

MCCC Celebrates Trenton Expansion With Dedication and Open House

After many months of hard work at the Trenton campus, MCCC held a day of celebration on Sept. 27 to commemorate expansion and renovations. The festivities began with a ribbon cutting and dedication of its new building, Trenton Hall, followed by an open house for the community later in the day that included tours of Trenton Hall and renovated facilities in existing buildings.

The event, "Building on a Proud History," recognized MCCC's roots in Trenton and its commitment to higher education in the city for over 100 years. The new facilities will add to the education and training of students for the 21st century workforce.



Cutting the ribbon at Trenton Hall are, from left, student Angelica Ayala, Trenton Campus Provost Monica Weaver, MCCC Board Chair Mark Matzen, Mercer County Executive Brian Hughes and MCCC President Patricia Donohue.



MCCC student tour guides.

No Ifs, Ands – or Butts: Mercer Is Smoke-Free



MCCC has joined more than 800 institutions of higher learning nationwide by declaring its campuses in West Windsor and Trenton smoke-free as of January 1.

According to Jose Fernandez, MCCC's executive director of compliance and human resources, the policy was approved by the Board of Trustees in June, with the fall semester providing a transition period to give smokers an opportunity to quit or find other ways to cope with long periods without cigarettes. The college offered eight smoking cessation sessions to help with the process.

Fernandez said that designated outdoor smoking areas, in the form of "smoking huts," were constructed as part of a policy change in 2006, but these areas "did not curtail smoking in other parts of the college."

Fernandez notes that it came down to a health issue. "The Environmental Protection Agency's finding is that there is no safe level of exposure to tobacco smoke. We want to provide a safe environment for our students, our faculty, our staff, and our visitors."

The morning ceremony in Trenton Hall was attended by city, county and state officials, along with many college friends and supporters. MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue noted that the college's decision to use \$3.6 million of its Chapter 12 funds will enable students to take more courses and complete more associate degrees in Trenton, as well as to pursue new degrees in Fashion/Apparel Design and Fashion Merchandising, which are available only at the Trenton campus.

Mercer County Executive Brian Hughes recalled how his father, former N.J. Governor Richard Hughes, signed the bill that first introduced community colleges in the state in 1962. "He wanted to see everyone have that opportunity to get an affordable degree," Hughes said. "I'm proud to add something to our great capital city."

Trenton Hall houses a Fashion Design laboratory; a Mac computer lab for use by Visual Arts and Fashion Design students; an art studio and

additional classroom; and a storefront gallery for students to display their work. The purchase of Trenton Hall was made possible through major contributions to the MCCC Foundation.

Renovations in the current buildings include a new Student Commons, with a one-stop center for advisement and enrollment; the Career Center; two new science labs; a multi-use "smart technology" classroom; the Student Activities office; and a dedicated lab for Certified Nurse Assistant training, which will begin accepting students in Spring 2013.

At the afternoon open house, more than 200 members of the community visited the campus, where students led tours and guests had an opportunity to meet staff and faculty. In a presentation during the event, Dr. Donohue illustrated her remarks with historic photos dating back to the early 1900s, when The School for Industrial Arts produced graduates prepared for manufacturing jobs in the city.

MCCC Opens Its Doors for "Live" Report to Community



Student leaders staffed the Student Activities table at the Board of Trustees Open House and Report to the Community on Nov. 15. Pictured, from left, are Shawn Khan, Sara Abbott, Michael Hernandez, Melody Hicks, Anthony Borek, Anderson Monken, Josephina Mathiang, Brittany Bayo and Bryan Steward, who served as the Viking mascot. In addition to showcasing the college's programs and services, the event also provided the Board of Trustees with an opportunity to honor three community partners. Read the story on page 8.

News Briefs

Harris Elected as New Chair Of Board of Trustees



Dr. Gwendolyn Harris, a career public servant and a public policy, planning, and human services expert, was elected as the new chair of the MCCC Board of Trustees during the November board meeting. Previously serving as vice chair, she succeeds Mark Matzen. Marvin Gardner was elected as the new vice chair, and Pam Hersh was re-elected as treasurer.

"These are exciting times for Mercer, with the recent expansion of the Trenton Campus and the addition of several new programs, both in Trenton and West Windsor," Harris said. "I look forward to the challenge, and I am excited with what the future holds for the college, the community, and Mercer County as a whole."

Nina Melker to Serve as Foundation Chair



Nina Melker, senior vice president at Hopewell Valley Community Bank, has been appointed chair of the MCCC Foundation Board for a three-year term starting in January 2013. Joining her are Terry K. McEwen as the new vice chair and John Pavlovsky Jr., as the new treasurer.

Melker's career in banking spans 33 years. She has a long history of community service and leadership with groups including the Hamilton Area YMCA, Robert Wood Johnson of Hamilton Foundation, The Foundation of St. Lawrence Rehabilitation and the Hamilton Education Foundation, where she is president.

"I am honored to be appointed as chair and look forward to working with the college to raise much needed funds for scholarships, programs and the capital needs of the college," Melker said.

See pages 6-7 for more Foundation news.

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society Celebrates 30th Anniversary at Fall Induction Ceremony



Mercer's chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society formally welcomed a new group of students to its fold at a ceremony on Oct. 25. Members of the group, who are required to have a GPA of 3.5 or higher, carry out community service projects and are eligible for a variety of scholarships when they transfer to four-year schools. Yifan Zhao is the president of Mercer's chapter. PTK advisors are Dr. Kenneth Howarth, Dr. Jingrong Huang and Nancy Sobala.

Holocaust Center Hosts Series of Educational Programs



The Mercer County Holocaust/Genocide Resource Center hosted four special events this fall, starting with a lecture by Dr. Nuran Nabi, author of "Bullets of '71," a book that chronicles the Bangladeshi genocide of 1971 and his role as a young freedom fighter. Pictured, from left, are the center's co-director Susan Goldberg, Advisory Commission member Dr. Vera Goodkin, Dr. Nabi, co-director and Associate Professor of Education Elizabeth DeGiorgio and Advisory Commission member Brenda Cohen. In October, the center hosted an international photography exhibit, "Besat: Muslims Who Saved Jews in World War II," by world-renowned photographer Norman Gershman.

Kelsey Review Available at County Libraries

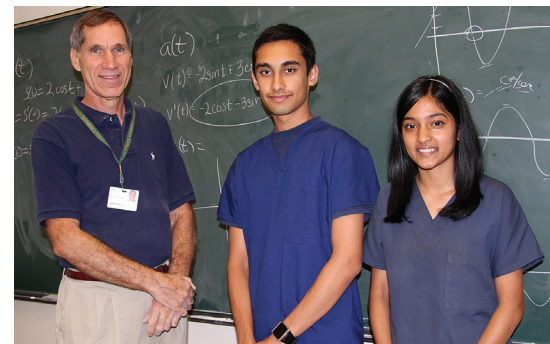
The 2012 edition of *Kelsey Review*, the annual arts journal published by MCCC that features writers and artists who live, work or study in Mercer County, is available at county libraries. The journal welcomes new friends on its Facebook page. The deadline for submissions for the 2013 edition is May 15, 2013. Learn more at www.mccc.edu/kelseyreview.

Panelists Offer Perspectives on Sept. 11, 2001



Following its annual memorial ceremony on Sept. 11, MCCC hosted a panel discussion, "September 11 as Memory and History," at the Conference Center on Sept. 13. The event was co-sponsored by the N.J. State Museum. Pictured at the podium is Mike Kelly, a journalist for The Bergen Record. Also participating, from left, are MCCC History Professor Craig Coenen, Drexel University History Professor Scott Knowles, Cantor Fitzgerald Relief Fund Executive Director Edith Lutnick, and World Trade Center survivors Herb Ouida and Brian Clark.

