



VIKING

MERCER
County Community College
www.mccc.edu



Prof. Mel Leipzig captures MCCC on canvas, page 6

Winter 2006

Celebrating 40 Years!

Key Dates in History

- 1890:** The Evening Drawing School opens at 120 N. Broad Street, Trenton, offering mechanical and freehand drawing.
- 1898:** Renamed Trenton Technical School of Science and Art. Forty-three students are enrolled.
- 1901:** Renamed School of Industrial Arts.
- 1911:** Moved to the Kelsey Memorial Building, 101 West State St., Trenton.
- 1935:** Classified as a junior technical college offering training for engineering careers.
- 1941:** Renamed Trenton Junior College. Credit courses offered in engineering and art.
- 1953:** School approved to grant associate in arts degree.
- 1958:** School approved to grant associate in science degree.
- 1962:** NJ legislature establishes county colleges. School accredited by Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.
- 1966: Mercer County Community College established.**
- 1967:** Trenton Junior College merges into Mercer County Community College. Nineteen associate degree programs and two certificate programs are offered.
- 1968-70:** Construction of the West Windsor campus begins. MCCC earns full accreditation from the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.
- 1972:** Dedication of the West Windsor campus. Governor William T. Cahill is guest speaker. MCCC becomes the only college in NJ to offer programs in Aviation and Mortuary Science.
- 1976:** Dedication of the new James Kerney campus in downtown Trenton.

continued on page 3

MCCC: The Educational Hub of Mercer County for Four Decades

In 1966, when community leaders and citizens of Mercer County voted "yes" to establish Mercer County Community College, they envisioned an educational resource that would help the county grow and prosper. With great foresight and a can-do attitude, the college's early trustees formed a merger with Trenton Junior College, creating a firm foundation for growth. Today Mercer is a comprehensive institution that offers learning opportunities for a wide cross-section of the county's population. Children, teens, traditional-age college students, the unemployed, working professionals, new immigrants, and senior citizens all find educational opportunities at Mercer.

While the college's traditional associate degree programs have grown from 19 in 1966 to 68 today, the college has also responded to the community's need for continuing education and workforce training. Registrations in the noncredit division, which began in 1979, totaled 15,000 in the past year alone, with some 1200 courses offered.

"These programs foster professional development and personal enrichment for individuals, and workforce development through customized training and consulting services for corporations, not-for-profit organizations, businesses and government agencies," said Lynn Coopersmith, dean for Organization Development and Community Programs. "This broad range of programs and services reflects our philosophy that continuing education is a lifelong learning path to intellectual, career, occupational, and personal growth for community resi-

dents, and the road to survival and progress for our business and professional communities."

According to MCCC Acting President Thomas N. Wilfrid, "During the past 40 years we have seen rapid changes in technology, global competition, and a more diverse workplace. We all need to adapt to such changes, to learn and to grow throughout our working lives."

At the James Kerney campus, the Career Training Institute's short-term noncredit programs prepare students for careers that are in demand. Those who want to earn their high school equivalency certificate can take classes in adult basic education, while non-native speakers can take English language classes at many levels. Youth programs prepare grade schoolers and teens for college through tutoring and enrichment activities.

For children ages 6 to 17, the college's three summer camps at the 292-acre West Windsor campus offer abundant academic and recreational choices. Even the county's smallest citizens come to Mercer for "Tiny Tot Swimming" classes in the indoor pool.

"This is a high-spirited place," said MCCC faculty member Dori Seider, who began her career at Mercer in 1971. "At Mercer we are open, supportive and democratic. We encourage everyone in the community to participate here in one way or another."

Looking ahead, Dr. Wilfrid said "Mercer's role in the future will be to remain true to our mission as a community college, responding to the needs of our county's citizens. We will

continued on page 3



Higher Education for Students with Down Syndrome and Other Intellectual Disabilities

In an effort to expand educational opportunities for people with Down syndrome and other intellectual disabilities, the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) has awarded funding grants of approximately \$50,000 each to MCCC and The College of New Jersey. Each college will create a model educational program.

Steve and Laura Riggio of Bernardsville, whose 16-year-old daughter has Down syn-

Donor Steve Riggio, left, with student Warren Schaefer and MCCC's Acting President Thomas N. Wilfrid, at an October reception announcing the Down Syndrome grant.

drome, provided funding for the program. Mr. Riggio is CEO of Barnes & Noble, Inc. and serves on the NDSS Board of Directors. "Our vision is to create a model program in New Jersey that can be replicated in communities across the country," he said. "Both of the institutions selected to receive grants embrace our belief that young adults with intellectual disabilities deserve the opportunity to enrich their lives through higher education."

At Mercer, the first group of students is expected to begin the program in Fall 2006. For more information contact MCCC's Office of Academic Support Services at 609-586-4800 ext. 3422.

Your Best Choice!

short takes



Members of MCCC's baseball team help pack up and load the truck for hurricane relief. From left are Josh Santiago, Evan Gallagher, Chris Kinnevy, Mike Platas, Orion Eastmond, and Jon DeBlois.

Mercer Marshals Community Support for Disaster Relief

In mid-September, three volunteer drivers delivered a truck packed with supplies for needy victims of Hurricane Katrina to a distribution center in the small town of Belle Chase, LA. Families waited in line for the water, food, cleaning supplies, toiletries, clothing and more, donated by MCCC faculty members, staff and students, with help from the greater community. Many cash donations enabled volunteer shoppers to purchase items in short supply.

College staff and faculty have "adopted" the town of Belle Chase and its hard-hit citizens. In October the college's Katrina Relief Committee organized and packed a second truckload, this time with donated winter clothing. In December a large supply of holiday gifts was sent to needy children and their parents.



Staff and faculty volunteers pose with a sign prepared for the side of the tractor-trailer truck which was driven by three professional drivers who volunteered their services.

"The Haunted Carnival" Warns Against Cheating

"Only a fool would cheat," read one sign at the late October "Haunted Carnival," one of the more unusual events in the college's history. The Halloween-themed event focused on academic integrity and the horrors of cheating. Students acted out short dramatic skits, confessed on a soap box, and worked the crowd dressed as white-clad angels and red-clad devils. Faculty members joined in the spirit of the day by manning the ticket and game tables dressed in assorted Halloween garb.

The event was the brainchild of Assistant Professor of Communications Kathy Paluscio, whose Oral Interpretation class played a major role. "We developed the carnival as a fun event that nevertheless carried a serious message about the horrors of cheating. Each participating group stressed this theme. I didn't want anybody to forget why we were there."

Co-coordinator Danielle Garruba, director of Student Activities, marshaled nearly 100 student volunteers. Rounding out the carnival were games and lots of free desserts, many baked by staff, faculty and students.



Flamboyant show hosts Jason Edwards and Ricardo Cineus introduce a skit about the horrors of cheating during MCCC's Haunted Carnival.

Early Childhood Education Students Make Big Plans



After studying the philosophies and designs of early childhood education centers, students in Elizabeth DeGiorgio's Early Childhood Education class designed and built scale models. Working on their project are Diana Mickolas and Steven Myer.



