

2008 Commencement Student Speaker Calls Mercer "The Whole Treasure Chest"

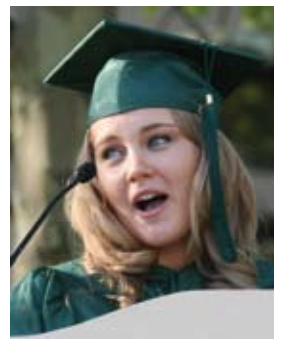


On May 22 the college celebrated the graduation of 935 students in a festive outdoor ceremony. Speaking on behalf of the student population was Television major Jennifer Leigh, who produced and directed many live and taped television productions and won several awards for her work. "When I came here I was looking for a gold coin and found the whole treasure chest," she said. Leigh will continue

her education in television production at Emerson College.

Assemblywoman Bonnie Watson Coleman, whose son was among the graduates, presented the keynote address. "Your professors have given you a toolbox," she said. "It's up to you to decide what to do with those tools. Don't ever stop learning; don't ever stop challenging yourself and asking why."

Also on May 22 the college hosted its Honors Convocation and presented 120 awards and scholarships to high-achieving graduating students, including monetary awards endowed by generous donors. In congratulating the awardees, MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue said, "You have proven the value and worth of our community college mission."



Student speaker Jennifer Leigh

Professor Alwyn Haywood Honored with the 2008 Distinguished Teaching Award



Prof. Haywood, center, with Interim Vice President Judith Redwine and Board Chair Anthony Cimino.

Professor of Communication Alwyn Haywood was presented with the 2008 Distinguished Teaching Award during Commencement ceremonies. Haywood has held a variety of administrative positions at Mercer for the past 15 years, and now teaches at both campuses. He also teaches Human Communication for Project Inside at the Garden State Correctional Facility.

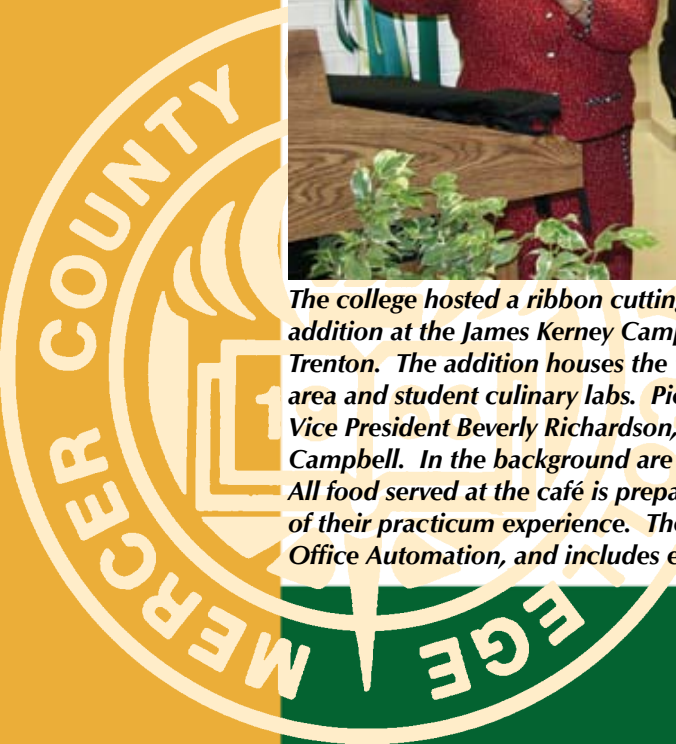
A popular personality on and off campus, Haywood is the voice of Passage Theatre on WIMG AM radio. He recently completed his second year as host of "What Might Happen," a cable television variety program he originated that airs on MCCC's Channel 26. "I created the program to give people insight into the caliber of students that we have at Mercer. I get to talk about all of the things students are engaged in."

Haywood holds a Master's of Divinity Degree from Princeton Theological Seminary and a Bachelor of Theater Arts from St. Andrews Presbyterian College.

MCCC Cuts Ribbon for Café Addition at James Kerney Campus



The college hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony on Feb. 6 to open a new 3,900-square-foot building addition at the James Kerney Campus, designed by the Spiegle Architectural Group, Inc., of Trenton. The addition houses the "Center City Café," which includes a new campus dining area and student culinary labs. Pictured, from left, are MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue, Vice President Beverly Richardson, Trenton Mayor Douglas Palmer, and Executive Dean Diane Campbell. In the background are culinary students and staff dressed in their chef's whites. All food served at the café is prepared by students of the Career Training Institute (CTI) as part of their practicum experience. The CTI provides 30-week training programs in Culinary Arts and Office Automation, and includes employability skills training and job search assistance.



SHORT TAKES



MCCC's Radiography Program -- The Image of Success

Among the May graduates of the Radiography program, from left, are Cinnamon McKinley, Lia Barnes and Jessica Morris. In 13 of the past 15 years, Mercer's Radiography graduates have achieved a 100% first-time pass rate on the American Registry in Radiologic Technologists examination. Last year's 19 graduates all passed the exam, achieving scores that exceeded the national mean. Mercer was ranked sixth among New Jersey's 17 radiography programs.

New Transfer Options With Monmouth and William Paterson Universities

Through a new transfer agreement, MCCC students who graduate with a Computer Science associate degree may now enter directly into the bachelor's degree program in Software Engineering at Monmouth University. Mercer's students must complete 64 credits.

Another new agreement, with William Paterson University, enables students who graduate from Mercer's Exercise Science program to enter the university's Physical Education program. Exercise Science, a major introduced at Mercer in 2005, prepares students for careers in exercise physiology, kinesiology, personal training, biomechanics, cardiac rehab, coaching, health and fitness, education, research, and strength conditioning for athletes.

New Biology Option For Pre-Medical Programs

Mercer has designed a new option in the Biology program for students pursuing a career in medicine or scientific research. Graduates will be prepared to transfer for further studies in medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, physician assisting, biotechnology, microbiology, molecular biology, genetic or biochemical engineering, pharmacy or physical therapy.

"Mercer provides a supportive, academically rigorous environment," said Dean of Science and Health Professions Linda Martin. "We have a proven track record of success."

For more information call (609) 570-3367 or e-mail hilkerd@mccc.edu.

New Student E-Mail and Emergency Communication Services Launched



As part of this effort, and to enhance general communications with students, every full- and part-time credit student is now provided with an e-mail account; students must register to receive their pre-assigned e-mail address by visiting the college website.

To facilitate rapid communications with students, faculty, and staff in the event of an emergency, MCCC launched a new system this spring called M-Alert. Emergency messages are delivered in several different ways: voice mails to home and cell phones, text messaging and e-mail.



New "One-Stop" Student Center to Streamline Services

Future students at Mercer will be able to register for classes, see their academic advisor, pay their bills and take advantage of numerous related services at a One-Stop Student Center, complete with computer work stations and comfortable seating. The center is part of a major construction project designed to streamline these and other student services by renovating the existing Student Center and Library buildings and adding a two-story entrance that links the two buildings.

"One of our goals is to be good stewards of the facilities we have been given," said MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue. "We need to bring these 36-year-old buildings up to current code standards." Except for the Student Center's cafeteria area, both buildings will be completely remodeled. They will have new lavatories, heating, air conditioning, information technology systems and elevators. The Student Center will get new roofing.

Approaching the campus from Hughes Drive, visitors will see the façade of the new entrance. Designed by the Spiezle Architectural Group, Inc., headquartered in Trenton, the project will add a second-floor area to the Library building, utilizing space that is now open. The college bookstore will move there, along with a variety of student service offices including a new Academic Testing Center. The renovation project will add approximately 7,000 square feet. Tormee Construction of Shrewsbury, NJ, a company specializing in school construction, begins work this summer.

"By building within the framework we already have, this project will be much less expensive than building new structures," Donohue said. "It will enable us to achieve much-needed renewal and growth. Our ultimate goal is to better serve our students."

