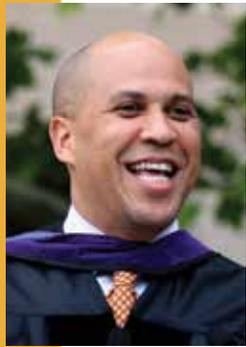


“Embrace the Challenges” Says Newark Mayor Cory Booker



Newark Mayor Cory Booker

On May 24, the college celebrated the graduation of 1,098 students in a festive commencement ceremony marked by uplifting messages. Delivering the keynote address was Newark Mayor Cory Booker, who inspired all with stories from his own family history.

“My family never let me take the opportunities I had for granted,” Booker told the crowd. “They would remind me that the degree I held came from the blood, sweat and tears of my ancestors.”

As mayor, Booker said he has learned to see the city's problems and obstacles as challenges and opportunities. “There is one choice we have in every second of our existence: to accept things as they are, or to take responsibility to change them.” He urged the graduates to embrace the challenges and responsibilities that await them.

MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue proudly credited students for their many accomplishments over the past year, including giving back to the community through service projects and fundraisers. She spoke about the college's plans to expand at the Trenton cam-

pus and to install a solar energy project on the West Windsor campus that will reduce pollution, save on energy costs and provide real-world learning for students.

This year's Distinguished Teaching Award went to Associate Professor of Communication Kathi Paluscio. Each year the winner is chosen by students, faculty and staff, and is kept secret until commencement day. *(More on page 5.)*

Norman Glover, the 2012 student speaker, is a 62-year-old Vietnam veteran and Purple Heart recipient who dropped out of high school to join the military. He earned his GED

while in the army, and delayed college until middle-age. “No one is more surprised to see me up here than I am,” he said, adding that the loss of his trucking job during the recession inspired him to finally finish his degree. Studying at Mercer while raising a family, Glover earned his associate degree in Business Management. He also recently became vice president of a chemical transport company.

“There is no elevator to success; you have to take the stairs,” Glover said.



**Howie Landa
Tribute
See page 11.**

Second Lady Dr. Jill Biden Leads Panel Discussion at MCCC

“Not only can community colleges change lives, they can change America,” said Dr. Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, who led a panel discussion at MCCC on March 28. Her visit highlighted the unique role of community colleges in preparing students for the workforce. Dr. Biden has 18 years of teaching experience and currently teaches English at Northern Virginia Community College.

Accompanying Dr. Biden was Seth D. Harris, the deputy secretary for the U.S. Department of Labor. The two traveled to New Jersey to advocate for community college partnerships with employers who offer on-the-job training, an initiative entitled “Community College to Career.” In February, President Obama announced an \$8 billion fund to further this effort.

With MCCC's Culinary Center as a backdrop, the panel featured alumni and employed students from MCCC, Raritan Valley Community College, Essex County College, and Brookdale Community College, along with their employers.

MCCC used the opportunity to highlight its culinary programs and excellent job placement record. Raoul Momo, co-owner of the Terra Momo Restaurant Group, provides work



Pictured, from left, are MCCC culinary graduate Frank Caponi, Deputy Secretary for the U.S. Department of Labor Seth D. Harris, MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue, Dr. Jill Biden, and Raoul Momo, co-owner of the Terra Momo Restaurant Group.

experience and jobs for MCCC students at his four restaurants in the Princeton area. He noted that training students while they are still in school enables him to have skilled staff as soon as they graduate. “This partnership has been a true success story for us,” Momo said.

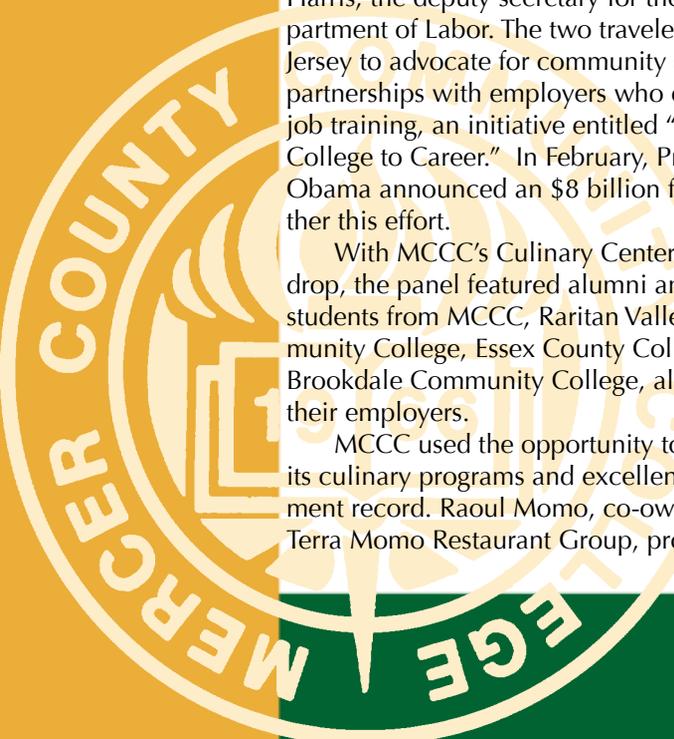
Frank Caponi, who completed certificates of proficiency in Cooking and Baking at Mercer in 2010, now works as a chef at Momo's Mediterranean Restaurant. “The classes here at Mercer

are wonderful. This program is probably the best in the state, if not the country,” he said.

Current MCCC student Maryam Rowneki faced multiple challenges when she came to the United States from Afghanistan in 1999. A third grader at the time, she began her education in kindergarten classes because she did not speak English. By the time Rowneki reached high school, she was volunteering at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, after recognizing her desire to work in the health care field. Now, she is employed as a pharmacy technician at CVS through the company's Career Prescriptions for Success program, a partnership with MCCC. “The program has helped me pay for classes, books and transportation,” she said.

Marsha Lynch, CVS area manager, said the program allows students to attend school full time while working 25 hours per week at CVS stores. “The students have learned a lot of time management skills,” she said.

MCCC's president, Dr. Patricia C. Donohue, served as mistress of ceremonies. “Our mission is to provide education and training that prepares students to be qualified, productive employees. We are honored to be part of the ‘Community College to Career’ tour.”



SHORT TAKES

New Agreements Ease Transfer Process

Through new agreements with a variety of baccalaureate colleges, MCCC graduates who wish to transfer and continue their education now have even more options.

- Through Drexel University, Nursing graduates can more easily continue for their Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree online in as little as 18 months.
- At The College of New Jersey, Education graduates can enter TCNJ as a Technology/Pre-Engineering Education major.
- An agreement with Rutgers Business School will guarantee admission for Honors students who graduate with a 3.5 GPA or better and have all prerequisites completed.
- Through Rowan University, MCCC's Engineering Science graduates will transfer to baccalaureate programs in Engineering.
- Fire Science Technology graduates can now more easily transfer into the Fire Service Administration bachelor's degree program at the University of Maryland, and into the Fire Science and Public Safety Administration program at Holy Family University.

For additional information about transfer, dual admissions opportunities and the University Center at Mercer, visit www.mccc.edu.

Leipzig Paintings Feature Faculty and Students



Artist and MCCC Professor of Art Mel Leipzig unveiled three new paintings at a special event on March 14 to support the arts at Mercer. The paintings featured MCCC staff and students. Pictured, from left, are the models Professor of Mathematics Art Schwartz, student Tierah Goodman, and Jeanne Calo (Leipzig's long-time student) along with Professor Leipzig and MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue.

Radiography Program Grads Ace Test

The New Jersey Radiologic Technology Board of Examiners has ranked MCCC's Radiography program second in the state for student performance on the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists certification exam. MCCC's mean score was only 0.1 points less than the program that ranked first. A total of 16 graduates took the exam; the mean score was 87.9% with 94% of students passing.