MCTS's Health Science Students Thrive in College



Mercer County Technical Schools' Health Science Academy, developed in partnership with MCCC, offers high school students an intensive health science curriculum as an alternative to traditional high school courses. Members of the first class, who began as ninth graders in 2010, are now taking college classes at Mercer. Pictured with Calculus Professor John Nadig, left, are Piyush Puri and Shawnee Chaudhury. Both students say they are enjoying the college environment.

News Briefs

Foreign Language Honor Society Inducts 16



On Nov. 13, sixteen students were inducted into Kappa Iota, Mercer's chapter of the Alpha Mu Gamma Foreign Language Honor Society. Seated, from left, are James Reslier-Wells, staff member Tatiana Dodge, Fabiola Pincay, Nicole Tyburczy, Catherina DePaz, and Ariela Weinberg; standing from left are Kappa Iota Chapter Vice President Anderson Monken, Jillian Borrow, Julia Moore, Zachary Otterpohl, Katelyn Otterpohl, Kelly Moyer, Kelly Tanzone and Branden Martin, with faculty advisors Steve Richman and Daniel D'Arpa. Not pictured: Jaqueline Goncalves, Iuliana Ibara and Heike Reinhart. Since the inception of MCCC's chapter in 1984, more than 500 students have been inducted.

Student Nurse Association Established



MCCC's newly formed chapter of the Student Nurse Association held a Breast Cancer Awareness event in October. Pictured, seated from left, are students Simone Wedgest, Maria Mendiola, Linda Cruzeta, Kate Muha, and Jessica Picard, with Nursing faculty advisors, standing from left, Doreen Carnvale and Barbara Kunkel. The association provides opportunities for study groups, community service projects and networking activities.

Students and Advisors Attend College Media Convention in Chicago

A megastorm like Hurricane Sandy might have stopped some travelers, but not the intrepid student staffers and advisors for MCCC's *College VOICE* newspaper, who were determined to attend the College Media Association Convention in Chicago, held Oct. 31 to Nov. 4. After a herculean effort to reschedule flights out of Newark and LaGuardia, 10 students, accompanied by faculty advisors Holly-Katharine Johnson and Michael Dalton, arrived to enjoy workshops, seminars and camaraderie with more than 2,500 journalism students, professors and professionals from across the country. Johnson noted that people at the conference were very kind when they learned what the MCCC group had been through to get there. She notes that most of the other New Jersey college groups gave up and didn't attend.



Photo by Michael Dalton

Exuberant VOICE staffers are pictured with advisor Holly Johnson, right, at the College Media Association Convention in Chicago.

lection of Professor Johnson for the prestigious Nordin Award for new media research. She began the research as part of a paper on viral student media she wrote during her Princeton University Mid-Career Fellowship last year.

Completion Nears for MCCC Solar Project

MCCC has taken a bold step as an innovator in green energy, as work nears completion on a 45-acre solar project – one of the largest such projects on any college campus in the nation.

“Mercer is joining other area educational institutions and tapping into solar energy as a means of promoting renewable energy, reducing costs, and creating new educational opportunities for students,” MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue said.

Construction on the Mercer County Improvement Authority project began in October. Work is on schedule to have the solar array complete by April, and is expected to be supplying energy to the college by the end of May.

As part of the project, trees that have been removed during the construction process will be replaced in consultation with MCCC Horticulture faculty and students. A survey has been done regarding the size and type of trees removed, and there will be a concerted effort to replace them with an appropriate mix, according to Vice President and Chief Business Officer Jacob Eapen.

Project engineers estimate that the solar installation will produce more than 8 megawatts of energy and save the college up to \$1 million per year in energy costs. As a result of the clean energy generated, each year the installation will reduce CO2 emissions by 7,500 tons, sulfur dioxide by 20 tons, and nitrogen oxide by 8.5 tons.

MCCC students majoring in Solar/Energy Technology, Sustainability, Engineering, Science, and Horticulture will benefit from the project's educational opportunities.

Student Documentary Featured at Yale Film Festival



A documentary by Digital Film student Jorge Torres was featured this fall in the New England Festival of Ibero American Cinema (NEFIAC) at Yale University. In his 20-minute film “Undocumented,” Torres, originally from Ecuador, promotes human rights by showing the plight of immigrants who live and work in the United States.

Torres's documentary began as a class project that was shown at MCCC's “Bernie Awards” in May 2012, an annual event where four student films are chosen to be showcased. With encouragement from Assistant Professor Barry Levy, Torres submitted his documentary to NEFIAC, and was the only student chosen to screen his film alongside professional film directors from countries including Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Cuba and Peru. His film received an “Honorable Mention” award in the documentary category.

Torres also served on the panel of judges for the festival and participated in a question-and-answer session following the screening of his film.

Celebrating Opportunities

Fashioning Careers at MCCC: Sewing Lab Provides Ideal Creative Setting



Fashion Design Coordinator Allegra Ceci, right, critiques students' projects in the new sewing lab. Students are, from left, Ryan Ramoo, Ariel Irizarry and Tashanique Purnell.

Once students in MCCC's "Technical Skills for Apparel Production" class settle down to work, the classroom is hushed, but is bustling with activity at the same time. The setting is a spacious new sewing lab, suffused with natural lighting, in Trenton Hall at Mercer's campus in downtown Trenton. The renovated building, which also houses a Mac lab, an art studio and other classrooms, opened in October and has become a hub for the Fashion Design program, now in its second year.

"We love this space," said Fashion Design Program Coordinator Allegra Ceci, who teaches the class. "This course provides the critical hands-on foundation in hand sewing, machine skills, zippers, buttons, and selecting and working with various materials." According to Ceci, most of her students have already taken several prerequisite courses including those involving fashion drawing, and the history and global workings of the industry.

Ceci notes that before beginning their work with fabric, students practiced on muslin. By the end of the semester, they worked

with patterns and fabrics and created wearable clothing. "Students learn how to follow a pattern and then alter it to fit or take it in a different direction. I give them the freedom to explore and be creative."

Student Tashanique Purnell studied Fine Arts at Mercer for several semesters, but switched her major once the fashion program was introduced last year. "I knew this is what I wanted to do," Purnell said.

NyLea Rivers also studied Fine Arts when she first came to Mercer, but switched to Fashion Design last spring. Like Purnell, she has found that her background in illustration is helpful as she puts her designs on paper. She is on track to graduate in May and transfer to a four-year fashion school.

Ryan Ramoo came to Mercer to pursue both Fashion Design and Communications. He hopes to one day work in public relations for fashion events in New York City.

"Students learn from me and they learn from each other," Ceci said. "They get immersed in their work. They share and support each other."

These students will continue with "Tech Skills II," where they will learn advanced sewing and draping techniques, and design unique fashions and apparel.

Fashion Merchandising is the program's other concentration. Introduced in September, it prepares students for the business side of fashion – sales, marketing, wholesale and retail buying, management and merchandising.

Student Ambreen Zaidi says the curriculum is exactly what she was looking for. Originally an Economics major at Rutgers, she turned to fashion studies after completing internships in New York City at companies including Anne Taylor, Victoria Secret and Cynthia Rowley. At Mercer she is studying textiles, global marketing, retail management and more.

"The internships definitely gave me direction and Mercer is giving me the business background," Zaidi said. She will complete her degree in May and transfer to LIM College in Manhattan, a four-year school devoted exclusively to the business of fashion.

Zaidi notes that the curriculum is well-designed and LIM will accept all her MCCC credits. "It has worked out really well. And I saved a whole bunch of money," she said.



Fashion Merchandising student Ambreen Zaidi, right, with Program Coordinator Allegra Ceci.

Student Tyhir McCall Coordinates Governor's Conference on Volunteerism

For MCCC sophomore Tyhir McCall, an internship turned into a leading role as conference coordinator for an event this fall on behalf of the New Jersey Governor's Office that included more than 600 participants.

"The challenge is to please everyone," said McCall, a Business Administration major. "There are a lot of people, and you want everyone to take something away from the conference."