The project is funded through Chapter 12, a 50/50 shared debt service of the State of New Jersey and Mercer County. The funds are designated for capital building projects and may not be used for college operating expenses. The college will seek donors to sponsor rooms where their donations might be recognized by naming.



Architect's rendering of new Student Center complex.

Enrollment Surges in Mercer's Virtual College

In a tech-savvy society, the sky's virtually the limit when it comes to taking courses in the most flexible ways possible. At MCCC, this trend is evident as enrollment in online and online-enhanced courses has surged by more than a third in the last few years.

According to Deborah Kell, director of The Virtual College (TVC), Mercer currently offers 60 courses, taught by close to 60 faculty members, with more than 4,500 "seats" occupied by distance learners. "Last year, 218 online classes were offered, with the majority of courses in the Liberal Arts and Business divisions," Kell said. "Most courses leading to degrees in the Humanities and Social Science or General Business can be accomplished via distance learning." Also under the distance learning umbrella are telecourses, which air on MCCC's Channel 26. Through the NJ Virtual Community College Consortium, Mercer students may also take classes offered by the state's 18 other community colleges.

Kell notes that many MCCC students opt for a hybrid or blended approach, which combines distance learning with in-person classroom instruction. "This represents the best of both worlds, allowing faculty and students to take advantage of the resources of the web and an array of distance learning technologies, yet still have

that important face-to-face contact," she said.

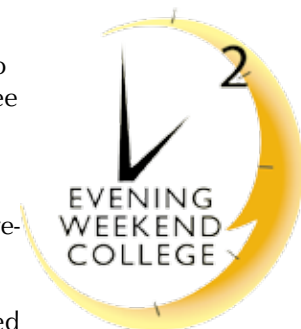
According to Michael Sullivan, TVC coordinator, Mercer's online classes were introduced in 1997 with two adjunct professors who wanted to teach English 101 and 102 online. "It just spiraled from there," he said. "All four of Mercer's divisions now offer online classes."

What's new and on the horizon? Effective this summer, online courses will be taught through a system known as ANGEL (A New Global Environment for Learning). The technology is also moving toward increasingly sophisticated interactivity with such media as Flash close-captioned video clips and the implementation of voice capabilities for oral communication and language courses.

"When I attend national conferences and see what other colleges are doing, I always come back impressed by what we have accomplished at Mercer," Kell said. For more information on Mercer's Virtual College, call (609) 570-3389 or go to www.mccc.edu/programs_tvc.

Time for Evening and Weekend College

Working adults who want to earn their degree in Business Administration or Liberal Arts can now complete their associate degree in the evening, on weekends and through online courses. Both majors are designed for transfer. Classes meet Friday evenings and Saturdays at the West Windsor Campus, and include electives as well as major requirements. For more information contact Susan Zambrio at (609) 570-3325.



Sweet Ride Around Campus for MCCC Security Officers

Ten MCCC security officers are now making their rounds on campus via bicycle. According to Security Chief John Raimondi, the MCCC Bike Patrol adds important capabilities to the existing use of security trucks and golf carts by allowing officers to respond more quickly, safely and easily in a variety of situations. Raimondi notes that bicycles are also a sound "green" alternative. Before launching the patrols, officers participated in a training session presented by the League of American Bicyclists.

The department's bikes are equipped with EMT supplies and light units. Every shift is expected to be covered by at least one cyclist in good weather. Vehicles will still be used to haul equipment, jump-start cars and transport students in an emergency.

Adds Bryon Marshall, assistant director of facilities, "This additional method of patrol will improve communications between the officers and members of the campus community we serve. The bike patrol concept is internationally recognized as promoting personal communications while improving mobility and response times."



Officer Bill Pellino, right, prepares to make his rounds. He is pictured with Security Chief John Raimondi.

Gov. Corzine On Campus For Economic Summit

MCCC's Conference Center hosted the 2008 Mercer County Economic Summit with Governor Jon Corzine on March 27. Referring to a recent report on the positive economic impact of Mercer County's colleges, Corzine observed that the county is "the envy of the world" with five educational institutions plus the Institute of Advanced Study in Princeton. "I'm optimistic about Mercer County," he said.

President Patricia Donohue participated in the summit's breakout session on "Higher Education as an Economic Driver," along with representatives from Princeton and Rider universities, The College of New Jersey and Thomas Edison State College.

The summit was hosted by the Mercer County Office of Economic Development and Sustainability and the Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce.

In Memory of Don Jones

The campus community was saddened by the sudden death of Donald Jones Jr. on June 2. A 30-year employee and an alumnus of MCCC, Jones served most recently as assistant dean for Enrollment and Student Support Services at the James Kerney Campus.

A much-loved and inspirational leader, Jones had been recognized in May for his 18 years of serving as master of ceremonies for the James Kerney Campus Celebration of Academic Achievement. Well known for his magnificent, powerful singing voice, Mr. Jones performed at the awards night each year, always eliciting appreciative cheers from the audience.

Mr. Jones earned his B.A. from the University of the Virgin Islands, and his M.A. from Trenton State College (now The College of New Jersey). According to Vice President Beverly Richardson, "He loved people, was charismatic, a team player, very intuitive, bigger than life and had incredible communication skills." Always sensitive to his peers, he was selected by them for the college's Human Relations Award in 1996.

During his career at Mercer Mr. Jones coordinated the Veteran's Affairs office, and was a student counselor and director of Enrollment and Student Affairs. As an adjunct faculty member he taught theater, math and the college's first academic readiness course. In 1990 he was the major coordinator of the highly successful Minority Opportunity Skills Training program (MOST). He founded and for many years directed the MCCC Gospel Choir. His career at MCCC began in the Maintenance Department.

A talented actor and writer as well as singer, Mr. Jones produced and wrote many plays for the Mill Hill Playhouse in Trenton, always involving MCCC students as well as community members. For eight years he organized an annual Martin Luther King Jr. tribute and celebration in Trenton that drew large crowds.

A scholarship has been established in memory of Don Jones, to be given to a Trenton student in the performing arts who demonstrates financial need. Donations may be made payable to the MCCC Foundation with a note indicating the Don Jones Memorial Fund Scholarship.

"Don was our 'Pied Piper,'" Richardson said. "His work resulted in the recruitment of multitudes of students. He was known to all of us for the content of his character."



Police Chief Lectures on "Women in Law Enforcement"

April 2008 marked the 100th anniversary of women in U.S. law enforcement. Mercer observed the milestone with a lecture by Adjunct Professor Elizabeth Bondurant, who serves as chief of police for Plainsboro Township, one of only six women statewide to hold the post of chief. Bondurant has been an adjunct faculty member at Mercer since 1996, teaching a variety of courses for the Criminal Justice program.

According to Program Coordinator Peter Horne, despite progress, there are still obstacles to women's advancement. "Stereotypical images, the brass ceiling, and sexual harassment are among the issues that unfortunately persist. Chief Bondurant is helping to pave the way. That's how stereotypes are overcome," he said. Dr. Horne is the author of *Women in Law Enforcement* (Charles C. Thomas Publisher, Second Edition).



Chief Elizabeth Bondurant with Professor Peter Horne.

President Donohue Honored by YWCA and Womanspace

The YWCA of Princeton honored MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue during the 25th anniversary of its Tribute to Women awards dinner on March 6. The Tribute program honors women who have made significant contributions to their professions and the community.

Dr. Donohue was also honored by Womanspace as honorary chair of its Barbara Boggs Sigmund Award Dinner on May 22. The Trenton area nonprofit organization provides support services for women in crisis.



December 4

Celebrate Great Beginnings

MCCC's Board of Trustees will host the college's second Annual Report to the Community on Thursday, Dec. 4. All are invited to visit the college's Conference Center, where a festive event will showcase student and alumni success and honor corporate and community partners. For more information call 609-570-3613.

Student Gets a Chance to Reach for the Stars at Apollo Theater

Music student Kelly Carvin will always remember her chance to perform on the "big stage" at Harlem's Apollo Theater, where she was embraced by a boisterous crowd on April 30 with her rendition of "Son of a Preacher Man." Carvin, a singer/songwriter who was described by the Apollo's Vanessa Rogers as a combination of Joni Mitchell, Joan Armatrading and Joss Stone, was the winner of MCCC's first-ever "Searching for the Stars" competition held at the James Kerney Campus in February and March.

