

# THE VIKING

Summer 2003

**MERCER**  
County Community College  
[www.mccc.edu](http://www.mccc.edu)

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



Inductees into Mercer's Sports Hall of Fame (l. to r.):  
Connie White, Coach Howie Landa, Rich Cornwall  
(representing brother Jim), Terry Dorner, Mel Weldon and  
Bobby Sands.

## Mercer Welcomes Back Basketball Heroes

There were plenty of handshakes and hugs to go around as Mercer welcomed back some of its basketball heroes from the 1960s and 1970s on January 18. Former Men's Basketball Coach Howie Landa and five players were inducted into the **MCCC Sports Hall of Fame**, and the 1972-73 Men's National Championship Team was honored as Mercer's "Team of Distinction." All but two of the honorees returned for the celebration, some

from as far away as California, along with family, friends, other alumni and MCCC staff members. "We were thanked over and over for hosting the event," said Athletic Director John Simone. "More than 120 people turned out. It was a heartfelt day for everyone involved."

Mercer Professor Al Leister, who chaired the Athletic Department from 1970 to 1989 and was on the Hall of Fame Planning Committee, noted

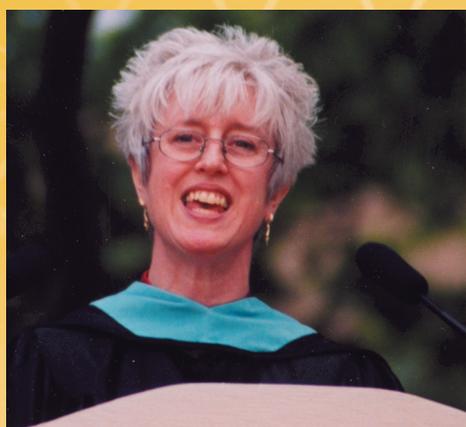
that some of the players had not seen each other in 30 years. "I was delighted that so many came back," said Leister. Honoree Terry Dorner ('80), who had previously been inducted into the Hall of Fame at Rutgers University (her transfer school after Mercer) and the Loysock High School Hall of Fame (her high school), said that neither of those events compared to her special day at Mercer. "There was a real family feeling here. It was great fun," said Dorner. Added Leister, "At the risk of sounding corny, there was a lot of love in that room."

Leister noted that the '73 team was truly something special. "There may have been individual athletes on other Mercer teams who were better," he said. "But that team knew how to play together and to do what it takes to win."

Leister was especially pleased that alumnus Connie White of Berkeley, CA, attended the event. "He is the best example of who we are and what we do at Mercer," said Leister, as he recalled that White arrived at Mercer with a poor academic record. "But he got serious when he got here. He took his books to games." White transferred to the University of California at Berkeley with an athletic scholarship and today works for the Probation Department in Alameda County, California.

The Hall of Fame inductees include: Howie Landa, MCCC basketball coach from 1961 to 1986 and three-time NJCAA Coach of the Year;

*(continued on page 3)*



### Debbie Kell Named Distinguished Teacher 2003

Mathematics and Information Technology faculty member, Debbie Kell, was awarded the 2003 Distinguished Teaching Award at Commencement ceremonies. Noted for her dynamic classroom performance and energy, Kell has been a faculty leader in the development of online courses. She also took the lead in developing programs for instructional and professional improvement on campus. "Her tremendous enthusiasm has enriched the college and the classroom," said MCCC Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs Thomas Wilfrid.

## Business is Booming at The Conference Center at Mercer



Guests in the Conference Center's auditorium.

Having hosted more than 230 conferences, meetings and training programs since its January opening, the new Conference Center at Mercer is in full swing. "The response to our services has been great," said General Manager Dee Rosebrock. "And it's gratifying to see the number of clients who are booking their next event the same day they complete their current one."

With its beautiful three-story atrium, its high-

tech capabilities, top-notch services and excellent food, the center has attracted businesses of all sizes, nonprofit organizations, and groups from area schools, hospitals and civic associations. "We have seen a wide variety of clients," Rosebrock said. "Large companies such as Johnson & Johnson, Lenox, and Yardville National Bank have booked multiple dates." Several organizations have held their installation dinners at the center, including

*(continued on page 3)*

YOUR BEST CHOICE



## Two Elected to Phi Theta Kappa "All State Academic Team"

MCCC President Robert Rose congratulates Kelli Muench, center, and Catherine Jablonski, who were elected to the 2003 Phi Theta Kappa "All State Academic Team." Jablonski, a Communications major, earned a perfect 4.0 average and will transfer to Rider University in December. "Coming to Mercer was the best decision I ever made," she said.

Muench is a Business Administration honors student who is also transferring to Rider University, pursuing a double major in Finance and Accounting. "Mercer has been great for me. I have been able to make my own schedule, fitting in work and school. I've had one good experience after another."

## MCCC Alumna Addresses Presidents and Trustees

Cassandra Breza, a May 2002 Mercer graduate, was the featured speaker at the Spring Trustee Conference of the New Jersey Council of County Colleges, a gathering of the state's county college presidents and trustees. Breza, who is continuing her education at the Art Institute of Philadelphia, spoke about her positive experiences at Mercer, where she took credit, online and summer classes.



## Kerney Campus Provost Beverly Richardson Honored

Dr. Beverly Richardson, provost of MCCC's James Kerney Campus, was honored recently by two area organizations, the Cherish the Children Foundation and the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Delta Upsilon Chapter of Trenton.

The Cherish the Children Foundation is a program of the New Jersey Commission on Abused, Neglected and Missing Children. The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity is part of a national organization that provides scholarships, mentoring and other assistance to young adults.

Richardson has served as provost of MCCC's James Kerney Campus since 1990, and has been in management positions with the college since 1981. She was formerly associate dean of student affairs at Bentley College, and financial aid director at both Harvard University's Graduate School of Education and the Massachusetts College of Art. Richardson earned her BA from Norfolk State College, her M.A.T. from Simmons College, and her Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from Boston College. She attended Harvard University's Institute for the Management of Lifelong Education in 1990.

Very active in community affairs, Richardson chairs the Children's Futures Project, which works to ensure that children from birth to age three are healthy and ready to learn. Her many other community activities include serving on the advisory board of St. Francis Medical Center and co-chairing the Heritage Tourism Project, which promotes Trenton as a tourism destination. She is chair of the College Board Middle States Regional Council.

## MCCC Students Complete Research at Princeton and Rider Universities

Science students who decide to study at a community college don't usually do honors research at major universities, but for two MCCC students, Dhaval Patel and Adam Getzel, that's what happened last semester.

Patel's research, at Princeton University, was titled "Synthesis of Free-Base Porphyrin." The research focused on a drug that can remove toxic chemicals from people who suffer from Alzheimers, Parkinson's and other neurological diseases. Patel has been taking courses at Mercer this year after graduating from Bucknell University with bachelor's degrees in Biology and Chemistry. "I love to learn," he said. "Mercer has worked out great for me." Patel hopes to attend medical school this fall. While at Mercer he has also enjoyed studying Japanese, poetry and art.

