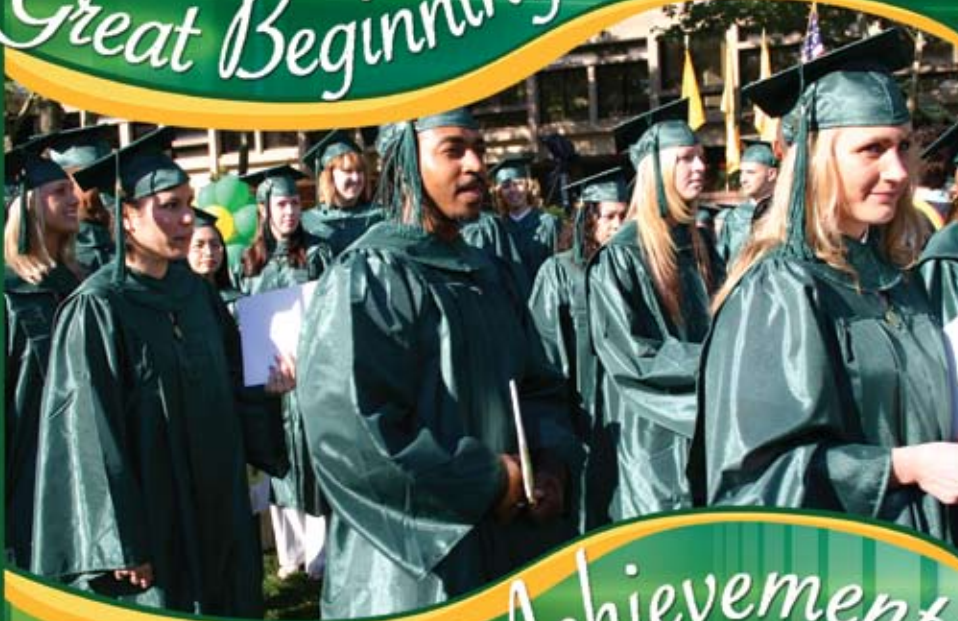


Great Beginnings



Great Achievements

**MERCER COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**
Annual Report to the Community
July 2007 - June 2008

*A vital college, engaged with its community,
and dedicated above all else to student success.*

Great Beginnings, Great Achievements

Message to the Community



This year Mercer County Community College has benefitted from the winning combination of energized faculty, staff and students, engaged community and business leaders, and a Board of Trustees and Foundation Board committed to learning and student success.

Working together to better serve our students, we completed the renovation of our James Kerney Campus cafeteria and Center City Café, opened refurbished labs for nursing and science instruction, and began our One-Stop Student Center and Library reconstruction project at the West Windsor campus. Through our exciting community partnerships we are expanding our footprint in Trenton. Starting this fall we will share facilities with the Trenton school district's Daylight Twilight High School complex, adjacent to our James Kerney Campus. We will use the building's top two floors for our Career Training Institute and Talent Search program. Our goal is to see many of these students transition to college classes at Mercer.

This year we worked to establish new opportunities for students, who can now earn a degree in two years with evening and weekend classes, transfer more easily to three additional four-year colleges, prepare for new careers as nursing assistants, or enroll in a new Biology option that focuses on preparation for medical careers.

In our ongoing effort to ensure safety and security on campus, we instituted new emergency communication systems, began a bike patrol, and created a new staff position to lead college safety and security.

Because reduced funding and higher operating costs have created budgetary challenges, we recently kicked off an Annual Campaign. The unrestricted funds we raise through the campaign will help to ensure that we continue to provide the same high quality education for our students that has given us our reputation as one of the most respected community colleges in New Jersey.

I look forward to the continued engagement of a variety of partners as we execute and refine our Strategic Plan and work on a Master Plan for our facilities that will bring us successfully into the next decade. I sincerely thank all of you who have put education at the top of your priority list, and ask for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia C. Donohue". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Patricia C. Donohue, Ph.D.



LIFE AFFORDS NO HIGHER PLEASURE
 THAN THAT OF SURMOUNTING
 DIFFICULTIES, PASSING FROM ONE STEP
 OF SUCCESS TO ANOTHER,
 FORMING NEW WISHES AND
 SEEING THEM GRATIFIED.

SAMUEL JOHNSON

Constructing an Environment for Success

Announcing the One-Stop Student Center and Library

Streamlining and improving student services is the goal of a major renovation project called the One-Stop Student Center and Library located on the West Windsor Campus. Intensive planning has been underway throughout the year, and construction has begun.

The college's existing Student Center and Library buildings will be completely renovated, and linked together by a newly-built section that will include entryways, a Security desk on the first floor, and a student lounge area on the second floor. The Center will make it possible for stu-

dents to register for classes, receive academic advising, pay their bills and take advantage of numerous related services in a convenient location. The buildings will have new lavatories, heating, air conditioning, information technology systems and elevators.