Carvin reports that not only was she not booed off the stage – the painful outcome for unpopular performers – but she was invited to come back. Notes Kelly's father Tom, who attended the performance with the rest of the Carvin family, "It was a special, special night. No matter what, Kelly can always say she performed at the Apollo Theater. What the college is doing to promote music and the performing arts is great."

MCCC "Searching for the Stars" judges, including faculty who specialize in communications and theater, whittled down the contestants from 23 to 15 to 9 before naming Carvin the winner. Rogers, coordinating producer for the Apollo Theater's Amateur Night, joined the panel as a guest judge at the finale. Local personality Post Midnight served as master of ceremonies for all three evenings, enthusiastically introducing the performers, whose routines included singing, rapping and dancing. Each judge offered constructive critiques to help contestants further develop their performance skills.

Upon being selected, Carvin took the mic and said, "I am so blessed to be standing here. I will take full advantage of this opportunity." Carvin and her family received a limo ride to the theater and dinner at Harlem's Sylvia's Restaurant, the "Queen of Soul Food." Carvin is actively pursuing her career as a performer,



Master of Ceremonies Post Midnight announces Kelly Carvin as the winner of MCCC's "Searching for the Stars" competition.

appearing regularly at clubs and other venues around the region.

According to MCCC Theater Program Coordinator Jody Person, who conceived and produced the event, he and other theater and communications faculty members would like to expand the JKC Theater program. Over the years, a popular introductory class has been taught there. Person envisions bigger productions and more courses.

"This event was an exciting way to make more people aware of the opportunities that theater creates," Person said. "After many e-mails and phone calls, the Apollo agreed to invite our winning performer to display his or her talents. Both the Apollo and Trenton have rich histories and the two seemed perfectly matched. There is so much talent here."

Adding a high-tech sizzle on two of the

nights were Mercer's Entertainment Technology students, who worked lighting and sound under the direction of faculty member Bob Terrano. Also pitching in were Television students, who taped the show and interviewed contestants for Mercer's MCTV news show.

"The students did a great job operating the lighting and sound," said Diane Campbell, executive dean for Student Affairs. "Everyone worked together beautifully and there was a lot of learning going on among our students."

"Mercer is doing so much for the community by reaching out in this way," said MCCC student Zedewine Kemah, a Communication major who attended the finale. "When people have something positive like this to do, it helps keep them away from negative activity. Mercer wants all of its students to succeed. The performers were excellent."

MCCC Forms Commission Catering to Aging Population

Like the rest of the country, Mercer County's population is growing older. People are living longer and having fewer children. Taking active note of these demographics, MCCC offers continuing education classes through the Center for Continuing Studies designed for retirees and pre-retirees, such as the "Retire With Attitude" series.

In 2007 the MCCC Board of Trustees approved the establishment of an Advisory Commission on Aging. This commission is now analyzing the ways the college can best serve the senior population with plans to recommend and implement new policies and programs.

Anyone interested in participating on the commission or adding his or her voice to this process should contact Commission Chairman Jacques Lebel at ChezLebel@aol.com or (609) 218-5124. Students, faculty, alumni and friends of MCCC are all welcome to participate as the college charts a course toward greater gerontological awareness in all aspects of college operations.

New Certificate in Gerontology

Beginning this fall, MCCC's Center for Continuing Studies will offer a certificate in Gerontology for those who work with the aging population. This noncredit program was designed with the participation of Mercer's Nursing program faculty. Expected participants include nurses, social workers, psychologists, counselors, nursing home administrators, members of the clergy and personal caregivers.

The certificate consists of six required courses, two electives and a final project. The courses can also be taken on an individual basis. Topics include the process of aging, aging and society, the adult lifespan, nutrition, exercise, spirituality, wellness, dealing with functional loss and change, memory loss and cognitive impairment. Among the electives are addiction and substance abuse in the aged, case management and navigating the healthcare system, counseling strategies, pharmacologic issues, senior housing options, family care giving, public policy, and the societal impact of aging. The capstone project will be based on students' professional work environment and needs, and undertaken under the direction of a faculty advisor.

Banquet Celebrates Student Life



Many of Mercer's most active students and the staff who mentor them gathered at Cedar Gardens restaurant in Hamilton on May 9 to celebrate a year of growth and achievement, and to thank each other for their significant contributions to student life.

Pictured are members of the 2007-08 Student Government Association Executive Board, from left, President-Elect Alyssa Ingling, Juan Sebastian Ramos, Lemaiyan Naicianu, Patrick Reoka and President Elizabeth Stinson, who will serve as SGA treasurer next year. Other banquet highlights included the selection of the Criminal Justice Club as Club of the Year and Theater Program Coordinator Jody Person as Advisor of the Year.

Students Awarded for Achievement at the James Kerney Campus

On May 13 at Trenton's War Memorial building, Mercer's James Kerney Campus hosted an enthusiastic audience for its Celebration of Academic Achievement. County Executive Brian Hughes gave opening remarks, and three successful students spoke about how MCCC changed their lives. The honorees included 270 students who completed credit and noncredit programs: 58 degree graduates, 54 Career Training Institute graduates, 76 GED graduates and 82 English Language Institute graduates.



At the James Kerney Campus Awards celebration, MCCC Career Counselor Linda Ertingu, left, talks with graduates Angel Lugo, an Architecture major, and Alfreda Bradsbery, a Social Service major. Lugo will transfer to NJIT to continue his studies in Architecture. Bradsbery, whose path to a degree was interrupted several times by life events, said that discipline, devotion and dedication were among the most important lessons she has learned.

All-Star Students Honored For Academic Excellence



MCCC's 2008 Phi Theta Kappa All-State Academic Team includes Lynn Rowlands, left, and Onessa Freasier. Both students were honored for academic excellence and community service at a luncheon hosted by the New Jersey Council of County Colleges on May 1, along with student representatives from New Jersey's other community colleges. PTK is the international honor society for two-year colleges. Rowlands, a Business major who has earned four degrees at Mercer over the past ten years, served an unprecedented five terms as president of Mercer's PTK chapter, which reached "five-star" status this year, a level not reached since 1999. Freasier was PTK's vice president for fellowship, assisting Rowlands with special events at the college and in the community. A Fine Arts major, Freasier also served as president of MCCC's Visual Arts Alliance.

IT Student Wins National Award

Rodney Hargis, a non-traditional student who has overcome significant challenges on his way to achievement, won the Terry O'Banion Student Technology Award, receiving \$5,000 and a variety of software products. Hargis, who has worked part-time for Mercer's Virtual College since May of 2007, was nominated for the award by Virtual College Director and Associate Professor Debbie Kell. The competition is sponsored by the League for Innovation in the Community College and Microsoft Corporation.

"Rodney has been a pivotal player during a transition in the college's learning management systems," Kell said. "He has developed and delivered faculty training and has excelled academically. An articulate, well-organized and witty speaker and trainer, Hargis is often requested by faculty members seeking assistance."

Raised in rural North Carolina, Hargis learned BASIC and Pascal programming in high school. While poverty prevented him from pursuing higher education, he found employment at a micrographics lab, where he learned to write software applications and gained skills in programming, networking and web design.

A series of personal tragedies derailed Hargis' educational and professional progress. Finally, with the help of financial aid programs,

Hargis enrolled at MCCC in Spring 2007. According to Kell, "Rodney has demonstrated a passion for learning, a hunger to succeed, superior technical skills and a gift for helping others." Thus far, he has earned a GPA of 3.86 and has received an achievement award from the Business Division. After graduation Hargis plans to attend Drexel University to earn a bachelor's degree in Computer Science.



Associate Professor Debbie Kell, director of MCCC's Virtual College, with awardee Rodney Hargis.



