

Tradition of Excellence Continues for *The College VOICE*



MCCC's student newspaper, *The College VOICE*, started the academic year with another major achievement, picking up where last year's staff left off. *The VOICE* took second place in the Best of Show awards for its October, 2010 issue at the Associated Collegiate Press College Media Convention in Louisville, KY, Oct. 28-3.

Six *VOICE* staffers attended the conference, along with faculty members Holly-Katharine Johnson, Diane Rizzo, and Michael Dalton, who are advisers for the paper. According to Johnson, students attended five or more workshops each day and presented two panel discussions. The professors presented two panels of their own.

Approximately 1,200 student journalists from more than 400 two- and four-year colleges attended the conference and participated in the awards competition.

Award-winning College VOICE staffers are pictured, from left, Daniela Rocha, Anna Bosted, Tim Hester, Editor-in-Chief Kelly Smith, and Val DaGrain, with advisers Holly-Katharine Johnson and Diane Rizzo.

Celebrating Success at Community Open House



The college recognized three special members of the community at its Nov. 11 event. From left are MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue, honorees Nancy Quinones, representing Waste Management Inc., State Trooper and MCCC alumnus Steven Foster, and State Senator Shirley Turner. At right are MCCC Trustee Pam Hersh and Trustee Chair, Rev. William E. Coleman Jr.

More than 300 college-bound teens, adult career changers, alumni, friends and community supporters gathered at MCCC's Open House and Report to the Community on Nov. 11 at the Conference Center to celebrate success, honor outstanding community partners, and learn about educational opportunities.

Prospective student Tatiana Rasberry of Nottingham High School was representative of the many prospective students who came to learn about Mercer's programs. With a particular interest in the Criminal Justice program, Rasberry said, "Although I am not 100 percent sure of what career direction I will take, I know that Mercer is a good school; I am very interested in coming here."

Highlights of the event included live music by the MCCC Jazz Band, culinary treats prepared and served by hospitality students, blood pressure screenings and chair massages by students in the health professions, many interactive displays, and live on-air coverage by WWFM and JazzOn2 radio.

MCCC's Board of Trustees recognized three at the event for their invaluable service to the community. State Trooper Steven Foster received the Alumni Leader Award for his heroism in saving a man from a burning car; Waste Management Inc. received the Corporate Partner Award for its commitment to employee training and its partnership with MCCC's Center for Training and Development; and State Senator Shirley Turner received the Partner in Learning Award for her long-time advocacy for education.

A colorful slide show accompanied President Patricia C. Donohue's annual report to the community. As the event coincided with Veteran's Day, she and Board Chair, Rev. William Coleman, recognized the sacrifices and achievements of the nation's veterans.

MCCC Alumni Win Contest; Take Bite Out of Hunger



Dominick Rodriguez '05 (A.S., Architecture) went on to earn his bachelor's and master's degrees from the New Jersey Institute of Technology. He is a practicing architect, an adjunct instructor at Mercer, and a concerned citizen who is leading an effort to fight hunger in America. See story on page 9.



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SHORT TAKES

TV Students Win Telly Award



Showing off the Telly Award won for a video produced by MCCC Television students for the Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce are, from left, students Mateusz Unrat, Stephen Tilghman, Matthew Barnosky, Richard Adragna, and Dennis Kovak, MCCC Assistant Professor Steve Voorhees, Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce Vice President Liz Tindall and President Bob Prunetti. Each semester Mercer Television students select a community client for a video project.

Telly Awards honor the very best local, regional, and cable television, video and film productions, and projects created for the Web from all 50 states and five continents.

Distinguished Lecture Series Features Nature Guru Jeff Hoagland



Pictured with Jeff Hoagland, education director of the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed, are biology/chemistry student Kate Kingsley, left, and Associate Professor of Biology Laura Blinderman. Hoagland was a featured speaker for MCCC's Distinguished Lecture Series this fall, talking about the role of nature in child development. Hoagland noted that engaging in outdoor activities with children is a great way to nurture creative thinking and help them develop a lifelong appreciation of the natural world.