While attending Mercer and also working as a manager at a party supply store, McCall interns in the Governor's Office of Volunteerism and Community Service, a state entity that offers technical support to volunteer-based projects. Each year, the office sponsors the New Jersey Governor's Conference on Volunteerism, which brings together corporate and volunteer professionals and offers more than two dozen informational sessions on volunteer management.

Having assisted with a previous conference, this was McCall's first time as the point person for such a large-scale event. She said the experience taught her how to focus on the task at hand, how to multi-task, and how to make the most of her time. McCall noted that her education at Mercer provided a valuable background as she interacted with volunteer leaders from around the state.

Edward O'Malley, chair of the Governor's Advisory Council on Volunteerism, offered high praise for McCall and her contribution to the conference. "She successfully dealt with the Department of State, the Governor's Office, and the Lieutenant Governor's Office as if she were a senior diplomat," O'Malley said. "We ultimately had over 100 last-minute registrations, and Tyhir made it look easy. I'm not sure what you are teaching at MCCC, but please keep it up."



Student Success Summit: Transforming Developmental Education

Three years ago, the N.J. Council of County Colleges introduced "The Big Ideas" project as a way for the state's community colleges to share strategies that bolster student success. Since then, the colleges have worked collectively to tackle eight key initiatives. One of these, the transformation of developmental education, was the subject of a "Student Success Summit" hosted by the MCCC Conference Center on Nov. 9, led by MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue and Vice President for Academic Affairs Guy Generals. Close to 200 guests from around the state attended.

According to Dr. Generals, a significant percentage of high school graduates and returning adults are not ready for college classes when they enroll at community colleges and many do not complete their degrees because of it. He notes, "Our goal is to facilitate the best methods for teaching developmental education so that students keep moving forward toward degree completion."

Two experts presented cutting-edge research. Uri Treisman, of the University of Texas at Austin, is a nationally recognized educator who approaches developmental math education by focusing on students' strengths and career interests rather than their weaknesses. Peter Adams, professor of English and director of the Academic Learning Program at the County College of Baltimore, promotes accelerated learning in developmental reading, writing and math through an approach known as contextualized learning, which helps students make connections between what they are learning and their career and personal aspirations. The goal is to increase concurrent enrollment in developmental and college level courses.

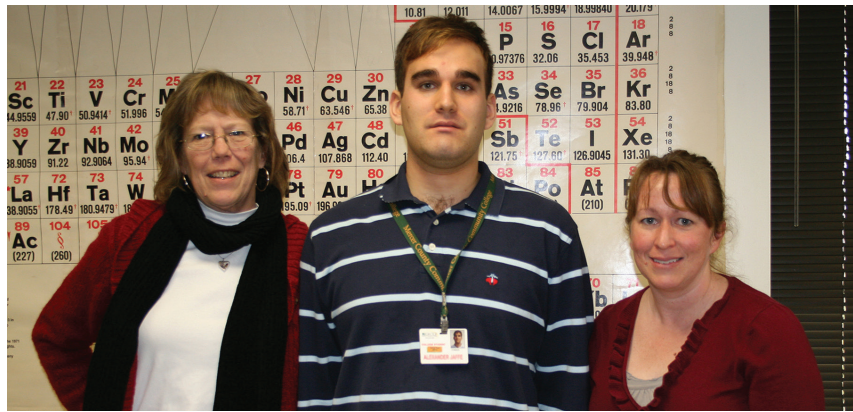
Following the presentations, the attendees broke up into roundtable groups to discuss Allen's and Treisman's recommendations. According to Dr. Generals, applying innovative pedagogies to the task of remedial education was the conference theme. "We need creative ways to tap into students' interests and strengths. Not only does this make their first experiences at Mercer more relevant, it also increases motivation and ultimately, we believe, their success."

He notes that no one model fits all. "Colleges tailor their approaches to meet the needs of the population they serve. Mercer has already enacted some new strategies and is considering others. Hearing what is working at other schools is very beneficial."

MCCC will host another Student Success Summit in April to continue the sharing of strategies that best serve today's community college students. More information about The Big Ideas initiative is available at www.njccc.org.

Celebrating Opportunities

DREAM Program Celebrates Six Years and 60-Plus Students



DREAM student Alex, center, is pictured with Horticulture Professor Amy Ricco, right, and mentor Karen Shedlock, a retired special education teacher.

When it started accepting students in Fall 2006, the DREAM program (Developing Real Expectations for Achieving Mastery) at MCCC was charting new territory with its first class of eight students with intellectual disabilities. Now celebrating its sixth year, the program includes 28 students, its largest class ever. A total of 61 students have spent time in Mercer's DREAM program.

According to Program Coordinator Susan Onaitis, Mercer was a true forerunner. "The concept of special education students having a college alternative after high school was quite ground-breaking. When we started, only 70 schools nationwide provided any kind of post-high school programs and most of them were segregated and/or residential. In the beginning we did outreach to schools and parent groups."

She notes that MCCC led the way in New Jersey. "We are well-known statewide. We even get out-of-state inquiries."

Onaitis observes that Mercer's program is the best of both worlds. "It's individualized, but it's also based on inclusion in a regular classroom with learning enhanced through a mentoring system." She notes that two years ago the Down Syndrome Society proposed an expansion of the program, which is now also offered at Camden, Bergen and Brookdale county colleges.

Onaitis emphasizes that the DREAM program is student-centered, with course selection based on each student's goals and needs in academics, career development and socialization. "The transition from high school to college is huge for most students. For our students, it's even greater," Onaitis said.

All DREAM students gather for an orientation prior to the start of school. They have the option to audit classes or to take them for credit and are required to take at least one Foundations class in reading, writing or math during their first semester. Popular electives

include Tech Studio, where students learn computer skills, painting, ceramics, culinary, horticulture and typography.

Onaitis has seen DREAM students blossom. "They are open to all experiences. Sometimes they don't know their ability until they come here and try new things. They are always further along than when they started."

Also benefitting from the DREAM experience are the student mentors. Lauren Huy was an Education major at MCCC who graduated in May, 2012, and has served as a DREAM mentor with the same student, Nicole, for three semesters. With early childhood education as her goal, Huy is currently pursuing her bachelor's degree on the MCCC campus through William Paterson University.

She explains her role as one of support. "I attend classes with Nicole, take notes and help her stay on track with assignments. She is a good student and she takes her grades seriously," Huy says. "I provide input, but ultimately, the essays and tests are her work. There is no point in me doing her work. If she gets a good grade that is not hers, she will not be prepared for the next level."

Onaitis says the growth she has seen as students become comfortable in their setting at Mercer is significant. Huy readily agrees. "DREAM students become a little community. Everyone here is an MCCC student, but they have a special bond among themselves. It's a great environment," Huy observes.

Alex, a DREAM student for several years, has taken a variety of classes. He became especially interested in horticulture after volunteering at the Allies Community Garden last spring.

"I have enjoyed having Alex in my classes," says Horticulture Professor Amy Ricco. "I think everything is a learning experience. As a professor, when you have a student in the class who has a learning disability, you learn what you need to do differently for them. It also teaches other students tolerance and deepens their understanding. We will need to work with all different types of people in life."

Alex also assists in the MCCC Athletics Department, helping to maintain equipment and carry out tasks in the office. Athletic Trainer Lisa Camillone has taken him under her wing. "I think the program is terrific," she says. "We are giving opportunities to these young people and it's good for other students to see DREAM students working hard and succeeding."

Onaitis observes that one of the program's major goals is to help DREAM students better integrate into the world at large. "At their first orientation, they are often uncomfortable. But they quickly become part of the college community. This is their school," she said.

Mentoring Bolsters College Experience for All

Some of MCCC's most caring students have embraced the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of their peers. Twelve students are participating in a new Peer Mentoring program launched this fall at both campuses. Under the direction of Dr. Khalida Haqq, mentors are selected based on their academic performance and their desire to help.