Preparing cakes for MADD's anniversary is Rita Bohlumbohm, an alum who now teaches baking at Mercer and also works as a chef at the Hyatt Regency Princeton. She is pictured with program coordinator Doug Fee.

MCCC Bakes the Cakes for MADD's 25th

Alumni, students and faculty from MCCC's Hotel, Restaurant and Institution Management (HRIM) program filled a sweet order this fall. After receiving a call from the New Jersey division of MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving), which was looking for help in celebrating the organization's 25th anniversary, participants in the HRI program got out their bowls and pans.

According to program coordinator Doug Fee, Mercer donated three huge, beautifully decorated sheet cakes for the anniversary, which took place at the State House on September 22. New Jersey Acting Governor Codey attended and officially launched the celebration by cutting the first slice of cake. Seven MCCC student volunteers pitched in to distribute cake to approximately 100 dignitaries in attendance, including legislators, law enforcement officials, highway traffic safety personnel, and MADD donors and volunteers.

Mercer Marketing Wins the Gold

Surrounded by their award-winning work, members of MCCC's Publications staff display four gold medallions won at the National Council of Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR) District 1 Conference, held in Mystic, CT in October. From left are Senior Graphic Designer Francis Paixao, Director of Marketing and Public Information Lynn Holl, Web and Print Editor Brad Kent, and Graphic Designer Tracy Patterson. All design work was done in-house and was evaluated in competition with submissions from two-year colleges from the East Coast, Eastern Canada and the U.K.



Celebrating 40 Years (continued from page 1)

continue to consolidate and improve both our traditional credit programs and our noncredit offerings, and we will expand into new areas as the need arises."

Four Mercer Leaders Share Their Memories

Thomas N. Wilfrid, Acting President: 36 years

What is it like to teach math and science at a maximum security prison? Acting President Thomas N. Wilfrid's vivid memories of his early years at Mercer include working in the college's Prison Education Network. "It was a wonderful experience as a young person," he said. "I got to meet some very unusual human beings, people who, despite their flaws, demonstrated a high level of intellectual capability."



Dr. Wilfrid began his career at Mercer 36 years ago, teaching physics and mathematics. He had just completed his M.A. in Physics at Princeton University. He would later earn his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Wilfrid remembers the original MCCC campus in downtown Trenton, which occupied classroom and office space in several different buildings. "People had to walk a couple of blocks between classes," he said. "We felt very much a part of the downtown community and interacted frequently with government workers and others." When the college moved to its new campus in West Windsor, he remembered feeling a bit of isolation at first. However, the new buildings and spacious grounds were a big advantage. (MCCC built a new facility in downtown Trenton which opened in 1975, now called the James Kerney Campus.)

Dr. Wilfrid has served in many capacities at Mercer, most recently as vice president for Academic and Student Affairs. Formerly he was dean for Academic Affairs, division chair of Technology, Computers and Mathematics, and dean for Student Services.

A strong believer in serving others, Dr. Wilfrid said, "Having committed my entire career to high-quality educational opportunity for all who are ready to learn, I am very proud of what Mercer County Community College accomplishes every day for the people and employers of Mercer County."

Edward Frederick, Assistant Dean, James Kerney Campus: 36 years

Some of Edward Frederick's fondest memories throughout his years at Mercer are of the annual graduation ceremonies, often held at Trenton's War Memorial building. "Everybody is there and I get to meet students' families. They so often say how much we have done for them - how we helped them. I often hear 'You don't know what you did but now it is paying off.' It's that kind of thing that makes you feel that it's all worthwhile."



Frederick remembers the active sororities and fraternities of his early days at Mercer. "The Student Center was at the Hotel Hildebrecht in Trenton," he said. "Students had their banners there and were involved in many activities, such as fundraisers, dances and picnics."

During his long career at Mercer, Frederick, who earned his M.A. from Kean College, has held a wide variety of positions, beginning with counseling and tutoring. He taught business mathematics and study skills, served as director of the Educational Opportunity Fund program and director of Student Activities, became assistant dean and director of counseling, and worked with several youth development programs.

Professor David Collier: 44 years

History Professor David Collier, who began his career at MCCC in 1961, says today's students are not very different from those in the 1960s. "In my experience, the quality of student work today is the same as in the past, but in earlier years, students were more used to reading long books for work and entertainment because they had not been brought up on television. Now perhaps students are less patient and expect things to be done quickly. Students still work hard at their courses and their jobs. They are usually polite and cheerful, and many do fine academic work. Some have overcome severe hardships to proudly earn their degrees."



Professor Collier, who earned his M.A. at Yale, recalls the early days at the West Windsor campus. "When Dr. Richard K. Greenfield was president of the college [1966 to 1975], the West Windsor campus was built and opened for classes in 1972. In those days the area was rural, with more farms and less traffic. In this scenic setting our facilities now included extensive playing fields and ample parking lots, a large gym and a handsome swimming pool."

Professor Dori Seider: 34 years

"When I started at Mercer we were all in Trenton. All the teachers had offices together in the Hotel Hildebrecht," said Dr. Seider. "We came to work every morning and said hello to the entire faculty. It was like one big family. We did all kinds of community projects. We would come to work on Saturdays and do painting projects with students. Back then everybody did everything. I wrote a play and the students acted in the play. Whatever had to be done, we all participated. We were a community then, and we still are today. We are more spread out but we still do similar things. We still have that spirit."



"Students back then wanted to change the world. A lot of them were very aware of what was going on politically and socially. They were very good students, very concerned and conscientious. After perhaps a less engaged period, I perceive the students of today as similar to the way they were back in the 70s. They are also very serious students. They know they have to work hard to succeed in today's world."

Professor Seider, who earned her doctorate from the University of Vermont, teaches education, psychology and French.

- 1982:** WWFM 89.1 classical radio, a service from MCCC, signs on the air.
- 1989:** The Art Gallery is built in the Communications Center.
- 1990-91:** Addition to Engineering Science building completed, with robotics, computer and drafting labs.
- 1992:** James Kerney campus expansion project begins. A maintenance/funeral service building begins construction at West Windsor, and the existing building is converted to art studios and security offices.
- 1996:** Mercer begins developing its now comprehensive website.
- 1997:** The Virtual Campus is instituted. Lunchtime classes begin in downtown Trenton.
- 1999:** Communication building expansion begins, including radio and television classrooms and labs. Construction begins for MCCC Fitness Center.
- 2001:** Construction begins for The Conference Center at Mercer.
- 2003-04:** Renovations to the West Windsor campus include five new classrooms in the Administration building, a remodeled tutoring center, and a demonstration kitchen.
- 2005:** MCCC offers 68 associate degree programs and 31 certificate programs, and enrolls more than 13,000 credit students annually.



From left, faculty member Cavit Cooley with students Robert Quinn and Lauren Seeley, program coordinator Peter Horne, and student Sean Minnick.

The Changing Face of Criminal Justice

Criminal Justice student Lauren Seeley, a Law Enforcement major, was attracted to the profession because of her interest in forensic psychology. She is joined by more women than ever before in the college's Criminal Justice program, which has been growing rapidly over the past few years and is now the college's fifth largest. In addition to greater numbers of female students, the events of 9-11 also caused a jump in enrollment.