Getzel's research project, at Rider University, was under Professor Bruce Burnham. His topic

was "Synthesis and Hypolipodemic Study of a 2, 3, 4-Trisubstituted Pyrrole." A Hamilton High School West graduate, Getzel works full-time at Firmenich in Plainsboro. "I'm a hands-on learner and this has been a great experience," said Getzel, who has completed 65 credits at Mercer and is nearing completion of a degree in Chemistry at Thomas Edison State College.

According to MCCC Chemistry faculty member Helen Tanzini, "Working in a lab with highly sophisticated instrumentation opens doors for jobs, and for transfer to four-year schools. It has made our students very competitive in the job market."

*Dhaval Patel, left, and Adam Getzel, right, with Chemistry faculty member Helen Tanzini after the two presented their honors research projects to faculty and staff.*



## Exploring the New Frontiers of Entertainment Technology

Experts in new and emerging technologies such as digital cinema, animation, high definition TV and webcasting will be part of New Jersey's first Entertainment Technology Conference set for September 24-26 at the Conference Center at Mercer.

Keynote speakers will include Barry Rebo, co-founder of the first high definition video production company in the U.S., and Michael Uslan, executive producer of films that include the series of *Batman* films. Both are Emmy Award winners.

Co-sponsoring the event with MCCC are the New Jersey Motion Picture and Television Commission, the Sarnoff Corporation, and the Mercer County Office of Economic Development.

For information contact Dr. Michael Glass at 609-586-4800 ext. 3530 or email [mglass@mccc.edu](mailto:mglass@mccc.edu).



*Ilse Loeb as a child with her parents, Max and Elvira Morgenstern, in Vienna before the war.*

## "Hidden Children: The Youngest Survivors of the Holocaust"

Of about 1.6 million Jewish children living in Europe at the start of World War II, an estimated 1.5 million were killed. Seventeen of those who survived told their fascinating stories as part of an exhibit at Mercer this spring, entitled "Hidden Children: The Youngest Survivors of the Holocaust." The true stories are told through first-person narratives and photos.

According to exhibit organizers, hiding was a way for Jewish parents to save their children—or for the children to save themselves. Some found refuge amid religious organizations. Others became maids, farm hands, or factory workers. Some stayed out of sight in cramped spaces underground, or hid in secret rooms.

The people featured in the traveling exhibit share their stories today not to be pitied, but to honor their rescuers, to remember those who perished, and to educate people so such persecution may never happen again.



*Ilse Loeb, one of the "hidden children" featured in the exhibit, was instrumental in bringing the exhibit to the college. With her are Bill Baroni, president of the MCCC Board of Trustees, who chaired the "Hidden Children" Committee, and Ilse's husband, Walter Loeb.*

### Conference Center (continued from page 1)

the Mercer Chapter of the New Jersey Society of CPAs. That group has already booked next year's event. The center's atrium was dedicated recently to Yardville National Bank in appreciation for their support.

Companies that take advantage of Mercer's customized training programs and individuals who sign up for noncredit computer courses are enjoying the center's state-of-the-art computer labs. "We held 23 computer classes in May and another 49 in June," Rosebrock said. Employees of large companies such as Firmenich are training at the center.

Rave reviews for food can be credited to caterers from the Corner Café in Cranbury. "For special events we are partnering with MCCC's culinary students," Rosebrock said. "We want to showcase their work because it's such a fantastic program." Recently the students provided a beau-

tiful buffet breakfast for the center's open house.

Also contributing to success at the Conference Center are students from the college's Horticulture program, who are working on landscape design. The artwork of faculty members Eric Kunsman, photographer, and Kyle Stevenson, painter, are now gracing the center's walls. Future plans include the possibility of offering chair massages to guests spending many hours at meetings, courtesy of Mercer's Radiography and Physical Therapist Assistant students.

"It has been great to see our vibrant campus community come together at our new center," said MCCC Dean for College Advancement Bill Mate. "The need was definitely there, and we expect that in future years the Conference Center will become an ever more integral part of campus and community life."



*Timothy Losch, COO at Yardville National Bank, left, and Jay Destribats, Chairman of the Board, right, with MCCC President Robert Rose after the atrium was dedicated to the bank.*

### Basketball Heroes (continued from page 1)

Jim Cornwall (represented by his brother Rich), a 1963-64 NJCAA All-American; Bobby Sands, 1968 National Player of the Year; Mel Weldon, 1973 National Player of the Year; Connie White, 1974 National Player of the Year; and Terry Dorner, a 1980 NJCAA All-American who led the Lady

Vikes to their first NJCAA tournament. (As a Rutgers transfer, Dorner helped the Scarlet Knights win the AIAW women's national title.) Members of the 1972-73 "Team of Distinction" are Weldon, White, Richie Freda, Marty Prendergast, Mike Richbow, Mike Leaphart, John Ford, Bill Kauff-

man, Steve Shearer, Larry Davis, Richie Pace and Jerome Young. Basketball honorees and a number of staffers received commemorative plaques.

Mercer's winning ways began when Coach Landa came to the college in 1961. In 1963-64, the Vikings took their first trip to the nationals in Hutchinson, KS. In 1968 the Vikings returned to the nationals, this time going as far as the finals before losing by two points. The 1972-73 team finally brought home the trophy, beating host team Hutchinson in the title game and completing a record breaking 34-3 season. The streak continued with another national title in the 1973-74 season. Many of Mercer's finest went on to play at four-year schools. With their two national championships, Mercer remains the only East Coast team to win the NJCAA title – before or since.

Observed Leister, "Coach Landa was an inspirational force at Mercer. He knew strategy, he knew how to motivate his players, and he knew how to draw talented kids. He did it all well." Leister recalls that the college used to hear complaints from other schools about Mercer's supposed recruiting budget. "We didn't even have one," he said. "After a while, it became clear that if you played basketball, Mercer was the place to do it."



*A reunion on the court for MCCC's 1973 basketball champs and staffers: (standing l. to r.) George O'Gorman, Al Leister, Jim Ramm, Larry Davis, Mel Weldon, John Ford, Bill Kauffman, Mike Leaphart, Steve Shearer, Mike Richbow and Richie Freda; (kneeling l. to r.) Coach Howie Landa, Bob Pugh, Zina Kusnirik and Richie Pace. Not pictured: Connie White.*

SPORTS

## High School Senior Graduates With Full Year of College Credits

**M**ercer's "nontraditional" students are usually differentiated from their classmates by being older and having delayed college for a variety of reasons. Then there is Marlene Kowal of Princeton Junction. While a student at West Windsor-Plainsboro (WW-P) High School South, she earned 30 college credits – a full freshman course load – from Mercer. This fall she will attend Temple University, and will transfer all 30 credits, plus three from a course she is taking this summer.

Kowal says her unconventional road was actually a natural progression. A dancer since early childhood, she entered the very competitive Performing Arts High School (located on the Mercer campus) in her junior year, spending her mornings taking honors classes at WW-P and her afternoons doing what she loves best – dancing. By the end of that year, she had earned a certificate of completion (usually accomplished in two years), plus a number of extra credits, and had only two high school classes remaining to fulfill graduation requirements.

"I proposed a plan at WW-P that I take the last two classes at Mercer, where I could also participate in the college's Dance program, the next step for me," recalled Kowal. "The schedule and the curriculum have worked out great. All the answers were here at Mercer." Kowal has been inducted into Mercer's Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society with a GPA of 3.75.