The Peer Mentoring program was created by Retention Services to support new students making the transition to college. "We want to create a welcoming and supportive environment that will increase the probability of first-year students remaining at Mercer to achieve their educational goals," Haqq said. She notes that these types of programs have been shown to be highly effective at schools nationwide – for both new students and their mentors.

As a former peer mentor herself during college, Dr. Haqq understands the power of mentoring in providing mutual benefits for both the mentor and the first-year student. "Mentors develop a real sense of connection and commitment to the college. Having a major responsibility to other students enhances the peer helper's motivation to succeed and sets a good example for the mentees," she observes.

Sophomore Business major Rasheeda Allen mentors four students. "Sometimes students are having issues related to academics, while other times it's more personal. I let them know they can contact me whenever they need to, during the week or on the weekend. It's great to know I am helping."

Mentor Nishane Carter is hoping to instill "improvement and growth." Carter has big plans for the future that include running her own business one day. "I am a positive person," she says. "I try to give that same motivation to succeed to others."

Mentor Sora-Lynn Mathurin has two mentees. Like the other student volunteers, she gets satisfaction helping people, which is reflected in her career aspirations. A Biology major who plans to graduate in May and transfer to Rutgers University, Mathurin has set her sights on being a doctor.

Prior to the start of the semester, mentors attend a mandatory training session. Among the other mentors are Brittany Bayo, Husain Yaseen, Rodye Paquiot, George Thomas, Chynna Taylor and Nicole Sullivan.



From left, student mentors Sora-Lynn Mathurin, Nishane Carter and Rasheeda Allen staff a table in the Student Center to invite fellow students to take advantage of the peer mentoring program.



DREAM Program Coordinator Susan Onaitis, left, with mentor Lauren Huy.

Foundation and Donor News

Spring Into Student Success with MCCC on April 4

The MCCC Foundation Board invites alumni and friends to its 24th annual main fundraising event to support students and scholarships. This year, MCCC's "Spring Into Student Success" will be held on Thursday, April 4 at the Mercer Oaks East Golf Course in West Windsor. The college will honor three community partners in addition to celebrating student success. Co-chairs are Mercer County Freeholder Pat Colavita and Nina Melker, the new chair of the MCCC Foundation.

The festive evening will include hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction featuring quality works by local artists and other assorted gift items. Student talents will be on display, with musical entertainment by the MCCC Jazz Band and floral arrangements created by the college's Student Activities Organization. Single tickets are \$115; two tickets are \$215. For more information, visit www.mccc.edu/foundation or call 609-570-3659.

"Lights, Camera, Fashion!" Set for May 10

MCCC and the Princeton Senior Resource Center (PSRC) will co-sponsor a fashion event on Friday, May 10 at the MCCC Conference Center. "Lights, Camera, Fashion!" will give MCCC Fashion Design and Photography students an opportunity to display their work in the Conference Center Atrium prior to a screening of the documentary "Bill Cunningham New York." This 82-minute Richard Press film offers fascinating insights into the life of Bill Cunningham, the iconic fashion photographer for the *New York Times* Sunday Style section.

"This is a unique collaboration between MCCC and PSRC," said Sharon Naeole, PSRC's director of development. "Fashion is appealing to all ages and we are thrilled to present this award-winning film in combination with the creative work of MCCC's students."

According to Dr. Mellissia Zanjani, MCCC's vice president for college advancement, the event will help to showcase MCCC's new fashion programs in Trenton, as well as establish more deeply rooted connections to the art and fashion community of Mercer County.

The doors will open at 5:30 p.m., with the film screening to begin at 7 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. Proceeds will jointly benefit PSRC and MCCC. For more information, visit www.mccc.edu/foundation or call 609-570-3659.

Howie Landa Court Unveiled Amid Friends, Fanfare and Fun



Unveiling the Howie Landa basketball court are, from left, President Patricia C. Donohue, Landa's daughter Davida, alums Deitra Primas-Johnson, Rich Freda and Mel Weldon, and Coach Landa, far right.

On Sept. 15, the college paid tribute to beloved former basketball coach Howie Landa by unveiling his name on the court in the West Windsor campus gym. Landa, a resident of Henderson, NV, who retired from MCCC in 1987, attended the event with his daughter and son-in-law, Davida and Beau Mentley.

During a ceremony before a crowd of approximately 200 guests, several speakers noted that when future Mercer students ask about the name on the court, they will learn the storied history of the Vikings basketball program under Coach Landa – when the team went to the national tournament six times and won the national title twice (1973 and 1974).

"It isn't about Howie Landa. It's about all of you," Landa told the packed house. "I was only as good as the players who played for me. You are the ones who put my name on this court." Many of the guests are now coaches themselves – in men's and women's basketball at the college level, high school level, and in youth basketball leagues, as well as in other sports.

Master of Ceremonies was George O'Gorman, a long-time *Trentonian* sportswriter who served on the Landa Tribute Committee, along with Committee Chair Al Leister, Physical

Education Professor Bob Pugh, Athletics Director John Simone, MCCC Board member Bob Di Falco, Landa assistants Charles Smith and Bill Panella, current Basketball Coach Howard Levy and Academic Counselor Fred Weiner.

Three players shared their recollections of the Landa era, including Mel Weldon, a First Team All-American and MVP of the 1973 championship team. He recalled a coach who became like a dad. "He did this not just for me, but for every kid who came across his path." After graduating from MCCC, Weldon transferred to Boston College and continued his highly successful basketball career. He returned to central New Jersey in the late 1970s, where he has served as a long-time manager for the Trenton Housing Authority. He is also a well-known youth coach.

Leister notes that Landa's standards for excellence are ones the college continues to strive for today. "But excellence costs. So we truly appreciate your support and for showing your respect and love for Howie Landa."

Approximately \$26,000 has been raised towards the \$50,000 goal for the Howie Landa Tribute Fund to benefit student athletes. The Landa Tribute Fund continues to accept donations. For more information, visit the MCCC Foundation website at www.mccc.edu/landa or call the Foundation Office at 609-570-3659.



Coach Howie Landa, center, with players and staff from his Mercer glory years.

Annual Campaign Funds Mini-Grants for Teaching and Learning

Now in its third year, MCCC's Teaching and Learning Improvement Grant program, funded through the college's Annual Campaign, is reaping big benefits for students. The program invites faculty members to submit project proposals to pursue creative initiatives. Among the projects now benefiting both students and staff are:

- **Computational Chemistry:** This one-credit course (CHE 108) examines the quantitative and analytical aspects of general chemistry, including analysis, interpretation, and presentation of experimental data.
- **Training for Adjunct Professors:** Two sessions were offered for adjunct faculty members who teach Social Science courses, including History, Philosophy, Sociology, Psychology and Education. Outcomes included enhanced materials and assignments for adjunct faculty to engage students through discussion, images and texts.
- **New Media Program:** This new major in Communications has students excited about the many facets of today's multimedia communication. The number of students majoring in New Media has climbed from 11 in the program's first year to over 50 in its second year.
- **Modularized Curriculum for Reading:** Following the success of modular, computer-based Foundations math classes, a modular approach using computer-based reading software is now being offered for a select group of students to bolster their skills before starting college-level classes.
- **"Foundations of Clinical Development" Online:** This curriculum mirrors the first course in the "Clinical Development and Regulatory Affairs" certificate program offered by MCCC's Center for Continuing Studies. Those pursuing this certificate are typically pharmaceutical industry professionals who travel for their jobs and welcome a convenient online alternative. The class was filled to capacity; more classes are expected to be offered online in the future.
- **Expanding Mercer's Online Knowledge Base:** The acquisition of mobile devices for MCCC's online division, MercerOnline, has given staff members the ability to evaluate new academic resources and apps designed for mobile devices and to provide better support to MCCC's faculty and students who use these new technologies for teaching and learning.
- **Enhancing Advisement for Education Majors:** This cross-divisional effort has led to three major improvements. An interactive professional website has been set up featuring a video tutorial and important links to help Education students select and register for appropriate courses. Dedicated computer stations in the Advisement and Transfer Offices now direct students to pertinent advisement literature. A symposium held in October focused on the role of technology in education and its evolution and influence on kindergarten through 12th grade instruction.

