected and catalogued by experts, the scrolls have been distributed throughout the world wherever they could be of most service.

The Mercer County Holocaust-Genocide Resource Center, which opened in 2003 through a collaboration between the college, the County of Mercer, and the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education, provides books, tapes and other materials to educators and the community.

features

MCCC and Rider Students Spread Joys of Chemistry at Area Elementary Schools



Who can resist slime? Not little kids and not big kids either, according to Assistant Professor of Chemistry Helen Tanzini. Students from MCCC and Rider University, accompanied by faculty from both colleges, recently traveled to five elementary schools on an annual expedition to spread the joys of chemistry. The event was sponsored by the Trenton Section of the American Chemistry Society in observance of National Chemistry Week, Oct. 18-22.

The theme of this year's event, "Health and Wellness," was the inspiration for five creative, hands-on experiments. Tanzini said, "We dazzled the children with 'M.O.M. (Milk of Magnesia) to the Rescue,' an experiment featuring an acid based reaction that caused brilliant color changes. We impressed them with 'fake snow,' using polyacrylate combined with water, which fluffs up just like snow. Then we illustrated how the nose traps germs when a person has a cold by making the ever popular 'slime' from polyvinyl alcohol and combining it with glitter."

Approximately 625 students in 30 classes expressed their appreciation with 'oohs' and 'aahs.' "Each year the presentation gets a little bigger and a little better," Tanzini said. "We get a feel for what works. We want to give kids the message that science is exciting, fascinating, and yes, fun!"

The lucky elementary schools included Dutch Neck School in West Windsor, Grace N. Rogers School in East Windsor, Morgan Elementary in Hamilton, Challenger School at Fort Dix, and Eldridge Park Elementary in Hamilton.

The college students were accompanied by MCCC faculty members Bruce Chorba, Linda Falkow, Yvonne Greenbaun, Diane Hilker, MaryAnn Norcross and Helen Tanzini, and Rider professors Bruce Burnham and Alex Grushow.

Front row: (left to right) Aniket Rane, Amy Hornick, Xiao Ping Zhang, Kachi Odinkemere, Natallia Kalinava. Back row: Assistant Professor Helen Tanzini, Rocco Gervasi, instructor MaryAnn Norcross, Bin Xu, Wilyean Ricks.

New Dean Named for Business & Technology

Mark McCormick, Esq., has been named dean of the Business & Technology Division, replacing Dr. Jacqueline B. Sanders, who served as dean of the Business division for 17 years. McCormick joined Mercer's faculty last year as coordinator of the Paralegal program. He graduated from Davidson College in North Carolina and earned a Juris Doctor degree at New York University School of Law. He coordinated the Paralegal program at the Community College of Philadelphia and was on the faculty at Peirce College of Philadelphia. He worked in law and banking before joining the academic world.



Paralegal Program Celebrates 25th Anniversary

Alumni, students and friends of MCCC's Paralegal Program came out to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the program's initial approval by the American Bar Association. The Nov. 19 event honored James F. Rowe, Esq., the program's faculty coordinator for 26 years. "Jim shepherded this program through initial ABA approval and four subsequent reapprovals," said Dean Mark McCormick. "He has advocated tirelessly to advance the paralegal profession in New Jersey and throughout the country."

Unofficial honorees of the evening were program graduates who enjoyed getting together again, including a graduate from the program's very first class, Betty Baran. "Our graduates have gone on to work in nearly every major law firm in the area," McCormick said. "Many work for state government and local businesses, and some have gone on to law school."



Professor James Rowe, Esq., with three Paralegal program alumni, from left, Elizabeth Baran '78, Melanie Wagner '00 and Amy Morris '00.

Mercer offers an associate in applied science degree in Paralegal Studies as well as a certificate of proficiency.

MCCC Faculty to Expand Classroom Boundaries with Blended Courses

The list of alternatives to standard classroom instruction is getting longer. Currently, Mercer offers distance learning courses via cable television, computer CDs and the Internet. This fall, fourteen MCCC instructors took a 12-hour workshop on developing "blended" courses.

According to Prof. Deborah Kell, who led the training initiative, blended courses offer a mix of delivery approaches. "They integrate traditional classroom instruction with instruction using the student's home computer and online materials."

Kell notes that blended courses help break down barriers of space and time. "Students are able to pursue discussions and have access to instructor-developed and course-related resources beyond the actual class period. An exciting aspect of these courses is that the instructor can link students to the rich resources available on the web."

Blended courses ask faculty to consider new ways of presenting their material. "Teachers are used to face-to-face contact," Kell observed. They have to figure out how to achieve that interaction in a virtual setting. It's a very stimulating process."

The WebCT software that has been created for blended (or online) courses is like a computerized classroom. "It's referred to as a learning management system," Kell explained. "It incorporates course materials, class management and classroom communication. It allows teachers to display materials and to host dialogs. If a professor wants to add to his or her classroom lecture, he can simply post it online."

The next step for workshop participants is to submit a course proposal to their divisions. "It's not as intensive an obtaining approval for a new course, but there is a review process," Kell said.

"The division wants to be able to fully support the courses and be sure that the course objectives are being met in a healthy way."

Kell believes blended courses are here to stay. Several blended courses are already offered at Mercer; others are expected to come on board in the summer and fall of 2005.

"There are no surveys yet, but the students I've talked to are ready," she said. "They like the flexibility and the emphasis on technology."

But Kell cautions that these courses are not right for every student. "They are time-consuming, just like regular classes. Students must be motivated and self-directed." She predicts that as students become more familiar with the format and the requirements, they will be better able to decide if blended courses are right for them.

features



Members of a new student club prepare for a live news broadcast on MCCC's cable TV station.