PASS Program Students Recognized

Mercer's Programs for Academic Services and Success (PASS) celebrated student achievement at a dinner reception on May 2. Honorees included students who attained President's List status, Dean's List status, or a 3.0 or higher GPA. Pictured are many of the 26 PASS students who graduated this year, along with Executive Dean Diane Campbell, second from left, and President Patricia Donohue at right.

Honors Program Poetry Workshop: An InterGenerational Experience

Students in MCCC's Honors English class recited and discussed poems from the 16th to the 21st century with senior citizens at the Lawrence branch of the Mercer County Library on April 29. Pictured, from left, are students Bryan Weber, Nisha Rattan, Mackenzie Kimmel, Laura Christiansen, Jonathan Harmon, Tiffany Davis, Katie Johnson, Adrienne Gibbons, Jeremy Rosenberg, Anneliese Blommestein and Grace Solak, with Professor Fran Davidson.

Professor Davidson notes that these high-achieving students understand the importance of giving back. "They have a real sense of sharing what they have learned," she said. MCCC's Honors Program, coordinated by faculty member Carol Bork, offers an enriched college experience for highly motivated, intellectually curious, academically exceptional students. Two of the students who participated in the poetry reading, Kimmel and Christiansen, graduated this spring and were selected for Mercer's first Honors Program Award. Christiansen received a \$35,000 scholarship to attend Mt. Holyoke College, while Kimmel will attend Rutgers.



Mentors Build Skills While Helping Others Succeed



Mercer's innovative DREAM program, which offers a college experience for students with cognitive disabilities, has attracted a small group of caring student mentors with a lot to give. Offering a listening ear and a helping hand, most mentors are Social Service and Education majors who see their mentoring as good

Mentor Mabel Duran Sanchez, left, with DREAM student Mykeya Jones.

job preparation; others are gaining valuable life experience. All are learning in unexpected ways.

The students in DREAM, which began as a pilot program in 2006, enjoy a college experience based on their own unique interests and abilities. Success is measured by the achievement of personal goals.

A mentor since the program's inception, Johanna Mayer plans a career in special education. She enjoys helping DREAM students feel comfortable with their college experience. "I take notes for them. I see what they need and offer help. I try to show them how to do it themselves rather than doing it for them."

For Merle Barge, an Education major, being a DREAM mentor has expanded her career possibilities. "I hadn't thought I was interested in special education until now," she said. Throughout the spring semester Barge assisted in a career preparation class and helped a student with his art class. "I made sure that he understood

the instructions, and helped if he had any questions on the assignments." Barge said she plans to remain a mentor for the coming year.

According to Sue Onaitis, DREAM program coordinator, "We try to match mentors and students by major, interests and personalities. For mentors it is an opportunity to develop leadership skills and gain career experience. They are learning a lot about themselves, and are an invaluable part of the program."

Serving as a DREAM mentor for the past two years has been good job preparation for Social Science major Josh Stanlaw. "I've worked with three students so far, but I know everybody in the program. I enjoy knowing that I can help."

For Mabel Duran-Sanchez, an international student from Venezuela majoring in Liberal Arts, serving as a mentor opened her eyes to people who are a little different. "I was kind of scared in the beginning because I didn't know how to handle the students. We have a lot in common. They are people just like us. It is important not just for the mentors but for all Mercer students to learn about this program."

Mercer Alum/Faculty Member Earns First Prize in Mercer County Art Show



"Study for Suitcase and Atoms" by Lucas Kelly

The winner of this year's Mercer County Artists 2008 Exhibit is identified with the college in two special ways: he is a Mercer alum ('97) and a Mercer faculty member. Lucas Kelly's watercolor, "Study for Suitcase and Atoms," was selected for the Best in Show Utrecht Award by guest curator Cicely Cottingham from Aljira Gallery and Design in Newark. Appearing at the Gallery in March, the exhibit featured 64 works by 48 artists who live, work or study in Mercer County.

According to Kelly, the inspiration for "Suitcase and Atoms," an abstract watercolor with graphite on paper, comes from two sources: the nuclear bomb-building Manhattan Project and a song by the indie rock band Elliot, popular in the late 1990s. "Recently my work has revolved around abstracting images and ideas pertaining to disaster," Kelly explained. "'Why' is always the bigger question. I think that if we figure out the why, then it's pointless to continue the project. It's the figuring out that keeps it interesting. Maybe my hope is to rearrange the notion of devastation into what one might call a beautiful disaster."

In addition to creating art, Kelly is completing his first year as a full-time faculty member at Mercer, teaching art and art history. An MCCC Fine Arts student from 1995-97, he has returned to campus with great enthusiasm. Upon hearing of the opening in the Fine Arts division, he packed his bags and returned to central New Jersey from New York City with hopes of securing the post. "I love it here," Kelly said. "I wanted to teach at MCCC specifically. I gained so much as a student that I really wanted to give back. It's a good thing I got the job!"

Kelly earned his bachelor's degree from the Maryland Institute College of Art and his

master's from the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University. He also spent a year at the Center for Art and Culture in France. His work has been exhibited in various locations domestically and internationally, including New York City, Seattle, WA, and Cologne, Germany.



Lucas Kelly



Students and Faculty Collaborate on "Garden State Project"

Pictured with their work "Remix" are, from left, Jarrett Courtney, Asst. Prof. of Fine Arts Mark Stockton, Theo Leung and Ryan Lawyer. The 16-panel painting depicts a psycho, a politician, a revolutionary and a sex symbol. According to Stockton, the Garden State Project is an outside-the-classroom and outside-the-box annual project that brings students and faculty together to collaborate on artistic creations. The exhibit was on display in the Communications Building in April during the college's Visual Arts Student Show, which included 170 paintings, photographs, drawings, prints, sculptures, and more.

Gala Event Raises Scholarship Dollars

Mercer's 2008 Scholarship Dinner Dance at the Hyatt Regency Princeton drew nearly 400 supporters on March 8. The festive evening raised scholarship dollars for students who

otherwise might not have the opportunity for a college education. Last year the MCCC Foundation awarded \$170,000 in scholarships to 235 high-achieving and financially qualified stu-

dents, including part-time students and single parents. An additional 107 students benefited from endowed or named scholarships established by donors through the Foundation.



The college honored five members of the Foundation Board who have given years of volunteer time and expertise to help students achieve their goals. Presented with the "Spirit of Education Awards" were, from left, Jim Floyd, Nominating Committee Chair; Karen Kennedy, Scholarship Committee Chair; Tom Kull, Finance Committee Chair; Marjorie Blaxill, Vice Chair; and Timothy Losch, Chair.



Enjoying the evening, from left, are faculty member Lisa Dunn, Interim Coordinator of Nursing Donna Penn, Nursing students Angela Griggs, Elaine Lennon and Catherine Traylor, and faculty member Karen Ruffin.

Bright Day Dawns for Daylight/Twilight School

MCCC was among the partners in a massive, three-year project to open a new Daylight/Twilight High School in Trenton, which came to fruition at a ribbon-cutting on June 12. The top two floors of the impressive five-story building will house the college's Career Training Institute and Talent Search programs.

Located just a half block away from Mercer's James Kerney Campus (JKC), the Daylight/Twilight High School is Trenton's first new school since Trenton Central High School was constructed in 1929. The school gives a second chance to those who left school for a variety of reasons and now wish to return. It marks "a fresh start in a new environment, an opportunity to succeed in life, a place to be motivated to stay in school and stay off the streets," said Tierra Field, a junior who participated in the ceremony and will be a student there this fall.

The idea for the project began eight years ago, when Dr. Beverly Richardson, MCCC's vice president and long-time provost of the James Kerney Campus, talked with then superintendent James Lytle. "We conceived the idea of building a partnership between the college and the Daylight/Twilight program," Richardson said. At that time the program was operating at several schools throughout the city. "What an ideal situation to be able to make a smooth transition from high school to college right in the same neighborhood."

Over the years MCCC has been very successful in helping alternative high school students make the transition to college. Now, being housed in the same building, the college's Talent Search program will have even greater access to students. "Through Talent Search," Richardson said, "we can help more students with counseling services, career guidance and college applications in general – and Mercer specifically." For students who do not plan to attend college, Mercer's Career Training Institute (CTI), also housed in the new building, will offer a fast-track program in culinary and office technology professions.