Foundation and Donor News

MCCC Recognizes Students and Donors at October Ceremony

In a celebratory event that recognized both the academic achievements of students and the generosity of donors, Mercer welcomed approximately 150 guests to the Student Center at the West Windsor campus for the Continuing Student Recognition Ceremony Oct. 16. In addition to scholarship recipients and their family members, Foundation Board members, administrators, faculty, staff, and donors came out in support of educational opportunities at Mercer.

A total of 124 awards were presented, with several students receiving more than one award. Said President Patricia C. Donohue, "It's great to see parents, children and friends of the honorees here tonight. You are the network that supports our students as they learn and grow."

Dr. Donohue also acknowledged the critical role of donors who make education possible for many students. "They share our mission that Mercer is a great place for students to start their educational journey."

Among the many family members was

Joann Mia, coordinator of the Trenton Campus Learning Center, who beamed as her granddaughter, Alicea Eskeitz, accepted the Arthur J. Holland Scholarship. An alumna herself, Mia encouraged her granddaughter to come to Mercer. "I was the first to go to college in my family and she is following right behind me," Mia said. Eskeitz, a Humanities major, was recently inducted into the Psi Beta Psychology Honors Society and hopes to become an art therapist.

Hotel, Restaurant and Institution Management (HRIM) program students continue to benefit from multiple sources of donor generosity. In addition to individual donors, the program again partnered with local restaurants and food service companies to cover costs for 11 students' chefs whites, as well as other college expenses. Participating companies included Blue Bottle Café, Ergo Chef LLC, Elements, Griggstown Farm, Mercer Oaks Catering, Nassau Inn, RC Fine Foods, Sysco Foods, Terra Momo Restaurant Group, Tre Piani and Wegmans Food Markets, Inc.



Nadia Kopcho, far left, and her granddaughters present the Ronald Kopcho Scholarship in memory of Mrs. Kopcho's husband, a former MCCC dean, to Liberal Arts student Nicole Tyburczy. MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue is pictured at right. Liberal Arts Dean Robin Schore is at the podium.

MCCC Foundation Honors Jim Floyd and Students At 2012 "Floyd Fete for Education"

It was Jim Floyd's day on Oct. 21, as 125 friends, family and other supporters gathered for the third annual "Floyd Fete for Education," hosted by the MCCC Foundation at Princeton University's Carl A. Fields Center. Against a backdrop of jazz music provided by a quartet of MCCC Music students and alumni, the college paid homage to a man who has served on the college's Foundation Board for more than 30 years and has made education and social

justice the cornerstones of his civic endeavors.

Co-chairing the event was Shirley Satterfield and Foundation Board member Bob Humes. In her welcome, Satterfield said, "This scholarship is crucial to students whose education would not be possible without this support. Thank you, Jim, for lending your good name to this event." This year's Floyd Fete raised \$30,000, which will be added to the fund's \$118,000 total that has resulted in a permanent endowed scholarship.

Mr. Floyd complimented the two students who have benefited from the scholarship thus far for their dedication in pursuing their goals. The 2011 awardee was Gwendolyn Alexander, an adult returning student majoring in Funeral Service; Advertising/Graphic Design major Erika Morillo was this year's recipient.

Morillo described the awarding of the scholarship as "a pivotal moment that has allowed me to pursue my degree full time." She says Mercer is giving her the graphic design skills she needs to develop her portfolio. Morillo plans to graduate this spring and will transfer to a four-year art school.



Jim Floyd, center, is pictured with students, from left, James Reslier-Wells, Jos Mathiang, scholarship recipient Erika Morillo and SGA President Anderson Monken.

Join the MCCC Legacy Society

We gratefully acknowledge those who have contributed to the MCCC Foundation through a trust or will, or have notified us of their intentions to do so in the future.

Let us know your plans so that we can work with you and your financial advisors to ensure that your wishes are clear. Call Dr. Mellissia Zanjani, vice president for college advancement, at 609-570-3608.

Legacy Society Members

Jeffrey Callahan
James Floyd
Estate of Arthur Forman
Estate of Fred Frankel
Estate of Henrietta Frankel
Howard Marcou
Richard & Bonnie Perlman
Estate of Clarence Weber

Invest in MCCC

You can change a life and our community through education. We ask for your support of academic and student success through a donation to the Mercer County Community College Foundation. You can designate your gift to: Program and Instructional Needs; Cultural and Performing Arts; Athletics; Facilities and Equipment; Emergency Fund for Students; Scholarships; and Technology.

Send your donation either in the enclosed self-addressed envelope or online by visiting www.mccc.edu/give. For more information, call 609-570-3607.

www.mccc.edu/give
609-570-3607

Golfers Brave Rain in Support of Student Athletes

Rainy weather did not dampen the spirits of 76 intrepid MCCC supporters who played golf for the Mercer cause on Oct. 2. The 21st Annual Golf Classic, hosted by the MCCC Athletics Department, still managed to be a good time for all as the college again enjoyed the facilities at Mercer Oaks Golf Course.

The event raised approximately \$10,000 for the MCCC Student Athlete Scholarship Fund. The tournament is held in memory of Dr. Cynthia Schaffer, who served on the MCCC Foundation Board and was deeply committed to youth sports.

Athletics Director John Simone joined MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue to acknowledge the generous sponsors who contributed to the proceeds total. "We see the life-changing impact of students' involvement in athletics. This is a cause well worth supporting," Simone said.

Community members who participated on the Golf Tournament Committee included Doug Borden, Dave Fraytak Sr., Tom Kull, Tim Losch, Nina Melker, Scott Needham and Steve Ritzau.

Among the event's many generous supporters were Architectural Window Manufacturing Corporation, Borden Perlman Insurance Company, Coryell Tree Service, Fox Rothschild LLP, Fulton Bank, Great Eastern Technologies, Harrison-Hamnett, P.C., and Thomas Edison State College. Other sponsors included Lawrence Lexus (Brian Bennett), Princeton Air Conditioning, Inc. (Scott Needham), AAA Mid-Atlantic (Kevin Micsko), PSE&G, Glenmede Trust Company, Security Dynamics (John Di Vernioica), Trenton Joe, Carpet Impressions, Morgan Stanley (Randy Jones), Mark Pratico Jewelers and Marjory Murray Bernhard.



Pictured with MCCC President Patricia Donohue, front right, are tournament supporters Tim Losch, E. Karen Kennedy (MCCC Foundation chair from 2010-12), Tom Kull, Scott Needham and Bob Humes.

Around the College

Board of Trustees Welcomes Community Nov. 15

The Board of Trustees Open House and Report to the Community on Nov. 15 gave Mercer County Community College a chance to showcase all it has to offer – and that's a lot.

Mercer welcomed close to 200 prospective students, their families and community friends, as faculty and staff presented information about academic programs, students services, extracurricular clubs, and cultural offerings. The event also gave the Board of Trustees a chance to recognize three community partners who have engaged with the college in special ways.

Highlights of the event included Theatre students performing selected scenes from "The Importance of Being Earnest," a production they presented in November. Arts and Communications students showcased their work in a 10-minute video created by Assistant Professor Barry Levy. The Biology Department display featured tanks with snakes, millipedes and a tarantula. Culinary students had visitors lining up to sample their signature dessert, Bananas Foster, while student chefs from the Career Training Institute at the Trenton campus manned a carving station. The Conference Center staff added to the array of refreshments with hot hors d'oeuvres, crudité and dips.

Honorees at the festive evening included Tremaine Harrison, accepting the Partner in Learning Award on behalf of New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission; Ralph Thomas and Ric Ballezzi, accepting the Distinguished Corporate Partner Award on behalf of the N.J. Society of Certified Public Accountants (NJSCPA), and Ayo Johnson '93, executive director at Westminster Community Life Center in Trenton, who received the Alumni Leader Award. (Read her story on page 9.)

MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue concluded the event with her Report to the Community, which included highlights of student success, growth in programs and services, and facility upgrades, all of which reflect the college's three-year strategic plan. She encouraged community members "to explore everything your community college has to offer. Whether it's for a performance, art exhibit, to take a class, or just to visit, we hope to see you again very soon."

Learn more about the honorees, and read the college's 2011-12 Annual Report and Foundation Annual Report online at www.mccc.edu.



Community honorees included, third from left, Tremaine Harrison, acting director of education for the New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission; alumna Ayo Johnson, executive director at Westminster Community Life Center; and Ralph Thomas and Ric Ballezzi of the New Jersey Society of CPAs. They are pictured with, at left, Board of Trustees Treasurer Pam Hersh and MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue.

Culinary Program Is Cooking!

The Culinary Center at Mercer has never been busier. Twelve new courses have been added since the opening of a third teaching kitchen in Fall 2011. The program has doubled its offerings in the last ten years.

According to faculty member Frank Benowitz, the program was "bursting at the seams" before the college added the additional space. "We have year-round programming and offer classes seven days a week, both credit and noncredit," he said.

Along with its recently introduced A.A.S. degree in Culinary Arts and an option to con-

centrate in Pastry Arts, MCCC offers one of the only Culinary degree programs in the country, in partnership with Rutgers University.

New courses at the Culinary Center range from "Breakfast/Pantry" to "Meat, Poultry and Fish Fabrication," where students learn how to use every part of the animal in various recipes. A welcome addition to the Culinary faculty is Blue Bottle Café owner Rory Philipson, who teaches Dining Room I and II in concert with Chef Bill Beyer.

"She's a great chef and instructor, as well as a great person," said Benowitz, who was initially in touch with Philipson six years ago when he was looking for local businesses to sponsor scholarships. She agreed to offer her restaurant's support, and over the years has developed strong ties with MCCC.

Overseeing Blue Bottle's dining room staff and working as its pastry chef, Philipson brings a wealth of experience to Mercer. "Students can't ask for better experience than learning from someone who does this type of work for her profession," Benowitz said.

Another welcome addition to the Culinary faculty is Chef Denis Granarolo, executive pastry chef at the Witherspoon Bread Company in Princeton. Granarolo teaches two courses in Pastry Arts: "Advanced Pastry" and "Artisanal Breads."

More than 20 noncredit courses are also offered this spring through the Center for Continuing Studies, ranging from "Asian Noodle Class" to "Great Wines Under \$10." For a full list of culinary courses, visit www.mccc.edu/hrim.



Instructor Rory Philipson, owner of the Blue Bottle Café, directs students as they plate and serve patrons in the Culinary Center restaurant this fall.

MCCC Center for Simulated Business Celebrates 15 Years



Students in Mercer's B-Gone Travel simulated business gave a presentation as part of the CSBS Conference in November. Pictured, standing, from left, are Unur Davaadolgor, Kurt Kamrad, Brandon Li, MCCC Professor Joan Jones, Krista Ruggero, Liliana Vasquez, Lynn Hoff, Brian Chin, CSBS Director Kristen Callahan, and Carol Weber, MCCC professor emeritus and CSBS founder; front, from left, are Brielle Penkola, Ester Lazo-Gonzalez and Jyoti Singh.

MCCC's Center for Simulated Business Services (CSBS) commemorated its 15th anniversary with a network-wide conference at the MCCC Conference Center in November.

Thirty student firms participated, including 14 via video conferencing from places around the globe such as Belgium and Lithuania. Mercer's CSBS, formerly the International Business Practice Firm, was founded in 1998 by Professor Emeritus Carol Weber as a way to bring the experience of running a business to life.

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. The MCCC program was a forerunner in this type of hands-on approach to learning.

The CSBS network has grown to more than 70 practice firms at 32 high schools and 13 colleges across seven states: New Jersey, California, Florida, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Texas and Wisconsin. MCCC runs two simulated companies: B-Gone Travel and Celestial Beauty. Students often take the three-credit course more than once to gain expertise in multiple disciplines.

This past fall, Mercer's CSBS began integrating iPads and Google apps into its courses. Students research apps that will enhance their firm's productivity, and then demo the apps to each other. Students have found a range of uses for the iPad, from order-taking to marketing services.

"The initial impact seems to be an increase in the creative energy of students," said Kristen Callahan, associate professor of PC Applications and CSBS's new director. "Teaching and learning become more interesting, flexible and collaborative with new technology." Beginning in Fall 2013, MCCC will run its practice firm both on campus and virtually, using iPad technology, Google apps, social networking, and other cloud applications.

"We are excited about this implementation and eager to see what effects it will have on outcomes," said Callahan, adding that the new technology more readily prepares students for business practices in the real world.



Nursing Alum Emilia Alvarez-Negron Finds “Dream Job” in ER

For alum Emilia Alvarez-Negron '10 (A.A.S., Nursing), becoming a nurse was a lifelong dream. “Nursing is my passion and my calling,” she said.



Alvarez-Negron chose Mercer because of its close proximity to home, flexible class scheduling and affordability. “It worked out great for me because I was working full-time at Bristol-Myers Squibb and attending Mercer part-time. The options for study at Mercer allow even the busiest person to pursue their degree,” she said.

Alvarez-Negron especially recalls the mentoring of Dean Linda Martin and faculty member Karen Ruffin, who directed her clinical rotations at Deborah Heart and Lung Hospital in Browns Mills, N.J. “Professor Ruffin’s expectations and standards for her students were very high. She pushed me to raise the bar when it came to learning and applying that knowledge to my patients,” she said.

Alvarez-Negron earned her degree in 2010, and was valedictorian at the Nursing Pinning ceremony. Soon after, her husband’s job was relocated to Baltimore, and she was able to obtain employment there at St. Agnes Hospital. Initially she worked in a cardiac step down unit, monitoring patients with heart conditions. Today she works in the Emergency Unit, which she describes as “a dream job.”

Was MCCC a Starting Point for Your Success?

Dear Alumni & Friends,

Now that the new year has begun, we ask you to reflect on what your time at MCCC meant to you – a starting point to a successful future, a new beginning, an exciting opportunity for growth?

As our students begin their Spring semester, they are making plans for their future and thinking about the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Mercer’s Annual Giving Campaign gives you the opportunity to help current students realize their dreams as you did. Funds raised will support innovative programs, enrich learning, and enable Mercer County Community College to continue to deliver top-quality education.

We ask everyone to give something; each and every dollar is important and very much appreciated. Join us as we continue to build a culture of philanthropy at Mercer – and GIVE! Visit www.mccc.edu/give to make your donation online, or mail your check, made payable to MCCC Foundation, to Finance & Accounting, P.O. Box 17202, Trenton, NJ 08690.

Sincerely,

Mellissa Zanjani, Ph.D., CFRE

Vice President for College Advancement

Alum Mark Applegate Steps into Spotlight at Kelsey Theatre

When alum Mark Applegate '95 (Theatre) tried out for a part in Maurer Productions’ “The Drowsy Chaperone” at Kelsey Theatre earlier this year, it brought back memories of his time as a Mercer student.

After pursuing theater at Nottingham High School, Applegate enrolled at MCCC based on the recommendation of a friend who had graduated from the Theatre program. “I knew all along that I wanted to study theater,” he said.

Among the roles that Applegate played while at MCCC was Clement C. Moore in the original production of “’Twas the Night Before Christmas,” now one of Kelsey’s annual holiday favorites.

This past year Applegate was back on the Kelsey stage, cast in the starring role of “man in chair” in Maurer Productions’ “The Drowsy Chaperone.” His character, described as a mousy, agoraphobic Broadway fanatic, served as the show’s narrator, offering amusing commentary and anecdotes throughout the show.

“My first experience back at Kelsey has been so much more than I could ever have anticipated,” said Applegate, who praised the talents and professionalism of the director and cast.