Designed by the Spiezle Architectural Group, Inc., of Trenton, the project will add a second-floor level to the Library building, utilizing space that is now open. The combined space created by building additions will total approximately 7,000 square feet.

The construction is funded through Chapter 12, a 50/50 shared debt service of the State of New Jersey and Mercer County, designated for capital building projects. The college will seek donors to sponsor rooms, and gifts may be recognized by naming.



Culinary Labs and Dining Facilities Expanded at the James Kerney Campus

The college community came out in force on Feb. 6, when MCCC hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony to open a new 3,900-square-foot building addition at the James Kerney Campus. Designed by the Spiezle Architectural Group, Inc., of Trenton, the addition houses the "Center City Café," a new campus dining area and student culinary lab.

All food served at the café is prepared by culinary students of the Career Training Institute as part of their practicum experience. The Career Training Institute offers 30-week training programs in culinary technology and office automation, and students receive em-

ployability skills training and help with finding employment. In 2007-08, 146 students were served in CTI programs.



Career Training Institute students serve guests in the new "Center City Café."

MCCC Partners with Trenton School District

In June, Mercer County Community College joined with the City of Trenton and its Board of Education in cutting the ribbon for a state-of-the-art Daylight Twilight High School in downtown Trenton, just a half block from MCCC's James Kerney Campus. Opening in September 2008, the high school is designed for returning students who previously dropped out of school. In addition to comfortable classrooms, the facility includes a culinary training kitchen, a television studio, cosmetology training center, graphic arts classrooms, sophisticated



computer, science and engineering labs, plus a daycare center. MCCC will share in occupancy of the building, utilizing the top two floors for its Career Training Institute (CTI) and Talent Search programs. CTI trains students for jobs in office automation and the culinary fields. Talent Search provides academic and career counseling to college-bound students.



MCCC participants, from left, included Board Vice Chair William E. Coleman, Jr., President Patricia C. Donohue, James Kerney Campus Dean Monica Weaver, Vice President Beverly Richardson, and Director of College Advancement Kay Eaton.

Renovated Nursing and Science Labs Open

Thanks to generous donors HelenMarie Dolton and Johnson & Johnson, MCCC's nursing students are now learning in renovated classrooms, fully equipped with the latest technologies. A Nov. 20 ribbon cutting drew many nursing supporters, former faculty, alumni and current students who wanted to see first-hand the mannequins that simulate realistic human sounds, as well as the latest in hospital beds and side tables, wheelchairs and other hospital equipment. An adjoining computer lab was newly equipped with laptop computers.



Also fully renovated in Mercer's Math/Science building this year were two science laboratories, now re-equipped for chemistry and anatomy/physiology classes. The project was funded through New Jersey's Chapter 12.

In the science labs, from left, are faculty member Ron Smith, Dean of Science and Health Professions Linda Martin, faculty member Linda Falcon, and teaching assistant Angela Treannie, with a bony mascot.



HelenMarie Dolton, left, former chair of Nursing and Allied Health, cuts the ribbon for the new nursing lab with MCCC President Patricia Donohue.

Fostering Student Achievement

Honors Program Molds Scholars

Mercer's Honors Program is thriving, growing from two classes serving 15 students when it was introduced in Spring, 2007, to five classes serving 50 students this past spring. Courses range from International Business, Microeconomics and Sociology to Public Speaking, Psychology, and a variety of English and History courses. The Honors Program attracts students who welcome academic challenges, and provides an environment that cultivates critical thinking, analytical writing, and effective public speaking.

Students graduating with Mercer's Honors designation have expanded opportunities for transfer, and are best prepared to meet the challenges of honors programs at four-year colleges.

English faculty member Bettina Caluori leads a roundtable discussion.



EDUCATION IS THE GREAT ENGINE OF
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT.
IT IS THROUGH EDUCATION THAT THE
DAUGHTER OF A PEASANT
CAN BECOME A DOCTOR,
THAT A SON OF A MINERWORKER CAN
BECOME THE HEAD OF THE MINE,
THAT A CHILD OF FARM WORKERS CAN
BECOME THE PRESIDENT...

NELSON MANDELA

MCCC Promotes Performing Arts Through Innovative Competition

In its first ever "Searching for the Stars" competition in February and March, Mercer's Theatre Program invited community members to showcase their talents before a group of judges and a packed house of family and friends at the James Kerney Campus.

Singer/songwriter Kelly Carvin, an MCCC Music student, was the winner in the March 14 finale, after two previous nights of competition that started with 23 contestants. Carvin's prize was a rousing performance before an enthusiastic crowd at the famed Apollo Theater in Harlem on May 30.



From left, finalists Victor Ruiz, James Lockhart, Kelly Carvin, Dechantel Goodman and Jamal Taylor.