In addition to its proximity to JKC, the new high school is located one block from the Trenton Public Library on Academy Street and

across the street from the Trenton YWCA. "For a long time we have been working to create an educational campus environment in this neighborhood," Richardson said. The school houses: classrooms; a culinary training kitchen; a library; state-of-the-art computer, science and engineering labs; a television studio; cosmetology training center; graphic arts classrooms; and daycare center.

In addition to MCCC, the Daylight/Twilight partnership includes the City of Trenton, the Trenton Board of Education, Trenton Public Schools, the New Jersey Schools Development Authority, Mercer County Administration, and Mercer County Improvement Authority. Commented MCCC President Patricia Donohue, "This was a dream come true for a number of administrators and teachers, some who are with us today. We remain committed to this partnership, and to creating opportunities for these students to fulfill their dreams of a college education."



Cutting the ribbon are, from left, MCCC President Patricia Donohue, Trenton Mayor Douglas Palmer, MCCC Board Vice Chairman Rev. William Coleman, Trenton Schools Superintendent Rodney Loftin, and MCCC Executive Dean for Student Affairs Diane Campbell, also president of the Trenton Board of Education.

MCCC's Classical Network Receives \$100,000 Grant

The Sunup Foundation of the Princeton area has presented a legacy donation of \$100,000 to MCCC's WWFM The Classical Network. This is the network's largest donation ever, to be used for "capacity building," says General Manager Peter Fretwell. "We will be adding resources and reaching out to the community."

In donating the grant, the foundation's principals said, "The station adds so much joy to our daily lives that we want to make sure this wonderful music remains accessible to everyone." The donors, who wish to remain anonymous, have requested that the grant be used for purposes that go beyond the network's operating expenses, which are partially funded through member donations.

WWFM The Classical Network is licensed to MCCC and its main studios are located on the college's West Windsor Campus. New Jersey's only network providing classical music programming 24 hours a day, WWFM began broadcasting in 1982 and serves New Jersey,

eastern Pennsylvania, and portions of Delaware and Maryland. It offers simulcast programming via satellite to portions of Colorado.

WWFM relies on diverse sources of funding for its operating budget, with the largest source of income generated through annual support from its listener-members. For more information visit www.wwfm.org or call 1-800-622-9936.

WWFM is Media Sponsor For "Princeton 1793"

WWFM The Classical Network is serving as the official media sponsor for the year-long celebration that commemorates the 225th anniversary of Princeton's brief role as the nation's capital. An array of history and art exhibitions, musical performances and historic re-enactments are scheduled. For more information visit www.revolutionaryprinceton.org.

ALUMNI FEATURES

High-Energy Career at PSE&G for Three-Time Mercer Grad

When it comes to energy technology, MCCC alumnus Mackington Joseph can speak volumes about ways to improve services for New Jersey's customers. As an engineering technician at Public Service Electric & Gas (PSE&G) in Moorestown, he is knowledgeable about all technical facets of the company's business.

Energy is a matter that is close to Joseph's heart. In his native Haiti, many live without daily electricity due to the country's insufficient means of electric distribution. "I want to learn all that I can to one day help tackle issues in my country, which has only one hydropower plant," said Joseph, who earned three degrees at Mercer (A.A.S. in Electronics Engineering Technology in 2005, A.A.S. in Energy Utility Technology in 2006 and A.S. in Mathematics in 2007). He arrived in the United States in 2000, having already earned a bachelor's degree in Economics from the Law and Economics University of Haiti.

Joseph's smooth transition from Mercer to the workforce was the result of his participation in MCCC's Energy Utility Technology program, developed in partnership with PSE&G to bolster the company's skilled workforce. Joseph was the first

graduate of the program, which has proven so successful that PSE&G has expanded it to three other New Jersey community colleges.

"Mercer definitely prepared me for my career path," Joseph said. "My supervisors mention MCCC constantly. It is not surprising to see the increasing number of Mercer graduates hired by PSE&G. The innovative courses, laboratory experiments and close interaction between instructors and students make it top-rate." According to Joseph, his instructors were truly there for students. Program Coordinator Dominick DeFino helped him with career moves, and Joseph still visits with him and other faculty regularly.

In addition to working full time, Joseph has remained fully committed to furthering his education post-Mercer. He earned his B.S. in Electronics Engineering Technology from Thomas Edison State College in December, 2007, and is currently enrolled in TESC's master's program in the science of management. Eventually he plans to complete a doctorate in Applied Management and Decision Sciences - Leadership and Organizational Change. Joseph is also an adjunct instructor at MCCC, teaching courses in electronics.



Mackington Joseph ('05, '06, '07)

And now, with teaching experience at Mercer added to his resume, PSE&G recently expanded his role at the company. This spring, Joseph was promoted to training and development specialist. In this capacity, he will teach all apprentice engineering technicians throughout the company the basic principles of alternating current (AC) and direct current (DC) operations, safety troubleshooting and other processes.

According to Joseph, Mercer set a broad academic foundation for him. "I am proud to say that I am from MCCC. I have a great career and I see a bright future because of my educational experience here."



Mercer Alum from Israel Advances in Business World

For Shahar Karni of Tel Aviv, Israel, MCCC was an "amazing experience both academically and socially." Karni was recruited to play basketball for the Mercer Vikings in 1997, his first time in America.

"It was a challenge to assimilate into a new culture and learn the nuances of English on a scholarly level," admitted Karni, who was a shooting guard on the basketball team. He said supportive, helpful staff members in the Athletics Department and the International Student Services Office eased his transition. He also enjoyed the camaraderie of employees in

Shahar Karni ('99) and his wife Samantha

the campus cafeteria, where he worked to help pay his way through school. A high point for Karni was being part of the MCCC team that captured the Region 19 title and traveled to the NJCAA National Tournament in Danville, IL, in 1998. The team finished eighth nationally.

Graduating from MCCC in 1999 with an associate degree in Business with highest honors, Karni was well on his way in America. He transferred to Green Mountain College in Vermont, graduating with a bachelor's degree in Business Economics in 2001, then going on to Clarkson University, earning an M.B.A. in 2002.

Returning to Tel Aviv, he landed a position as an economist at Bezeq Communications, the Israeli national telecommunications company, and later became a senior economist there. When other opportunities beckoned, he moved on to Ernst & Young, the second largest accounting firm in the world, to serve as a senior analyst in Tel Aviv's Transfer Pricing division, which is a part of the International Tax

Services Department.

"I am learning so much about the business world," Karni said. "With an increasingly global economy, businesses need transfer pricing analysis and extensive research to execute their business plans. That's where my division comes in. I enjoy meeting interesting people from different industries and businesses."

Karni notes that his five years in America have given him a competitive advantage in Israel due to his strong English skills and his multi-cultural perspective. His time here also proved immensely satisfying on a personal level. Karni met his wife, Samantha, through Myra Epstein, who was coordinator of MCCC's International Student Services Office during his time here. Their first child, Arielle, was born in May, and Karni has pledged to instill the same love of education and cultural awareness in their child that he has experienced. "Mercer will be one of the first stops we make when we come back to America. It has definitely made a lasting impression," he said.

Alumna Builds Career in Medical Copy Editing



Cathy Magnolo ('75)

Although Cathy Magnolo had not decided on a career path when she enrolled at MCCC in 1973, she realized that building a solid academic foundation was essential for any profession.

A resident of Hamilton Square at the time, Magnolo chose Mercer for its convenience and affordability. She excelled in English and humanities courses, sharpening both her grammar and writing skills, and graduated with an associate

degree in Liberal Arts. Today she is a medical copy editor at Publicis Managed Markets, a healthcare communications group located in Bridgewater. Magnolo's responsibilities include proofreading, copyediting, and fact-checking medical documentation and promotional materials for various pharmaceutical clients.

"I enjoy taking written material and 'fixing it,'" Magnolo said. "I especially like working with medical documentation because of the educational challenge presented and the knowledge that I can take away."