"Next Gen TV" Debuts on MCCC Cable Channel

If you tune into the MCCC cable channel these days, you might just see a familiar face. "Next Gen TV" is a brand new club on campus for students majoring in communication. The club airs news, Vikings sports, and entertainment on Channel 23/26, or "MCTV" as these budding television whiz kids have dubbed it.

According to Next Gen's faculty advisor, Steve Voorhees, the station, which has traditionally aired credit television courses, the college's graduation ceremonies in May, and an occasional special event, "has gone from having no regular student programming to a schedule with several programs. We dove right in. We've taken a big step in a few months." Voorhees, who joined the Television faculty in the fall, is assisted by Barry Levy, another new Television instructor.

Voorhees estimates that 30 students are actively participating in the new venture. The anchor program is "MCN Live," a 20-minute news show that airs on Thursdays from 5:30 to 5:50 p.m. Student newscasters report on college, local, state and national news, using newspaper and online sources. In January, they plan to add video footage from a CNN satellite feed.

But that's not all. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings from 10 to 10:30 p.m., the club airs an edited version of Mercer's Late Night Series, the avant-garde open mike show performed by students and community members in the MC³ Studio Theatre on Friday nights. "The two-hour show is edited by our students the following week and then we air a 30-minute version," Voorhees explained. The LNS broadcast is followed by a replay of the Thursday MCN Live news show. Next Gen TV also taped and aired the student theatrical, "Vietnam: Letters and Remembrances," in November and a performance by the student troupe MouthWorks in December.

You can tune into MCTV for sports too. Live broadcasts of selected men's and women's basketball games began in November. "We filmed the first men's basketball game of the season on Nov. 13 and

then replayed it several times the following week," Voorhees said. "We expect to film 10 to 12 games during the season."

With such a varied schedule, the club attracts students interested in covering different beats. "Some students want to cover sports, others are interested in the performing arts, others in current events," Voorhees said. "They also have a variety of job assignments. Some like to be on the air, while others write, produce, or work behind the camera."

Voorhees notes that Next Gen TV is a great resume builder. "It's a chance to get real-world experience before heading out into the real world," he said. "While many MCCC students pursue internships in the broadcasting field, for others this may be their only opportunity for hands-on experience."

That's a definite plus when applying for jobs after college. "Students who have been on the set and in the control room of a real show, who understand the pressures and have learned how to respond, will be hired over those with only classroom experience," Voorhees said.

Mercer's Television program has grown dramatically over the years and offers a state-of-the-art TV studio and control room. Students are trained for employment as TV camera operators, directors, character generator (electronic graphics) operators, floor managers, audio board operators, lighting technicians or other entry-level TV production positions.

Courses emphasize communication skills as well as theoretical and practical instruction. Production classes concentrate on hands-on skill with lighting, TV studio and portable cameras, video editing, electronic graphics, producing and directing. Many of Mercer's Television grads are employed by TV stations and cable TV systems in Philadelphia, New Jersey, and New York.

For the latest on happenings around Mercer County Community College and the world, tune in to MCCC's Cable Channel 23 or 26.

New Learning Center Offers Spacious Environment; Quality Tutors

The MCCC Learning Center, located on the second floor of the Library, is sporting a new design this semester. The small spaces and confining cubicles of the past have been replaced by a large, open and spacious room. Comfortable new furniture, fresh paint and new carpet combine to create an environment just right for students tackling academic challenges in reading, writing, math and science.

Arlene Stinson, director of Academic Support Services, notes that the center is completely connected and very utilitarian. "Although there are separate areas of function, we are a family without boundaries. Students appear comfortable moving within the new space," she said. A reception desk has been added at the entrance to direct students to tables designated for reading, writing, math and science.

According to Stinson, while the new space improves upon the former design, the Learning Center's most valuable resource has always been its highly qualified staff. "We have attracted a variety of interesting, talented people to work as Learning Center tutors," she said. "Some are retired college professors or secondary school teachers. Others have many years of professional experience and want to give back to the community by helping students."

Dr. Michael Holman, a retired engineer with Lockheed Martin, has been working at the Learning Center since 1998. Holman offers tutoring in math, physics and statistics three afternoons a week. After a year as an adjunct faculty member at Mercer, Holman sought the one-on-one satisfaction that comes with tutoring. "Students who come to the Learning Center have a problem and they're here for help. They are motivated and receptive. I am very impressed with Mercer students."

Holman also welcomes the varied subject matter he tackles in the Learning Center. "Students ask a wide range of questions — from basic math to advanced calculus. I thoroughly enjoy it."

Free tutoring sessions are available by appointment or on a drop-in basis. The center offers specialized tutors for students with disabilities.

From left, math tutor Dr. Mike Holman assists students Chelsea Montervino, Jason Scarlata and Nyanda Kamara in the new Learning Center.





Surfin' Safari

March 5, 2005

The Hyatt Regency, Princeton

Lucky guests at the MCCC Scholarship Dinner Dance, March 5, 2005, will enjoy a Surfin' Safari -- great food, a fabulous art auction and dancing to "The Landsharks" of Orlando, Florida.

The college will honor three supporters. Yardville National Bank will receive the "Distinguished Corporate Friend" award, Lou Natale and Chris Natale of Ritchie & Page Distributing Company will receive the "Community Service Award," and Jane Foy, alumnus and retired nurse and instructor, will receive the "Distinguished Alumnus" award. Proceeds provide student scholarships.



Honoree Jane Townsend Foy is the MCCC "Alumni Historian" and has been a member of the Nursing Alumni and MCCC Alumni Associations for decades. A 1970 graduate of the Nursing program, Foy returned to serve as staff nurse and instructor. "The college helped me so much that, as a graduate, I feel a responsibility to help students," Foy said. She is pictured above with President Robert Rose.



MCCC's Dean of College Advancement Bill Mate, center, with honorees Chris Natale, left, and Lou Natale, right, of Ritchie & Page Distributing Company. Major supporters of myriad community activities, Ritchie & Page has also been a long-time supporter of MCCC and the annual golf outing. Chris Natale is a member of the college's Foundation Board.