Applegate has pursued a career in banking

since 2007, but has continued his theater passion by working part time as a costumer for local high school productions in Mercer County. He said he looks forward to returning to the Kelsey stage in the future.



Alum Ayo Johnson Finds Passion in Nonprofit Work Fueled by Success at Mercer

After getting a good education at Mercer, alum Ayo Johnson '93 (A.S., Business Administration) decided to make it her career goal to help others do the same. “I had no intention of going into nonprofit work,” said Johnson, a Bordentown resident who, after working in both business and academic settings, combined the two skill sets to take on the nonprofit world several years ago.

Working as a waitress while attending classes at Mercer, Johnson remarked that without MCCC’s flexibility she wouldn’t have been able to earn her associate degree. Empowered by her achievement, over the years Johnson continued to grow academically, first pursuing her bachelor’s degree in Business Administration, then earning an elementary teaching certification so she could become a full-time teacher. Finally, while working as the director of education services at Changes, Inc., an early childhood education program in Hamilton, Johnson returned to school once more to earn a master’s degree in Organization Leadership.

By 2010, Johnson’s work in the community was getting noticed, as she received several calls from Westminster Community Life Center, which offers an afterschool program, summer camp, early literacy intervention program, and college and career preparation assistance to the Trenton community. Soon after, Johnson was hired as the center’s director.

“I wanted the opportunity to help grow an organization that was giving back to the Trenton community in a really big way,” said Johnson, who notes that her favorite part of her job is seeing the progress students make through the center’s programs.



Media Technology Specialist Greg Ennis Returns to Community College Roots

Life is about the journey and the experiences that shape a person into who they become. That’s the motto for alum Greg Ennis '84 (A.A.S., TV/Radio) who, as a teenager, listed sports and music as his top priorities, and today gets his greatest satisfactions from being a father and serving as the director of Media Technologies at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, IA.

After graduating from Hillsborough High School in 1982, Ennis enrolled at MCCC to study television and radio production. He remembers the program as a great introduction and one that inspired him to continue to pursue his passion for media production. “I loved the hands-on experience and the camaraderie of working on projects with other students,” he said, noting that the value of teamwork is a lesson that he has carried with him all the way to his current job.

After graduating from Mercer, Ennis transferred to New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts. There, he focused on film production along with cinematography, lighting, and sound recording.

After a varied career in film production and a short stint as a director of youth ministries, Ennis eventually returned to the telecommunications field and has found a happy home at Kirkwood, where he is reconnecting with his community college roots.



Men's Soccer

According to Widmarc Tigana Dalce, his first season as head coach for men's soccer was, quite simply, "great."

In a way, it was a tale of two seasons, as the Vikings ended September with a 2-5 record. "Six players were injured early in the season," Dalce said. In October, the Vikings won six and tied one of their last seven games. They recaptured the Region 19 title and advanced to the Northeast District tournament. Their final record was 10-8-1.

"It's not how you start the season; it's how you finish it," Dalce said.

The Vikings entered the post-season as the no. 2 seed after Burlington. By then, Dalce was seeing action on the field that he knew would lead to success. "These players were willing to listen and be coached. They believed in their teammates, they defended as a group, and they played as a team." That, says Dalce, translated into wins.

Facing Essex CC in the Region 19 semifinal on Oct. 23, the Vikings notched an impressive 5-0 win. Next up was the final against Burling-



Sascha Haecker was named Region 19's MVP and an NJCAA First Team All-American.



The men's soccer team is pictured after defeating Essex CC in the Region 19 semifinal, played at the MCCC Stadium. This season the Vikings recaptured the Region 19 title.

ton on Oct. 27, the third consecutive season the Vikings faced the Barons for the title. (BCC defeated MCCC 3-2 last year and Mercer won 1-0 in 2010.) In September, Burlington had beaten the Vikings 1-0, so the Barons may not have realized what they were up against facing a revitalized Mercer squad.

"We knew we were the better team and we showed them quickly that we meant business," Dalce said. "It was an intense game." Carlos Torres had two goals and Kelvin Flores added a third. Sophomore defender Sascha Haecker was named the Region 19 MVP and Flores was named the region's second most valuable player.

Players named to the All-Region 19 First Team included Haecker, Flores, Ben Asor, Mbeki Johnson and goalie Ruben Morales. Haecker and Flores were also named to the All Garden State Athletic Conference Division I Team. Haecker was named an NJCAA First

Team All-American.

Dalce also recognized the contributions of sophomore midfielder Lido Guzman, who really stepped up his game later in the season, as well as Gustavo Vega, Mbeki Johnson, Nana Osei and brothers Ben and Dan Asor. Morales shared goalkeeping duties with John Richards.

In the Northeast District loss against Monroe CC (Bronx, NY) on Nov. 3, Dalce makes no excuses, but notes it was an away game played on the Saturday following Hurricane Sandy, a huge distraction for those still without power. "Monroe scored two goals on mistakes we made in the first half. But in the second half we showed them how to play soccer. We just couldn't find the net," he said.

Still, Coach Dalce couldn't be prouder of his Viking team and their season. He was assisted by John Pietrowski, Scott Loesser, and Jorge Astudillo.

Women's Soccer

This year, the women's soccer team was all about attitude – positive attitude. According to second year Head Coach Michelle Ogborn-Haywood, "staying positive, working together, and never giving up" was what made the difference at many points. The Vikings ended the season with a 12-5-1 record and had exciting finishes in both the semifinal and final games of the regional tournament.

What hurt early on – quite literally – were injuries. Four starters sustained injuries that kept them out for several weeks. Typically those kinds of setbacks bring down the rest of the team, but with some adjustments, the women moved forward. And, when the injured Vikings returned to the lineup, they came back with a vengeance, according to Ogborn-Haywood.

Entering the post-season as the no. 3 seed, the Vikings played Harcum College, a team they had lost to 3-1 early in the season. This time, they won 3-2 in overtime. Tied after 90 minutes on two goals by Taylor Wright, forward Rachel Martinez put in the game winner in the first overtime. "It was her third break-away, and each time I would bring her out to rest and tell her to change just one little thing," Ogborn-Haywood said. The third time was the charm and the Vikings advanced to the final.

Facing Burlington County College for the Region 19 title, the Vikings exhibited their resilience, strength, skill and teamwork. Again, they faced an opponent they had lost to earlier in the season, a 3-0 defeat on Sept. 20. This time they battled through 90 scoreless minutes and an additional 30 minutes of overtime,



Women's soccer was all about teamwork and a can-do attitude.

forcing the game into penalty kicks. Both teams made three out of five goals, and then, on the sixth, the Viking missed and the Barons didn't. And with that, the season ended.

While there were plenty of tears to go around, Ogborn-Haywood is elated as she concludes her second year. "The coaching staff was serious and these players were serious from the first practice. They were prompt to practices, and showed the intensity and togetherness you need to win. I provided the direction and they were on board." Serving as captains were Alyssa Donahue, goalkeeper Jackie Laurenti and midfielder Chelsea Pitonyak.

One of the harbingers of good things to come was a breakthrough game against CCBC (Essex, MD) on Sept. 22, when CCBC arrived at the MCCC stadium with 20 players to Mercer's 10. Still, the Vikings won 1-0.

"That was a real turning point for their spirit and attitude," Ogborn-Haywood re-

called. "They realized if we can do this, we can do anything."

The Vikings followed that win with five shutouts, including a 9-0 romp over Morris CC and a 5-0 win over Lackawanna. The only additional loss after Sept. 22 came in a 1-0 defeat at Montgomery-Rockville (MD), when the ball deflected off an MCCC player into the goal. The women concluded the regular season with another shutout, a 3-0 victory over Cecil (MD).

All-Region 19 Division I First Team selections included Donahue and Martinez. Donahue, Martinez, Laurenti, Pitonyak, Camille Little and Lauren Donohue were selected to the All Garden State Athletic Conference Division I Team.