After college, Magnolo put her career aspirations on hold to be a stay-at-home mom. Entering the workforce in the early '80s, she applied to a local computer software company in need of someone with strong grammar skills

and a good eye for details. As an associate editor, she proved well-suited to her job proofreading and copyediting financial and technical documents for various newsletters and medical journals.

According to Magnolo, Mercer gave her everything she needed by opening doors to various career choices. "Just about all my professors had a positive impact on me. I could go on and on about my experience at Mercer," said Magnolo. "It truly enlightened me in many ways."

For more alumni features, visit www.mccc.edu/success-stories

Mercer Alumna Makes Big Mark on Small Screen



Elizabeth Bakos ('80)

When MCCC launched its Telecommunications program in 1978 (renamed Radio/Television), Elizabeth Bakos, a graduate of Notre Dame High School in Lawrenceville, could not have been more thrilled. According to Bakos, the thrill has never worn off, as she continues to enjoy career success in a field

she loves. In her current post with Fox Sports, a station she joined in 2005, she is production coordinator for Turner Studio Field Operations. The fact that she is an avid sports fan makes her job that much sweeter.

In her multifaceted position, Bakos coordinates remote truck engineers for numerous events, ordering equipment and serving as a liaison for clients by responding to their remote broadcast needs. "I get to meet a lot of producers and directors for sporting events. They are so detail-oriented and creative," she said. Events include professional baseball, basketball and hockey games, NASCAR races, concerts and other entertainment events; she interfaces with colleagues at TNT, TBS, NBC and CNN.

"A lot of our broadcasts are live and there are deadlines that must be met," she explained. "It's amazing to see how fast paced and hectic it is to call a live sporting event. I am always learning something new about production and broadcasting since technology constantly changes. An added treat is being able to meet a number of current and former athletes." Among them are Ron Gant of the Atlanta Braves, Ozzie Smith of the St. Louis Cardinals, Ken Stabler of NFL fame, and Buddy Ryan, former Philadelphia Eagles coach.

Bakos' start in the television field was a direct result of her Mercer internship at KYW-TV in Philadelphia. Following graduation from Mercer in 1980, she was offered a job as a program assistant at the station. Four years later, she was on her way to Atlanta to become a program assistant for SuperStation TBS at its headquarters. By 1990 she was promoted to unit manager for CNN Sports, TBS's groundbreaking news network.

"Mercer was the perfect educational tool I needed to enter into the communications field," Bakos said. "The classes were diverse and covered all aspects of broadcasting." She fondly remembers her MCCC professors. "They really took an interest in their students and always had time for us. They enjoyed being in radio and television; it came across in the way they taught. It was a wonderful experience both educationally and socially. I met and became friends with fellow students, some of whom I'm still friends with today."

She advises students to make full use of internship experiences. "Your internship is the first thing you will put on your resume that is directly related to the field you are studying and wish to pursue. Learn as much as you can. Introduce yourself to everyone, including upper management. The person you ride the elevator with could be the same person to hire you."



In the kitchen: Culinology grad Meredith Bishop with Program Coordinator Doug Fee

First Culinology™ Grad Savors Mercer Experience

"I'm a food person," says Meredith Bishop, who completed certificates in Professional Cooking and Professional Baking in 2007 and has earned her certification as a culinologist through the Research Chefs Association (RCA). Bishop is the first to complete the coursework in this new Mercer program, which combines culinary arts and food science in a partnership with Rutgers University.

Bishop did not proceed along the program's established path. She was already an accomplished food scientist when she started at Mercer in 2000. Having earned her bachelor's degree in Food and Nutrition from Montclair State University in the 1980s, she spent years in the field, first as a lab technician at a flavor company and then in increasingly challenging positions with an ingredient company and a major food manufacturer. Currently Bishop is a senior applications scientist with a flavor and fragrance company in North Jersey, the fourth largest such company in the world.

Despite her demanding work schedule, Bishop decided that culinary classes at Mercer would be fun. After enrolling in Food Prep I, she was hooked. "I saw the value of how this would help me as a food scientist," she recalled. She spent the next seven years taking a class at night each semester, while also volunteering with the MCCC Hospitality Club. She used vacation time, holidays, and weekends.

Her culinary skills are clearly useful on the job. Working with flavorings created in the lab, "I prepare and taste all day," she said. "All the pieces have to fit together. As a scientist involved in product development, I must consider the rigors of manufacturing, along with health and safety aspects. But as a chef, I must develop food products that are appealing to the eyes and nose. Culinology blends both fields."

"The people at Mercer were great. The courses were fun and interesting. When you

are a food person, any contact with food is fun. I wish I had more vacation time to devote here, as a volunteer or instructor," Bishop said.

As a certified culinologist, Bishop must keep current in the changing field by attending continuing education classes and doing outreach activities. She reports that current trends in the field are good news for the consumer. "The food industry is moving towards healthier, less processed and organic foods. The newest 'it' ingredients are pomegranates and green tea. Food science can play a huge part in health and wellness."

According to Chef Doug Fee, coordinator of MCCC's Hospitality programs, culinology is a trademark name created by the RCA, which has approved MCCC's program. Students combine courses in basic science with classes in cooking, baking and food safety in Mercer's state-of-the-art Culinary Center. Upon earning 66 credits at Mercer, students then transfer directly to Rutgers University to pursue their bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Food Science and earn their RCA certification.

Fee reports that the program has been enthusiastically embraced by more than 30 students since it began in the fall of 2007. "Some students pursuing this track are coming right from high school, while others are already enrolled in a hospitality program and are intrigued by combining the two disciplines. They recognize the outstanding employment prospects for chefs with this type of knowledge base. MCCC is now known nationally because of this program and our affiliation with the RCA. We offer workshops to teach culinary arts to food scientists and teach food science to chefs," Fee said.

Bishop for one has added to her resume personally as well as professionally. With an enduring passion for baking, she credits MCCC adjunct instructor, Chef Anne Lumberger, with helping her to enhance her skills as a baker. "I still use Anne's pie crust recipe," she said.

Education Alumni Share Their Experience with Current Students

Seven MCCC Education alumni reflected on their experiences in teaching and offered advice and insight to current students during a workshop sponsored by the Future Teachers Club. Pictured are, back row, left to right: Club President Victoria Echeverri with alumni Amy Brechtel '06, Sherry Anderson '07, Brittany Bennett '07, Elaine Harland '05, Theresa Mizenko '89, and Dan Feingold '05. Seated, left to right, are Education program faculty members Dr. Marianne Reynolds and Elizabeth DeGiorgio.



Men's Tennis

With a 10-0 record by mid-April, it was clear that the men's tennis team was going places this year – as far, in fact, as the national tournament in Plano, Texas. Under new Head Coach Marc Vecchiolla, who has coached MCCC women's tennis for 11 seasons, the men proved dominant, winning match after match by large margins. By the end of the regular season, this talented, focused squad had tallied a 12-2 record and headed for the Region 19 Tournament, held April 25-27 at Mercer County Park, hoping to take the crown.

Anchored by co-captain Marc Nichols at the no. 1 position, the entire team came through. By day two of the tournament, Mercer dominated the action, as all six singles players and two of three doubles teams advanced to the finals. The Vikings won five of their eight final matches, including victories by Nichols, co-captain Ozcan Dalgic at no. 3, and Jason Bielski at no. 5. In doubles action, Drew Holsman and Nichols teamed for a win at no. 1, while Bielski and Luis Gutierrez won at no. 2. The singles roster also included Gutierrez at no. 2, Holsman at no. 4, Joon Lee at no. 6, Ken Newman at no. 7 and Daisuke Katsumata at no. 8.

The trip to the NJCAA Championship Tournament in Plano, TX, May 10-16 was a high point for all of Mercer's players, but only Nichols at no. 1 singles came home with a trophy. (See story below.) The Vikings got off to a solid start in the first round, with Nichols, Dalgic, Bielski and Lee winning their singles matches, and Dalgic and Newman winning at no. 3 doubles. Dalgic, Bielski and Lee advanced to the semifinals before being defeated, and the Vikings collected 16 points for a fifth place finish out of 11 teams.