Students choose from two options: Law Enforcement, by far the larger program, and Corrections, which focuses on correctional facilities, probation and parole.

"About one-third of our Law Enforcement students are female, and two-thirds of our Corrections students are female," said program coordinator Dr. Peter Horne. "Many female students are interested in pursuing careers in juvenile justice, probation, parole and forensics."

Now celebrating his 25th year at MCCC, Dr. Horne said his rapidly changing field continues to keep him inspired. He especially enjoys hearing from alumni who have gone on to a variety of careers in law enforcement and corrections.

The Criminal Justice program recently moved its offices to the Business building and is now part of the Business and Technology Division. Last year a second full-time faculty member, Cavit Cooley, entered the program's ranks and is focused on expanding enrollment in Corrections.

Technology Meets Creativity for Kate Volz in MCCC's Entertainment Technology Program

While we usually associate the Broadway bug with those who want to act, the other side of the stage is also a magnet for those with the talent to bring great ideas to life, such as student Kate Volz, who is studying for a career in stage management.

Volz always thought she would major in music at college. She played trumpet, French horn and the mellophone (a French-horn type instrument designed for marching bands) throughout her years at Hightstown High School. But after volunteering to help the drama club, she found that she loved working backstage on lighting, costumes and set design.

When Volz began her college studies at Mercer in 2003, she chose to major in Theatre, planning to focus on the technical aspects of the craft. After a year of part-time study, her professor, Robert Terrano, told her about a new major called Entertainment Technology, a program he initiated. As Volz sees it, she was in the right place at the right time. She switched her major and is now enjoying the variety of

MCCC Summer Camps Are Hot, Hot, Hot!

Camp Open House To Be Held January 29

While summer is still months away, the MCCC camp staff is already working to ensure that Summer 2006 will be full of fun and enrichment for the younger set. The college's Summer Camp programs will host an Open House on Sunday, Jan. 29, 12 to 3 p.m., in the Student Center on Mercer's West Windsor campus (snow date: Feb. 5). Families will meet camp directors and learn about the more than 80 unique programs available at Mercer for youngsters ages 6-17 through Camp College, Sports Camps, Tomato Patch Visual and Performing Arts Workshops, and Specialty Camps. Tours of the facilities will be offered.

According to Camp College Director Sharon Vlasac, children with widely diverse interests can all find a summer program at Mercer. "We offer an enriching alternative to the traditional summer day camp," she said. In Camp College, campers create a personalized college-style schedule in a variety of stimulating subject areas and recreational activities, while Specialty Camps offer half and full-day arts and science programs, and accelerated study for middle school students. This year, Camp College will accept campers ages 6 to 12. Vlasac emphasizes that campers are escorted from class to class by counselors and that staff members are posted at strategic points around the campus.

In Sports Camps, under the direction of MCCC Athletic Director John Simone, campers concentrate on nine popular sports in one-week sessions. Staff members include college and high school coaches and athletes. "A camper who spends a summer in our Sports Camps can build a solid foundation in a variety of sports. We offer competitive play but always strive to keep it fun," Simone said.

Kelsey Theatre Artistic Director Kitty Getlik coordinates Tomato Patch Workshops, giving children from grades 5 to 12 a chance to explore their artistic talents and passions. Choos-



ing a major from either the visual or performing arts, they concentrate on their specialty in the morning and then spread their wings to other areas in afternoon electives. According to Getlik, Tomato Patchers often return year after year to delve more deeply into an arts education not covered during the school year. "Many of our students get their start here and continue on after Mercer, either as artists or performers," Getlik said.

Each program takes advantage of special opportunities available only on a college campus. Campers utilize fully equipped state-of-the-art computer and technology labs, an indoor Olympic-size swimming pool, fine arts studios, air-conditioned facilities, quality athletic fields, eight all-weather tennis courts, and a professional theater space, as well as a college cafeteria serving hot and cold breakfast and lunch items. The camp staff includes MCCC faculty, certified teachers, and professionals working in their areas of expertise.

Families may register for camp at the Open House. (Medical information must be provided.) To learn more about Mercer summer camps, call (609) 586-9446 or visit Youth Services on the MCCC website: www.mccc.edu.

courses offered. "I think this is a great program. I'm glad I decided to transfer."

According to Terrano, the college developed the Entertainment Technology major to meet the demands of many burgeoning career fields. The major combines the technology and design of lighting, sound and broadcasting with aspects of theatre, video production, computer drafting, and electronics. Students get hands-on experience through a required internship.

Volz has taken advantage of opportunities to get her work experience right on Mercer's campus, where she has been a volunteer with the Late Nite Series, a free "coffee house" that attracts an eclectic mix of area poets, musicians, actors and comedians. Open every Friday evening during the school year at the college's intimate MC³ Studio Theatre, the Late Nite Series presents interesting challenges for the backstage crew.

Another backstage opportunity arose during the annual student production at Kelsey Theatre, when Volz worked on the play "All I

Really Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten." Volz "called" the show, controlling the look, sound and pace of the production.

To help students like



Kate Volz

Volz transfer for a bachelor's degree, Terrano is working on an agreement with the New York City College of Technology, City University of New York, which has the only four-year baccalaureate degree program in Entertainment Technology on the East Coast.

For more information on the Entertainment Technology program, call (609) 586-4800, ext. 3828.



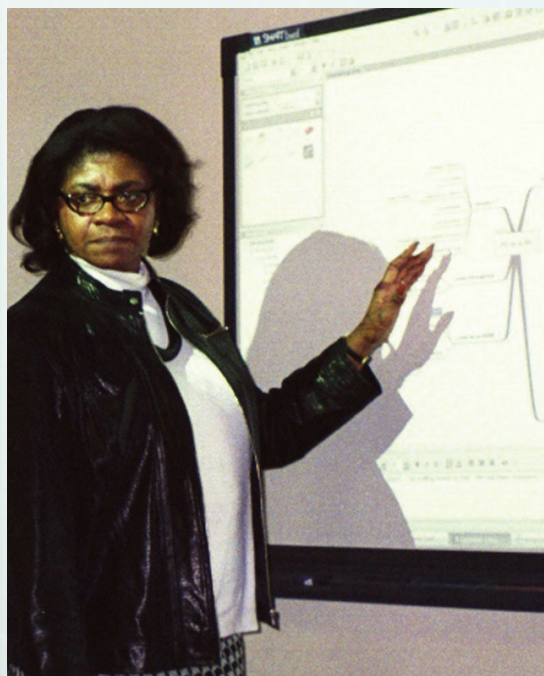
Professional Development Soars in B.A.T. Cave

In 1996 a faculty and staff resource room opened in the windowless depths of the Communications Building. Dubbed by some “the bat cave,” it had limited seating and, with no staffing, was kept locked and hard to access. Falling into disuse, it became a storage room.