Yardville National Bank's (YNB) Executive VP and COO, Tim Losch, left, with MCCC President Robert Rose and Jay Destribats, chairman of the YNB board, at the dedication ceremony of the MCCC Conference Center atrium. YNB was the first supporter to have naming rights at the Center. Losch has been chairman of the college's Foundation Board for the past 12 years and led the board through significant increases in scholarship funding.



Co-chairs for the 2005 Scholarship Dinner Dance are, from left, Karen Kennedy of Dow Jones and Maureen Lucido of the Hyatt Regency. Both have served on the committee in the past and helped to make the event a success.

Scholarship Winners Honored

Students who won scholarships to MCCC were honored at a recent reception, including the first group to enter the college through NJSTARS, a groundbreaking state initiative that pays full community college tuition for New Jersey high school graduates who rank in the top 20% of their class and enroll full-time. The NJSTARS students were introduced by Assemblywoman Linda Greenstein, who co-drafted the legislation.

The Mercer County Board of Chosen Freeholders, which awards scholarships to area high school students annually, honored its winners with introductions by Freeholders Lucylle Walker and Keith Hamilton (a Mercer alumnus). Students who won scholarship dollars through the MCCC Foundation Board were introduced by board member Diane Gerofsky and MCCC Dean of College Advancement Bill Mate.

The students and their families were pleased to talk with Congressman Rush Holt before he addressed the assembled guests.

Sisters Rachel and Renuska Papalexiou represent the many students who won scholarships from the MCCC Foundation Board, which raises funds each year through its Scholarship Dinner Dance, Golf Outing and other events. Rachel is a Business Administration major and Renuska majors in Architecture.



MCCC President Robert Rose, left, with some of the students who won full scholarships to MCCC through the NJSTARS program. At center is Assemblywoman Linda Greenstein.



You're Invited to Alumni and Friends Theatre Evening April 22

The MCCC Alumni and Friends Association hosts its annual "Alumni and Friends Theatre Evening" on Friday, April 22. Don't miss this chance to visit the Mercer campus for a memorable evening of theatre and refreshments.

The festivities begin at 6:30 p.m. with a reception in the Student Center. "Sweet Charity," presented by Pierrot Productions, begins at Kelsey Theatre at 8 p.m. Because it is the show's opening night, a "Meet the Cast" reception follows the performance.

The cost for this special evening out is just \$15 per person. Tickets are limited. Checks should be made payable to the MCCC Foundation. To make reservations, call (609) 586-4800, ext. 3607.

The Alumni & Friends Scholarship Fund

This fall the college appealed to its alumni, asking them to support the *Alumni & Friends Scholarship Fund*. With higher tuition and book costs, students who are working to support themselves often fall just short of qualifying for financial aid. Every semester hundreds of young men and women sign up for classes and then drop out because they can't make ends meet financially. These students often need just a little extra assistance so they can continue their education.

So, if Mercer helped to put you on the path to a successful career, consider giving back a little bit now. With your support this fund will grow and help more students each year. Send your donation to The MCCC Foundation, Mercer County Community College, PO Box B, Trenton, NJ 08690.



MCCC will start its second semester at ARTWORKS on Jan. 18.

Fine Arts Program Starts New Chapter at ARTWORKS

MCCC's Fine Arts program has spread its wings to the heart of Trenton. This fall, Mercer began offering credit and noncredit classes at ARTWORKS, the visual arts school and gallery operating in the city since 1988.

According to MCCC Gallery Curator Tricia Fagan, who coordinates Mercer's ARTWORKS curriculum, this exciting fine arts initiative is the result of a collaboration between the college, the city of Trenton, the Friends of ARTWORKS Board, and the Trenton Artists Workshop Association (TAWA). "Mercer welcomes this opportunity to participate in Trenton's cultural renewal and to expand our presence in our capital city. ARTWORKS is a wonderful facility and our instructors truly enjoyed their first semester there."

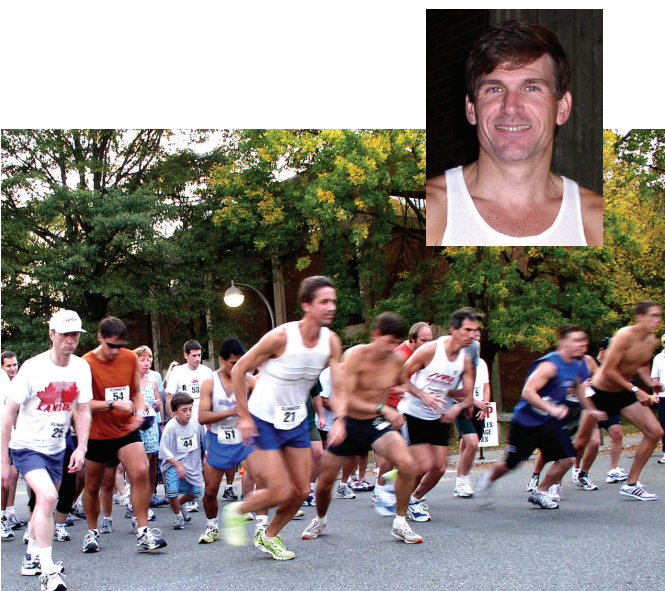
Feedback from students has been equally enthusiastic. "They're thrilled," Fagan said. "Students are getting a classic fine arts learning experience — studying directly with a master art instructor in a studio setting, with class sizes averaging around eight to twelve. It's a great opportunity, particularly for students enrolled in nontraditional degree programs, such as online degrees," Fagan said.

Instructors include both long-time faculty members at the college and members of ARTWORKS' popular teaching staff. Among them are Gail Bracegirdle, Eric Fowler, Pat Kay, Steve Kennedy, Eric Kunsman, Micheal Madigan, Paul Mordetsky, Kyle Stevenson, and Jesse Thompson.