Vecchiolla is proud of his players' achievements, particularly at the nationals. He notes that coaching the no. 1 singles player in the country was thrilling, and he credits Nichols with raising the bar for the entire team. He also describes the unusual experience of coaching Ken Newman, a 70-year-old returning student, recalling the poignant moment after Newman and Dalgic won their quarterfinal match. "Ken came off the court with tears in his eyes knowing he had earned two points for the team. He was very passionate about the experience and that meant so much to the guys," Vecchiolla said. "We were lucky to have a well-balanced yet diverse team." In addition to Nichols, he points to Dalgic and Holsman as team leaders.

While the Vikings will lose Nichols, several freshmen are expected to remain on the roster, including Gutierrez, Bielski, Lee and Katsumata.

MCCC Tennis Player Earns No. 1 Title at Nationals



All-American Marc Nichols, right, with Tournament Director Rex Parcells.

Marc Nichols has found his direction - and earned a national title in tennis - during his highly productive time at Mercer. His victory at no. 1 singles in the NJCAA Div. III Tennis Tournament in Plano, TX, on May 15 marks the first time ever that a Mercer tennis player has reached the pinnacle of the sport.

With a season record of 19-1, Nichols has no regrets, noting that his one loss earlier in the season came against Ross Armstrong of Montgomery College in Rockville, MD, the player he ended up facing in the semi-final round at the nationals. "In the big picture, the loss actually helped," Nichols said. "It gave me the motivation to win."

And win he did. Going into the tournament unseeded, he had a tough road to the final. In the quarterfinal match, he faced the no. 3 seed from Rock Valley, a player he beat handily 6-3, 6-1. As Nichols predicted, the semifinal contest against Armstrong proved to be the true test. After losing the first set 6-1, he took a brief break to mentally regroup. Nichols' coach, MCCC's Marc Vecchiolla, counseled him to outplay his opponent, not overpower him. The second set was a completely different story, as Nichols started getting more of his first serves in and rallies went to 30 strokes or more. The second set lasted 100 minutes. "It was my hardest 6-1 victory ever," he said.

Nichols recalls a sweet moment after winning that set. Looking up at the hill next to the court, he saw that he had company - lots of it. "Players from every team were watching. People were cheering for each point. It's a high. And I remember thinking, 'I've got this match.'" After a rain delay, the scoring process changed to a 10-point system, with Nichols taking the set 10-4.

In the final, Nichols easily defeated Haris Redzematovic from Kingsborough Community College (NY) 6-2, 6-1. "I was nervous when I started and was down 2-0 in the first set. But I had a game plan. I used my slice and I hunted down every ball. I won the next six games." The first set lasted 35 minutes, but by the second set, Nichols' opponent had given up and it was all over in 10 minutes.

Nichols admits that when he came to Mercer two years ago, he wasn't focused - either on academics or tennis. After taking a year off, he returned to campus in the fall of 2007 with definite goals - and he met every one. Originally majoring in Computer Science, he is now set on being a teacher and coaching tennis at the college level. He plans to transfer to Grand Canyon University.

Nichols has "tons of gratitude to Mercer for making this possible," he said. "Stan Dlugosz (Nichols' first coach, who retired in 2007) did a lot to get me eligible two years ago. When Coach Vecchiolla approached me to play this year, it sounded like a good idea. He saw my potential as a player and a person. The assistant coaches also encouraged me to be a leader, to be in it not just for myself, but for the team."

Men's Basketball

The Mercer men's basketball team had a mix of highs and lows this season – a win followed by a loss, another win followed by another loss. In the end the team posted a 16-13 record. "We had the characteristics of a young team," said Head Coach Kelly Williams, who completed his ninth season with the Vikings. Forward Irvin Johnson was the team's lone returning starter.

The Vikings came on strong in the last two games of the regular season with back-to-back wins against the County College of Morris, which earned them the no. 2 seed in the Region 19 Tournament. But the team was unable to sustain its momentum, losing to Essex County College 95-80 in the semi-final round on Feb. 29. Mercer had beaten Essex in both regular season match-ups, so the loss was especially disappointing.

Still, Williams credits his players with remaining focused and motivated. "The team stayed strong in its will to compete. They also stayed focused on academics. Our number one goal every year is to insure that all players remain eligible for both semesters by instilling the concept of the student-athlete and we accomplished that. I am very proud of the players' achievements in the classroom," Williams said.

Johnson, who served as team captain during both his years at Mercer, was a true team leader, according to Williams. He proved a significant force on the court, scoring an average of 12 points per game. The Vikings were also bolstered by transfer student Pedro Burgos, a shooting guard who averaged 16 points per game. Other key contributors were freshmen Joshua Caver, Mark Dickerson, Josh Merington, Stephen Perry, Eric Preston, Antoine Rogers and Derek Williams, as well as sophomore Alat-Eldin Ahmed. Burgos was selected to the All-Region 19 first team and Johnson was chosen for the second team. Both players were selected to the All-Garden State Athletic Conference first team.

Williams enjoyed a sweet moment on Jan. 27 with his 150th win, which came against Dean College (MA) on the road. With the expected return of four or five players from this season's lineup, he is already looking forward to the possibilities for next year. He was assisted this season by Gary Williams, Chris Poznick, Scott Nance and Greg Grant.

Save the Date for Oct. 6 Golf Classic

The Mercer County Community College Athletics Department will host its **17th Annual Golf Classic** on Monday, Oct. 6, 2008. The tournament will be held at the Mercer Oaks East Golf Course in West Windsor, NJ. Proceeds will be donated to the MCCC Student-Athlete Scholarship Fund. The tournament is held in memory of MCCC Foundation board member and local physician Dr. Cynthia Schaffer.

There are numerous opportunities to participate as an event sponsor. Prize donations are also welcome. For ticket and/or sponsorship information, contact MCCC Athletics Director John Simone at (609) 570-3740 or e-mail simonej@mccc.edu.



Women's Basketball

Head Coach Mike Tenaglia is competitive and he teaches his players to be competitive. So the season had a bittersweet ending as the Lady Vikes bowed out of the Region 19 Tournament in the opening round on Feb. 23 with a 65-53 loss to Essex County College. "We ended the season too early," Tenaglia said, noting that this was a repeat scenario of the previous two seasons – a loss to Essex in the quarterfinal round.

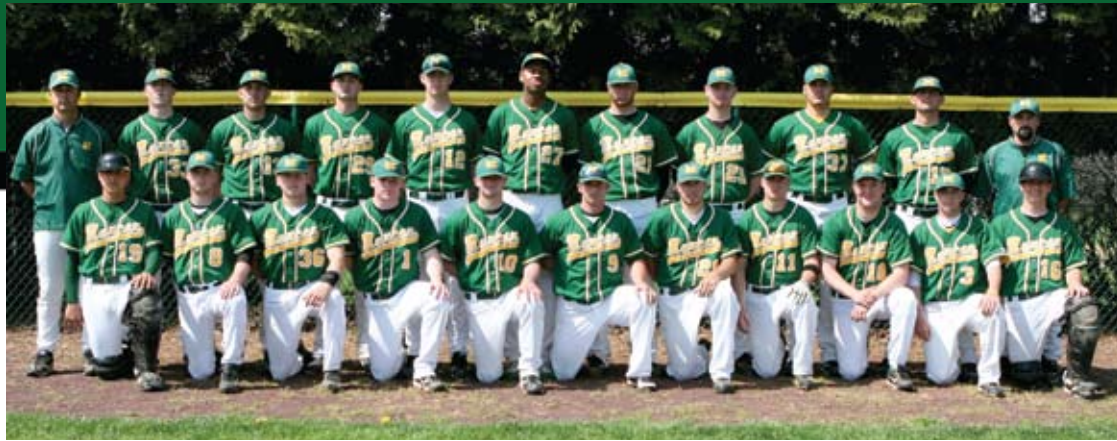
Finishing the year with a 16-14 record, the Lady Vikes kept it close in most games, but some opponents simply outplayed the Vikings. "The speed of the game has increased. Outside shooting is relied on. Working in the weight room in the off-season has become essential," Tenaglia said.