Welcome to September, 2005, when the new and improved “B.A.T. (Better Approaches to Teaching) Cave” opened under the direction of Professor Debbie Kell, who was soon joined by a part-time technical assistant and a student worker. Equipped with five flat-screen computers, a scanner, a projector, a Smart Board, CD and DVD readers and burners, and web cams, this newly furnished resource center has enjoyed a promising start.

Adding to the physical site is a sophisticated, interactive website, <http://teach.mccc.edu>, unveiled in its final format in September. With a click of a mouse, faculty and staff have access to a “virtual” treasure trove of information through links to professional organizations and library materials. This year Mercer also joined “Starlink,” a company that airs monthly teleconferences on a wide variety of teaching topics. These professionally produced sessions feature interviews with experts, a Q&A session with a live audience, and questions faxed from the satellite locations. Shows then become part of a permanent archive.

According to Kell, the “B.A.T. Cave” name and logo are a light, catchy way to get noticed. But the room’s purpose has never been more important. “With ongoing technological innovations and the expectations of an increasingly savvy student population, we want to give our faculty every opportunity to incorporate technology into their teaching,” Kell said. “I envision the college using this facility in all sorts of ways – as a technologically-advanced meeting site, as a place for ‘technology dress rehearsals,’ and as a vehicle for new approaches to teaching and learning.”



Library Services Director Pam Price uses “mind-mapping” software during a presentation in the B.A.T. Cave.



Aviation Flight Technology students (from left) Jacob Copeland, Evan Conley, Ben Shamy, Mike Scuderi, Dean Tzitzis, and Sean Day display their trophies after winning a regional flight competition. Evan Conley received the Top Pilot award for the region, which comes with a \$500 scholarship.

Flight Team Wins Regional Competition

The MCCC Flight Team won first place at the National Intercollegiate Flying Association’s Region VII competition, hosted in October by Bridgewater State College in New Bedford, MA. Approximately 30 student pilots from four colleges competed.

The Aviation Flight Technology students competed in diverse events and written examinations. In the *Preflight Inspection Event*, a training aircraft is “bugged” with multiple problems that would make it unsafe for flight. Contestants are given 15 minutes to inspect the aircraft and identify the problems. In the *IFR Simulator Event*, competitors are required to demonstrate proficiency and precision by flying a given route in a flight training device.

The team is now raising funds for a trip to the National Intercollegiate Flying Association’s Safety and Flight Evaluation Conference, to take place at Ohio State University in May.

The college’s Aviation programs include the Aviation Flight Technology AAS degree, where students train to be commercial pilots who meet standards set by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Program graduates can become charter pilots, flight instructors and employees of commuter airlines. Students train at the FAA-controlled Trenton-Mercer Airport, where the college houses its fleet of ten aircraft.

Mercer Alumni: Please Keep in Touch!

Would you like to keep up with events at Mercer? Now you can sign up for our new Alumni & Friends e-mail service. We’ll send you notices about news and upcoming special events, and the online link to Viking.

To add your name to this free service, send an e-mail to Wendy Humphrey in MCCC’s Public Information Office (humphrew@mccc.edu) with your name and address and the year you graduated.

To continue receiving this newsletter by mail, you must keep your address updated in the college’s database. When you move, e-mail our Records and Registration office with your new address to knighte@mccc.edu, or call 609-586-4800, ext. 3228. The college does not change addresses based on returned mail only.

New ID Numbers for Alum

MCCC is currently working to change our internal systems to comply with new laws mandating that Social Security numbers not be used to identify individuals. Your alumni record will be assigned a new ID number starting in January 2006.

“MCCC in Action” to Feature Dr. Beverly Richardson on WIMG



Beginning Jan. 17, Mercer’s own vice president for College Advancement, Dr. Beverly Richardson, will host “MCCC in Action,” a 30-minute radio program on WIMG Trenton, 1300 AM, from 6:30 to 7 p.m.

The monthly informational broadcast will include faculty, staff, students and alumni discussing all facets of the college, including credit and noncredit programs, returning adult students, transfer opportunities, financial aid, and youth programs.

Future broadcast dates are Feb. 21, Mar. 21, Apr. 18 and May 16.



35 Years at MCCC on Canvas: The Artistry of Mel Leipzig

Undoubtedly the most visible and lasting images of MCCC will be the paintings of Professor Mel Leipzig, an acclaimed artist who has put the faces of Mercer's faculty, staff and students on canvas for the past 35 years.

A leader in New Jersey arts for decades, Leipzig has tapped numerous members of the campus community as models for his work, capturing the college's classrooms, offices and studios in minute detail. He has painted the college's security officers at their posts, cafeteria staff members on the job, the print shop supervisor at work, drama students in rehearsal, professors at their desks, and much more.

Leipzig's paintings are part of the permanent collections of the White House, the Whitney Museum in New York City, The Cooper-Hewitt Museum, and The New Jersey State Museum. He has participated in numerous one-man and group shows from the East Coast to Moscow, and is often exhibited at the Gallery Henoch in New York City, where he had a one-man show in November.

Among his many awards, Leipzig won a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, a Fulbright Grant to Paris, three grants from the New Jersey Council on the Arts, and a Certificate of Commendation from former Governor Byrne for contributions to the arts. He was the recipient of Mercer's Distinguished Teaching Award.



The College Cafeteria



The Actors in "A Doll House"



Kathi and her Students



Marty in the College Mail Room



College Security Office

You're Invited to "Hollywood Lights" on March 11

Celebrating MCCC's 40th Anniversary

We're rolling out the red carpet for you and your friends on March 11, when Mercer will host its annual Scholarship Dinner Dance at the Hyatt Regency in Princeton. This elegant evening of fun and entertainment will feature an outstanding dinner, dancing, interviews with "celebrity" guests, a red carpet and strobe lights announcing your presence.

The college will be honoring its special friends with the 2006 "Spirit of Education" Awards. Recipients will be:

Roma Bank, the 2006 "Distinguished Corporate Friend."

Borden Perlman Insurance Company, "Community Service Award" winner.

Helenmarie Dolton, the 2006 "Person of the Year."

In addition to your attendance, we hope you can help MCCC to provide scholarships for deserving students by becoming a Shining Star Corporate Sponsor, by purchasing an ad in our program, or by donating an item to our silent auction. For more information call Elaine Stout at (609) 586-4800 ext. 3607.



Alumni Star in "Like 40 Productions"

In every Kelsey Theatre season since 2000, interspersed among the popular musicals and family shows are a couple of less familiar productions. You can bet that the company performing these shows is Like 40 Productions.

Founded by a group of Mercer theater alum, Like 40 Productions set out to forge new territory as a serious theater alternative. "I was introduced to some theater alum who had walked away from performing years ago," said Dan Spalluto, a founding member. "They were professionally selective and were looking to participate in something more challenging. We joined forces with a mission to challenge our community and ourselves. We try to expand the boundaries of traditional theater by creating and delivering a dynamic blend of education and performance."

Along with Spalluto, other founding members include David Maurio, Tracy Antozzeski, Missy Abrams, Jeff Davis and Joyce LaBriola. Theater alumnus John Maurer has contributed his design talents to Like 40 sets, while other alumni have appeared in productions. Many of Like 40's members also lend their talents to Mercer's Tomato Patch Summer Workshops, either as counselors or guest lecturers.