MCCC Announces New Programs for Fall

- **Sustainability:** An increased global focus on green initiatives, alternative energy, and conservation practices has prompted a growing demand for graduates with specialized training in sustainability. The Sustainability A.S. degree program exposes students to the natural sciences, environmental issues (locally, nationally and globally), ethics, and economics as a foundation for transfer to pursue a bachelor's degree in their chosen area of specialization.
- **Fashion Merchandising:** A complement to the Fashion Design program introduced last fall, this A.A.S. degree focuses on the business of fashion/apparel sales, marketing, buying, and merchandising, impacts of the global economy, customer service and management. Graduates will be prepared for transfer to four-year schools or for entry-level positions.
- **Occupational Therapy Assistant:** This A.S. degree provides students with entry-level competency through a combination of academics and fieldwork that will prepare them to work under the supervision of an occupational therapist within health care, educational, and other community settings. Students complete the liberal arts component of the program at Mercer and take the specialized courses at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey School of Health Related Professions.

Solar Project Ready to Generate Renewable Energy

A renewable energy project by the Mercer County Improvement Authority (MCIA) is soon to be constructed on MCCC's West Windsor campus. The 8-megawatt solar installation, on approximately 45 acres of open field owned by the college, will have major environmental, academic, financial and operational benefits. The energy it produces is expected to meet about 70 percent of the college's needs on the West Windsor campus, and will help to stabilize the college budget. Estimated savings will be approximately \$15 million over the first 15 years. The project follows the college's Master Plan to lower energy costs and increase sustainability.

"We are excited about the solar project's learning opportunities for students," said MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue. "Among the degree programs that will benefit are Solar/Energy Technology, Engineering Science, and our new Sustainability program. Horticulture students will help with the selection of new trees to replace those that will be removed."

Environmental benefits estimated by project engineers include the reduction of annual atmospheric carbon dioxide emissions equivalent to the benefits of a forest containing over 1,500 acres of pine or fir trees. The electricity generated is equivalent to what's needed to power more than 850 homes annually and the project will reduce the burden on the electricity grid, especially critical during peak usage periods.

MCCC is joining other area colleges and schools in tapping into solar power, including neighboring Princeton University and the Lawrenceville School. Additional information is available at www.mccianj.org.

Photography Club Volunteers at HomeFront

Photography majors (from left) Mark Simon, Amanda Baranowski, Weronika Piechota and Charles Plohn donated their time and talent to make family portraits for about 25 mothers and their children when they visited HomeFront's Family Preservation Center in honor of Mother's Day. "Some of the families have never had a professional photo taken before, so this was a real treat for them. I am so happy that HomeFront-FPC was your choice for a community service project," said Alice Archer, the center's volunteer coordinator.



Ad Students Design Campaign for "Furry Feet Fete"

In their semester's final project, seven groups of advanced Advertising Design students created marketing campaigns for the Trenton Animal Shelter's "Furry Feet Fete." From left, seated, are student team winners Tony Watson, Dana Toff, Mei-Li Wu and Bonnie Kotnarowski. Back row, from left, are judges Susan Stradling, Trenton police officer Michael Lucchesi, Wendy Sturgeon of the Trenton Animal Shelter, arts advocate Nicole Coleman, photographer Matthew Coleman, Trenton Councilwoman Marge Caldwell-Wilson, and MCCC President Patricia Donohue. The "Furry Feet Fete" is set for November 16 at the Trenton Marriott Downtown.

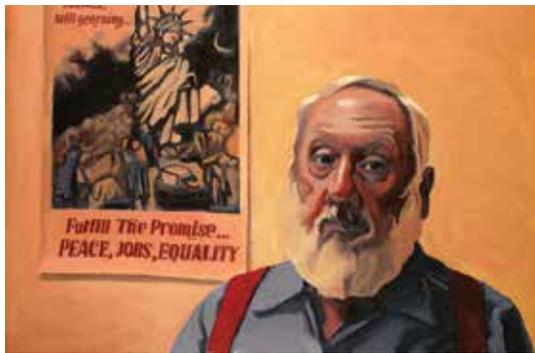


Fiks' Work Blends Art and History

Art intersects with history in the work of Yevgeniy Fiks, MCCC professor of visual arts, who discussed his recent art projects as they relate to Soviet and Post-Soviet history as part of this spring's Distinguished Lecture Series.

Fiks would argue that he's not an artist in the traditional sense. For the last decade he has focused on studying the history of his home country of Russia and the U.S. reaction both before and after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. "It's not about me as an artist; it's about being a historian," he said.

Fiks' projects over the last decade include "Songs of Russia," a series of black and white oil paintings based on images from American movies made in 1943-44, a brief period when U.S. filmmakers portrayed life in the Soviet Union in a very positive light. Fiks has also created a series entitled "Communist Party USA," depicting current members of the Communist Party in New York, and a contrasting project, "American Cold War Veterans Asso-



Portrait from "Communist Party USA" series.

ciation," depicting service men and women nationwide who still have strong attachments to the Cold War.

Professor Fiks' work has been shown internationally, at museums such as the Philadelphia Museum of Modern Art, the Moscow Museum of Modern Art, and Marat Guelman Gallery in Moscow. He was also featured in the March edition of the magazine *ARTnews*.

New Initiatives Designed to Bolster Student Success During "First 30"

Making the transition from high school to college can be a challenge. To help bolster student success, two new initiatives, the "First 30" and the Foundations Department, are finding innovative ways to guide students during their first 30 credits, and increase the number of students who continue their education, earn their associate degree or meet other goals.

The First 30 initiative was established after a full year college-wide self study under the Gardner Institute's "Foundations of Excellence" program. Directed by MCCC English Professor Amy Vondrak, the First 30 office is examining the ways that various areas of the college interact with students. "The goal is to enhance the effectiveness of these departments and programs to maximize the service we provide to students from their very first day – and even before they start," Vondrak said.

Student orientation is a key piece of this effort. "We want students to start classes with a full understanding of how to navigate their way around Mercer and how to take advantage of what is available to them," Vondrak said. The plan is for orientation to be required for all new students by fall 2013. The office is also turning its attention to enhancing the curriculum in the College Success Seminar (COL100), "Strategies for Academic Success," and augmenting academic advisement.

First 30 is moving forward with recommendations from both students and faculty. Aiding the effort is an advisory board, which is identifying key "momentum" and "loss" points in order to support students at critical times. One way to do this is pure, simple positive reinforcement, Vondrak notes. "We will recognize achievement at key points. For some students, especially those who are first generation college students or older adults who have put off attending college, there are huge milestones that should be applauded."

One of those milestones – the completion of pre-college classes in reading, writing and mathematics – is the focus of the new Foundations Department, chaired by Assistant Professor of Mathematics Betty Peterson. Peterson notes that some foundations students have been out of the classroom for many years, while others are coming from high school and

still need to work on key concepts.

A pilot program that was tested at the James Kerney Campus helps students prepare for the placement test. "My Foundations Lab" enables students to work independently on a computer for six to eight weeks before taking (or re-taking) the test. Also having positive results is a new approach to pre-algebra and algebra instruction that takes place in a computer-based lab.

According to MCCC Vice President for Academic Affairs Donald Generals, Mercer's expanded focus on student retention and success is part of a national conversation. "There is increasing recognition at the national level that community colleges are essential for our nation's future and economic prosperity. Popularly known as the 'Completion Agenda,' these data-driven efforts are designed to foster success, encourage persistence and help students achieve their goals." He adds that the student success initiatives are guided by the college's Strategic Plan.

Currently the college is conducting a second year of self study, also under the Gardner Institute's "Foundations of Excellence" program, with the goal of improving the transfer process for students.



Introducing the MCCC Mobile App: MOX

MCCC now has a mobile app that can be downloaded free from app stores for those who have an Apple, BlackBerry, or Android mobile device.

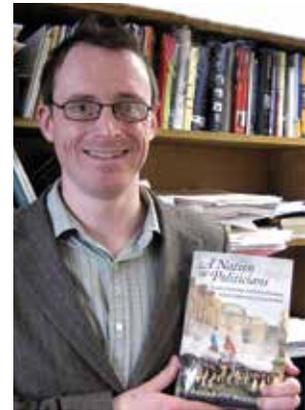
The MOX app gives anytime, anywhere access to information, including campus maps and college contacts. Soon to come are MCCC news and event listings as well as other useful features.