Kowal, whose strong foundation in ballet has evolved into a passion for modern dance and jazz,



*Marlene will take her 33 MCCC credits to Temple University this fall.*

took studio dance both semesters under MCCC instructors Janell Byrne and Cheryl Dadonna. Completing her school day by mid-afternoon, she was also able to study dance at Terra Firma Dance Theatre in New Brunswick, as well as teach part-time at a local dance studio and work as a children's librarian at the Plainsboro Public Library. She performs regularly in community theater, summer stock, and school productions, and was a featured dancer in *Pippin* during its run at Kelsey Theatre in 2000. She performed with the Mercer Dance Ensemble in May.

Kowal notes that she couldn't have gotten so far alone. "My high school was very accommodating and my guidance counselor continued to support me as I applied to colleges," said Kowal. At Mercer, Kowal received assistance from the Advisement Center in picking a schedule of courses that would transfer to college.

Kowal has been thrilled with her Mercer experience. "I have been fortunate to be able to really focus on what I want, which has opened doors of opportunity and left me more time to pursue dance and other student activities. And I'm going to college next year with 33 credits. I have practically all my core courses completed, so I will have a real leg up. It has been very cost effective too."

Kowal has put a good deal of thought into her future. She will pursue a double major in dance and history at Temple. "You are not always guaranteed a job in dance. If I take both, I can stay involved in the arts, but can also pursue a career as a high school history teacher," she said.

## MCCC Alumna Wins "Employee of the Year" and Trip to Hawaii

**R**ita Marie Bohlumbohm, age 59, is in the midst of a satisfying second career as a pastry chef at the Hyatt Regency in Princeton. She is bursting with enthusiasm about her job, a fact that has been recognized and rewarded by the Hyatt management, which recently named her "Employee of the Year." This award includes a week's vacation for two, with airfare, to a Hyatt anywhere in the continental United States or Hawaii (Rita is going to Hawaii of course!), plus a bonus.

Bohlumbohm's career success follows academic success at Mercer, where she graduated with honors in 2002 with an A.A.S. degree in Chef Apprenticeship from the Hotel, Restaurant and Institution Management (HRI) program. Her first career was running a home child care business, but "after 25 years and with the last child off to school, I was ready for new challenges," she recalls. "I looked through the Mercer brochure and decided to take a baking class. Baking was something I had always loved to do. I had an excellent professor and really enjoyed the class. From that first course in 1996, I was on my way."

In 1998, seeking an apprenticeship that is a requirement of Mercer's HRI program, Bohlumbohm "marched into" the Hyatt Regency in Princeton and secured herself a full-time job in the Hyatt's prestigious kitchen. "My background in child care was a plus," she explained. "They recognized my solid work ethic and dependability. They valued that.

"It was a demanding period," said Bohlumbohm. "I was working 45 hours a week and taking three classes." She recalls that at the time, she was never seen without her Mercer logbook, a 2-1/2 year compilation of her culinary activities that she carried everywhere.

Bohlumbohm believes her sense of responsibility has contributed greatly to her success. "This is not a 9 to 5 business. You are done when the job is done. I put my heart and soul into this work." She has kept herself open to new opportunities, pursuing both cooking and baking, and lots of cross training at the Hyatt, including morning and evening shifts, banquets for large groups and Sunday brunches.

According to Hyatt General Manager Heinz Gartlgruber, Bohlumbohm is an exemplary employee, exhibiting all the attributes an employer looks for. "She is a solid professional – courageous, hard working, dedicated and loyal. She never seems to have a bad day. She remains calm and composed in any job situation. She's a team player with a great attitude."

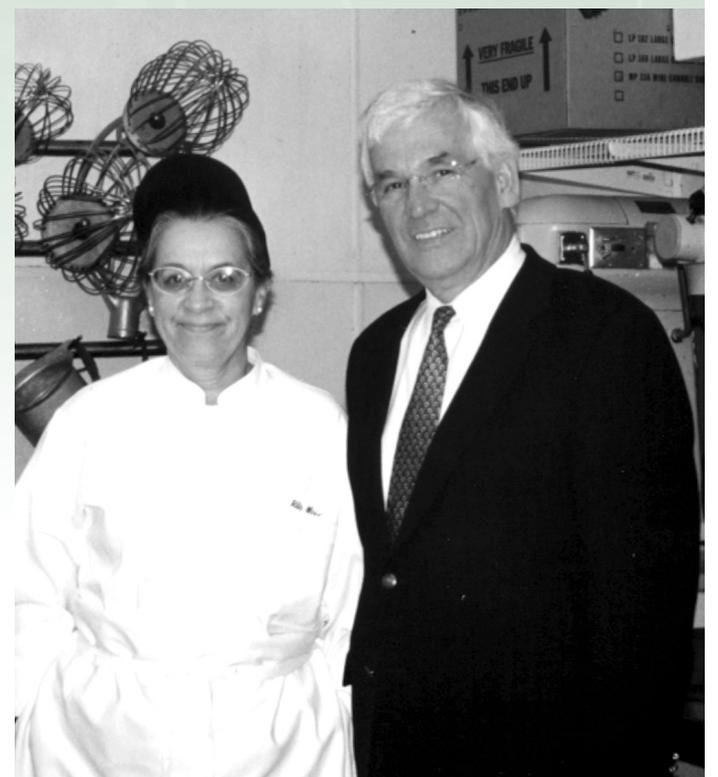
Mr. G (as he is known at the Hyatt) is also impressed by Bohlumbohm's educational drive. "She loves to learn and is always open to new things. Her desire for education is beautiful," he said.

Bohlumbohm credits Mercer with preparing her well. "Mercer gave me the confidence and ability to succeed. Everything I took there – accounting, marketing, hospitality, and computers – it all helped. The HRI program has a great reputation." Through her work at the Hyatt and Mercer, she won the Junior Chef of the Year Award from the American Culinary Federation in 1999.

Bohlumbohm still carries books everywhere – and regularly shares

them with her co-workers. "There's always a new trend in this field. You really have to stay on top of things." She is continuing her formal education too. She is currently back on the MCCC campus, participating in Mercer's program with the University of Delaware that will lead to a B.S. degree.

*MCCC alumna Rita Marie Bohlumbohm with Hyatt Regency General Manager Heinz Gartlgruber.*



## "Writing Across Disciplines" is the Focus of Professor Fran Davidson's Fellowship

Not only was Fran Davidson enriched by her decision to attend a mid-career fellowship at Princeton University this school year, but the entire Mercer community gained from her experience. Prof. Davidson, who has led Mercer's Writing Across the Disciplines (WAD) Committee since 1997, used the research requirement of the program to survey her Mercer colleagues about WAD. Davidson's final research paper incorporates the responses of more than 70 Mercer faculty members and has helped her frame new approaches for improving student writing campus-wide.

The fellowship program, under the direction of Princeton professor Dr. Theodore Rabb, is designed specifically for faculty and administrators from community colleges. During the fall semester, participants (who are considered "visiting faculty" at Princeton) take a course related to their discipline. In Davidson's case, it was *Victorian Poetry*, a graduate-level seminar with Prof. Ulrich Knoepfelmacher. "I was truly enriched by a re-immersion in the field," said Davidson. "After class, I would return to the Mercer campus enthused and wanting to give my students that same excitement about learning that brought me to teaching in the first place."