Television Students Win Two Awards for Documentary

Television majors Nick Donnoli and Sam Kanig were the recipients of a 2008 Telly Award in the documentary video category for their 20-minute video about Mercer Street Friends, a Trenton-based nonprofit agency that provides services to the needy. The documentary also received an award in the Purple Violet Film Festival at Kean University, and was screened at a special event at Kean.

According to Mercer Street Friends staff, the organization has found myriad uses for the video since its completion last December -- to orient new staff, board and foundation members; to educate potential donors; and even to improve internal communication among the organization's four divisions.



From left, award-winning Television students Sam Kanig and Nick Donnoli, with faculty members Barry Levy and Steve Voorbees.

Tennis Title Caps Impressive Year for Student Athletes



Marc Nichols

More than 120 students participated on Mercer's eight athletic teams during the 2007-08 academic year. Thirty are transferring to four-year colleges, including Marc Nichols, who won the no. 1 singles title at the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) tournament in Plano, TX.

In baseball, the Vikings captured the Region 19 title for the first time since 2003. Two teams – men's soccer and men's tennis – competed in national tournaments. The men's and women's basketball teams also had winning records.

In coaching news, Marc Vecchiolla was named head coach for men's tennis and Jodie Ricciardi was named head coach for women's soccer. MCCC Assistant Dean for Student Services and Director of Athletics John Simone was chosen as the 2007 "Man of the Year" by the Trenton Select Committee in recognition of his years of service and commitment to youth sports.



Infielder Matt Russo

Students Speak Their Minds

Public speaking looked not only fun, but easy, as Communications students presented personal anecdotes, humorous stories, poems and more at lunchtime "Swirl Fests" during the fall and spring semesters. Faculty, staff and fellow students flocked to a tent on the college quad to hear what these talented orators had on their minds, responding with laughter, applause and cheers of approval.



Students Davorea Thomas and Corinda Clemens contribute to Swirl Fest success.

Expanding Student Opportunities

Facilitating Transfer

Always on the alert for new opportunities that ease the transfer process, this year the college signed three new transfer agreements, including a Monmouth University agreement that enables Computer Science graduates to enter directly into the Software Engineering program there.

Exercise Science graduates can now transfer more easily to William Paterson University's Physical Education program, and graduates from most programs can transfer easily to Philadelphia University's Accelerated Bachelor of Science Degree Completion Program, Evening Studies.

Mercer's Career and Transfer Services Office presented 25 Transfer Workshops and 17 Career Workshops on campus, visited county high schools, and participated in Open House programs and Career Fairs. Of the MCCC graduates who completed a student survey, 50 percent said they will transfer to continue their education.



Laura Christiansen ('08) earned a major scholarship to continue her education at Mt. Holyoke College.

Biology Program Offers Pre-Med Option

Mercer's Biology program may now be completed with a new option designed for students whose goal is to transfer in their junior year to programs such as pre-medicine, pre-veterinarian, pre-dentistry, physician assistant, biotechnology, microbiology, molecular biology, genetic or biochemical engineering, pharmacy and physical therapy. Mercer's Biology graduates have successfully transferred to colleges throughout the country.



Distance Learning Grows

Mercer's Virtual College has experienced a large enrollment increase. Enjoying steady growth since classes were introduced in 1997, Mercer's distance learning program offered 218 classes this year, and served approximately 4,500 enrollees. The program has increased by more than a third over the past few years. Two of Mercer's most popular areas, Liberal Arts and Business, make up the majority of classes.

In fall, 2007, the Virtual College unveiled ANGEL, a new system for online course offerings. During ANGEL's first year, MCCC's Office of Professional Development presented five training modules to 90 faculty members on key elements of ANGEL. The system has been enthusiastically received by both instructors and students, who find it well organized and easy to use.

Evening Weekend College Begins

Responding to student needs, Mercer has developed a new Evening Weekend College to accommodate adult learners who work full time or care for young children during the day. Beginning with the fall 2008 semester, students can earn an associate degree in Business Administration or Liberal Arts in two years by attending classes in the evening, on weekends and online.

Most courses are 15 weeks in duration, with some seven- to eight-week accelerated classes and some six-week summer classes. Both degree programs are designed for students who plan to transfer to four-year colleges or universities.



Training Begins for Certified Nursing Assistants and Home Health Aides

Responding to the growing need for health care workers, Mercer launched its training program for Certified Nursing Assistants and Home Health Aides in fall, 2007, with support from Johnson & Johnson.

This noncredit program can be completed in one semester and serves as an entry point for students interested in health professions. Lawrenceville Nursing and Rehabilitation Center serves as the site for students' clinical training.

EDUCATION IS NOT THE FILLING OF A
PAIL, BUT THE LIGHTING OF A FIRE.

WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS

Adult Basic Education and GED Programs Grow

Mercer's Adult Basic Education and GED preparation programs, providing basic skills classes for students of all ages at the James Kerney Campus, saw tremendous growth this year. The 951 enrolled students represented a 42 percent increase over the previous fiscal year.

The GED preparation program graduated 76 students, representing a 22 percent increase over the previous year. At MCCC's GED Testing Center, more than 400 individuals completed the New Jersey State GED examination this year.



Education Specialist and GED Site Coordinator Adrienne Dixon, second from left, works with students at the James Kerney Campus Learning Center.

Youth Programs Provide Enrichment and College Readiness

Each year, students from Trenton's middle and high schools enjoy an abundance of enrichment activities at MCCC's James Kerney Campus. The Project SMILE/GEARUP program offered enrichment activities for 371 students, including motivation to pursue math and science. Offering college preparation, tutoring, and personal and career counseling, the Educational Talent Search program served 942 students and Upward Bound served 102.

Trenton teens learn computer skills through the Project SMILE/GEARUP program.



English Language Programs Thrive at Mercer

MCCC continues to offer a variety of programs and courses for speakers of other languages who want to learn English -- from the beginner to more advanced levels.

The English Language Institute (ELI) at the James Kerney Campus in downtown Trenton provides noncredit day and evening English instruction, combined with computer-assisted learning. The ELI taught 496 students from 28 countries, from Haiti to the Ukraine. In May the program presented certificates of completion in Advanced English to 82 students.

At the college's West Windsor Campus, the credit English as a Second Language (ESL) program offers non-native speakers an opportunity to develop their English skills in support of college learning.

MCCC Receives Grant for Literacy Project in Trenton

This year the college received a \$100,000 grant to carry out the Trenton Family Literacy Project, which addresses the need to improve literacy skills in Trenton. Targeting the very youngest citizens, children ages 0 to 3, the project's goal is to educate parents and caregivers in literacy skills they can implement in the home or the child care center.

The grant was awarded by the Trenton-based nonprofit organization, Children's Futures, which is devoted to improving health and development for children and their families.

Program participants come from populations served by MCCC's Adult Education Programs, both campus-based and at extension sites, and from the caregiver population currently enrolled in other professional development education.

Fostering the Arts

Macbeth to Techno-Jazz – MCCC Students Perform

MCCC Theatre students wowed the crowd with two theatricals during 2007-08. “The Seven Deadly Sins” featured four original one-act plays and three dance numbers in a unique collaboration that allowed students to explore the darker facets of human nature. Students wrestled with similarly dark themes in a creative interpretation of “Macbeth,” in which each actor had his or her chance to take on the lead character’s persona.



Behind-the-scenes assistance was provided for both performances by Mercer’s Entertainment Technology students.

The Mercer Dance Ensemble fused elements of ballet, modern and jazz in their annual spring performance. “MDE Undercover” included ten original numbers set to a range of music from classical to techno-jazz. The dancers used a whole body approach, emphasizing flexibility, strength, coordination, and fluid, lyrical movements.

TELL ME AND I FORGET.

TEACH ME, AND I MAY REMEMBER.

INVOLVE ME, AND I LEARN.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



Kelsey Theatre Season Receives Accolades

Community theater was never finer than during the 2007-08 season at Kelsey Theatre, where 13 full-length dramas, comedies and musicals were staged, along with 17 children’s shows presented by community and professional troupes. Productions at Kelsey received 21 Perry Award nominations for excellence in a variety of categories, with two shows, “Driving Miss Daisy” and “Singin’ in the Rain,” garnering 17 between them (“Driving Miss Daisy” won five Perrys.) Both shows were produced by Maurer Productions OnStage, whose founder, John Maurer, is a 1982 Mercer alumnus.

MCCC alumnus John Maurer, right, has teamed with his wife Diana and brother Dan to establish Maurer Productions OnStage as one of Kelsey Theatre’s signature companies.



WWFM Introduces “Jazz on 2”; Celebrates 25 Years

Celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, WWFM, The Classical Network of MCCC, has embarked on a new venture – the launch of a jazz station called “Jazz On 2.” The station airs on 89.1 HD2, which is one of 89.1’s new digital channels. Programming is locally produced in part, as well as in collaboration with WDUQ in Pittsburgh, made possible by the college’s recently added membership affiliation with National Public Radio.

The new initiative is coordinated by Winifred Howard, who has worked at WWFM for many years as a producer with public affairs programs and “The Dress Circle.” She will be producing 12 hours of local programming daily, with many volunteer hosts, including members of the college’s faculty and staff, and members of the community. The music is also simulcast on the college’s cable TV station, Channel 26, during bulletin board announcements.