After downloading and opening the app, users select "Mercer County Community College" from the list of options to begin enjoying the benefits.



Higgins Wins Fellowship; Heading to Ireland

Padhraig Higgins, associate professor of History, will conduct research into urban poverty in 18th century Ireland this fall after receiving a prestigious American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship.



Higgins says, "This project grew directly out of discussions with students in an Honors History class. I hope that this research trip will provide me with a deeper understanding of the history of urban poverty and social policy. It will add a valuable dimension to courses I teach at Mercer, such as European Women's History and Western Civilization."

The fellowship awards are designed for the advancement of humanistic studies, and to strengthen relations between the U.S. and the countries where research is conducted. This year, 65 awards were given from a pool of almost 1,200 applicants.



A new name and a new role better reflect the full range of custom training and development services offered by The Mercer Institute of Management & Technology Training, formerly called the Center for Training and Development.

Mercer Institute (MI) has over 30 years' experience designing and delivering customized training and development programs that help corporate and community organizations address a wide range of strategic challenges. MI works in partnership with organizations, focusing on employee development and improving processes to design a plan, develop the required programs, and deliver customized training at the client site or in The Conference Center at Mercer, the college's first-class state-of-the-art training facility. MI trainers for these programs have real-world business experience and specialize in the areas of biotechnology/pharmaceuticals, government, service, health-care, manufacturing and nonprofit.

Some of the organizations served by the Mercer Institute over the past several years include the McGraw-Hill Companies, ETS, Cenlar, Catholic Charities, Learning Ally and MedAvante. "Nowhere has the commitment to developing talent at The McGraw-Hill Companies been more tangible than the inception of The McGraw-Hill Institute at MCCC," said Maureen Marshall, human resources director. "Mercer offers excellent faculty who are knowledgeable and current with business and marketplace trends."

More information is available at www.MercerInstitute.com. To contact MI, e-mail info@MercerInstitute.com, or call 609-570-3280.

CELEBRATING



Eight Graduate from Mercer Honors Program

Eight students enjoyed special recognition at the Honors Convocation for completing their degrees as part of the Mercer Honors Program. From left are MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue, grads Amanda Knoblock, Erin Smith, Kate Kingsley, Ayodele Kanyako, Amber Hinshaw, Ashleigh Donaldson and Karen Acquah, Honors Program Coordinator Gianna Durso-Finley, VP for Academic Affairs Donald Generals and Honors Program Coordinator Carol Bork. Not pictured: Heather Johnson. Now in its fifth year, the Honors Program has grown steadily in student enrollment and course offerings. With qualified incoming freshmen now able to enroll in Honors courses, the program continues to challenge highly motivated students in seminar-style classes. The Honors Convocation preceded commencement on May 24.

Two Science Grads Expand Their Horizons with Honors Research

Two returning adult students, Kathryn Kingsley and Andrew Kotula, took their science education to a whole new level as they pursued honors research this spring. A Biology major, Kingsley conducted intensive research on the Nasonia wasp under the guidance of Professor Laura Blinderman. "I was so lucky that Mercer offered the flexibility and quality teaching to provide this opportunity," said Kingsley, who attended part-time while working to pay for college. "With so few scientists studying in this field, this could be my career. I continue to have questions. I will continue to find answers." She envisions applications for her research in agricultural pest control and the study of the immune suppression in other organisms. Kingsley will transfer to Cook College at Rutgers University to study biotechnology.

Chemistry major Andrew Kotula was also happy to be back in an academic lab. Currently a field instructor for Xerox, where he was been employed for 26 years, Kotula discontinued his college studies at the age of 20 after the death of his father. He has now resumed his original goal of being a high school science teacher. After seven years of part-time study at Mercer, he graduates with honors and will transfer for his bachelor's degree. During his final semester, he completed molecular research at Princeton University under the guidance of Dr. Abby Doyle and Dennis Huang. With a plan to be a high school science teacher, Kotula notes that, at Mercer, he has learned the value of great teachers. "I really think I can make that kind of a difference in the high school environment."



Chemistry major Andrew Kotula and Biology major Kate Kingsley received academic awards in recognition of their achievements in science.

James Kerney Campus Celebrates Major Steps Forward for All Levels of Learners

It was an evening filled with success stories – of students committed to their education and getting the job done to complete a degree or certificate program, often in the face of major obstacles. MCCC's James Kerney Campus celebrated the achievements of close to 150 students at a spirited event on May 8 that brought graduates together with administrators, fellow students, family and friends at Patriot's Theater in the Trenton War Memorial.

According to JKC Provost and Dean Monica Weaver, 45 students who started or spent most of their time at the Trenton campus earned their associate degrees, 27 graduated from Mercer's Career Training Institute, 15 earned certifi-

icates from the English Language Institute, and 57 earned their GED high school equivalency (19 of them from HomeFront, a shelter for the homeless of Mercer County that partners with MCCC).

Student speakers included Nursing grad Kalyse Beckett; Career Training Institute grad Tammy Henigan, who earned her certificate in PC Applications after being laid off and now works for a large medical group in Princeton; Guatemalan native Alejandro Lazaro, representing the graduates of the English Language Institute, who praised life in America for the opportunities it offers; and Carmen Hayes, who spoke on behalf of the GED graduates. Never having had the chance to finish high school, Hayes proudly noted that she made education a priority for her children, who have all completed college. "When I decided to go back to school, it was to motivate my grandchildren," she said. "It's never too late to achieve." She plans to continue her education with the goal of becoming a pharmacy technician.

MCCC Foundation Board member Kristi Sells added a celebratory note as she proclaimed, "I am blessed and excited to be here. I am a former high school English teacher and now I am an employer, so I know how important education is." She held up a brick that is part of the Alumni Association's "Paving the Way to Excellence" program and explained that the Foundation is donating funds for the engraving of bricks as a lasting tribute to the accomplishments of GED graduates. "Your name will forever be on Mercer's campus," Sells said.

Used to Challenges, Kalyse Beckett is Ready for Nursing Career



First deciding to study nursing because of good employment prospects, Nursing graduate Kalyse Beckett says she has grown to love the field. Selected to represent associate degree graduates at MCCC's James Kerney Campus Awards Ceremony on May 8, she told the audience that her instructors have been truly inspiring. Another source of inspiration is her mother, who is currently pursuing her Ph.D. Beckett has been working towards graduation for more than four years. She says it has been challenging to be a mom, go to school and work. "I never gave up. Failure was not an option." Beckett graduates with two degrees, having earned her first associate degree in Social Science in December. She is one of 64 students to earn Nursing degrees this year.



From left, Foundation Board members Tom Kull and Kristie Sells, student Tashanique Purcell, recipient of the Charles Keith Sherman Memorial Scholarship, MCCC President Dr. Patricia C. Donohue, and VP for College Advancement Dr. Mellissia Zanjani.

ACHIEVEMENT

PASS Students Celebrated for Achievement



Mercer's Program for Academic Services and Success (PASS) celebrated student achievement at its eighth annual Honors Banquet in April. Pictured, from left, are 2012 graduates Abdullah Yousafzai, Lorenzo Garcia, Ashley Marshall and Stanley Tuche, who served as Master of Ceremonies. Thirty PASS participants graduated this year, 20 earned Dean's List status, and 38 achieved grade point averages of 3.0 or higher.

Grad Jana Wolf Finds Home Away from Home



International student Jana Wolf (A.S., Business Administration) found a family at Mercer, composed of other international students and American peers "who were open and friendly. I have shared my culture while they have shared theirs," she said. She

also credits support staff and faculty members who helped her improve her English as she earned her degree.

Hailing from a small town in Germany, Wolf dove into her Mercer experience, serving as president of the International Student Organization and spearheading numerous community service projects and social events. She was a Three-Star PTK student and received a generous scholarship to continue her business studies at Rider University. The multilingual grad would like to work for an international company after college.