Throughout the year, Davidson and eight faculty members from other community colleges met for a bi-weekly Fellows Seminar. "Early on, we discussed the similarities and differences in teaching and learning at our various institutions," she said. "In the second semester, the focus shifted to our research papers. We would talk as a group, give each other feedback and present progress reports on our research."

Davidson's decision to focus her research on WAD, a movement that began in the 1970s, was a natural. The concept, explains Davidson, is that the ability to express oneself and create meaning through writing is important in every discipline and should be incorporated across the college curriculum. The function of a WAD Committee is to offer guidance to faculty in disciplines other than English to engage students in the writing process in their subject area. Mercer's WAD Committee, which has met monthly for many years, had been on hiatus this year while Davidson pursued her fellowship. "It seemed like the perfect time to reassess the committee's goals and direction," said Davidson. "What better opportunity could I have had?"

Not sure at the outset if she would learn something new from her survey, Davidson found instead that she gleaned a wealth of information from a large number of respondents – "a real credit to the faculty at Mercer," she said. She was also pleased that professors continue to see a strong need for WAD.

"No one suggested that writing issues should be confined to English class," said Davidson. "All of the respondents were willing to play their part to insure that when Mercer students graduate with an associate degree they really know how to write."

According to Davidson, faculty members are seeking support in a number of areas. Among the issues identified were: approaches to writing for the special needs population, the development of clearer writing assignments, grading systems that address both content and grammar, and writing for specific topic areas. Professional development workshops in these areas are all being considered for the coming year. Some respondents suggested



*In class with Assistant Professor Fran Davidson.*

a "buddy system" that pairs WAD members with other faculty, an online question and answer site, and the distribution of standardized editorial symbols to facilitate the editing of student work campuswide.

As a result of her survey and the volume of literature she read about the WAD movement, Davidson says she has a much better idea of what her colleagues need and how WAD can help them. Davidson's final paper will be assembled by the Princeton Fellowship Program for distribution to community colleges throughout the United States.

Davidson's fellowship served another purpose as well. So energized was she by her Victorian poetry class at Princeton that she plans to offer a spe-

cial topics course at Mercer in the fall entitled "19<sup>th</sup> Century British Poetry: Romantics to Victorians."

"The fellowship has been a wonderful experience," she said. Davidson follows in the footsteps of other Mercer professors who have benefited from the Princeton program: Peter Horne, Criminal Justice; Art Schwartz, Mathematics; Robin Schore, English; Pat Carr, Communications/Counseling; Marilyn Dietrich, Architecture; Angela McGlynn, Psychology; Garry Perryman, Architecture; Guy DeRosa, Sociology/Political Science; Saul Goldwasser, Philosophy; Noreen Duncan, English and Communications; and William Engler, English.

## The James Kerney Campus Celebrates Graduates

MCCC's James Kerney Campus celebrated the academic achievements of its graduates at Trenton's new Marriott Conference Hotel this spring. Students who were recognized completed their associate degree in large part at the James Kerney Campus, or are graduates of special programs such as the Career Training Institute, General Educational Development programs, and the English Language Institute. Many of those graduating from adult education programs plan to continue their studies in a credit program at Mercer or another college.

Special guest speaker was Trenton Mayor Douglas Palmer, who delivered an inspiring address to the assembly. Motivational speaker Richard Criner got the crowd up and participating. Some of his memorable lines were: "The more you learn the more you can earn." "If greatness is possible then excellence is not enough." "If it's to be it's up to me." "If you change your attitude you can change your world." "Destiny is a matter of choice not a matter of chance."



*Awardees and graduates participate in a motivational exercise at a "Celebration of Academic Achievement" for MCCC's James Kerney Campus.*

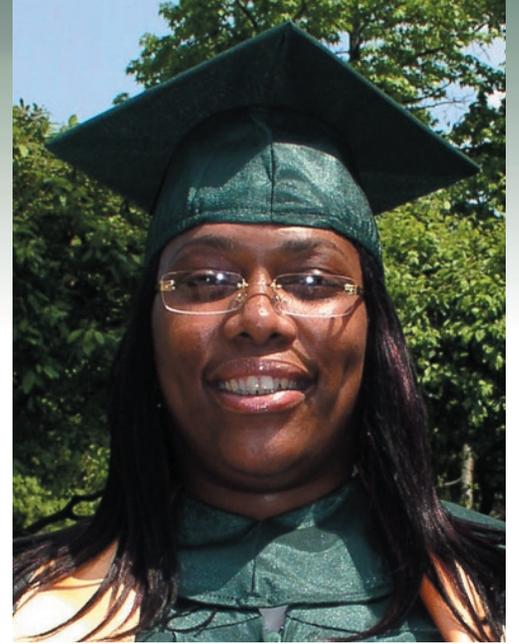
# Commencement 2003



**Heidi Berkey** delivered the student keynote address at Commencement. The mother of two was a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and an elementary school volunteer. This fall she will pursue her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and American Studies at Rider University.



**Cynthia Chianese** was cheered by her husband and four sons as she earned the academic award in Nursing. Currently a technician at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Hamilton, she will begin work as a staff nurse.



**Kim Borges** won the Student Community Service Award in recognition of her extensive volunteer work both on campus and in the community. She served as secretary of the James Kerney Campus Student Activities Board.

Mercer graduates numbered 814 this year, bringing to 26,664 the total number of students who have graduated from MCCC over the past 36 years.

This year's featured speaker was Bart Luedeke, the recently retired president of Rider University. He encouraged the graduates to be responsible for "making good use of your education – not only for your benefit but for the benefit of those around you. Get involved in your community, do good work, respect one another's differences, be an example for others, and

commit to integrity in all that you do. In these ways, you will discover wonderful new opportunities and experience the stimulation and understanding that lead to satisfying and fulfilling lives."

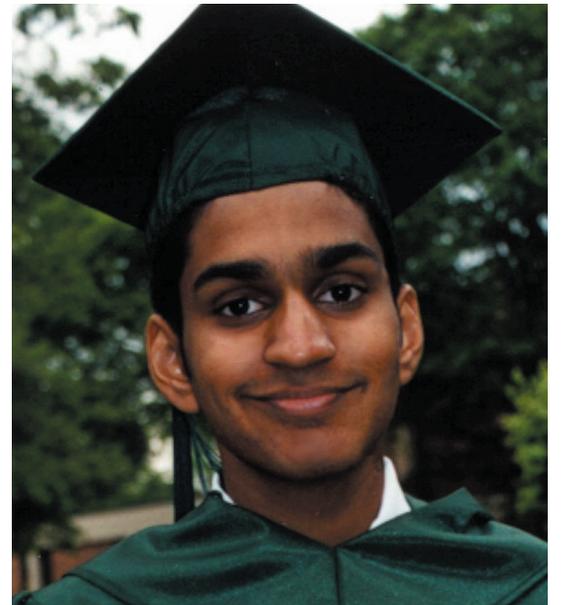
At an Honors Convocation preceding Commencement ceremonies, more than 150 distinguished students received scholarships and awards for academic excellence, community service and service to their academic program.