Key to Mercer's victories was sophomore forward Jeannette Bell, a pre-season All-American who bolstered the Vikings' inside game. With the loss of two starters after the fall semester, other players stepped up and made a difference in numerous contests. Among the contributors were guard Krista Regan, who served as team captain, guards Carly Blanton, Becky Elliot, and Jenna Winston, and forwards Lauren Jacobsen and Amora Dawson-White.

The team flexed its muscles in important wins against Middlesex, Essex, Lackawanna, Salem, Del Tech and Dean (MA), but has been unable to regain its elite status from several seasons back. Still, Tenaglia

is optimistic about the solid foundation he has built this year with Blanton, Elliot, Jacobsen and Winston. At least four new recruits are expected to join the roster for the 2008-09 season.

Tenaglia was assisted by Debbie Schopfner and Leslie Mauer.



Men's Baseball

Now in his third season as head coach, Matt Wolski is enjoying the fruits of three years of labor. With a final record of 34-13, the Vikings had their most successful season in years, capturing the Region 19 title for the first time since 2003 and making the trip to the District 15 Tournament in Rockland, NY.

"This was the first full year with my recruits," Wolski said. "These players have a clear understanding of what I expect." In addition to a solid nucleus of eight impact players who returned from last season, he had a long list of impressive freshmen and expects ten of them to return next year.

The Vikings experienced their fair share of drama this season, none more striking than at the Region 19 Tournament. In the double-elimination tournament, held May 2-4 at Salem County College, the Vikings defeated Salem 8-2 on May 2. On May 3, they lost to Lackawanna 13-4, forcing them into the loser's bracket to face Salem for the second game. They beat Salem again, this time by a score of 5-2. Mercer headed into the final day of action needing two wins against the still undefeated Lackawanna.

Digging deep, Mercer found a way to earn two come-from-behind wins, the first a morale-boosting 11-4 rout and the second a hard fought 4-2 victory, with the winning run coming late in the game. "Sometimes you do better when your back is against the wall," Wolski said. "You know you have to give everything or you are going home the loser."

In the District 15 Tournament, the Vikings faced stellar competition. After a rain-out on May 9, they lost 11-7 to the University of Connecticut (Avery Point) on May 10. In their next match-up, they defeated Sullivan County 11-4, but could not get the job done against Monroe

CC, losing 3-1. According to Wolski, Monroe was simply better that day (and went on to finish third in the World Series).

"Our greatest strength was our pitching," Wolski said. "We had eight solid pitchers: the top three were Will Blackmon, Chris Dolan and Greg Hough, but they were all good. And the team had fun together, which helps players produce. They do a little extra for their buddies." Other key contributors included Jason Zegarski at short stop, Chris Cox in left field, and Dave Angebrant at catcher. Angebrant, Blackman, Cox, Dolan, and Frank Mercurio were named to both the All-Region 19 and All-GSAC first teams; Hough and Jeff O'Connell were named to the All-GSAC first team.

Wolski is serious in his approach to the game. "You can't win any other way," he said. "There are good programs and bad programs. If you are going to spend six hours on the field playing a doubleheader, you want to come out the winner. The ride home is better and your dinner tastes better." Wolski was assisted this year by Fred Carella and Kevin Kerins.

Women's Softball

Ryan Zegarski, head coach for women's softball, knew this would be a different kind of year than 2007, when the team earned its best season ever with a 38-8 record and a trip to the NJCAA World Series. As workouts commenced in January, the team had virtually a whole new lineup, and a small one at that. With the addition of two players to the roster, the Vikings began to practice in earnest, tuning up at the Snowbird Classic in South Carolina in March and moving into April with an impressive 16-6 record.

In the end, the Vikings earned a respectable 26-14 record, but their early elimination from the Region 19 Tournament was a blow. The women suffered two tough losses (10-5 and 5-3) in the play-in round against Del Tech, a team the Vikings had beaten twice during the regular season. (Del Tech went on to win the district tournament and compete at the nationals.)

Still, Zegarski considers the season a success. "The team surpassed my initial expectations," he said. "They made tremendous progress individually and as a team."

He points to improved hitting as the key to the Vikings' success. But the lack of depth combined with a grueling schedule took a toll. The team's two pitchers, sophomores Rebecca Pacheco and Robin Clausen, were kept busy on the mound, rotating game to game.

The team's top two hitters were centerfielder Sara Contento and catcher Mailee Pselio. Key to the infield was Samantha Combs, while Contento secured the outfield. Contento and Pselio were named to the All-Region First Team. Pacheco and freshman infielder Jackie Laird were named to the second team.

Zegarski expects to see five players return, with another seven recruits expected to join the squad. He was assisted by Chris Freihaut.

Scholar-Athletes Announce Transfer Plans*

Men's Soccer

Awel Ahmed	Jersey City University
Keron Panchoo	Lindsey Wilson College
Jilmar Perez	Jersey City University

Women's Soccer

Katie Burke	Fashion Institute of Tech.
Kristina Connors	Rowan University
Jorunn Evju**	Kean University
Sara Spingler	Rutgers University

Women's Tennis

Jessica Fleming**	Monmouth University
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Men's Basketball

Irvin Johnson	Clark Atlanta Univ. (GA)
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Women's Basketball

Jeanette Bell	Chowan University (NC)
Christine Calabrese	Bay State College (MA)
Amorra Dawson-White	Rutgers Univ.-Camden
Rosemarie Fedak	The College of N.J.
Krista Regan	The College of N.J.

Baseball

Will Blackman	University of Delaware
Brad Corson	Greensboro College (NC)
Greg Hough	Winthrop University (SC)
Chuck Krichling	Alvernia College (PA)
Frank Mercurio	University of Pittsburgh
Michael Mocerio	Kean University
Corey Radice	Richard Stockton College

Women's Softball

Joan Jazcko	Richard Stockton College
Danielle Juricic	Rider University
Brittany Marcinkowski	The College of N.J.
Rebecca Panchero	Richard Stockton College

Men's Tennis

Marc Nichols	Grand Canyon Univ. (AZ)
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* For updated list visit *Sports News* on the website.

** Students selected for the 2008 Scholar-Athlete Awards.

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Check out MCCC's website, www.mccc.edu, with its easy online registration. Browse open sections of credit and noncredit courses. Previously registered students can view their grades and course history.



2008

Kelsey Theatre Fall 2008 Calendar "We're All In This Together"

Full-Length Productions

- The Fantasticks***
July 25, 26, 27; Aug. 1, 2, 3
- Direct from Vegas...The Comedy-Magic of Mark Robinson***
Sept. 13
- Moon Over Buffalo***
Sept. 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28
- Brighton Beach Memoirs***
Oct. 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12
- Dames At Sea***
Oct. 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26
- The Rocky Horror Show***
Oct. 31; Nov. 1, 2, 7, 8, 9
- The King And I***
Nov. 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23
- Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf?***
Jan. 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18

Kelsey Kids Series

- Winnie The Pooh***
Aug. 15, 16, 17, 23, 24
- The Plant That Ate Dirty Socks***
Oct. 11
- Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters***
Oct. 25
- Nate The Great***
Nov. 22
- Hansel and Gretel***
Nov. 29, 30
- 'Twas The Night Before Christmas***
Dec. 5, 6, 7
- The Nutcracker***
Dec. 12, 13, 14
- Lazer Vaudeville***
Dec. 20

For Kelsey events call (609) 570-3333
or visit www.kelseytheatre.net

Events at MCCC's 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.

Academic Calendar

- Aug. 20** Last day to register for most fall semester classes before late fees apply.
- Aug. 25** Classes begin for 5-week, 7-week and 15-week sessions.
- Sept. 30** Classes begin for 5-week and 10-week sessions.
- Oct. 21** Classes begin for 7-week session.
- Nov. 4** Classes begin for 5-week session.

EMMY
BRANDON
Education

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