Human Services Program Inducts First Group into National Honor Society

This year, MCCC started a chapter of the Tau Upsilon Alpha Honor Society for Human Services students. Pictured during an induction ceremony on May 24, from left, are Professor Emeritus Dr. Jeanette Purdy, guest speaker; MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue; students Catherine Wyn Jones, chapter president; Maxine McMillan Williams; Sharonda M. Hogans; Janet Algarin; Karen Fuentes; Victoria Faux; Rakeem Garland; Hawwah Momolu; and Linda Robison; MCCC's Executive Dean of Student Services L. Diane Campbell; and Chapter Advisor W. Renee Walker, who coordinates the Human Services Program.

"Simply Amazing" Kathi Paluscio Receives Distinguished Teaching Award



For Associate Professor Kathi Paluscio, public speaking is not just a course she teaches; it's a way of life. Her devotion to teaching the craft was recognized at commencement ceremonies on May 24, when President Patricia Donohue presented her with the 2012 Distinguished Teaching Award. Paluscio was described by students, faculty and staff as "down to earth," "likeable," "full of energy," and "simply amazing." Known for encouraging her students to think outside the box, Paluscio was described as "one of the most loved and respected professors on campus," said one person who nominated her.

After majoring in Speech/Theatre/Media for her bachelor's degree at Kean University, and then focusing on Theatre for her master's degree at Villanova University, Paluscio was asked by a former professor at Kean to teach a public speaking course at Mercer. It wasn't long before she realized her passion for teaching, and began to pursue a career in the field.

After holding adjunct teaching positions at Kean, Rider University and MCCC, as well as a part-time position at Drama Works in Yardley, PA, Paluscio became a full-time instructor at Mercer in 2001.

Given the "public" in public speaking, Paluscio is a firm believer in students' using what they learn outside the classroom. She has given them numerous opportunities to practice their skills by creating public speaking festivals on campus such as "Carnival of Cheating" and "Survivorfest."

She also created MouthWorks, an oral interpretation comedy troupe that was inspired by a vocal exercise she had her students perform in class. Along with performing at the Studio Theatre on campus, MouthWorks students took their show on the road a few years ago to rotary clubs and firehouses, as a service learning experience and to help these groups raise funds.

Among the awards Paluscio has been honored with during her time at Mercer is the Human Relations Award, as well as the Student Activities' Woman of the Year Award.

MCCC's Mud Pie Players, made up of students in Kathi Paluscio's "Oral Interpretation" class, performed at the Cherry Tree Club, a pre-school for disadvantaged children, on May 2. Pictured, top row (left to right), are students Alison Noll, Pat Cullen, Corey Page, Dickson Gan, Dillon Kelly, Andrew Cosma, Nick Pollak and Tim Lyons. Pictured, bottom row (left to right), are Sabella Lichtman, Daniela Cicchino, Crystal Myslinkski, Alex DeLiberto and Nikki Lichtman.



NJ Technology Council Honors MCCC Vice President Jacob Eapen

MCCC Vice President of Administration and Chief Business Officer Jacob Eapen was honored with a CFO of the Year Award from the New Jersey Technology Council (NJTC) at a reception June 8. Each year the NJTC recognizes the accomplishments of financial executives throughout New Jersey.

Joining the MCCC leadership team in 2006, Eapen is responsible for Finance, Information Technology, Facilities and College Safety, Purchasing, the Conference Center and Dining Services, and WWFM The Classical Network.

He previously served in public sector management as assistant commissioner for

finance, administration, and information technology at the State of New Jersey, Department of Human Services. He also served as business administrator for the City of Trenton, and as director of the Office of Management and Budget for the City of Newark.

Eapen earned his MBA at Rutgers University and holds an MSW (Administration) from Washington University, St. Louis, and a BSBA from Roosevelt University, Chicago.



FOUNDATION, DONOR

Spring Into Student Success!

In a glittering ballroom at the Westin Princeton on April 2, friends of MCCC celebrated "Spring Into Student Success!" and raised approximately \$60,000 for scholarships and other student needs.

Addressing the more than 200 guests, Foundation Board Chair E. Karen Kennedy, in keeping with the spring theme, compared MCCC students to seeds that will flourish with water and light. "We are so grateful for the nutrition you are providing our students," she told the guests.

Music was provided by a four-piece jazz band featuring talented MCCC music students. MCCC's horticulture students created elegant floral arrangements of live orchids floating in water. A colorful silent auction offered artwork by area artists and other donated items.

The event committee was co-chaired by Pat Colavita, a Mercer County freeholder, and

MCCC's 2012 awardees: (back row from left) Scott Needham, Dr. Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, student Elijah Dixon, Joseph Ridolfi, and Kathy Bonazzi (representing the Robert Bonazzi Foundation), MCCC Trustee Chair Mark Matzen and Vice President Mellissia Zanjani. Front row, from left, are event co-chairs Nina Melker and Pat Colavita, with MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue.



Nina Melker, senior vice president at Hopewell Valley Community Bank. Thanking the committee, MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue said, "Our community leaders contribute time and passion to getting it done. We are all here to support our students."



Elijah Dixon, a scholarship recipient who graduated in May with an A.S. in Business Administration, represented MCCC students at the event. "It's sad for someone who wants to continue their education and can't due to financial issues. I truly thank Mercer. My scholarship has helped me reach my goal of transferring to a four-year school much faster."

New Projects to Expand and Improve Learning Environments

To increase opportunities for students and provide state-of-the-art learning environments, MCCC is completing construction projects at both campuses this summer. These initiatives follow the college's long-term Master Plan.

Much of the funding for these capital building projects comes from Chapter 12, a 50/50 shared debt service of the State of New Jersey and Mercer County. Says MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue, "As we address major facility and program needs, we seek private donations to supplement what state and county funding can do."

MCCC's existing buildings in Trenton are being renovated to provide a one-stop information center that includes computers for students to register and work online, an additional science lab, a renovated science lab, a new classroom that will feature state-of-the-art technology, a new Career Center, and new rooms for student activities, independent study and group work, and enhancements such as new lighting in hallways.

"After listening to student concerns, we are enhancing what they will experience. They will have a more open, more user-friendly learning environment at the Trenton campus," Donohue said.

Also undergoing renovation in Trenton is a building recently purchased by the college with the help of two generous donors, located across the street from existing buildings on North Broad Street. It will offer space for unique Trenton programs in Fashion Design and Fashion Merchandizing and other visual

and digital arts. "We are excited about our new educational opportunities for our neighbors in Trenton and all of Mercer County. In the future we anticipate expanding health programs, science and business at our Trenton campus," Dr. Donohue said.

Construction projects at the West Windsor campus include renovating three science labs and two prep rooms, and replacing tennis courts, a synthetic turf field, HVAC equipment in the Physical Education building, and flooring in the Conference Center's atrium.

Most of the renovations are expected to be completed by late August 2012.

According to Dr. Donohue, "These renovations will offer greater opportunities for students at both campuses, while broadening the scope and depth of our academic programs. We are looking toward a better future for our community college students."

Alumni Association Initiates Brick Engravings

This spring the MCCC Alumni Association began its "Pave the Way to Excellence Buy-A-Brick" initiative. The first bricks were engraved in May at the West Windsor Campus quad. An initial donation came from Vice President for College Advancement Mellissia Zanjani. "I'm happy to be among the first to donate to this worthy project," Dr. Zanjani said. "These bricks provide our alumni and friends with the opportunity to leave a legacy on campus, while supporting education for the future."



In April, MCCC students honored Bursar Lucia Brown-Joseph, who serves as advisor to the African American Student Organization, with an engraved brick. Other donations have come from alumni and families.

By "buying a brick," you are supporting the MCCC Alumni & Friends Association's efforts to promote student success. Brick dedications are open to all. For more information, visit www.mccc.edu/brick, or contact the MCCC Alumni office at 609-570-3659. The e-mail address is alumni@mccc.edu.