With a successful first semester now completed, the college has expanded its course offerings from nine to 17 for the spring semester. "We are pleased with the variety and depth of the classes," Fagan said. "It's a great assortment for both beginning and established artists. There are introductory credit and noncredit classes in painting and drawing, as well as specialized classes for artists seeking to work with a new instructor or looking for a chance to experiment in a different medium."

Among the spring offerings are classes that explore mold making and resin casting, portrait and figure drawing, still life studies, creating a charm bracelet, botanical drawing, watercolor painting, gold leafing, and studio photography. Two classes will focus on the "business of art" to help artists develop presentation materials and visually document their work. Four classes are designed specifically for children and teens.

Noncredit classes begin the week of Jan. 18 and are offered for varying lengths through May, mostly in sessions of six to eight weeks. Classes are offered days and evenings during the week, and on Saturdays and Sundays. The maximum class size is twelve. ARTWORKS is located across from the DMV building on Stockton Street, just off the Market Street exit of Route 1. Free parking is next to the building.



The 2004 5K Run and Fun Fest

Runners take off as MCCC hosted its third annual 5K Run and Fun Fest on Oct. 1. Overall first place winner was Jeff Knoll of Pennington (inset), a 1984 Mercer graduate, with a time of 16:37. Proceeds will benefit student athletes.

MCCC Sports Program Wins CAANJ Cup

In recognition of overall athletic excellence for the 2003-2004 season, MCCC was named this year's winner of the Collegiate Athletic Administrators of New Jersey (CAANJ) Cup. Sponsored by the New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority, the cup is awarded annually on the basis of points accumulated.

MCCC Athletics Director John Simone accepted the award at a luncheon on Oct. 14 at the Somerset Marriott Hotel. Cups were also presented to Princeton University (Division I, II, and NAIA) and The College of New Jersey (Division III) -- an all-Mercer County sweep.

"This is the first time in the cup's seven-year history that Mercer has taken home the prize at the community college level," Simone said. "We've come close every year, but we have never won. We are thoroughly delighted and wish to thank our athletes and our dedicated, talented coaches."

Simone noted that in addition to the coaching staff's commitment to student athletes, MCCC President Robert Rose is a strong supporter of

the college's athletic teams. "We have the genuine support of our administration, which makes our job so much easier."

Among the season's highlights was an overall combined record of 109 wins, 66 losses and one tie. Women's basketball, men's soccer, women's soccer and women's tennis teams finished as the Garden State Athletic Conference champions. In national tournament play, the MCCC men's soccer team finished second and was awarded the tournament sportsmanship award. The women's tennis team advanced to the nationals for the sixth consecutive year, placing fifth, while the men's first doubles team recorded a seventh place national finish.

Among individual student athletes, four earned All American honors and 28 were named to All Region and All Conference teams. Twelve were listed among *Who's Who in American Junior College Students* and 34 second-year student athletes successfully transferred to four-year institutions after the Spring, 2004 semester.



The staff of the MCCC Physical Education Department after receiving the CAANJ Cup at an Oct. 14 awards luncheon (from left): Regina Brown, John Wagner, Simone Morrow, Athletics Director John Simone, Dean of Student and Academic Services Diane Campbell, Peggy Schaffer, and Lisa Camillone.

Business Practice Firm Gives Entrepreneur Tools for New Career



Joan Brame (left) tries out a fitness machine at her new center.

Most people with a resumé as impressive as Joan Brame's might feel they had earned a well-deserved retirement. Brame, of Lawrenceville, has a Ph.D. in sociology and an M.S.W. in social work. She was a faculty member at the School of Social Work at Rutgers University, and for 21 years served as an administrator at Trenton Psychiatric Hospital. She also served as a consultant to human services organizations.

"I loved my work, but I decided I wanted to try something completely new," Brame said. She was, in fact, considering the possibility of running her own business, but recognized that she had absolutely no business know-how.

Looking for a course that could provide a solid foundation, Brame talked with then MCCC Business Dean Jackie Sanders, who told her about the college's innovative, hands-on "International Business Practice Firm (IBPF)." And so, just weeks after retiring from Trenton Psychiatric in December, 2003, Brame found herself in a surprising place – the IBPF lab at Mercer.

According to program coordinator Carol Weber, the practice firm began at Mercer in 1998 as a way to bring the experience of running a business to life. "We offer a simulated business environment that enables students to perform a wide variety of tasks," Weber explained. Students are assigned to departments such as purchasing, accounting, personnel and marketing, and given job descriptions and responsibilities. They then transact business with other practice firms in the United States and abroad. "We emphasize the decision-making, critical thinking and team activities that are required in a real business setting," she said.

The experience was everything Brame was

looking for and more. "I was so impressed with MCCC. The resources and facilities were wonderful. Prof. Weber was a high-quality teacher. It was my only course, but very intensive. I threw myself into it and learned a tremendous amount," Brame said.

Brame also learned from her classmates. "The ethnic and age diversity in the classroom was extremely interesting and made for a great learning environment. Some students were in their 20s, others in their 40s. I won the prize for the oldest at 57," she said. In addition to her "job" as director of strategic planning, Brame also picked up important information from guest speakers and the college library.

Once she finished the course, Brame decided to combine her passion for physical fitness with her newly acquired business skills. On Sept. 18 she opened "Slim and Tone," one of a new chain of fitness clubs for women, located in the Lawrenceville Shopping Center.

The IBPF even helped her with decorating her new space. Brame developed a friendship with another student in the course, Andy Mania. An alumnus of Parsons School of Design with a B.F.A. in illustration, Mania assisted Brame with the design and décor of her club.