**Edward Burek**, a Criminal Justice major who won an "Outstanding Student" award, was vice president of the Student Activities Board and active in the Student Government Association and Criminal Justice Club. He will continue his studies in Forensic Science at Stockton State College in the fall.



**Jennifer Gladney** received the academic award in Dance. She has danced with the American Repertory Ballet and Mercer Dance Ensemble. She is a member of the National Honor Society and selected for Who's Who Among American Junior Colleges. She will attend Rider University in the fall to major in Dance and Elementary Education.



**Anil Kovvali** won the Computer Science Academic Award. He has earned an associate degree with highest honors while at the same time graduating from West Windsor-Plainsboro High School. He will attend Harvard University in the fall.



**Erica Bouman** is the first recipient of the Lou Draper Memorial Scholarship, named for the MCCC photography professor who died in 2002. She plans to attend the Rhode Island School of Design to seek a bachelor's degree in Photography.



**Alex (left) and Gonul Yurdakul**, mother and son, have both been working on degrees at Mercer, taking several of the same courses. Gonul earned the academic award in Art History, while Alex studied Computer Graphics.



**John Beck** received the Fine Arts Academic Award for his mastery of several approaches to painting. He plans to continue his education at the Maryland Institute College of Art.



**Sharon Diane Wright**, poet and writer, served as editor of "Drumbeat," a Mercer literary journal. She was president of the James Kerney Campus Student Activities Board, a member of the JKC Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and a volunteer for many charities. She will pursue a bachelor's degree in Psychology.



**Mark Tobie** was selected for the academic award in Funeral Service, graduating with highest honors. Currently he is a full-time intern at Colonial Funeral Home in Brick, NJ, and will be a funeral director upon receiving his license.



**Kelly Capers** is the first recipient of the WZBN-TV Scholarship. She will attend William Paterson University, and plans to work in film and video production.

## Scholar Athlete Awards



Michelle MacInnes played soccer and basketball for two years. During that time the teams combined for over 60 wins, including three Region 19 titles. She graduates with an AS in Advertising Design and will transfer to Monmouth University.



Chris Freihaut was a two-year member of the baseball team and captain of this year's squad, which went to the NJCAA World Series. He will transfer to Richard Stockton College, where he will major in Criminal Justice and continue to play baseball.



All-American Yating Hsu was a key member of the women's tennis team for two years, earning All-Region honors and playing in the national tournament both years. Yating graduates with an AS in Chemistry and plans to continue studying Bio-Chemistry at her transfer school.

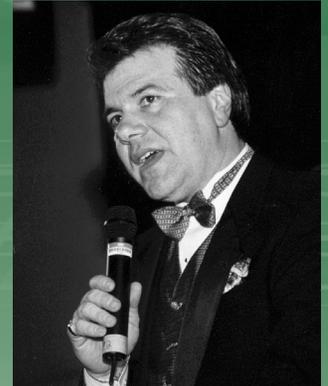
# “The Golden Oldies” Scholarship Gala a Huge Success



Scott Kent, an executive with Wawa, was honored as “Alumnus of the Year.”



From left are MCCC President Robert Rose, Art Guida of Public Service Electric & Gas Company, who accepted the company’s “Distinguished Corporate Friend” award, MCCC’s Board Chair Bill Baroni, and Dinner Dance Chair Jamil Faridy.



PSE&G’s Don Tretola said a few words of thanks to the college for honoring his company this year.

“Scholarships level the playing field, providing opportunities for many who would otherwise not have the chance to go to college,” says MCCC President Robert Rose.

Last year the college awarded 196 scholarships with funds raised by the MCCC Foundation Board. This year’s goal was to continue and even increase that funding. The board was more successful than ever, raising a record \$150,000 (net) through the Scholarship Dinner Dance held March 8 at the Hyatt Regency, Princeton.

Honored at the event were Scott Kent of Wawa as “Alumnus of the Year,” and Public Service Electric & Gas Company (PSE&G) as the 2003 “Distinguished Corporate Friend.”

For many years PSE&G has generously supported MCCC students and programs, especially student scholarships. Company President and COO Alfred Koeppe has been a leader in educational outreach throughout the region. Recently PSE&G worked with the college to develop an Associate in Applied Science degree in Utility Technology. Beginning with the Spring 2003 semester, students studied math, science, electrical construction and utility installations. This summer they are receiving apprenticeship training and paid internships through PSE&G.

*Mercer students dressed in the spirit of the 1950s.*



Mercer alumnus **Scott Kent** exemplifies how education can change a person’s life. After many years in the workforce as a successful businessman with Wawa, Kent came to Mercer to earn a non-credit certificate. He moved into a credit program, graduated with honors in 1999, then continued at Immaculata College, where he earned a bachelor’s degree. He is now in a master’s program at St. Joseph’s University in Philadelphia. “I always believed in building a solid foundation, and that is what Mercer did for me,” Kent said. “Mercer also gave me the courage to move ahead.” Kent plans to continue his education after he earns his master’s degree. This November he was promoted to Director of Cash Management, Credit and Point of Sale for Wawa’s 550 stores.

The Fabulous Greaseband lived up to its name with music that sounded just like the original recordings. In keeping with the spirit of the 1950s, many guests came in poodle skirts and bobby socks, or black leather jackets and heavy boots. Some were dressed for the prom – circa 1958. Others stuck with black-tie attire.

The enthusiastic gala committee was chaired by Jamil Faridy of Faridy Veisz Fraytak, P.C. Bill Mate, dean for college advancement, spearheaded efforts for the administration with Elaine Stout, administrative assistant.



Corporate sponsors for the event were:

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Charles Schwab

John Reardon of Janssen Pharmaceutica joins the hundreds of dancers having a great time. “The Fabulous Greaseband” kept everyone on the dance floor.

# The Annual Appeal



## Was Mercer the first step to your career success?

This fall the college will begin a new annual fundraising campaign to help today's students achieve their goals. The Annual Appeal will ask our thousands of successful MCCC alumni and other friends for their support so that all of the college's programs can continue to thrive, and college technology and facilities continue to meet student needs. Donors will be able to specify where they would like to apply their support, whether to a specific program or scholarship, capital accounts, campus facility upgrades, technology, etc. In these uncertain budgetary times, your help is greatly needed.

For more information contact William Mate at 609-586-4800, ext. 3601.

## Student Athletes to Benefit from Successful MCCC Golf Tournament

More than 100 golfers rang in the summer season with a special day of golf for a good cause. Mercer's Athletic Department hosted its Twelfth Annual MCCC Golf Classic on Monday, June 16 to benefit student athletes. The event was held at the Mercer Oaks Golf Course, an 18-hole championship course adjacent to Mercer County Park, and included lunch, an awards cocktail party and a full-course banquet dinner.