Dear MCCC Friends,

As we continue to enhance opportunities for students, we are reaching out to you – friends, alumni and community supporters – to realize our goals.

We have lots of plans to expand programming, equipment and facilities. We want to ensure that our students are competitive in the marketplace and are well prepared when they transfer to four-year schools or join the workforce.

We can't do it alone. We encourage participation from community partners who share our vision of providing top quality education at an affordable cost. For more information about giving opportunities, call me at 609-570-3608.

Sincerely,

Mellissia Zanjani, Ph.D., CFRE
Vice President for College Advancement



Harris Directory Reaching Out to Alum

The college has joined with the Harris Directory to compile a comprehensive list of alumni and their careers and activities since graduating from MCCC. If you have received a postcard and/or a phone call from the company, you can be assured that this is a college-sanctioned project that will produce a directory for purchase by alumni. By sharing your information, you are under no obligation to purchase the book. Learn more by calling 609-570-3659. (The directory will include alumni up to 2011.)

Give to MCCC

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

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



www.mccc.edu/give

“Floyd Fete For Education” Set for October 21

The MCCC Foundation is once again joining with community volunteers to plan “Floyd Fete” for October 21, 2012. The Sunday afternoon event, which raises funds for academically qualified students with financial need, will be held at the Carl A. Fields Center at Princeton University from 3 to 5:30 p.m. This “Jazzy Event to Support the Jim and Fannie Floyd Scholarship Fund” will feature jazz music performed by MCCC students. On display will be the winning poster design by an MCCC art student inspired by the Floyd Fete theme. Posters will be available for purchase. Community co-chairs for this year’s event are Bob Humes and Shirley Satterfield.

Now in its third year, the 2011 event netted more than \$70,000 for the endowed scholarship. There are numerous opportunities for sponsorships.

For more information, visit www.mccc.edu/give and select “Floyd Fete.”

Funeral Service major Gwendolyn Alexander, second from left, was the first student to receive a Jim and Fannie Floyd Scholarship, presented at the Continuing Student Scholarship Ceremony last fall. She is pictured with, from left, MCCC Vice President for Academic Affairs Donald Generals, her grandson Kevin, Jim Floyd, and MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue.



Stay Connected Through MCCC Alumni Association

Connect with your MCCC friends and learn what’s happening at the college. Let us know about your professional growth, career milestones, and the ways that Mercer has made an impact in your life. “Like” the MCCC Alumni & Friends Facebook page today. Find our Facebook link at www.mccc.edu.

To update your address and other contact information, visit www.mccc.edu/alumni.

If you are interested in participating in the MCCC Alumni Association, please e-mail alumni@mccc.edu or call Development Associate Charlene Edwards at 609-570-3659.



Grants News

MCCC’s Grants Development staff members have assisted in procuring renewal grants for two of MCCC’s Youth College programs. The “Gear Up” program has received renewal grants totaling \$600,000; the “Upward Bound” program received \$394,260 for year one of a five-year grant.

WWFM The Classical Network has received a grant of \$20,000 from the Edward T. Cone Foundation – \$5,000 for general operating funds and \$15,000 in support of the New York City digital radio program.

The Mercer County One-Stop Career Center has awarded two grant contracts to the college’s Community Education and Training Department at the James Kerney Campus for two programs that will assist the unemployed with basic education, job training and GED preparation.

Join the MCCC Legacy Society

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

- Estate of Arthur Forman
- Estate of Fred Frankel
- Estate of Henrietta Frankel
- Estate of Howard Marcou
- Estate of Richard and Bonnie Perlman
- Joan V. Silver, sister of beloved Mary R. Hayes

Let us know your plans so that we can work with you and your financial advisers to ensure that your wishes are clear. Call Vice President for College Advancement Mellissia Zanjani at 609-570-3608.

Learning, Passion, Success: Alumni Share Their Stories at Mercer

The power of education and the determination to succeed were major themes when MCCC alumni returned to inspire today’s students at forums on both campuses this semester.

During a “Male Alumni Forum” on March 29, students and faculty gathered at the James Kerney Campus (JKC) to hear from returning alumni. “They’re here as concrete evidence that this can happen for you,” said Dr. Donald Generals, MCCC’s vice president for academic affairs.

“Mercer is the place where it all started for me,” said Fabio Iucolino, a business services manager at Firmenich and an adjunct professor at Mercer. “You come to a point in life where you lack something and that something is an education,” he said. He credited Barbara Jefferson, assistant dean of Enrollment and Student Services at JKC, for helping him create a flexible schedule so he could earn his GED while working full time. Iucolino now has an MBA from Rider University.

Alum Pedro Medina came to the U.S. from a dairy farm in Puerto Rico at the age of 12. After high school, he started college at Rider University but soon realized he wasn’t ready for a four-year school. “One thing Mercer did was help me believe in myself,” said Medina, who currently works as an undersheriff for the Mercer County Sheriff’s Office. “The staff at Mercer care, and they understand what their students are going through.”

MCCC was an unexpected choice for Aaron Watson. After high school, Watson headed to a small college in North Carolina on a baseball scholarship, but decided it wasn’t a good fit. Despite some life obstacles, he went on to earn 84 credits at Mercer, graduating in 1982 with an A.A. in Humanities and Social Sciences. “It all happened because I had people who refused to see me fail.” After a 20-year career with NJ Transit, he is now director of Mercer County Transportation and Infrastructure and is taking night classes to earn his master’s degree. “Whatever I’m doing, I keep in mind that I am representing Mercer,” he said.

One of the female alumni who spoke at a “Women’s Empowerment” event on March 15 was Virgin Velez, a 1972 graduate who is director of the Mercer County One-Stop Career Center. A first generation college graduate, she came to the U.S. from Puerto Rico when she was a child and credits her family with providing the emotional support she needed to succeed.

After earning her associate degree in secretarial science at Mercer, Velez worked in the governor’s office. Four years later, another class at Mercer sparked her interest in pursuing her bachelor’s degree at Rider University. Today she enjoys working closely with MCCC’s students and graduates, helping them find jobs. “I love what I do,” she said.



Virgin Velez



Fabio Iucolino



Pedro Medina



Aaron Watson

Mark Your Calendar for MCCC Golf Classic

The date is set for the MCCC Athletics Department’s 21st annual Golf Classic on Tuesday, Oct. 2 at Mercer Oaks Golf Course in West Windsor, NJ. Proceeds will benefit Mercer’s Student-Athlete Scholarship Fund. The tournament is held in memory of local physician Dr. Cynthia Schaffer, an MCCC Foundation board member who supported youth athletics.

Numerous sponsorship opportunities are available. For ticket and sponsorship information, contact MCCC Athletics Director John Simone at 609-570-3741 or email simonej@mccc.edu



MCCC Faculty Members Prove Value of Community College Beginnings



Mitch Canter, now MCCC's coordinator for Communication and Radio programs, enrolled at Mercer back in 1979, after hearing great things about the school's Telecommunications program. "Mercer had the absolute best program for what I was looking to study," Canter said. "The portfolio I was able to put together when I left Mercer was what landed me my first job."

After completing two associate degrees with honors in Television and Radio in 1981, Canter went to work in radio, writing, producing and voicing commercials, and started his own mobile DJ company, which he still operates today. He earned three regional JASPER awards for commercials he created. His next job was in television at Suburban Cablevision in North Jersey (now part of Comcast).

Canter stayed connected to his alma mater by volunteering for MCCC's Telecommunications Advisory Commission and arranging internships for Mercer students at his workplace. In 1999, he was asked to teach as an adjunct professor. "I enjoyed teaching so much, I realized I wanted to do it full time," said Canter, who applied for the radio coordinator position three years later. Canter studied for his bachelor's degree at Thomas Edison State College and earned his master's at Full Sail University.

"I love teaching at Mercer. The environment is so student-focused. I really enjoy watching my students absorb and apply the information that I help them discover. To see them take their newly acquired skills and create something new, creative and personal... well, there's nothing like it," he said.