Ten freshmen are expected to return next year. Ogborn-Haywood was assisted by Mike DeAngelis and Tom DeStefano.



Victoria Nelson, left, and Lauren Donohue share a celebratory moment.



Women's Tennis

Any time Marc Vecchiolla, head coach for women's tennis, has a chance to take his team to the NJCAA national tournament, he considers the season to have been a very good one. That means many good seasons for the MCCC Vikings, with 13 national appearances and four national titles since Vecchiolla began coaching at MCCC in 1997.

This fall, the team finished the regular season with a 5-4 record and a third place finish in the Region 19 tournament. The Vikings totaled enough points to qualify for nationals, held at the USTA National Tennis Center in Flushing, NY, from Oct. 24-26. They ended the tournament seventh out of 13 teams.

While Vecchiolla enjoyed having four returning sophomores, he notes that the team lost some of its more experienced players, including Alison Noll, the best player in the program's history, who won the national title at no. 1 singles in both of her years playing for MCCC. (Noll served as team manager this season.)

Still, Vecchiolla is more than satisfied with the Vikings' efforts. "They learned and had fun. They exhibited exceptional sportsmanship on

the court," he said.

Highlights at nationals included Kelly Tanzone reaching the final at no. 5 singles and being named an NJCAA All-American. Alina Vitukhnovskaya won the third singles consolation tournament. She and doubles partner Kristen Finn won the second doubles consolation tournament.

According to Vecchiolla, the most memorable match for a Vikings player came early in the tournament. In the first round at no. 2 singles, freshman Salomey Owusu faced an opponent from Broome CC (NY) she had lost to earlier in the season. Owusu came back again and again at the match point and ultimately won after 3.5 hours of gritty tennis.

Others on the 2012 roster included Eva Szyszko at no. 1 singles, Nataly Hernandez at no. 6 singles, and Desiree Villavizar at no. 3 doubles. Practicing with the team was Micheldy Pierre.

Vecchiolla can reflect with satisfaction that four of his eight players – Owusu, Hernandez, Villavizar and Pierre – are expected to return next season.

His philosophy speaks to his larger goal



At nationals are, from left, Nataly Hernandez, Alina Vitukhnovskaya, Kristen Finn, Salomey Owusu, Desiree Villavizar, Kelly Tanzone, Eva Szyszko, and Head Coach Marc Vecchiolla.

for his players. "It's truly not about winning or losing at the tournament," Vecchiolla observes. He notes the real measure of a coach's success is whether his players continue to enjoy the sport into adulthood. "Tennis is the sport of a lifetime."

Vecchiolla was assisted by Barb Pleva and Ralph Bencivengo.

Women's Cross Country



Pictured with the Region 19 runner-up plaque are, from left, Cai-Cai Hahn, Melissa Clair, Kira Costantino, Shelby Miller, Diana Taveras, Head Coach Erin Cahill, Jaqueline Goncalves, Simone Ciocari, Sierra Downs and Erika Manley. Not pictured: Assistant Coach Chris Wetzel.

In just three short years, Mercer's women's cross country team has gone from two runners to a team of ten that qualified for the national championship meet in Illinois. While bad weather and travel issues prevented the team from getting to nationals, Head Coach Erin Cahill believes that this season's runners have much to be proud of and many ways they can measure success.

In 2012, for the first time, the Vikings fielded a full scoring team of runners at all six regular season meets, as well as at the Region 19 championship meet on Oct. 27.

At the highly competitive Paul Short Invitational meet on Sept. 28, the MCCC squad finished ahead of six other teams. At the Region 19 championship, the women came in only 11 points behind Essex CC, a team that included an All-American.

"I would consider it a very competitive season," Cahill said. "The program has made great strides, quite literally. In just three years, we have come a very long way."

Cahill is especially proud of her two top returning runners, sophomores Sierra Downs and Erika Manley. "Sierra was such a great leader for us on and off the field," Cahill said.

"Erika missed some early meets due to injury, but came back strong and was our top finisher at regionals, edging out her teammate, Sierra, at the finish." Manley finished fourth and Downs finished fifth in that race; both earned All-Region honors.

The Vikings also had some newcomers who performed well, with freshmen Shelby Miller and Diana Taveras finishing seventh and eighth respectively at the Region 19 championship and earning All-Region honors. Three other freshmen, Kira Constantino, Melissa Clair and Karizma Brown, all made significant progress.

In addition to Downs and Manley, sophomores Jaqueline Goncalves and Simone Ciocari also completed two full seasons with the women's cross country program. "I appreciate the commitment of these four girls to help build our program," Cahill said.

Cahill was assisted by Chris Wetzel.

Women's Cross Country Helps with Sandy Clean-Up



On Nov. 10, the women's cross country team joined in the Hurricane Sandy clean-up effort in the Jersey town of Belmar. The group spent the day dragging damaged items from flooded homes to the curb for pick-up. Head Coach Erin Cahill said that team members gained a great appreciation of what will be entailed in the long-term clean-up. They also saw how complete strangers came together to help each other in a time of need.

Men's Basketball Team Goes to Washington



The MCCC Vikings are pictured at the Verizon Center in D.C. with Head Coach Howard Levy, back row, second from left, and Georgetown's former coach, John Thompson, Jr., third from left.

Accompanied by fourth year Head Coach Howard Levy, the men's basketball team traveled to the nation's capital Dec. 14-15 to visit historic sites and the U.S. Holocaust Museum – and to play basketball at the Verizon Center.

The Vikings notched a 71-66 victory over CCBC-Catonsville in a contest that took place prior to a Georgetown game. "It's an experience I will remember for the rest of my life," said sophomore Barry Brockington.

The team also toured the Verizon Center facilities and met John Thompson III, the head coach for the Georgetown Hoyas, as well as his father, the legendary John Thompson Jr., who coached at Georgetown for 27 years.

Go Vikings!

The 2012-13 season for Vikings men's and women's basketball continues through Feb. 14. On Tuesday, Feb. 12, when both teams face Morris CC, they will recognize Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The full schedule is available at www.mccc.edu/athletics.

MERCER

County Community College

PO Box 17202
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Trenton, NJ 08690

the VIKING

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.

To share news items or to update your contact information, please call us at **609-570-3607** or email foundation@mccc.edu.

2013



Kelsey Theatre Spring 2013 Calendar *In The Pink!*

Full-Length Family Events

"The Miracle Worker"

Feb. 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10

"Love Letters"

Feb. 15, 16, 17

Reock & Roll Revue:

"The Band & Music From Big Pink"

Feb. 22, 23, 24

"Avenue Q"

March 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10

"Gypsy"

March 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24

"Cabaret"

April 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14

"Legally Blonde – The Musical"

April 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28

"The Sound of Music"

May 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12

**For tickets to Kelsey events,
call 609-570-3333
or visit www.kelseytheatre.net.**

Mercer Dance Ensemble:

"Shades of Pink"

May 18, 19

"Lovers and Other Strangers"

May 31; June 1, 2, 7, 8, 9

"On Golden Pond"

June 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23

Kelsey Kids Series

**"The Little Engine That Could
Earns Her Whistle"**

Jan. 26

"Thumbelina"

Feb. 16

"Charlotte's Web"

April 20

**"The Town Mouse &
The Country Mouse"**

April 27

"Cinderella"

June 1

The Gallery at MCCC

For Gallery hours and a listing of upcoming shows, visit www.mccc.edu/gallery.



Professor Mel Leipzig Shares Art and Perspectives at MCCC Gallery

Professor Mel Leipzig presented a Gallery Talk as part of his "Mostly Recent Works" exhibit at the MCCC Gallery this fall. Leipzig will present three lectures at the Trenton campus this spring: "African-American Painters: Horace Pippin and Jacob Lawrence" on Feb. 6; "The Great Painters of Spain" on March 6; and "Portrait of a College: Paintings by Mel Leipzig" on April 10. More about events at the MCCC Gallery and the college's Distinguished Lecture Series is available at www.mccc.edu.



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