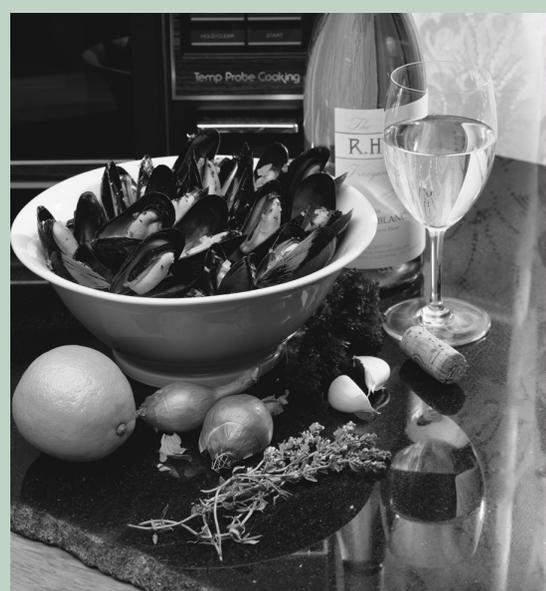
The winning foursome was from Borden Perlman and included Doug Borden, Sharon Cappella, Bill Kelly and Charlie Monroe. Winners of the longest drive were Art Napolitano for men and Sharon Cappella for women. Closest to the pin winners were Harrison Morson, Bill McDowell,

Jay Peterson and Ed Eichert.

According to Bill Mate, MCCC dean for college advancement, the business community was particularly generous in its support this year, as proceeds topped expectations. Special thanks to Green and Gold Sponsor PNC Bank, and corporate sponsors AAA Mid-Atlantic, Borden Perlman, EMTEC Inc., First Union, Professional Medical Services, Sun National Bank, Waters & Bugbee, Inc., and Yardville National Bank. Other special contributors included Colonial Cadillac, which donated a Cadillac for a hole-in-one prize, Ritchie and Page Distributing, Wendy's, Spiegle Architectural Group, and the Hyatt Regency Princeton. Hole Sponsors included: American Staffing, Honeywell, New Jersey Consumer Water Co., Nottingham Insurance, Scozzari Construction Company, and The Worek Company.



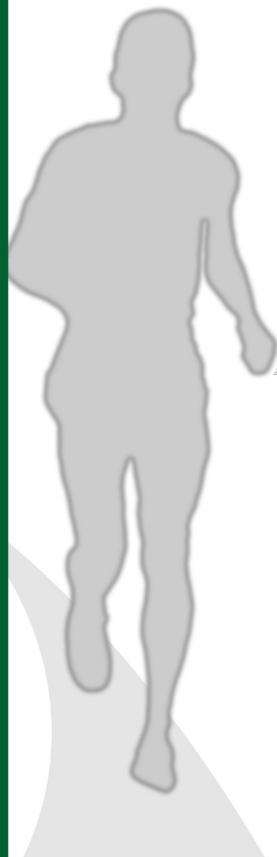
The tournament's Green and Gold Sponsor was PNC Bank. Pictured (l. to r.) are: Mike Smedley, Art Valenti and Gus Escher of PNC, and Hack Rhett.



## Savor the Seasons

Both new and old friends are invited to a special evening on Friday, October 3 at MCCC's new Conference Center. "Savor the Seasons" will feature outstanding food, wine tasting and music. Acclaimed chef Annie Prizzi, a faculty member at MCCC, will lead the college's Hospitality Club students in preparing and serving a sumptuous menu of seasonal specialties. Proceeds will benefit student scholarships.

"We see this as an opportunity to build friendships within the community and to showcase our culinary programs and our new conference center," said Bill Mate, dean for college advancement. Tickets are \$75. For more information call 609-586-4800 ext. 3607.



## MCCC Alumni Association Hosts "5K Run and Fun Fest" on Sept. 12

The MCCC Alumni Association invites area runners to participate in its second annual "5K Run and Fun Fest" on Friday evening, September 12 at 6:30 p.m. Walkers are welcome too. The festive event will include a picnic dinner and music outside the Physical Education Center following the race. According to MCCC Athletic Director John Simone, proceeds will go to the Student Athlete Scholarship Fund.

Race day registration and check-in for pre-registered runners begins at 5:15 p.m. outside the Physical Education Center on Mercer's West Windsor Campus, 1200 Old Trenton Road. The USATF certified course follows two loops around the Mercer campus.

Gift certificates will be awarded to top male and female finishers. Prizes will also be given to first place male and female runners in the following age groups: 19 & under, 20-29; 30-39; 40-49; 50-59; and 60+. T-shirts will be distributed to all registered participants and to race day registrants while supplies last.

The pre-registration fee is \$20 until Sept. 5; \$25 after. Tickets for the picnic only are \$10. To register or for sponsorship information call the MCCC Athletic Department at (609) 586-4800, ext. 3742, or email [athlete@mccc.edu](mailto:athlete@mccc.edu). The registration form can be printed from the Mercer website at [www.mccc.edu](http://www.mccc.edu).

MERCER



## Men's Basketball

The ending to the men's basketball season was the best that Coach Kelly Williams could have hoped for. "We played for the championship," he said. In the early going of that final game against Lackawanna on March 2, a team that had beaten the Vikings twice during the regular season, it even looked like the Vikings might win the title. "We were up 20-12 in the first quarter," said Williams. "But our guys got tired."

Going into the tournament with a 13-17 record overall and a 5-5 record in the region, playing in the final truly was an accomplishment for the Vikings. Several costly injuries hindered the team from meeting pre-season expectations. Sydney Frances, the only returning starter from last year's squad, missed half the season. Freshmen forwards Clifford Powell and Adam Borota also missed critical games.

But in the tournament semi-final game against Del Tech on Feb. 28, the Vikings looked like champs with a 77-73 win. (Del Tech defeated the Vikings in two regular season match-ups.) They also gave fans a glimpse of what to expect next season. According to Coach Williams, freshman guard Dwayne Washington made a key difference. Next year's squad should also include three other strong returning players, Otis Palmer, Clifford Pollard and Stephen Taylor, all of whom started at some point this season.

Sophomore guard Jose Rodriguez was a stand-out for the Vikings this season, leading the team in scoring. He was selected to the All-Region 19 First Team.

Williams credits the Vikings' success to good chemistry and a good attitude. "They believed in each other and they listened and learned from their coaches. They went into each game thinking they could win," said Williams. Assisting Williams this season were Gary Williams and Tony Aviles.

## Women's Basketball

The Women's Basketball Team had high hopes entering the 2002-2003 season. Many good things happened on the court, but not enough to give the women their sixth consecutive regional title. Going into the Region 19 Tournament as the no. 3 seed, the Lady Vikes fell in the semi-final round, losing to Lackawanna 61-51. (Mercer had split with Lackawanna during the regular season.) Their final record was 19-10.

According to Head Coach Mike Tenaglia, now in his 13<sup>th</sup> season at Mercer, the team was hurt by a lack of height, but was able to compensate for it in many games with impressive quickness. Relying on their guards to keep up the pace, the Lady Vikes employed aggressive defense and a full court run-and-gun offense.

Team captain for the Vikings was sophomore Ayesha Fitchett, a guard who scored a team high 19 points in the region semifinal. Leading scorers for the season were freshman forward Vicki Jenkins, the Vikings' leader in double doubles, and sophomore guard Kamika Harden.