For **Tina LaPlaca**, coordinator of Advertising and Graphic Design, familiarity with community colleges was part of her childhood. Her father, the late Joseph Cipriani, worked at MCCC as an electrician for almost 30 years. "I took my first painting class with Professor Mel Leipzig

when I was 13," LaPlaca said.

"My choice to go to Mercer turned out to be a wonderful experience," she said, noting she now interacts regularly with many Mercer friends on a professional level. She credits Professor Peggy Schiff for providing encouragement and guidance. "I aspire to be like her when I teach my own students."

After earning her associate degree in 1985, LaPlaca transferred to Moore College of Art in Philadelphia on a full scholarship. She then held various positions in advertising, graphic design and publishing.

In 1992, LaPlaca returned to Mercer as an adjunct instructor in Computer Art, while continuing to work as the art director for a global medical publishing company. Three years later, she joined the teaching staff full time. She pursued her master's degree through a summer program at Syracuse University. Currently LaPlaca is coordinating two new programs at the Trenton campus which she helped create: Fashion/Apparel Design and Fashion Merchandising. "I recommend Mercer to everyone I meet as a great start in their educational journey," she said.



Jeffrey Weichert, MCCC's coordinator of Network Engineering Technology, admits he wasn't fully focused on academics when he enrolled and then discontinued his studies at County College of Morris (CCM). After being laid off from a factory job, Weichert decided to give college another try. "I went back,

changed my major – and my attitude – and was able to do very well," he said.

Weichert earned his associate degree from CCM in 1982, then transferred to The George Washington University, where he earned his bachelor's degree. After moving to central New Jersey and working as an actuarial assistant and user analyst, he enrolled in technology courses part-time at Mercer and earned a certificate of proficiency in Microcomputer Applications. He then earned his master's degree at Capella University.

In 1991, Weichert began working at Mercer as an Information Technology adjunct instructor, a PC repair technician, and network administrator. He also kept learning, and earned his A.A.S. in Microcomputer Systems Administration in 1995. "After the wonderful experiences that I had in Mercer's classrooms, when the faculty opening became available in 1998, I knew that I wanted to give back everything I was fortunate enough to receive," said Weichert. "I am grateful for my involvement with Mercer as a student and employee."

Professor Anita Hill Speaks About Gender Equality at MCCC

In an engaging talk that included personal history, some keen observations about how our troubled economic times impact women, and a call for women to become more vigorously involved in issues of gender equality, Professor Anita Hill, Esq., spoke to a packed auditorium at MCCC's Conference Center on May 2.

During her presentation, entitled "Reimagining Equality, An Evening with Anita Hill," Ms. Hill, the youngest of 13 children from a rural Oklahoma family, said she learned of the power of education from her mother, and developed a sense of self-worth from an early age that has guided her success.

Currently a professor at the Heller School of Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University in Waltham, MA, Ms. Hill became widely known during the Senate hearings for Clarence Thomas' appointment to the Supreme Court in 1991. She noted that she came forward because of her concern about the integrity of the court. Since that time she has remained a champion for women's and racial equality and an advocate of women's rights.

Hill also spoke about the impact of the housing crisis on women and the impoverished, the subject of her new book "Reimagining Equality." With the rise in home ownership by women beginning in earnest at a time when subprime mortgage loans became popular, the foreclosure crisis has hit women espe-



Anita Hill, center, is pictured with clients and staff of HomeFront, an area nonprofit organization that received proceeds from her talk. HomeFront clients were also presented with scholarships from the New Jersey Women Lawyers Association. HomeFront Executive Director Connie Mercer is second from right.

cially hard. "We cannot assume that the issues will be resolved by the market," Hill said. "The next generation is at stake."

The New Jersey Women Lawyers Association presented the event with the Association of Black Women Lawyers of New Jersey. Spon-

sors included MCCC, the African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey, the American Association of University Women, the Collegiate Title Corporation, the National Congress of Black Women, and Rutgers Camden Law School.

Students Immerse Themselves in Spanish Culture During Study Tour in Costa Rica



MCCC students and staff on Study Tour to Costa Rica in March. Pictured, from left, are Anajae Register, Jennifer Horschman (Costa Rican coordinator), Kara Weigand, Veronica Parrish, Callie Durso-Finley, Lea Brown, Asst. Professor Daniel D'Arpa, Tomika Sommers, Professor Gianna Durso-Finley, Catherina DePaz, Sierra Downes, Kurt Neinstedt, and Melissa Clair (front).

TRAVEL UPDATE: This July MCCC faculty members are leading a Study Tour to South Africa with visits to Cape Town and Johannesburg. Planned for 2012-13 are a return trip to Costa Rica; a Jewish Holocaust tour in Warsaw, Poland, and Prague, Czech Republic; and a trip to the Yucatán Peninsula of Mexico. More information is online at www.mccc.edu/studyabroad.

Student Journalists Win Multiple Awards

MCCC's student journalists continued their tradition of excellence as *The College VOICE* won 11 awards from the New Jersey Collegiate Press Association in the two-year division, including six first place awards. In addition, three *VOICE* staffers received national finalist honors from the Society of Professional Journalists in its Mark of Excellence Awards competition. To achieve this honor, MCCC students won first place in Region 1, which includes all of New England and the mid-Atlantic states, and were then judged against the winners from across the nation.

"I am proud of *The College VOICE* staff, all members, not simply the award winners," said Journalism Professor and *College VOICE* Club Advisor Holly Johnson. "Everyone who works consistently for the paper is exceptional in my view."

Not only do student journalists have high graduation rates, according to Johnson, they also receive major scholarships and transfer to excellent baccalaureate colleges. Recent graduates have transferred to Stanford University, Columbia University, Emerson College, Hampshire College, and The College of New Jersey.

Youth College Builds Strong Candidates for College Admission

Top colleges set to welcome graduates of MCCC's Youth College programs this fall include Princeton, Rutgers, Villanova, NJIT and, of course, Mercer County Community College.

Offered through MCCC's James Kerney Campus in Trenton, the federally funded Youth College programs give Trenton children and teens strong preparation for higher education. Programs include SMILE/GEAR UP, Upward Bound, Educational Talent Search, and the Urban Academic Academy.

Sixty-six middle and high school students participated in a Youth College honors ceremony on May 5 at Kelsey Theatre. Scholarships were awarded to a number of graduating seniors. As each grad crossed the stage, an announcement was made on where they will be attending college in the fall.

Mercer County Freeholder Samuel Frisby, also CEO of the YMCA of Trenton, gave the keynote address, telling students that an education is an opportunity to better their current circumstances, but it can only happen with desire and stamina. "There are going to be people along the way who will help you and they won't even know it," said Frisby, recalling an eighth grade teacher who pushed him to enroll in an Advanced Placement class.

Youth College provides mentoring, tutor-

ing, academic and career counseling, and visits to job sites and colleges. The emphasis is on improving language arts, math and science. Some college credit courses are available to ease the transition from high school to college.



Upward Bound Assistant Director Stacy Denton (left) and Counselor Brian Cody (right), with Academic Achievement Award recipients, from left, Deisy Vasquez, Ashley Betances, Stefanie Bigham and Kimberly Rodas. Denton is herself a successful graduate of the program.

Mercer County Artists

Mercer County Artists 2012 featured 78 works selected from 288 entries by this year's juror, curator/consultant Jeffrey Wechsler, the recently retired senior art curator at the Jane Voorhees Zimmerli Museum at Rutgers University.

Reflecting on his choices in his juror's statement, Wechsler observed, "Ultimately it was the effectiveness of the artist at communicating something to the viewer... that led to the selection of individual pieces. Importantly, the 'something' communicated was wide-ranging – beauty, emotion, precision, narrative skill, even a compelling craziness."

During an opening reception packed with artists and friends, Gallery Director Tricia Fagan said, "Lots of people don't realize that this show was created by the Mercer County Cultural and Heritage Commission 40 years ago. It's a partnership between the county and the college. The county's art collection is born out of this show."

Juror's Choice recipient Tim Fitzpatrick is an MCCC alumnus who studied art from 1979-1981. He first worked as a freelance illustrator, moved into computer graphics, and has been a web designer at the college for 10 years. Fitzpatrick says being selected for the show is likely to spur his creative output.