Their efforts have met with critical acclaim from local theater critics and from the New Jersey Association of Community Theaters. Like 40 received four Perry Award nominations last season, two for "Early One Evening at the Rainbow Bar and Grill," a thought-provoking end-of-world fantasy, and two for "Incorruptible," a medieval comedy. Other past shows include "Inspecting Carol," presented in November, 2005, "Dracula," "Midsummer Night's Dream," and "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest." Next up for Like 40 is the black comedy, "Stalag 17," coming to Kelsey Feb. 24 to March 5, 2006.

According to Spalluto, while most of the featured actors are not professionals, they continue to train and that makes a difference. "What brings us all back is the level of excellence we try to achieve. It seems that the harder and darker the show, the more committed the actors are. The group feeds that."

Spalluto hopes the company will have a long life. "Community theater has its frustrations. You're like a chef; you need the right ingredients. We don't always get a big turnout for auditions. Sometimes we don't have the technical help or the show doesn't draw a big audience. Part of the challenge is getting to the vision we want to achieve."

Spalluto notes that Kelsey Theatre Artistic Director Kitty Getlik is like family to members of the troupe. Getlik feels the same way. "Many members of Like 40 were MCCC students in the 1980s," she said. "They have forged careers in diverse areas, but have found time to come back to Mercer to continue the

work they started as theater students. When I put together the Kelsey season each year I look for popular shows, since known titles bring in the most people. But I also look for one or two shows that are not mainstream or have a bit more meat on them. Very often Like 40 is the company I choose to fill that bill."



The Perry-nominated "Early One Evening at the Rainbow Bar and Grill" featured Like 40 actors (left to right) Doug Edelson, Stephen Pie, David Maurio, Jennifer Baron, Liz Moore, Tom Juarez and John Devennie.

Chemistry Students Share Science Wonders at Local Schools

Mercer students embarked on their annual road trip to promote the wonders of chemistry at five local elementary schools during National Chemistry Week Oct. 17-21. Sponsored by the Trenton section of the American Chemical Society, the program was organized by Asst. Chemistry Professor Helen Tanzini in collaboration with Rider University. Volunteers included 28 students and 10 faculty members. Pictured visiting the Dutch Neck School are, left to right, Jen Win, Lindsay Rzuczek, faculty members Marianne Reynolds and Mary Ann Norcross, Brian Malawski, Tanzini, Elisha Fezza, and Joan Ahmed.





All four home-schooled Watrous siblings attended MCCC as teens and went on to achieve honors at four-year colleges. From left are Vivienne, 21, Gwyneth, 22, David, 24, and Abby, 26.

Bridging the Gap for a Home-Schooled Family

For Gwyneth Watrous, starting college at age 14 was the normal course of events. Even at such a young age, she found college to be a fun and exciting endeavor, and she took full advantage of every opportunity.

Gwyneth, who was home-schooled, had a big advantage. She was following in the

footsteps of her two older siblings, who had successfully catapulted from Mercer to their universities of choice, where they earned high honors.

A Mathematics major at Mercer, Gwyneth earned 56 credits by the time she turned 18, and achieved a grade point average of 3.78 out

Visually Impaired Student Leads the Way at Mercer



Cassandra Jeanlor

When Cassandra Jeanlor began taking classes at Mercer in 1994, she was an adult student juggling a job and a family. But she had another obstacle – she was legally blind.

A native of Haiti, Jeanlor came to the United States in the 1980s. Recognizing that she needed more education, she set out to get her GED at Mercer. Accomplishing that goal, her next step was much bigger – she enrolled in college-level courses. “I originally thought I would earn a one-year certificate for an administrative or computer-related job,” she said. “But my counselor, Fred Weiner, encouraged me to go further.”

Jeanlor encountered early obstacles, noting that many MCCC staff members and instructors were inexperienced in dealing with students with visual disabilities. “I had to educate some of them and let them know I was capable,” she said. “I had to fight, but I always did it in a nice, positive way. We learned together.” Jeanlor remains in touch with

many MCCC staffers including Weiner, transfer counselor Laurene Jones, and career services specialist Gail LaFrance.

Weiner noted that he worked closely with Jeanlor. “We strived for and in most cases achieved the necessary accommodations that enabled her to succeed.” These included time extensions on some assignments and having exams read to her, as well as the use of the auxiliary aids available at the time.

“Once given the opportunity,” Weiner continued, “Cassandra succeeded beyond our wildest dreams. She is an intelligent and determined young woman. She never allowed her visual disability to interfere with her progress. She set her standards high and remains an exemplary role model for all students.”

A Dean’s List student, Jeanlor graduated from Mercer with a degree in Humanities in 1997. She then continued her education at Rutgers, graduating in 2001 with a degree in Social Work and French Literature, even journeying to Paris to complete coursework. She then went on for her master’s, earning her degree in Social Work in 2003.

After three years as a social service coordinator with Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey, Jeanlor began a new position this fall that she is ideally suited for – working as a career development specialist for the New Jersey Commission for the Blind. There she helps other visually impaired people with job placements in seven New Jersey counties and serves as their liaison in the business community.

Jeanlor credits her inner strength with helping her achieve her goals. “I have had obstacle after obstacle,” she said. “But I rise above them.” She is pleased with the pioneering role she played in easing the way for other visually impaired students at Mercer, pointing to several others who followed her, including Jean Wallenstein Milford, a 2002 Mercer grad who was student speaker at Commencement.

Nobody is prouder of Jeanlor than her three children, a son aged 15 and daughters aged 14 and 6. “They come to me for help with their school work, especially in math,” she said. “I am proud to be able to help them.”

of a possible 4.0. After transferring to Florida’s Eckerd College, she graduated in May of 2005 with a B.S. in Biochemistry.

Now taking a year off from her studies, Gwyneth is gaining some valuable hands-on experience that will help her achieve her goal of becoming a veterinarian. In August she arrived in Kenya where, through a Christian mission organization, she is spending six months working with native veterinarians on cattle care. “I am interested in working in developing countries after vet school, doing standard, basic care,” she said. “It’s important because if their cattle die, a family loses its income.”

While she has fond memories of all her Mercer courses, Gwyneth especially remembers two classes that really helped her succeed. “At Eckerd, people liked the way I did presentations, and I give the credit to Kathy Paluscio and her speech class. My sister Vivienne also took Kathy’s course and she was one of the finalists in a speech competition,” she said. Recalling her study skills class with Library Services Director Pam Price, she said, “It was one of the most helpful classes I took. It really taught me time management skills.”

While overseas, Gwyneth is keeping in close touch with her siblings. Her sister Abby, a 2000 Mercer graduate who went on to earn an engineering degree from Rice University, is now in a master’s program at the University of Colorado. Her brother David, who earned 78 credits from Mercer, graduated from Lafayette College with a major in neuroscience and a minor in East Asian studies, and will be leaving to teach English in Korea in May. Her younger sister, Vivienne, who earned 64 Mercer credits, is now studying at Samford University in Alabama.