According to WWFM General Manager Peter Fretwell, one goal of the station is to encourage students to continue both their higher education and their music involvement after high school. Another is to help draw students to MCCC’s programs, especially at the downtown Trenton James Kerney Campus, and to help revive Trenton’s jazz heritage.

WWFM The Classical Network is licensed to Mercer County Community College, 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.



“Dangerous Women” Flourish at Mercer’s Gallery

In a unique and ambitious installation, the MCCC Gallery, under Gallery Director and Curator Tricia Fagan, hosted “Dangerous Women Two” in the fall, pairing 69 of the region’s most outstanding women artists with 69 women activists, adventurers and artists from the 20th Century. The result was an inspiring mix of art and history, captured in oils, watercolors, mixed-media collages, stone, metal, prints, photography, jewelry and more. The exhibit received generous support from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation. A detailed color catalog commemorates the show.



The Gallery mounted five other successful shows including Mercer County Artists 2008 and the Visual Arts Student Show.

Alumna Keiko Ishida was one of the artists in “Dangerous Women Two.”



James Bascara’s self-portrait was part of the Visual Arts Student Show, which featured 170 paintings, photographs, drawings, prints, sculptures, ceramics, and chairs made of found objects.

INTELLECTUAL GROWTH SHOULD
COMMENCE AT BIRTH AND
CEASE ONLY AT DEATH.

ALBERT EINSTEIN

Serving the Business Community and

From Business and Technology to Sushi and Fitness

MCCC's Center for Continuing Studies filled the educational needs of nearly 5,000 adults of all ages through its wide range of professional development and personal interest classes. To help business leaders keep up with the best in organizational strategies, the Center offered a full slate of business programs for a sophisticated audience, such as "Six Sigma White Belt," developed by Motorola, which provided a high-level introduction to "lean thinking"

Other business classes and program series included inventory management, leadership excellence, small business management, payroll, bookkeeping, accounting, human resources, marketing, communications, real estate, nonprofit leadership, and construction project management. Instructors are working professionals with expertise in these fields.

Also helping to keep the workforce trained in the latest technologies, the Center offers computer application classes from the begin-



Roger Shapiro, center, president and founder of Mitchell Rose, LLC, teaches "Writing for Public Relations Marketing and Advertising." He is pictured with MCCC faculty member Tina LaPlaca, to his left, during a visit to an Advertising Design class.

ner level to more advanced areas such as web design and development, Sun Java, Oracle 10g and Cisco (CCNA and CCNP).

Popular for its personal interest courses and broad array of culinary classes, the Center also has expanded its online course options, offering hundreds of classes that run for six weeks and can be completed at any time of day or night.

Customized Training Helps Organizations Stay Competitive in Today's Changing Economy

MCCC's Center for Training and Development (CTD) served 1,783 students this year. CTD designs customized training programs for major corporations as well as small businesses, hospitals, government agencies and nonprofit organizations. In addition to increasing employee skills, training programs help businesses improve productivity, support change initiatives, increase sales and improve job retention.

According to Jon Goldstein, an instructor for CTD's popular leadership programs, participants in his class have learned to find their "leadership voice" to help them align their companies' strategic thinking with daily operations. He notes that this is critical in the new digital economy, in which leaders must understand these changes and ensure that their workforce can respond to new demands.

Adult Learners

Workforce Training Supported by Grant Funding

Continuing this year, a major grant has enabled area businesses and nonprofit organizations to send their employees for training in basic math and communication skills, English as a Second Language (ESL), and Microsoft applications, free of charge.

In classes taught by MCCC's Center for Training and Development, the workers received training at the college or at their place of employment.

The grant was secured in cooperation with the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development through a grant to the New Jersey Business and Industry Association and the New Jersey County College Consortium.

Marc Elchones Finds Second Career Through MCCC's Center for Continuing Studies

After working as a banker for 35 years, life changes prompted Marc Elchones to look for a new career. He found the training he needed at MCCC's Center for Continuing Studies.



Throughout much of his career, Elchones spent three hours a day commuting to New York from South Brunswick, working for investment giants including JP Morgan Chase and, most recently, Bank of New York. He got used to merger after merger, and the stresses that accompanied each one.

In his 50s, while dealing with some medical issues, he began to consider the field of medical billing and coding, and signed up for noncredit classes at Mercer. Seven courses later, he passed the exam to be a Certified Professional Coder and then finished up two more courses to earn his Medical Billing/Coding certificate in 2004.

After serving what he considers his internship as a coder for a radiology practice, Elchones joined the staff at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey/Robert Wood Johnson Medical School as a billing and coding auditor. Currently he is the assistant compliance officer at RWJ Medical School. "I find the work fulfilling, and the people I work with are great," he said. He is also bringing his expertise back to Mercer. For the past two years, he has taught a medical coding course. "I draw on my own experience at Robert Wood. I bring a hands-on, real world perspective, which students seem to appreciate."