Fitchett was selected to the All-Region First Team, while Jenkins was chosen for the All-Region Second Team. Other standouts included sophomore guard Michelle MacInnes, forward Katy McCormack, center Alison Werkman, the team's tallest player at 5'10", and guard Courtney Williams.

Tenaglia's Lady Vikes have a solid nucleus of freshmen who should continue to deliver in the 2003-04 season. Tenaglia was assisted this season by Tameka Turner and manager Kim Webber.

## Men's Baseball

The Mercer Baseball Team got to make the trip the players had dreamed of when the season began – the NJCAA World Series in Millington, TN, from May 24-30. This was the Vikings' third trip to the NJCAA World Series in eight years and the fourth in its history (1981, 1996, 2000, 2003).

Winning their first game in the national tournament 12-8 against Grand Rapids Community College (MI), the tournament's eventual winner, the Vikings were eliminated after suffering heartbreaking losses in their next two games. The first was against Bevill State Community College (AL), 6-2, and the second was against defending champs Parkland College (IL), 9-7. Parkland came from behind to win the game in the ninth inning.

On the road to the World Series, the Vikings played their best baseball ever. They won three straight in the Region 19 Tournament and chalked up three more straight wins in the Northeast District Division II Tournament. Their games included a 9-6 win against Rockland Community College (NY) in the opener, a 4-2 win against Alfred State (NY), and a second face-off against Rockland in the final, with the Vikings crushing Rockland 23-12.

It was clear as the season progressed that Mercer was the team to beat in Region 19. After some tough losses early on, the team settled into a winning pattern that earned it a first place ranking in both Region 19 and the Garden State Athletic Conference. In the regional tournament, hosted by Mercer, the Vikings beat Brookdale 8-3, a team they had lost to in all three of their regular season contests. Mercer then beat Lackawanna 10-4 and Del Tech 8-6 to sweep the double-elimination tournament.

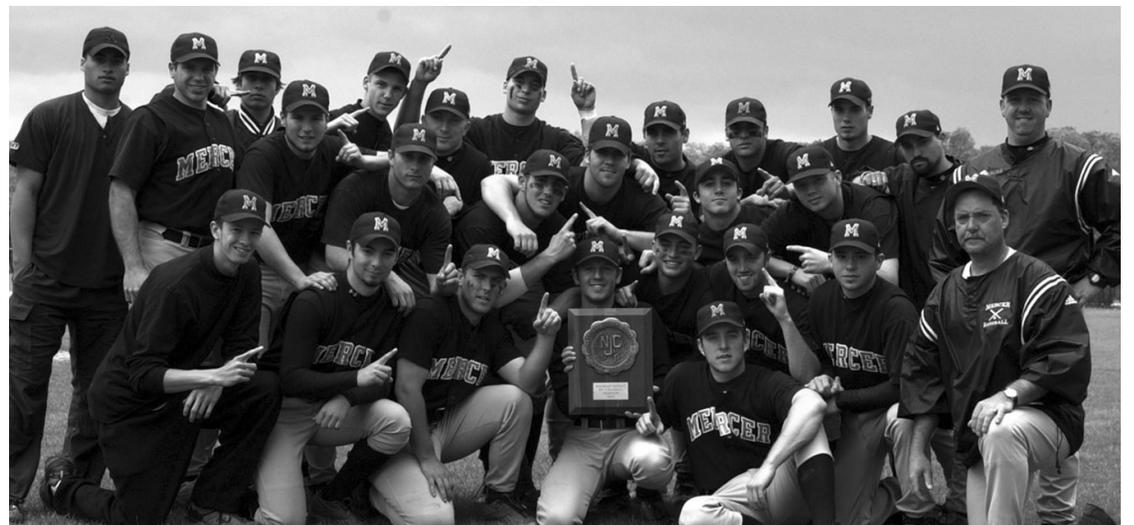
According to Head Coach Randy Voorhees,

outstanding defense was a hallmark of the Vikings all season. Power hitting in the post-season was also a key factor in the team's success. "We achieved virtually every goal we set at the beginning of the year," said Voorhees. "We won the Garden State Athletic Conference (GSAC), finished with the best regular season record in Region 19, won the Region 19 Tournament, won the District II Tournament, and placed nine of our ten sophomore players with four-year colleges. We came up a little short in the World Series, but so did 128 out of 129 teams." The Vikings' final record was 24-12.

The depth of this talented team shows in how many players received special honors. Charlie Iacono, Joe Hernandez, and Mark Pienciak were selected for the All-Region First Team; Chris Freihaut, Adam Rehl, Ken Lup and Adam Shaffer were named to the Second Team; Shaffer was also named as one of Region 19's top five players.

All-GSAC First Team honors went to Hernandez, Iacono, Lup, and Pienciak; All-GSAC Second Team players included Freihaut, Rehl, and Shaffer. Hernandez was named the Region 19 Tournament's most valuable player. Lup was named to the All-District II Team. Voorhees noted the exceptional performance of several players at the World Series: Joe Farina, Lup and Iacono. Tom Lagler, William Seiler, and Bo Burris also made important contributions.

Voorhees predicts a good future for Mercer baseball. Three starters – Iacono, Trevor Tenaglia, and Gene Darling – will be returning, as well as three pitchers – Tom Meyer, Adam Shaffer, and Christian Cannizzaro. Three pitchers will be coming back from injury – Josh Serfass, Nestor Reyes, and Mike James. Several other promising players are expected to join the team. Assisting Voorhees this season was Kip Harrison, Fred Carella and Gary Shunk.



The 2003 Men's Baseball Team after winning the Northeast District II title.



The 2002-2003 Women's Tennis Team (standing l. to r.): Assistant Coach Ralph Bencivengo, Ya-ting Hsu, Head Coach Marc Vecchiolla, Landry Shelley, and Assistant Coach Barb Pleva; front row: Desiree Noel, Maureen Haggerty and Jana Sulerova.

## Women's Tennis

The Vikings didn't come home as national champions this year. But Mercer's Women's Tennis Team had a strong showing at the NJCAA Tournament in College Station, TX, sending two teams to the finals before placing sixth.

With a one-player deficit going into the tournament, the team was forced to give up matches in the No. 5 singles and the No. 2 doubles slots. But the five women who did play represented Mercer admirably. "Even with the depleted lineup, they were all determined to give their best showing. It didn't really make a difference to them that they didn't have a realistic chance to win the title," said Head Coach Marc Vecchiolla.

Yating Hsu went to the final at second singles, while the team of Maureen Haggerty and Desiree Noel made it to the final in third doubles. Landry Shelley won her consolation final at first singles. The first doubles team of Shelley and Hsu lost in the consolation final. Jana Sulerova battled fiercely at fourth singles, falling in a tiebreaker in the third set of the semifinal round.

Three Mercer players – Hsu, Haggerty and Noel – earned All-American honors. Noting that four of his five players should be returning next season, Coach Vecchiolla is optimistic about the coming tennis season, which starts in September. "The tournament left them hungry," said Vecchiolla. "As soon as it ended, they were talking about next year. After watching the trophy ceremony, they said, 'That's the next step. I want to be there.'"

Assistant coaches for this year's tennis team were Ralph Bencivengo and Barb Pleva.