Nursing Faculty Member Doreen Carnvale Explores South African Health Systems

From the horrors of AIDS to the grossly understaffed rural clinics, MCCC Nursing faculty member Doreen Carnvale, MSN, saw great needs during a professional development tour of South Africa last summer. She also saw great hope for the future of this developing nation, after just ten years of democracy.

Carnvale traveled with The Institute for Johns Hopkins Nursing and a delegation of 14 educators and nurse practitioners. Visiting hospitals, clinics and orphanages, the group saw a country that is struggling to meet the health care needs of its people.

"There is violence against nurses in the workplace," Carnvale said. "There is a nursing shortage of 31% and a huge need for rural nurses. Often, trained nurses leave the country for better pay and working conditions."

Despite South Africa's huge challenges, Carnvale saw encouraging signs of hope: an orphanage whose management was determined to provide a home-like environment for its children, the hospital where Dr. Barnard performed the world's first heart transplantation, and the concerned representatives of South Africa's nursing association.

"We wanted to share successful strategies with the South Africans," Carnvale said. "We wanted to learn from each other." Roundtable discussions focused on progress, obstacles and challenges. "It was interesting to see a developing country going through the growing pains," said Carnvale. "The differences in culture are so pronounced."

An added bonus to the trip was Carnvale's three-day stay at Kruger National Park and an open-vehicle safari viewing hippos, rhinos, elephants, leopards, lions, impalas and warthogs. Outside the motel the monkeys were accused of stealing a supply of sugar.



Nursing faculty member Doreen Carnvale at an AIDS clinic near Johannesburg, South Africa, during a professional tour of the country's health facilities.

Alumnus Credits Education For Career Longevity

Ron Leven's career has been a smorgasbord of experiences. Since graduating from Mercer in 1978 with his associate degree in Data Processing, Leven has held positions in just about every area of IT imaginable.

Starting with an internship at Western Electric that earned him "real world" experience, Leven took his first job with Transamerica Delaval in Trenton as an applications programmer. After a year he accepted a better offer. He went on to hold a series of positions with increasing responsibility, including stints at McGraw-Hill, Educational Testing Service, The State of New Jersey, Legent Corporation and Computer Associates.

While managing a staff of eight at the New Jersey Department of Higher Education, Leven returned to MCCC on the other side of the desk, teaching computer science courses as an adjunct faculty member. It was Professor Mary Hayes at Mercer who suggested to Leven that he return to school for a bachelor's degree.

Married and the father of two young daughters, Leven worried that school work would take away too much family time. "Mary suggested I look at Thomas Edison State College," said Leven.

The flexibility offered by Thomas Edison State College fit perfectly into Leven's lifestyle. "I could play with my girls, read them their bedtime stories and, after they went to sleep, I'd go online and do my class work," he said. "All my credits from Mercer transferred right into my baccalaureate program. I was even able to take upper-level courses at Mercer and transfer those credits toward my degree." Leven also received credit for skills learned on the job. He graduated in 1998 with a B.A. in information systems.

Today, Leven is a systems engineer/administrator for the Sarnoff Corporation in Princeton. He highly recommends Thomas Edison State College to Mercer alums who want to continue their education. "Their programs are rigorous and very cost effective," he added. "They offer total flexibility."



Ron Leven, a 1978 Mercer graduate, transferred to Thomas Edison State College for his B.A. in information systems.

For information about admission to Thomas Edison State College, call (888) 442-8372, visit www.tesc.edu, or e-mail info@tesc.edu.

alumni

Class Notes



Portia Johnson '79 earned her AS in Nursing, but that was only the beginning. Johnson continued her education, receiving her BSN from William Paterson College in 1982 and her master's in Nursing from Hunter College, CUNY in 1992.

Most recently she earned an Ed.D. at Teachers College of Columbia University in May, 2004.

Johnson has worked at Hoffmann-La Roche Inc. for 15 years, where she is a senior drug safety services associate. Formerly, she was a research teaching specialist at UMDNJ and worked as a nurse at Passaic General Hospital and OMNA Health Care Services. She has taught courses in medical terminology, and anatomy and physiology at Gibbs College in Livingston, NJ.

"Mercer was the first step in my professional life. It was instrumental in helping me achieve my goals," Johnson said.

Lori Jacobi '80 has joined the senior management team at ReSearch Pharmaceutical Services Inc. (RPS) as vice president of clinical affairs. RPS assists pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies with the management and execution of clinical drug programs.

Jacobi brings more than 14 years of experience to RPS, having worked at G.H. Besselaar, Omnicare, and Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical Research and Development. After receiving her AAS in Medical Lab Technology from Mercer, Jacobi earned a BA in Psychology from Pepperdine University.

Keith Hamilton '82 was reelected in November to serve his fourth term on the Mercer County Board of Freeholders. He is the vice president of community relations at SERV Behavioral Health System Inc. in Ewing. Prior to joining the freeholder board nine years ago, Hamilton served for three years on the Hamilton Township Board of Education.

Michael Hennessy '88 received his AA in Liberal Arts from Mercer, transferring all 56 credits to Sonoma State University in California, where he earned his bachelor's degree. He is humanities supervisor for the Bordentown Regional School District.

Jeffrey Jacobs '00, a graduate of the Criminal Justice program, joined the Ewing police force in 2001. He was selected by his peers to receive the Ewing Kiwanis Club Police Officer of the Year Award for 2004.

Seth Thomas '00 graduated from the Montgomery County Police Academy in Maryland. While at MCCC, Thomas served as president of Mercer's Criminal Justice Club. He earned his BS from the University of Delaware in 2002.

Abigail Thomas Watrous '00 received her BS in Bioengineering at Rice University in May, 2004, and is currently pursuing graduate work in environmental engineering at Rice. She graduated from Mercer with high honors and two AS degrees – one in Chemistry and one in Math.