Tim Fitzpatrick, right, recipient of a Juror's Choice Award for "Songs, Brothers" is pictured with one of his sons, Tim Jr.

For Stacy Denton, a former Upward Bound student, Youth College made all the difference in preparing her for higher education. Now studying for her master's degree, Denton currently serves as Upward Bound's assistant director. She says she is happy to be giving back to the program that mentored her from 10th through 12th grades, when she was a student at Trenton Central High School.

Denton's job includes identifying teens who will most benefit from the program. "We look for students who have academic potential," she said. "We go out into the middle schools and recruit eighth and ninth graders."

One such student recruited for his potential back in 2008 is Richard Levy, who entered Upward Bound in his freshman year at Trenton Central High School and graduated this June. Levy says the program included everything to get him ready for college. "It's the best choice for students. They won't regret it."

This fall Levy will attend the University of Connecticut on a football scholarship, and study psychology. "My career goal is to be a psychologist because I love helping people," he said. "I'm a good listener."

Baseball

Finishing the season ranked 18th nationally with a 29-15 record, the Vikings baseball team continued its winning ways in 2012. The Vikings advanced to the Region 19 championship game led by interim Head Coach Kevin Kerins, who assumed the post in January after six seasons as assistant coach. There was barely a ripple as the Vikings adjusted to new leadership just two months before the start of the season.

According to Kerins, the Vikings' success was due to skill, a solid work ethic, and great team chemistry. Standouts included sophomores Mike Constantini at shortstop, the team's hitting leader, third baseman Rick McLaughlin and outfielder Ian Moyer. Other key players were outfielder Dan Denton and



the formidable pitching of sophomore Chris Rupperecht and freshmen Paul Piromalli, Dylan Murphy and Matt Berbon-Owle, and clutch

Sophomores Richard McLaughlin, left, and Michael Constantini were named to the All-Region 19 First Team.

reliever Walter Cleary.

Entering the double elimination Region 19 tournament as the no. 2 seed, Mercer knew that no. 1 Lackawanna College (41-10, 14-0) was the team to beat. In their first game, the Vikings faced no. 3 Burlington, winning 4-3, which was followed by a 4-1 loss to Lackawanna. The next morning, the Vikings beat Burlington 7-1, forcing another match-up against Lackawanna and a heartbreaking 4-3 loss.

Constantini and McLaughlin were named to the All-Region 19 First Team and outfielder Ian Moyer was named to the second team. Constantini was named no. 3 of the Top 10 Players in Region 19. Constantini, Moyer and outfielder Dan Denton were named to the All-GSAC First Team.

Kerins notes, "We were fortunate to have a great group of sophomores. We let them lead and let our freshmen develop. You have to grow up quickly at the college level. They did a great job." He is also excited about next year's roster, which will feature talented returning sophomores and strong incoming freshmen. He predicts that stellar pitching will be the core of next year's team.

Kerins was assisted by Fred Carella and former MCCC pitcher Shawn Reindel.

Kevin Kerins Named New Baseball Coach

MCCC Athletics Director John Simone announced in July that Kevin Kerins has been named head coach for baseball, after finishing the 2012 season as interim coach.

Simone notes that Kerins is a natural choice for the position, having served from 2005 as assistant coach under Matt Wolski. In addition, Kerins attended MCCC in 2000, playing for the Vikings when they advanced to the Division II Junior College World Series.

Prior to coming to Mercer, Kerins played baseball at Steinert High School from 1995-98. He was team captain when the Spartans won the Group IV NJ State Baseball Championship in his senior year.

Following his year as a Mercer student athlete, Kerins played three seasons at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ), where he earned his bachelor's degree in Technology Education. He earned his master's degree in Technology Education from Ball State University in 2007. He has been a teacher at Edison High School since 2003.

Kerins is a member of the NJCAA Baseball Coaches Association. He has coached for high school teams and youth camps.

Mercer is a comfortable place for Kerins. "I appreciate it even more as an alum," he said. "I am the perfect example of what a community college can do. I wasn't ready to go to TCNJ right out of high school. After a year at Mercer, I was ready. I tell my players, 'I want my story to be your story when you leave here.'"



Kevin Kerins

Softball

According to Head Coach Ryan Zegarski, from fall and winter practices through the end of the season in May, he got 100% from his players. While every year has its unknowable factors, Zegarski was sure he could count on his four sophomores: catcher Angela Marinis, infielder Mary Rossi, outfielder Brittany Szafran, and infielder Jamie Scanella. And they delivered.

With a final season record of 26-15, Zegarski is especially satisfied, given the numbers on the roster – there was not a player to spare. "Every player played in every game," he said, noting that five women played in positions that were new to them, requiring continuing adjustments to the lineup.

"This team had a tremendous work ethic. It was every girl, every game," Zegarski said. "With so much time on the field, they got better and better."

At the end of the regular season, the Vikings proved their mettle in the play-in round by winning both games consecutively against Raritan CC on April 28 to secure their spot in the Region 19 Final Four. Entering the Final

Four as the no. 4 seed, they first faced the tournament's eventual winner, Del Tech, the no. 1 seed, losing 12-4. Then they beat Morris, the no. 2 seed, 5-0, but lost to Burlington 6-0.

Marinis led the offensive attack again this season, earning a .507 average. She is now Mercer's all-time leader with 125 career hits. Other key hitters were Rossi, Szafran and freshman Chelsea Arnold, who led Mercer with 50 RBIs. Arnold and freshmen pitchers Stephanie Canulli and Cynthia Page are expected



Catcher Angela Marinis is Mercer Softball's all-time leader with 125 career hits. She was named the no. 2 player in Region 19.

to be team leaders in 2013.

Marinis was named no. 2 and Szafran was named no. 8 on the Top 10 Players list in Region 19 and both were selected to the All-Region 19 First Team. Rossi and Canulli were selected to the All-Region Second Team. All four players were selected to the All-GSAC First Team.

Zegarski was assisted by Danielle Brosioie, a player from the 2007 Vikings team, and John Rooney.

Lisa Camillone Selected For Trainers Hall of Fame

Lisa Camillone, associate athletic director and athletic trainer, was inducted into the Athletic Trainers' Society of New Jersey Hall of Fame in April. Camillone was the group's first female president (1991-92), and served as a member of the Women in Athletic Training Committee on both the state and national levels. Currently she is a member of the Athletic Training Advisory Committee for the State Board of Medical Examiners.



Athletes Recognized for All-Around Achievement

Sophomore Stanley Tuche was among many MCCC student athletes who earned honors this year – for achievement in their sport and excellence in the classroom. Tuche, a basketball player, and Mary Rossi, a softball player, were awarded the first Art Forman Athletic Memorial Scholarships. Tuche will continue for his bachelor's degree in Business Administration at Temple, while Rossi will continue her studies in Elementary Education at Rider.

Three student athletes were named NJCAA Academic All-Americans: men's soccer player Kyle Bijou, women's cross country runner Sierra Downs, and women's tennis player Alison Noll.

Basketball player Stanley Tuche, center, with Coach Howard Levy and Dean Diane Campbell at the Athlete Breakfast in May.

On Their Way

Fifteen student athletes have announced their transfer plans for next year. See where these talented students are headed by visiting www.mccc.edu/athletics.



Men's Tennis

Head Coach Marc Vecchiolla reports that with its fourth place finish nationally, the men's tennis team exceeded expectations admirably. Earning a final record of 13-4, the Vikings played more matches than in past years against some very good teams.

In the NJCAA Division III Men's National Tennis Championships, held in Plano, TX, from May 14-18, MCCC advanced six flights to the semifinals. Players who advanced included no. 2 singles player Travis Virgil; no. 4 Jeff Castera; no. 5 Elias DeLeon; and no. 6 Luis Morales;



The 2012 men's tennis team, back row from left, Assistant Coach Barb Pleva, Luis Morales, Travis Virgil, Jeff Castera and Assistant Coach Ralph Bencivengo; kneeling from left, Elias DeLeon, Josh Partyka, Adam Czaplinski, and Head Coach Marc Vecchiolla.

and in doubles action, no. 1 partners Josh Partyka and Adam Czaplinski; and no. 2 doubles partners Virgil and Castera. Czaplinski won his consolation match at no. 3 singles.