Perhaps all four siblings would agree with Gwyneth’s comment that “the teachers at Mercer are fabulous. They are excited and happy to be teaching, and if you want to learn, they are there for you.”



Criminal Justice Grad Is Martial Arts Expert

Ed Yuncza, a 1992 graduate of the Criminal Justice program, has made a name for himself in martial arts. Yuncza, who earned his bachelor’s degree from Rider University, owns E.Y. Martial Arts & Self-Defense Concepts in Lawrenceville, teaching students ages three and up. He holds a black belt in both Taekwondo and Karate.

He has contributed six articles to *Black Belt* magazine, including his most recent article, “Spin Master, the Turning Techniques in Taekwondo,” in the December 2005 issue. He has trained in martial arts since 1984 and has taught since 1991. He also competes in local and regional tournaments.

class notes

Chuck Jacobi '81 (AAS in Architecture) has been the owner of Best Billiards for more than 20 years, making one-of-a-kind top-quality billiard tables. He started the business in 1992 and is based in Pittstown, NJ.

Kevin C. Ellis '91 (AAS in Aviation Technology) received his B.S. at Middle Tennessee State University. After college he was a flight instructor and pilot for small planes. He is currently a captain for AirTran Airways, where he has flown with several former MCCC Aviation students. He resides in Georgia with his wife Nancy Hummel, a former classmate from Mercer.

In a letter to Aviation Program Coordinator Joe Blasenstein, Ellis wrote: "Our success in the industry is a testimony to the dedication you and everyone who works beside you have put into the program. Our time spent there is fondly remembered and makes a difference in the quality of pilot that I am today."

Donald Kintzel '92 (AAS in Fire Science) was re-elected to the Hopewell Valley Fire Commission, where he has served for nine years. He is a 35-year veteran of the Union Fire and Rescue Squad, serving as its chief for a total of five years. Kintzel is an administrative analyst at Trenton-Mercer Airport.

Sherry Scheid '94 (AAS in Computer Systems/ Networks), a real estate agent with Coldwell Banker Winzinger Reichert & Associates in Bordentown, recently completed the e-Pro Certification course offered by the National Association of Realtors. She is among only one percent of realtors in the country to have this certification, which enables agents to offer online-based real estate services.

Joe Ryan '96 (AA in Photography) and his wife Christy Morrison produced a television series called "History Hunters" that started in 2002 and focused on New Jersey and Pennsylvania history. In addition to accessing some rarely known historical sites, the show included interviews with famous authors and historians including James McPherson.



Joe Ryan and Christy Morrison on site during filming of "History Hunters."

Ryan met Morrison in Prof. Lou Draper's photography class in 1993. They were married in May 2005. Said Ryan, "Thank God for MCCC! Those were definitely some of the best times in my life." To view Ryan's historical photos, visit <http://gratefuljoe.com/>

Iris Turner '96 (AAS in Business Administration) completed her bachelor's degree at The College of New Jersey in Business Management. Turner is president and CEO of Princeton World Wide Web, LLC, an intellectual property and website marketing firm that assists inventors and invention-based businesses with all phases from idea to patent. The company also provides marketing for buying, selling, and licensing of intellectual property and patents.

Claudia Devlin '01 (AA in Humanities and Social Science) completed her bachelor's degree in Organizational Dynamics from LaSalle University in May, 2005. She is an administrative specialist with the New Jersey Judiciary.



Heidi Berkey '03 (AA in Education) continued her education at Rider University, graduating in May, 2005. She was one of 15 undergraduate students in New Jersey to be selected for the NJ State Commissioner's Distinguished Teacher Candidate Award.

Rich Slafer '04 (AS in Criminal Justice) is the new chief of East Windsor Volunteer Fire Co. 2 in Twin Rivers. A former deputy chief and 15-year veteran of the department, Slafer is currently a dispatcher with the Washington Township Police Department.

Sandra Lippman '04 (AAS in Human Services) is employed at Meadow Lakes Retirement Community as a member of the activities staff.



Melody Clemons '05 (AA in Education) is a community development specialist with Sovereign Bank, providing financial literacy training to low and moderate income individuals in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. In the banking industry for more than 20 years, she is currently pursuing her

bachelor's degree at Rider University.

On Nov. 9, Clemons returned to Mercer to serve as a panelist in a "Careers in Real Estate" workshop held at the James Kerney Campus.

Alum's Dance School Grows by Leaps and Pirouettes

Michelle Micali Robb always wanted to own her own dance school, but never thought it would actually happen. Now celebrating her seventh year as owner and principal teacher at Steps & Pirouettes School of Dance in Yardville, she has reached her goal, in no small part because of the education she received at Mercer County Community College.

"Everything I learned, you see here at Steps & Pirouettes," said "Miss Michelle," as she is known to her younger students. The school, which started in a smaller space, moved into its present home several years ago and includes two 1,000-square-foot mirrored studios with sprung flooring to reduce injuries.

For Robb, Mercer was a natural choice for college. "I knew I wanted to stay close to home and I wanted to continue working at a nearby dance studio while going to college," she explained. In addition, Robb had already had a great Mercer experience as a child in MCCC's Camp College and Tomato Patch programs.

Robb earned her A.A. in Dance in 1999. "I got a good education," she said. "Mercer was

definitely student friendly. The teachers knew my name." In her final semester, Robb took a special studies class in which she concentrated on choreography with instructor Janelle Byrne. Her piece was performed twice and she credits Byrne with helping her develop the choreography skills she now uses regularly with her students. One of her dance teachers is following in her footsteps at Mercer. "That's nice to see," Robb said.

Steps & Pirouettes is a bustling place, with as many as 60 weekly classes and more than 300 students. Robb employs four other teachers and several assistants. While she may be a dancer first, Robb is definitely a businesswoman too. "I took business courses at Mercer that have been a big help," she said.

According to Robb, the mission of Steps & Pirouettes is "to give every child the confidence and self-esteem to accomplish anything they dream." The school offers classes for all ages, styles, and skill levels including ballet, hip hop, jazz, lyrical, modern, pilates, pointe (advanced ballet), and pre-school. Each year her dancers perform a winter ballet and spring recital. In



Alum Michelle Micali Robb leads a dance

2004 they participated in Philadelphia's Thanksgiving Day Parade and Quakerbridge Mall's Winter Celebration to welcome the arrival of Santa.

sports



Men's Soccer

If the Vikings' only mission this year was to repeat as national champs, they didn't quite get there. They did, however, get to the semi-final round of the NJCAA Tournament on Nov. 18 in Tyler, TX, after breezing through the quarter-final against Jefferson College (MO) with a 4-0 win on Nov. 17. The Vikings ended their season with a stellar 20-1-1 record.

In the semi-final Mercer faced Georgia Perimeter, the team that went on to win the championship and the very same team that Mercer had beaten in last year's title game. Tied 2-2 after goals by Refael Segal and midfielder Marius Kapxhiu, the Vikings came close to scoring at the end of the first overtime. Unfortunately their opponents found the goal in the second overtime and the Vikings lost 3-2. The Vikings played a consolation match on Nov. 20, beating Louisburg (NC) 2-1 and finishing third nationally.