Idalis Sanchez '01 continued her education at Rutgers University after graduating from MCCC, earning her degree in Biology from Douglass College in May, 2004. "At Mercer I developed a work and study ethic that was absolutely essential to my success at Rutgers," Sanchez said. "My Mercer teachers helped me build confidence and motivated me to study diligently."

Sanchez notes that Mercer's small student-teacher ratio was a big help, preparing her for the far larger classes at Rutgers.

Presently, Sanchez works as a research assistant for Rutgers' Eagleton Institute of Politics.

While Sanchez' original plan was to apply to medical school, she has decided to pursue a master's in Cell and Developmental Biology at Rutgers first. Her coursework begins in January.

Sanchez has overcome many obstacles to achieve her goals. "I see my adversities as stepping stones and not as stumbling blocks. It seems like the more I go through, the harder I work," she said.

Lynn Lutwin '04, a January grad of the Nursing program, is a medical/surgical nurse at The University Medical Center at Princeton. She is pursuing her BSN through Thomas Edison State College.



Terry Parliaros '04 completed his AA in Communication in December, 2004. He visited the Mercer campus in a professional capacity during Club Day this fall as a representative of WPST Radio. Parliaros also works as a reporter/producer for ESPN radio.

ARTISTS CORNER



"Remembrance"

William Plank '77 has added another beautiful art exhibition to his resumé. A new series of 19 paintings are on display at Capital Health Systems' Mercer campus through Jan. 28. Plank, an award-winning painter whose work has been featured at the Lawrence Gallery since 1993, was included in the 2002 and 2004 Mercer County Artists exhibits. Among his numerous group and one-man shows, he has exhibited at Educational Testing Service and at libraries throughout the region.

Painting professionally is just one part of Plank's life. He has been an art teacher at Hightstown High School since 1985. His wall murals are legend at the school and he provides artistic support for the school's annual after-prom party.

Thomas Kelly '97 exhibited his artwork at the Artful Deposit Gallery in Bordentown this fall. The show, called "Against the Grain," included 17 paintings paired with 17 woodcuts, which were displayed side by side.

Kelly notes that he completed the woodcuts ten years ago when he was a Mercer Fine Arts student. Although he focused on his painting after graduation, the woodcuts "were my first love," he said. "It occurred to me that some of them would make interesting paintings."

Kelly said the project had the feel of a school assignment. "The composition was already done. The only choices left were size, color and interpretation."

In the printmaking technique, the artist works in the negative space. "It's done in relief, using a roller to transfer the ink to paper," Kelly explained. "It's one for the masses, because duplicates are so easy to make."

To see more of Kelly's work, visit: www.thomaskelly.net/gallery.htm.

"The Three Women" woodcut

"The Three Women"



MCCC Teams Dominate Region 19

Men's Soccer Wins Eighth National Championship

For the third straight year the Mercer Vikings earned the chance to play in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division I title game in men's soccer. But this year they came home with what they wanted – a national title.

After losing to Yavapai College (AZ) in 2002 and 2003, the Vikings defeated Georgia Perimeter 3-1 in this year's final on Nov. 21 in Tyler, TX. This was Head Coach Charlie Inverso's fifth national championship with the Vikings, the eighth in team history.

It was a solid win, but still forced the Vikings to come from behind after an early goal by Georgia Perimeter.

Inverso, who completed his 19th season with the Vikings, noted that his team never let down for a minute. "In a game against such a skilled opponent, we couldn't take anything for granted," he said.

Inverso was well aware that at this level teams come from behind all the time. His own Vikings did it in all three rounds of the tournament. In the quarterfinal against Schoolcraft College (Livonia, MI) on Nov. 18, Mercer came back and scored three goals in the second half, winning 5-4. In the semi-final round, the Vikings proved just as determined, defeating San Jacinto (TX) on Nov. 19, 3-2 in overtime.

Inverso noted that the championship is particularly gratifying because of this very special Vikings team. "This group of players works so well together. They all get along. It's a real soccer family," he said.

Inverso, who was named the tournament's top coach, was assisted this season by Larry Povia, John Pietrowski, Bill Daily and Pat Snyder. Defender Kevin Bailey, who was instrumental in securing the wins in the first two rounds, was named the tournament MVP. Mercer's Marcus Price and Travis



McKoy were named to the All-Tournament Team.

In their run-up to the tournament, Mercer showed no mercy in play-off action. In the Region 19 semi-final on Oct. 26, the Vikings trounced Del Tech 7-0 and then crushed Essex CC 7-1 in the final on Oct. 30. Inverso was named Coach of the Year for Region 19.

The Vikings also dominated the Northeast District Tournament in Brockton, MA. On Nov. 6 they defeated CC of Rhode Island 5-1 in the semi-final. On Nov. 7 they defeated Monroe CC (NY) 4-0 in the final. McKoy was named a first team All American and Bailey was a second team pick.

The final record for the Vikings' championship season was 20-1-1.

Top row, from left: Marius Kapxhiu, Dave Smith, Don Giovacchini, Marcus Price, Jeff Fisher, Dan Steingall; (second row) Kevin Bailey, Travis McKoy, Shay Sharaby, Tom DeStefano, Roy Sharaby, Tom Fink; (third row) Mohamed Morlaye, Jason James, Felix Martey, Darnell Smith; (fourth row) Artie Taylor, J. Brandon Dowdell, Diego Panasiti, Jose Miranda, Jose Moya; (bottom row) Pres. Robert Rose, Asst. Coaches John Pietrowski, Larry Povia, and Pat Snyder, and Head Coach Charlie Inverso. Not pictured: Felipe Faundez and Carlos Ramirez.

Women's Soccer

The women's soccer team had a great run in 2004. The Vikings recaptured the Region 19 title and advanced to the four-team Northeast District Tournament in Rhode Island Nov. 6-7. Head Coach Shelly Dearden, who completed her ninth season with the Vikings, was named Region 19 Coach of the Year.