Mercer's 20 points placed the Vikings fourth out of 11 teams. Gloucester won the tournament for the third year in a row with 34 points.

Vecchiolla has plenty of praise to spread around for his 2012 team. Topping the list is Virgil, who finished his two-year career with a 60-24 record. He also singled out Castera for his work ethic and output. Partyka, playing no. 1, made tremendous progress in the most challenging flight, while Czaplinski had a "forehand like a cannon," Vecchiolla said. Morales, at no. 6 singles, jumped into the starting lineup from his no. 9 position in 2011.

At the Region 19 Tournament played at the Mercer County Park Tennis Center May 4-5, Virgil and Castera were singles finalists and doubles finalists at no. 2. Czaplinski and DeLeon were also finalists. The Vikings came in second behind Gloucester, which won every flight. Virgil, Czaplinski, Castera and DeLeon were selected to the All-Region 19 Second Team.

DeLeon will be the lone returning player next year, but Vecchiolla says recruiting for 2013 is strong. He notes that Gloucester will lose some members of its talented squad, so "next year should be interesting."

Vecchiolla was assisted by Barb Pleva and Ralph Bencivengo. Team manager was Alison Noll, who won two consecutive national titles at no. 1 singles in her MCCC tennis career.

Dalce is New Coach for Men's Soccer

Widmarc Tigana Dalce has been named head coach for men's soccer at Mercer, according to Athletics Director John Simone. Dalce served as an assistant coach during the 2010 and 2011 seasons.

Dalce is an alumnus of the Vikings' 1996 national championship team and was named to the All-Region 19 team in 1997. He served as an assistant coach for women's soccer at Rider University and is the former head coach for boys soccer at Allentown High School, where he was named Coach of the Year for the Colonial Valley Conference. He also has extensive experience as a youth soccer coach.

Dalce says he is strongly committed to continuing Mercer's winning tradition and representing the college with distinction. He also plans to help his players get the most from their time at Mercer – on the field and in the classroom. "This is not just about winning on the field. I will work to see that players transfer on to four-year schools."

Originally from Haiti, Dalce played for the Haitian Olympic National Team from 1991-93. After earning his MCCC degree in Humanities and Social Science in 1998, he transferred to American International College, where he earned his bachelor's degree in Sociology and was named Defensive Player of the Year in 1998.



Widmarc Dalce

MCCC to Honor Former Basketball Coach Howie Landa Sept. 15 Donations Sought for Court Dedication

MCCC will pay tribute to its beloved former men's basketball coach, Howie Landa, on Saturday, Sept. 15. The Howie Landa Tribute will start with a ceremony in the gym at the West Windsor campus at 4 p.m., where Coach Landa's name will be unveiled on the basketball court.

Major fundraising for the Howie Landa basketball court is ongoing. Tribute Committee Chair Al Leister and Co-Chair Bob Pugh say the excitement is growing as committee members continue to reach out to the many people whose lives have been touched by Landa.

"We're hearing from people we haven't seen since the '70s," said Leister, an MCCC professor emeritus who was athletics director during many of Landa's years at the college. Adds Pugh, "He built Mercer basketball into a national program. Hopefully the community will come together and make this a great day for Howie." Pugh was an MCCC Physical Education professor who served as assistant coach for Landa.

Now 80 years old, Landa will be joined by his long-time colleagues from Mercer, along with former players, other MCCC alumni, and community friends who remember his golden era at the helm of MCCC basketball. The event is free and open to the public.

Following the public ceremony, friends and supporters of Landa and Mercer athletics are invited to attend a reception/dinner at the MCCC Conference Center, at 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$65 per person and includes a buffet and beverages. Tickets are limited. (Local hotel rooms have been reserved for out-of-town guests.) Proceeds will benefit MCCC student athletes. Those who contribute \$500 or more to the tribute will receive two complimentary

Legendary Men's Basketball Coach Howie Landa, third from left, with other major figures in MCCC sports history at Landa's retirement in 1987: from left, Men's Soccer Coach Joe Secretario, Equipment Manager Zinna Kusnirik, 1973 National Player of the Year Mel Weldon (and later, MCCC men's basketball coach for four seasons), Assistant Coach Bob Pugh, Assistant Coach Bud Livingston, Administrative Assistant Carol Gibilisco and Nicole Pugh (front).



dinner tickets.

In addition to Leister and Pugh, the committee includes MCCC Trustee Robert DiFalco, current Men's Basketball Coach Howie Levy, *Trentonian* sports writer George O'Gorman, Landa assistant coaches Bill Panella and Charles Smith, current Athletics Director John Simone, and Academic Counselor Fred Weiner.

One former player looking forward to the Landa Tribute is Trenton resident Mel Weldon, who came to MCCC from North Jersey in 1971 to play basketball under Coach Landa. Weldon was a team leader for the Vikings – the team's leading scorer in his first season and Player of the Year in his second season when the Vikings won the national championship. He went on to play for Boston College (BC),

and was inducted into the BC Hall of Fame in 1991. He currently works as the manager of residence services for the Trenton Housing Authority. Weldon, who is still regularly in touch with Landa, said, "Howie has been a blessing to everyone in and out of his circle."

Ticket and donation information is available at www.mccc.edu/landa, by calling 609-570-3659 or by emailing foundation@mccc.edu.

For the latest updates or to add comments or share photos, the Landa Tribute Committee invites community members to "like" the Howie Landa Tribute on Facebook.

For more Sports News, visit
www.mccc.edu/athletics

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the VIKING

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

2012

Kelsey Theatre Fall 2012 Calendar

It's in the Pink!

Full-Length Family Events

Pippin

September 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16

Born Yesterday

September 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30

Next to Normal

October 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14

Little Shop of Horrors

October 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28

A Little Murder

Never Hurt Anybody

November 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11

El Sueno

December 7, 8

Sunday in the Park with George

January 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20

Grease! Movie Sing-Along

January 25, 26, 27

Kelsey Kids Series

Martha Speaks

October 6

Sleeping Beauty

November 3

A Little Princess Christmas

November 10

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

November 16, 17, 18, 24, 25

'Twas the Night Before Christmas...

November 30; December 1, 2

The Nutcracker

December 14, 15, 16

The Little Engine That Could

Earns Her Whistle

January 26

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

Coming Events

(See full calendar at www.mccc.edu.)

- Sept. 11:** Commemoration of 9-11, 11 a.m., West Windsor Campus Memorial Garden
- Sept. 13:** New Jersey State Museum 9-11 Conversation Series, 11:45 a.m. - 2 p.m., MCCC Conference Center
- Sept. 15:** Tribute to Coach Howie Landa: Dedication, 4 p.m., PE Building; Reception and Dinner, 5:30 p.m., MCCC Conference Center
- Sept. 27:** Open House and Dedication of New Facilities, MCCC Trenton Campus
- Oct. 2:** Golf Classic, 11:30 a.m., Mercer Oaks Golf Course
- Oct. 17:** Information Session for parents and college-bound students, 6 p.m., Student Center, West Windsor Campus
- Oct 21:** Floyd Fete for scholarships, 3 to 5:30 p.m., Carl A. Fields Center, Princeton University
- Nov. 15:** Open House and Board Report to the Community, 4:30 p.m., MCCC Conference Center

Academic Calendar

Most fall semester classes begin Aug. 27. Additional sessions of five, seven, eight, ten and fourteen weeks begin Sept. 4, Oct. 2, 19, 23, and Nov. 6.

Visit www.mccc.edu for the full academic calendar.

Events at the MCCC Gallery

A full slate of exhibits will be coming to the MCCC Gallery during the 2012-13 academic year. View the schedule soon at www.mccc.edu/gallery.



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