Along the way to that slightly premature ending, Mercer played some beautiful soccer thanks to a strong lineup of players who steadily improved throughout the season. After defeating Essex County College (NJ) 3-1 on Oct. 28 to capture the Region 19 title, Mercer proved a dominant force in the District Tournament held at Mercer Nov. 5-6.

In the first district game, Mercer faced Massasoit (MA), a team the Vikings had narrowly beaten 2-1 on Sept. 18. This time it was all Mercer as the Vikings found the net again and again, tallying five goals for a 5-0 win. Goals came from Jilmar Perez, Anthony Moy, Refael Segal, and Nick Devine (2). Sophomore Tom DeStefano ably defended the goal, while experienced defenders Felix Martey and Jason James limited Massasoit to four shots. Awel Mohammed, Marcus Price and Tom Fink also contributed.

Facing Bryant & Stratton on Nov. 6, the Vikings had a tougher time but still controlled



The Vikings celebrate after winning the Northeast District Tournament.

"Of course we're disappointed not to repeat as champs, but we certainly have a lot to be thankful for. In the past four years we have finished third, second (twice), and were national champions. We continue to compete against the monster schools that have 16 scholarships, dorms, and full-time coaches.

"We had amazing chemistry this year. I really believe that the wear and tear of the season took its toll on our guys. Key players were hurt down the stretch and played on sheer guts. Having said that, I still believe we play the best brand of soccer in the country.

"Our guys had tremendous heart. I am really proud of them and feel lucky to have been associated with this team."

— Head Coach Charlie Inverso

the action, winning 2-0 on a first-half goal from Price and a second-half goal from Segal. Bryant & Stratton had only one good chance to score, a shot that DeStefano deftly deflected.

Noting the difficulty of repeating as national champs, Inverso said he worked hard throughout the season to keep his players focused on the game and not be distracted by the team's no. 1 national ranking.

All-Region/All-GSAC nominees included Kapxhui, James, Price, DeStefano, Martey and Muner Hassen. Kapxhui and James were also selected as NJCAA All-Americans.

Assisting Head Coach Charlie Inverso, who completed his 19th season, were Larry Povia, Bill Dailey, John Pietrowski and Pat Snyder.

News Updates from Sports Alum

Shahid Abdul-Karim '00 continued his education at Springfield College, graduating in 2003. He is now a health teacher at John Witherspoon Middle School and coaches boys basketball at Princeton High School. While at Mercer Abdil-Karim was a key contributor to the men's basketball team in 1998 and 1999 under head coach Bud Livingston. He continues to play basketball in a men's league that includes some of his former teammates from Mercer.

Ruben Mingo '03, star forward on the Mercer men's soccer team in 2001 and 2002, signed in August to play for the Richmond Kickers Soccer Club, a member of the A-League and affiliate of the MLS' DC United and Tampa Bay Mutiny.

Previously he played for the South Jersey Barons Soccer Club men's team (Ocean City) in the Player Development League. He was the leading scorer for the Barons in 2004, tallying 12 goals and five assists in 17 games. In his rookie season he scored nine goals and had three assists, leading the team to its first winning record since 2000. He was named the 2004 Player Development League Player of the Year.



Former Mercer star Ruben Mingo signed with the Richmond Kickers in August.

Women's Soccer

The defending Region 19 champs were not expecting to be 0-3 after three games. But after their rocky start, the Vikings women's soccer team pulled together and began to produce positive results, ending the season with a 9-6-2 record.

According to Shelly Dearden, now in her 10th season as head coach, four talented sophomores, all of whom earned post-season honors last year, provided stability and leadership: midfielders Cassandra Zulla, Krystal Schnarr, and Jennifer DePersio, and defender Lisa Walters. Talented newcomers included forwards Rosanna Collars, Jeanine Foster and Lauren Dunn, midfielders Kristina Connors, Marissa Forte, and Jenna Scaccetti, and defenders Nicole Hover and Catherine Amey. Leading scorers for the Vikings were Schnarr, with 12 goals and 5 assists, DiPersio with 7 goals and 4 assists, and Dunn with 7 goals and 4 assists. Defending the goal was capable freshman Leah Sachs, who earned six shutouts.

The Mercer women entered the Region 19 tournament in a dead heat with Sussex, a team they had tied 3-3 earlier in the season. Sussex won the coin toss and the semi-final game was played at Sussex. The Vikings, accustomed to playing on fast, flat artificial turf, were at a

disadvantage on the slower natural grass. After 100 minutes, the game was tied 1-1, with Kristina Connors scoring Mercer's lone goal. In the penalty kick round Mercer was out-scored 3-0, and after all their hard work and struggle, the season was over. No. 1 seed Ocean County went on to defeat Sussex in the final.

Schnarr, Scaccetti and Zulla were named to the All-Region and All-GSAC teams.

Dearden credits her players for their talent and tenacity, noting their speed and solid passing skills, and the scoring contributions of many players. She was assisted this season by Kristine Tramo, Jessica Harris and Cindy Astore.



Jenna Scaccetti

Women's Tennis

When a national championship team loses only one of its six starters, chances are the next season will be a good one. That was certainly the case for this year's women's tennis team, which earned a 7-0 record, a ninth consecutive Region 19 title, and another trip to the national tournament in Tucson in May.

With only four teams competing in Region 19 this year (Ocean County College dropped its program), Mercer cruised to several easy victories, but faced a truly formidable opponent in Gloucester County College. "Gloucester was incredible," said Head Coach Marc Vecchiolla. "They pushed us hard." Facing Gloucester twice during the regular season, Mercer squeaked by 5-4 on Sept. 20 (minus two of its starters) and then won decisively 7-2 on Oct. 4. The women made a great showing at the Harford (MD) Invitational Tournament on Oct. 1, placing first out of four teams.

The Region 19 championship, held Oct. 21-22, was a real test. Because of its superlative record, Mercer received "bys" on the first day of play. But having earned almost no points for actual wins, the Vikings went into the final trailing Gloucester. In singles action, Caitlin Bagdonas and Rachel Hendrickson lost close contests in the no. 2 and no. 3 flights, but otherwise, it was all Mercer with wins at no. 1 (Natalia Dabrowska), no. 4 (Krystle Duay), no. 5 (Siobhan Cahill) and no. 6 (Sherry Lin). In doubles action, Dabrowska and freshman Jane Senior won at no. 1, Bagdonas and Cahill won at no. 2, and Duay and Hendrickson won at no. 3.

Practices for the national tournament will commence indoors in January and follow the same game plan as in previous years with Vecchiolla and assistant coaches Barb Pleva and Ralph Bencivengo helping the players to correct imperfections in their games. "They will be worse before they get better," Vecchiolla predicted. His other strategy is a little easier on his players: Have fun. "If your players are having a good time, they work harder," Vecchiolla said.