## Men's Tennis

What the Men's Tennis Team lacked in experience – all members were first-year players – it made up for in athleticism and enthusiasm. Finishing the season with a 4-3 record, the Vikings performed especially well at the Region 19 Tournament, as all six singles and the first doubles team reached the finals. Dan Hammer (No. 5) and Richie Arenas (No. 6) won their finals matches.

The team roster also included Gerry Aparicio (No. 1), Rodolfo Scamilla (No. 2), Sean Patrick (No. 3), Ryan Shearer (No. 4), Estuardo Godoy, (No. 7), and Walid Hassan (No. 8). Aparicio, Godoy, Arenas and Hassan were also members of the 2002 men's soccer team. Head coach was Stan Dlugosz with assistance from Ralph Bencivengo.

## Women's Softball

The Women's Softball Team played as a club team this year under new Head Coach Kelly McKenna. According to MCCC Athletic Director John Simone, this was a rebuilding year for the Vikings, which completed their regular season schedule, but did not compete in the post-season.

With only one returning sophomore, infielder Laura Stackhouse, the player roster was filled in with 16 campus recruits. They made a solid effort, as the team ended the season with a 4-11 record and showed a level of motivation and talent that should serve it well next year, when the decision to return to intercollegiate competition is made.

In addition to Stackhouse, key players on the Mercer squad included Lisa Coyle, Jamie Fascella, Jen Woodruff, Christina Gutch, Tiffany Heller, Regina Brown, Theresa Hoffman and Aurora Mahon.

## Soccer Alumnus to Help With Fund-raising Effort

Winning a national soccer championship is an experience you never forget, says Mercer alumnus Dave Pasquito of Lawrence Township. His moment came before a hometown crowd in November, 1982, when the Vikings won their third national title by defeating Lewis and Clark College 1-0. "It was a great feeling – of joy and relief – and an experience I savored for months, even years after. It stays with me to this day," said Pasquito. The Vikings have won a total of seven championships – in 1963, 1968, 1982, 1988, 1991, 1995, and 1996. They came in second in the nation in 2002.

Pasquito, a forward who led the Vikings in scoring during the 1982 season and scored two goals in the semifinal game against Ulster, NY, was awarded a soccer scholarship to the University of Maryland. He continued to play soccer while earning a bachelor's degree in business. "I chose to attend Mercer over several other schools and it was a decision I never regretted," said Pasquito. "Mercer prepared me academically for my transfer to Maryland and athletically for further challenges on the soccer field. My participation in Mercer soccer also taught me life lessons that have served me well – about playing hard but fairly, and about the importance of teamwork and sportsmanship."

Pasquito returned to New Jersey after college and began a successful career in sales. Currently he is an account manager with Emtec, a full-service information technology company with five locations on the East Coast. Continuing to play soccer in his spare time, he met up with Mercer Head Coach Charlie Inverso. "We talked about the strength of the Mercer soccer program and the things that could make it even better. I decided I wanted to help. I feel that Mercer gave me a great start and it was time to give something back."

Pasquito has initiated a fund-raising campaign in conjunction with the MCCC Foundation to support the Mercer soccer program. Some of the funds generated will be used to provide important finishing touches to the college's new state-of-the-art soccer field. Other monies will be donated to uniforms and travel expenses.

Notes Pasquito, "Mercer is known throughout the country as a soccer powerhouse. It's a terrific resource for players from the region who want to play soccer in a top program and get a solid foundation academically. Mercer



Dave Pasquito (left) with MCCC President Robert Rose and Head Coach Charlie Inverso.

has made a difference for so many people. It deserves our support."

The Mercer soccer team, under Head Coach Inverso since 1986, will begin its 41st season of collegiate competition this fall. In addition to their seven national championships, the Vikings have won 33 regional titles and a total of 692 games. Their record of accomplishment has made Mercer the most successful team in the history of community college soccer. In the past 15 years, more than 100 Mercer players have continued their education at four-year colleges, about half with athletic scholarships. Ninety percent of these players have either graduated or are on track to graduate. Others have gone on to semi-professional and professional playing careers.

To learn more about how you can support Mercer soccer, call MCCC's Dean of College Advancement Bill Mate at (609) 586-4800, ext. 3601.

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**THE VIKING**

Check out MCCC's redesigned website, ([www.mccc.edu](http://www.mccc.edu)), with its easy online registration. Browse open sections in credit and noncredit courses. Previously registered students can look at their grades and course history.

# 2003

## Mercer Arts Calendar The Time Machine at Kelsey Theatre

### Fall 2003 Schedule

#### Full Length Productions

Joshua Kane *presents* H.G. Wells  
– *The Time Machine*  
Sept. 7, 2003

*The Scarlet Pimpernel*  
Sept. 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21

*Dracula*  
Oct. 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19

*The Tamburitzans*  
Oct. 25, 26

*The Crucible*  
Oct. 31, Nov. 1, 2, 7, 8, 9

*Noises Off*  
Nov. 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23

*MC<sup>3</sup> Studio Theatre Production*  
*The Laramie Project*  
Nov. 7, 8, 9, 14, 15

Meredith Willson's - *Here's Love*  
*It's Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street - The Musical*  
Nov. 28, 29, 30; Dec. 5, 6, 7

#### Kelsey Kids Series

*The Phantom Tollbooth*  
Sept. 26, 27, 28

*Rumpelstiltskin*  
Oct. 4

*Thumbelina*  
Nov. 8

*The Jungle Book*  
Nov. 22

*'Twas The Night Before Christmas...*  
Dec. 12, 13, 14

*Scrooge – A Ballet Theater Spectacular*  
Dec. 20, 21

*Kelsey Kids Playshops* – Saturday morning creative theater workshops for grades K through 5. Sept. 13 - Nov. 22.

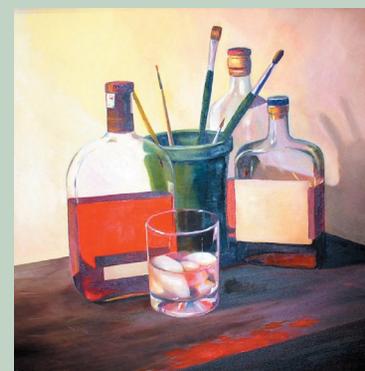
For Kelsey events call (609) 586-4800 ext. 3566 or visit our new website at [www.kelseyatmccc.org](http://www.kelseyatmccc.org).



## The Gallery

A full slate of exhibits will be coming to the MCCC Gallery this fall. View the schedule soon at [www.mccc.edu](http://www.mccc.edu).

*A painting by Don Eaton from the "Mercer County Artists" show.*



## Academic Calendar

Plan Your Fall Courses Now

### AUGUST

26 Last day to register for fall semester before late fees apply.

### SEPTEMBER

2 First day of classes for fall semester.

THE VIKING, a publication for alumni and other friends of Mercer County Community College, is published by IMPACT (Information, Marketing, Publications, Art Gallery, and College Relations Team). Editorial offices are located in room 250 of the Administration building on the West Windsor Campus. THE VIKING welcomes suggestions for feature stories and articles. Mail to Public Information, MCCC, PO Box B, Trenton, NJ, 08690, or email: [saveria@mccc.edu](mailto:saveria@mccc.edu).