Entering the regional tournament as the #1 seed, the women defeated Sussex CC 2-1 in the semi-final on Oct. 26, outshooting their opponents 31-11. In the regional final on Oct. 30 they defeated Ocean CC 2-0. Cassie Zulla was named the game's offensive MVP, while sophomore Danielle DiMeglio was recognized for her defensive efforts. Jennifer DiPersio was the season's high scorer with eight goals, although many players contributed to the goal total. Jessica Foley was the team's solid goalkeeper.

The Vikings hit a wall in the district tournament, falling to Monroe CC (NY) 7-1. (Monroe went on to win the national championship.) The lone Vikings goal was scored by Zulla.

Still it was an impressive season. With a record of 10-5-3, the Vikings proved themselves resilient and focused. According to Coach Dearden, the lineup changed often as the team adjusted to injuries.

Dearden notes that the team was comprised almost entirely of freshmen, which should give Mercer a strong advantage next year. Dearden was assisted this season by Cindy Astore, Krissy Bucchino and Chelsea Dixon.



Back row: Head coach Shelly Dearden, Marissa Forte, Lisa Walters, Stephanie Pinney, Sue Campbell, Jessica Foley, Shannon Bunn, Kristine Bucchino, Camille Carlucci, Cindy Astore, Lisa Alfaro; Front row: Casandra Zulla, Krystal Schnarr, Katie Scott, Jillian Moskowitz, Danielle DiMeglio, Jennifer DiPersio.



MCCC Friends Invited to Hit the Links June 16

Mark your calendars for MCCC's Fourteenth Annual Golf Classic, set for Tuesday, June 16 at Mercer Oaks Golf Club, located in West Windsor. The festive event, to be held for the second year in memory of MCCC Foundation Board member Cynthia Schaffer, raises scholarship funds for Mercer's student athletes.

Following lunch, up to 160 golfers will enjoy a round of golf on the two premier courses at Mercer Oaks. An awards reception and dinner completes the day.

The tournament is open to the public. Numerous sponsorship opportunities are available. For registration or sponsor information, contact Bill Mate, dean for college advancement, at (609) 586-4800, ext. 3601, or e-mail matew@mccc.edu.

sports

Men's Basketball

Kelly Williams, Vikings head coach since 1999, has had the same high aim each year: to win the Region 19 title. It's been a hard goal to achieve in this highly competitive region.

With five returning sophomores, four of whom are guards, the team's strength clearly rests in the back court. Co-captains Miroslaw Babiraz (pictured at left) and Craig Phillips, Reggie Kelly and Sharif High will all add to depth in the back, while forward Anthony DaBronzo, who was named a pre-season first team All American, should be a top scorer.

"It's not a bad thing to have your strength in your guards," Williams observed. "They handle the ball so much. We lost some close games last year when these guys were freshmen. We hope their experience will help us win a few more of those close games this season."

Last year the Vikings had a 16-13 record, losing in the regional semi-final to Essex CC on a three-point buzzer beater. Williams predicts that Lackawanna, last season's Region 19 champ, will be the team to beat. Del Tech and Ocean will also prove challenging.

According to Williams, the front court is still developing. "They're putting in the effort and getting better every day." The team will ask a lot from freshmen center, 6-5 Reggie Taylor, forward Blake Craft and center Tom Gutowski, as well as freshmen guards Jahrell Benson, Mantas Armonas and Clinton Barnhill. The reserve center is James Patrick, 6-6.

Williams believes that speed and reliable outside shooting will give the Vikings the edge in many games. He is also hoping that playing eight of the first 12 games at home will help. While 12 of the last 18 games are away, Williams expects the team to be on solid ground by then.

Working with Williams this year are assistant coaches Gary Williams, Mike Falco, Greg Grant and Scott Nance.

Women's Basketball

It will be a tall order for the Lady Vikes to match their 23-4 season of last year, when they won the Region 19 title. But under the leadership of co-captains Nicole Brown and Tashema Whittaker (pictured at right), they're certainly going to try.

Now in his 15th year as head coach, Mike Tenaglia notes that with only his two co-captains returning, this is one of the youngest squads he's coached at Mercer. Whittaker, a point guard, and Brown, a shooting guard, proved themselves to be fast, talented and aggressive last year, earning All Region honors. Tenaglia will demand a lot from them.

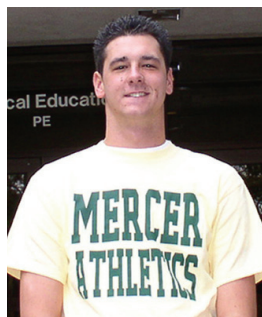
"The speed of the game is the biggest difference at the college level. The freshmen will have to mature quickly and really step up," Tenaglia said. At least in the early games, he will expect players to be flexible and prepared to move around.

While all five starters are good three-point shooters, size is another matter. "We were a lot bigger last year," he said. "We have no inside shooters this year." He predicts that rebounding is also going to be a problem. The Vikings will compensate by playing a full-court, high energy game.

Tenaglia's starting lineup includes guards Whittaker and Brown, and freshmen Randy Temple at forward, Kourtney Gibbs at center/forward and Christiana Redondo at forward. Support off the bench will come from Brandi Hayes, Leslie Maurer, Amora Dawson-White, Tochi Shilow and Kathy Prassas.

Tenaglia is assisted this season by Tameka Turner and Regina Browne.

MCCC Alum To Coach Women's Softball



Ryan Zegarski has been named the new head coach of the MCCC women's softball team. Zegarski is no stranger to Mercer's tradition of athletic excellence, having graduated from MCCC in 2001 after two years on the men's baseball team.

He completed his B.A. degree at Stockton State University, where he continued a distinguished playing career.

Zegarski, a Hamilton native, began playing baseball at the age of six. In high school he was an outfielder for Hamilton West, which made it to the state quarterfinals in his junior year and the semi-finals in his senior year.