Elchones says his Mercer training was the perfect solution to his mid-life career change. "The teachers were knowledgeable and willing to help. They were really inspiring." He has found an additional source of fulfillment in the medical field. A former heart surgery patient himself, he now volunteers at RWJUH with a group called Caring Hearts, which visits cardiac patients before and after surgery.



The Conference Center at Mercer: Here to Serve

Noted for its state-of-the-art technology and first-rate customer service, the Conference Center at Mercer hosted 503 events this year, welcoming 24,200 guests to its bright and spacious facility. Added to the client list were corporations such as Ecolab, Sovereign Bank, Mercadieu and Johnson Controls, as well as numerous nonprofit organizations including New Jersey Education Association, the Italian American Heritage Commission and Capitol County Children's Collaborative.

Since opening in 2003, the Center has served a high percentage of return clients, who give the facility excellent marks for individualized customer service, comfortable meeting rooms, high-tech equipment and technical support. The Center has also built a reputation for quality food service at a reasonable price.

Celebrating Alumni Success

Heidi Berkey

Career Changer and Award-Winning Teacher



Heidi Berkey '03 has always wanted to make the world a better place, one child at a time. As a fourth-grade teacher at Pond Road Middle School in Robbinsville, she teaches her students the fundamentals of reading and writing.

MCCC played a critical role in Berkey's evolution as a teacher. Years earlier she had majored in Visual and Performing Arts and minored in Education at Syracuse University. After leaving college to marry and start a family, Berkey returned to the workforce as district manager in the retail sector and later took real estate courses at Mercer and obtained her real estate license.

Yet Berkey always wanted to become a teacher, and it was "now or never," she said. Mercer prepared her, and she excelled, graduating with a 4.0 grade point average. She served as the college's 2003 student commencement speaker.

After graduation Berkey continued her path of academic excellence as an Elementary Education/American Studies major at Rider University, maintaining a 4.0, being named to the national dean's list, and being honored as an Andrew J. Rider Scholar. In 2005, she was one of 15 students to receive recognition as an NJ Commissioner's Distinguished Teacher Candidate. Berkey is currently pursuing a master's degree in Educational Administration at Rider. For students everywhere, she offers this message: "It's never too late to begin, continue or complete your education. Go for it."

John Harmon

Dedicated to Community Service



Today **John Harmon '81** is a self-motivated professional, president and chief executive officer of the Metropolitan Trenton African American Chamber of Commerce (MTAACC). But when he was fresh out of high school, Harmon needed a little encouragement. In those days he enjoyed passing his time socializing on the campus of Mercer County Community College. "All the while there were Mercer staff members who encouraged me to think about going to college," said Harmon. "They took me by the hand and gave me the support I needed."

After earning his A.S. in Business Administration at Mercer, Harmon completed a bachelor's degree in Business Management at Fairleigh Dickinson University in 1983. He began a banking career, first at Bowery Savings Bank in New York City, then at Chemical Bank, where he established an Affordable Housing Loan Program. He returned to Trenton and founded Harmon Transfer, Inc., a company that transported food throughout the Northeast and Canada. In 1999 he was tapped to lead the MTAACC. Not only has the organization grown in membership under his leadership, it has established important affiliations throughout the state and country.

The recipient of several business and community awards, Harmon is a member of the board of the National Black Chamber of Commerce, which he has represented in meetings at The White House. Crediting MCCC as the starting point for his academic and career achievements, he said, "Because of Mercer, I am where I am today."

Tara Paster

Making the Culinary World Safer

Tara Paster '90 has always thrived on ensuring that people eat, drink and be merry -- yet safe. As president of Paster Training, Inc., based in Pottstown, PA, she is on a mission to provide the hospitality industry with information that resonates, creating innovative training sessions on food safety and responsible beverage service practices that "get attention and keep it -- with real world war stories." Established in 2001, her company has trained many of today's top food retailers, manufacturers, processors and operators across the country and world.

Paster has worked as a regional training consultant, general manager, district manager, director of marketing, and director of operations for such companies as the Marriott Corporation, H.T. Rose Enterprises, Inc., Roy Rogers, and Hardee's Food System. She is the author of two food safety training manuals.

A member of the first class to use Mercer's new training kitchen on the West Windsor Campus, Paster credits MCCC with giving her the thorough knowledge base that she brings to her business. "I had a great time at Mercer. It confirmed that I was entering the right industry," she said. She recalls her experience as student speaker at MCCC's 1990 Commencement as one of the high points of her life.



Dr. Nickolas Dawlabani

From Mercer to Medicine



For as long as he can remember, **Nickolas E. Dawlabani, MD '98** dreamed of becoming a doctor. Today, Dr. Dawlabani is a pediatrician in private practice with his brother. He has admitting privileges at Trenton's Capital Health System, and works as a pediatric hospitalist at Virtua Health System in Voorhees, as well as at Mount Holly hospitals.