Three players have already secured their places in the Mercer record books by surpassing two-time All-American Sarah Bucon (2001 and 2002), who held the previous record with 44 combined wins (singles and doubles). Hendrickson has already tallied 53, Duay has 48 and Dabrowska has 45. Cahill is currently tied with Bucon at 44.

The national tournament takes place in Tucson, AZ, from May 6-13, 2006.



Region 19 champs again: (back row, left to right) Head Coach Marc Vecchiolla, Asst. Coach Ralph Bencivengo, Rachel Hendrickson, Jessica Fleming, Daniela Provost, Siobhan Cahill, Caitlin Bagdonas and Asst. Coach Barbara Pleva; (front row, left to right) Sherry Lin, Natalia Dabrowska, Jane Senior, Monica Nichols and Krystle Duay.

Mercer Welcomes New Baseball Coach

While the Mercer baseball team may not play its first game until March, Matt Wolski, the team's new head coach, started working last summer to develop a roster that will produce winning results this spring.

"I have three goals," Wolski said. "One is to see players graduate, the second is to win baseball games, and the third is to help players transfer to four-year programs where they can pursue both academics and baseball."

The 25-year-old graduate student knows all about the positive influence of athletics. "Playing a sport keeps young people out of trouble," he notes. "Baseball paid for my education and kept me focused on getting my degree." A 2003 graduate of Rutgers University, Wolski played second base for the Scarlet Knights.

With experience as an assistant coach at Steinert and at Rider University, Wolski is ready to take on the challenges of head coach. "I've got deep roots in Mercer County. I want to see Mercer County College succeed."

A standout player for Steinert High School, Wolski has been in the local spotlight as far back as 1992 when he played a starring role for Nottingham at the Little League World Series. He also played for former Mercer coach Rich Freeman in the summer American Legion League.

He is currently studying for his master's degree at Thomas Edison State College. In addition to coaching, Wolski intends to teach after graduation.



Women's Basketball

The Lady Vikes are a young team, with only four returning players from last year's Region 19 championship squad. But that doesn't mean they're short on talent. Actually, they're tall—taller than they've been in years. According to Head Coach Mike Tenaglia, who is in his 16th season at Mercer, this was a particularly successful recruitment year. Several players were high school standouts. Nine players are 5'8 or taller and two are over six feet. The result is a team with skill, height and power.

The team's two starting sophomores are 5'11 guard Kourtney Gibbs, who was named the Region 19 tournament MVP last season, and team captain and guard Leslie Maurer. Sophomore forward Kathy Prassas and guard Tochi Shilow also return for the Vikings. The freshman class includes 5'9 forward Patti Foley, NJ STARS student and 2005 All-CVC Player of the Year. Other great additions are forwards Jeanette Bell and Regina Sorber and guards Ashley Diggs, Aisha Sampson, Laura Boyce, Christina Calabrese and Katy Hubbard.

Tenaglia notes, "Our strengths are our size and our ability to rebound. We should do a better job off the boards than last year. With the loss of guards Tashema Whittaker and Nicole Brown, we are lacking some speed, but we can still do the job with a different type of attack."

Men's Basketball

According to Head Coach Kelly Williams, now in his seventh season, the Vikings men's basketball team blends a new group of talented players – leading freshmen from several New Jersey high schools and freshmen who come from as far away as Gabon, Africa.

While the Vikings are a young team – guard Mantas Armonas and center Tom Gutowski are the only returning sophomores – Williams believes they have a lot of the right ingredients to be successful – speed, an ability to rebound, and overall athleticism. Promising new additions include 6'8 center Jarus Donjo, 6'3 forward Landry Nguema, and guard Marques Keith, along with team captain and guard Eric Hayes, forward Miles Smith, and guards Anthony Benson and Whaheed Dixon.

Williams notes that pre-season out-of-conference games helped establish the right rotation and enabled players to gain confidence in themselves and each other. With a deeper bench than in past years, there will be plenty of competition for court time, Williams predicts.

Following up on last year's 18-13 season, the Vikings will once again aim for a Region 19 championship, a tall task in this highly competitive region. "If the freshmen continue to grow, we could have a serious run." Williams reached his 100th win with the Vikings team on Nov. 29.

Tune In to Vikings B-Ball on TV and Radio

Vikings' basketball games to air on the MCCC cable channel 23/26 include: women vs. Del Tech on Jan. 24 at 10 pm; men vs. Burlington on Feb. 9 at 10 pm; and men vs. Gloucester on Feb. 18 at 10:50 pm.

Games to be broadcast on WHWH 1350 AM radio include: men vs. Lackawanna on Jan. 7 at 1 pm; women vs. Union on Jan. 10 at 7 pm; men vs. Del Tech on Jan. 24 at 7 pm; men vs. Camden on Jan. 31 at 7 pm; and men vs. Burlington on Feb. 9 at 7 pm.



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2006

Mercer Arts Calendar Something's Cookin' at Kelsey Theatre

SPRING 2006 Schedule

Full-Length Productions

- You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown**
Jan. 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15
- The Who's Tommy**
Jan. 27, 28, 29; Feb. 4, 5
- Best Little Whorehouse in Texas**
Feb. 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19
- Stalag 17**
Feb. 24, 25, 26; Mar. 3, 4, 5
- Andrew Lloyd Webber's CATS**
Mar. 24, 25, 26, 31; Apr. 1, 2
- Godspell (Student Show)**
April 21, 22, 23, 28, 29
- Mercer Dance Ensemble**
May 6, 7
- La Cage Aux Folles**
May 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21
- Lucky Stiff**
June 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11

Kelsey Kids Series

- How to Eat Like a Child**
Jan. 20, 21, 22
- Goldilocks and the 3 Bears**
Feb. 11
- Junie B. Jones**
Feb. 18
- T-Bone's Tropical Adventure**
Feb. 25
- Charlotte's Web**
Mar. 10, 11, 12
- Strike Up The Band**
Mar. 18
- Charlie & The Chocolate Factory**
Apr. 7, 8, 9
- Animal Crackers**
May 6
- The Little Mermaid**
May 20
- If You Give a Mouse a Cookie**
June 3

For Kelsey events call (609) 584-9444 or visit our website at www.kelseytheatre.net.

Events at MCCC's Gallery

Jan. 16 - Feb. 17

To be announced

March 6 - April 14

Mercer County Artists 2006

April 26 - May 14

MCCC Visual Arts Student Show 2006

See listings of all Gallery events at www.mccc.edu/community_gallery.

Academic Calendar

- JANUARY 9** First session begins for "Flexible Learning in Business" program
- JANUARY 17** Classes begin for 15-week, 7-week and 5-week sessions
- FEBRUARY 21** Classes begin for 10-week and second 5-week sessions
- MARCH 13-19** Spring recess
- MARCH 20** Second session begins for "Flexible Learning in Business" program
- MARCH 21** Classes begin for second 7-week session
- MAY 8** Classes end
- MAY 25** Commencement

CHARESE
YARBOUGH
Theatre major

THE VIKING, a publication for alumni and other friends of Mercer County Community College, is published by IMPACT (Information, Marketing, Publications, And Creative Team). Editorial offices are located in room 113 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.