At Mercer, Zegarski played under then Head Coach Dave Gallagher. "Gallagher was a great baseball guy," Zegarski said. "He combined the best of 'old school' fundamentals with a fresh

approach." The Vikings won Region 19 and the Northeast District his first year (1999) and competed at the NJCAA World Series. "We played at the Team USA Training Complex. There were lots of fans, pro scouts and recruiters from four-year schools. I'll never forget it," Zegarski said.

At Stockton, Zegarski continued to rack up the accolades, leading the conference in hitting during his junior year and earning a No. 20 ranking nationally. Unfortunately his team was not highly competitive, so there were many more losses than wins. "I learned that many positive things that go into college athletics besides winning," Zegarski said.

Coaching at Mercer has been a natural transition for this talented player, who accumulated years of summer work experience, first as a counselor and later as a teacher in MCCC's Camp College. His plans for the women's team will focus, at least for now, on the fundamentals. "It's the small things that win ball games," he said. After five weeks of fall practices, the players have time off to train in the MCCC Fitness Center. Spring

Women's Tennis



Back row: Head Coach Marc Vecchiolla, Siobhan Cahill, Caitlin Bagdonas, Asst. Coach Barbara Pleva and Asst. Coach Ralph Bencivengo. Middle Row: Rachel Hendrickson, Silvina Wills and Natalia Dabrowska. Front Row: Krystle Duay and Monica Nicholas.

The women's tennis team started the season strong and never looked back. For their efforts, they earned another Region 19 title and a trip to the nationals in Tucson, AZ in May. This marks the eighth consecutive championship for the Vikings. Head Coach Marc Vecchiolla was named the Region 19 Coach of the Year.

Vecchiolla was betting on this Mercer squad from the outset, noting that most of the women played in high school. "They practice hard and they all strike the ball well," he said. Despite having only one returning player, Silvina Wills, there was plenty of talent on the court.

Mercer won the Oct. 22-23 regional tournament played at Mercer County Park with 14 points, followed by Brookdale with six, Gloucester with five, and Morris with two.

The Vikings surged to a commanding lead after the first day of competition. Natalia Dabrowska and Silvina Wills won Flight 2 doubles, and Krystle Duay and Rachel Hendrickson won Flight 3 doubles. On the second day, Mercer continued its dominance, with Dabrowska winning third singles, Duay winning fourth singles, Hendrickson winning fifth singles and Siobhan Cahill winning sixth singles. Silvina Wills lost in the final of Flight 2 singles, while Caitlin Bagdonas and Siobhan Cahill lost in the first doubles final. Monica Nichols is the team's alternate at the no. 7 spot.

For the second year, Mercer posted an undefeated 10-0 record in the regular season. Even Brookdale, which Vecchiolla had predicted would be Mercer's toughest competition, fell to the Vikings during the regular season, 6-3, 6-3.

Looking to the national tournament, which will be played May 7-15, 2005, Vecchiolla is enthusiastic about the team's prospects. "After seeing what they accomplished this season, we really have a chance to be the best team in the country."

The Vikings begin indoor practices in January in preparation for the nationals. Ralph Bencivengo and Barb Pleva returned this season as assistant coaches.

practices begin in earnest in February for opening day on March 5.

Zegarski has a nice mix of seven returning players and nine newcomers. He predicts that they will improve on last year's 11-17 record. But he will also oversee a process that helps the players develop academically. "It's what the coaching staff is here for, to see progress on the field and in the classroom," Zegarski said.

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THE VIKING

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ERIN STOUT
Advertising Design
major

2005

Mercer Arts Calendar Good vs. Evil at Kelsey Theatre

Spring 2005 Schedule

Full Length Productions

The Last Five Years

Jan. 21, 22, 23, 29, 30

Nunsense

Feb. 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13

The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940

Feb. 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27

Incorruptible

March 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13

Seussical, the Musical!

April 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10

Sweet Charity

April 22, 23, 24, 29, 30; May 1

The Student Show

May 13, 14, 15

Mercer Dance Ensemble Exposed!

May 21, 22

The Unicorn, the Gorgon and the Manticore (ballet)

June 3, 4, 5

3rd Annual James Tolin Memorial Fund

AIDS Benefit

June 17, 18

Kelsey Kids Series

Jenny & The Jersey Devil

Jan. 15

Jack and The Beanstalk

Jan. 21, 22, 23

Junie B. Jones

Feb. 5

Beauty & The Beast

Feb. 19

Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile

Feb. 26

Amelia Bedelia Goes Camping & Other Books

March 5

The Big Adventures of Stuart Little

March 12

Strike up the Band!

March 19

The Truly Remarkable Puss'N Boots

April 15, 16, 17

The Musical Tale of Peter Rabbit

April 30

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

The Gallery

“Class Act,” featuring works by Jonathan Allen, Olivia Jupillat, Clint Inting and Sid Whitfield alongside their portrait by Mel Leipzig

January 17 - February 11, 2005
Opening Reception: Jan. 19, 5 to 7:30 p.m.; Gallery Talk: Feb. 2, 7 p.m.

“Mercer County Artists 2005”

February 28 - April 1, 2005
Opening Reception: March 9, 5 to 7:30 p.m.

“MCCC Visual Arts Student Exhibition 2005”

April 18 - May 13, 2005
Opening Reception: April 20, 5 to 7:30 p.m.

Academic Calendar

- JANUARY 18** Classes begin for 15-week, 7-week and 5-week sessions
- FEBRUARY 22** 10-week and second 5-week sessions begin
- MARCH 14-20** Spring Recess
- 22** Second 7-week session begins
- APRIL 5** Third 5-week session begins
- MAY 9** Classes end
- 10-13** Final exams
- 25** Honors Convocation
- 26** Commencement

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.