After graduating with honors from MCCC with an associate degree in Chemistry, he transferred smoothly to Rider University, where he earned a bachelor's degree with honors in Biochemistry. He went on to graduate from Ross University School of Medicine in Dominica, West Indies, located "right on the beach," he recalls fondly. "Due to my thorough academic preparation at Mercer, I felt very confident entering a four-year college, and then medical school," said Dawlabani.

Next came three years of residency training at The Children's Hospital at Saint Peter's University Hospital in New Brunswick, where Dawlabani specialized in pediatrics. Born in Boston, MA, Dawlabani was raised in Zahle, Lebanon. He arrived in the United States in 1996 to pursue higher education, choosing MCCC after researching several New Jersey colleges from abroad. "I'm very grateful to MCCC for providing me with a solid start to my career. To my fellow MCCC graduates, I say the sky is the limit! Go out there and capture it!"

Seth Rivkin

Career Changer Opens DesignPulse.biz

Corporate downsizing prompted **Seth Rivkin '94** to pursue his passion. Today, he is president of DesignPulse.biz, a "customer-centric" integrated marketing, advertising and web design firm based in West Trenton.

Rivkin decided to return to college after being laid off from his job at GE AstroSpace. He completed his degree requirements in MCCC's Computer Graphics program in just three semesters, then landed a position as art director at a local ad agency. His design career took him to other agencies and to Merck & Company's world headquarters. He then joined the staff of Educational Testing Service in Princeton as director of design services in the Publishing Services Division. During his successful stint with ETS, a former client requested his services to develop a branding campaign, corporate identity package, website design and ad series. According to



Rivkin, as the project grew, so did the need for a business presence. He established DesignPulse.biz in 1998.

Rivkin is grateful to MCCC for giving him the tools he needed to launch his career. "There's something very fresh and uplifting about the faculty and staff," he said. "From the basics in drawing and 3-D modeling, to computer graphics and advertising design, the skills I learned are key factors in my success today. Doing something I love is a great way to earn a living."

Jocelyn Tyree

MCCC Mentor On Her Way to the Ministry

Jocelyn Tyree '01 fell in love with teaching when she worked as a mentor to middle school students in Mercer's Project SMILE program. SMILE is designed to stimulate the interests of Trenton youngsters in math, science and computer technology. Tyree received Project SMILE's Outstanding Middle School Counselor Award in 2006 and 2007.



Following in her late mother's footsteps, Tyree sought to become a teacher, a path she pursued at Mercer. After earning her A.A. in Education, she continued at Temple University, graduating summa cum laude in 2004 with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, and in 2007 with a master's degree in Urban Education. After teaching at a local public school and a Philadelphia charter school, she is now changing direction to heed a spiritual calling.

This fall Tyree is embarking on graduate studies at Palmer Theological Seminary. "I have decided to combine both counseling and ministry. I have a passion for today's youth. I desire for them to become spiritually, emotionally, and mentally whole individuals who will be able to blossom and contribute to our society as they grow and develop," she said.

Tyree lauds Mercer staff and faculty members for their efforts in her professional development. "My professors always made themselves available to me even out of the classroom. I remember them encouraging me to keep going to reach greater heights."

For more stories featuring
Mercer's successful alumni, visit
www.mccc.edu/success-stories

ALL GLORY COMES
FROM DARING TO BEGIN.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Providing a Secure Environment

With the increasing global focus on safety and security, colleges have become acutely aware of the need to ensure the safety of students, staff and faculty. Mercer has responded with a variety of initiatives, including the appointment of a Director of College Safety, new bike patrols, and new communication systems.



Security officer Justin Tibbetts

To facilitate communication during emergencies, Mercer has initiated the M-Alert system, which enables college administrators and Security personnel to reach students, faculty, and staff members with messages via voice recording, e-mail, and text messaging. During unforeseen events, critical situations, or emergencies, the college will use the system to broadcast pertinent information and provide details on appropriate response.

An important component of the emergency communication system is MercerMail – a new student e-mail system that gives all credit students an e-mail account. Student e-mail enables faculty and staff to communicate more quickly with their class members, or with the entire student body.

Adding a more mobile component to campus security is the new Bike Patrol, which enables officers to respond more quickly, safely and easily in a variety of situations. Personal interaction is enhanced, and the patrols are a sound “green” alternative. The bicycles are equipped with EMT supplies and light units.

MCCC Summer Camps: Fun Plus So Much More

For eight weeks this summer, the MCCC campus was energized by the presence of the younger generation – children ages 6 to 17 – who participated in a variety of summer camp programs.

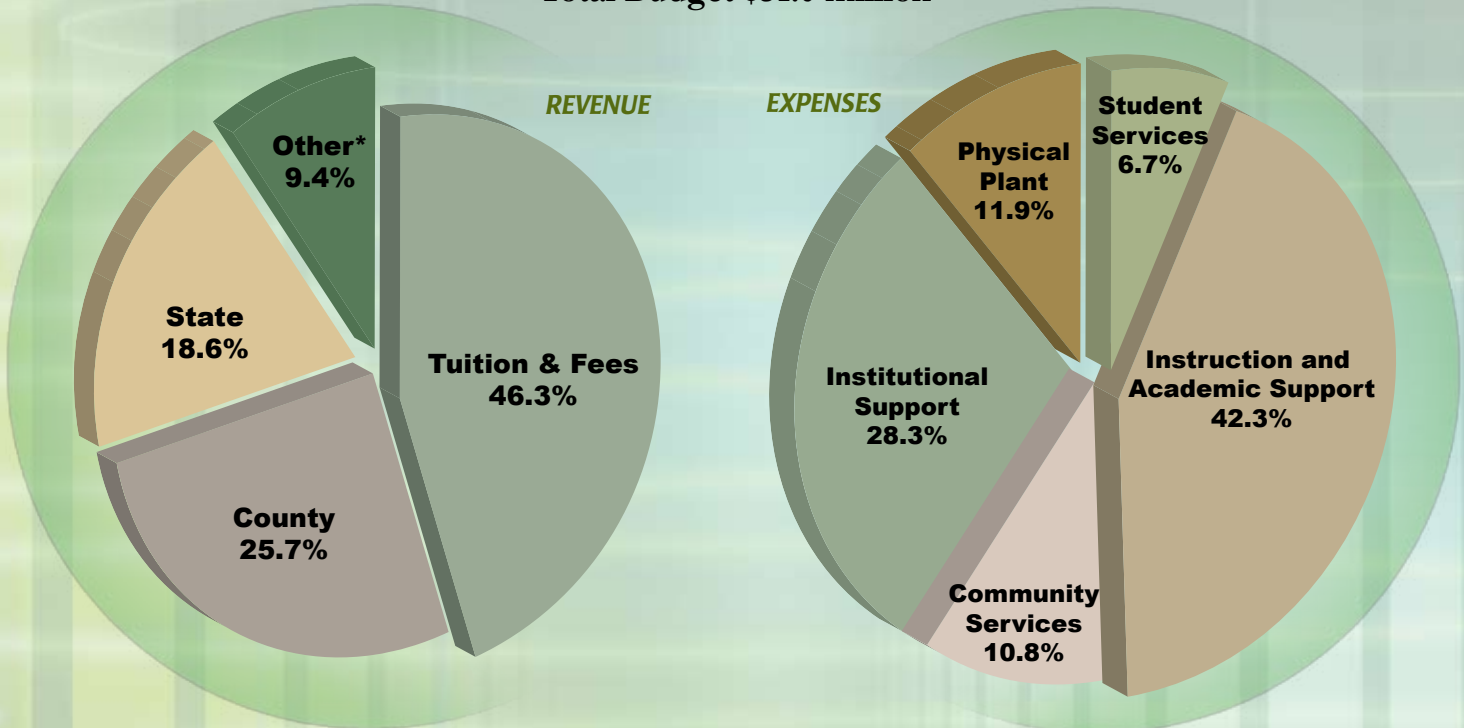
Camp College enrolled 1,130 youngsters who learned and had fun as they utilized Mercer’s classrooms, fields and other college facilities. Tomato Patch and Master Class Performing Arts Workshops were filled to capacity with 338 aspiring actors and artists. Their end-of-session shows played to sold-out crowds of family and friends. Young athletes took to the fields and courts at Mercer Sports Camps, with 560 enrollees choosing among 13 week-long sessions that helped them sharpen their skills in friendly competition.



Financial Overview • July 2007 - June 2008

(unaudited)

Total Budget \$51.0 million



*"Other" category includes Conference Center, Kelsey Theatre, WWFM, etc.

Number of Community Members Served:

- Credit Enrollment: 13,272
- Center for Continuing Studies: 4,609
- Center for Training and Development: 1,783
- James Kerney Campus Career Training Institute and Adult Education: 1,097
- English Language Institute: 496
- Children's Summer Camps and Youth Programs: 3,442

Many thousands more come to our campuses for Kelsey Theatre, Art Gallery, lectures and tours. Hundreds of community groups utilize our athletic facilities each year.

Board of Trustees



From left, seated, are Rev. William E. Coleman, Jr. and Kim Coleman. Standing are Pam Hersh, Mark Matzen, Anthony Cimino, Marvin Gardner, Dr. Patricia C. Donohue, Samuel Stewart, and Robert Di Falco. Not pictured are David Applebaum, Dr. Mary Lou Armiger and Gwendolyn L. Harris.

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