Students Celebrate at Multicultural Event



Cultures from around the world were on display when MCCC's International Student Organization hosted a Multicultural Expo in November. Students from 26 countries, including Nepal, Brazil, China, Poland, Malaysia, Ecuador and Turkey, shared information about their homelands, traditions and foods. During the fall 2010 semester, MCCC hosted 216 international students. The largest number, 35, came from South Korea, followed by Poland, Brazil, Thailand and India.

Grant to Redesign Developmental Math Classes

Through a \$40,000 grant from the National Center for Academic Transformation (NCAT), MCCC will participate in "Changing the Equation," a program that teaches fundamental mathematics in a new way.

Completely redesigned courses will enable students to work their way through modules in a computer lab setting. As they demonstrate mastery, students will move from one module to the next with the possibility of completing two or more courses in one semester. Conversely, if students need to retake a course, they will be able to restart at the same module where they left off.

The courses will follow a structure created by NCAT that has been used across the country over the past ten years, often with dramatic improvements in student performance. According to NCAT statistics, its partner institutions have seen a 51 percent increase in students who successfully complete a developmental math course, with a 30 percent reduction in the cost of instruction on average.

The grant process was highly competitive,

with 38 community colleges nationwide selected for funding. Following the pilot semester in spring 2011, MCCC expects to institute the program for all developmental math students in fall 2011.

JazzOn2 Moves to Trenton Campus

WWFM's JazzOn2 radio has moved to the college's James Kerney Campus to be closer to Trenton's rich jazz heritage. The station serves not only as a voice for the local jazz scene, but for what's happening in Trenton, the surrounding area, and Cape May, where the station also broadcasts.

"We hope to develop JazzOn2 as a central hub of information for news, entertainment and public affairs programs," said Program Director Winifred Howard.

Workshops Address Cyberbullying, Suicide

A series of workshops for students this fall addressed issues of cyberbullying, suicide prevention and more. According to guest speaker Eric Potts, of the Plainsboro Police Department, it is estimated that 40 percent of teens have been bullied online. Bullying is defined as generating false rumors, making slanderous remarks, ridiculing, humiliating and threatening others. He cautioned students that every computer has an address that can be traced, so no one is anonymous online.

A week-long series called "It Gets Better" continued the dialogue. On Nov. 29, MCCC psychologist and counselor, Dr. Valerie Brooks-Klein, led a presentation on strategies to prevent depression and suicide, and ways to help friends in need. Diversity, community resources, and sexual identity issues were also addressed in the lunchtime sessions.



From left are student Anthony McBride, MCCC Counselor Valerie Brooks-Klein, and students Stephanie Iucci, Carlos Torrano, Keisha Brown, Angel Oliverio and Katie Horahan.

Trips Bring History to Life for Honors Students

Honors history students took to the road during the fall semester for trips that brought their studies to life. Students enrolled in "Western Civilization to 1648" with Professor Linda Scherr and "U.S. History to 1865" taught by Associate Professor Craig Coenen took advantage of the region's rich culture and history.

"These trips are an invaluable part of the Honors experience, not only for learning, but for helping students forge bonds and friendships that carry over into the day-to-day classroom and beyond," Coenen said.

Scherr's students found much to study not far from the Mercer campus. In October they traveled to Princeton's McCarter Theatre for a well-received adaptation of Homer's "Iliad." Several weeks later, they visited the Princeton Art Museum, whose collection includes artifacts from every era of the Western Civilization curriculum - Egyptian, Grecian, Roman, Medieval and Renaissance.

"I found myself looking at the pieces differently, not just aesthetically, but from a historical perspective," said student Sarina Prior.

Coenen's class headed for Philadelphia in October, where students visited the National Constitution Center, Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, Ben Franklin's Gravesite, the U.S. Mint and more. In November, they went to Gettysburg, visiting a battlefield, cemetery and museum.

Most of the students in these classes have taken multiple Honors courses. "The emphasis is on discussion more than lecture," Nathan Runkle said. Observes Melissa Kettner, "We really delve into topics and analyze them."



Outside the Princeton Art Museum are, from left, Honors students Melissa Kettner, Tifani Maldonado, Sarina Prior, Bryan Paci, and Tyler Nagy.

Nursing Program Partners with Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Hamilton

MCCC and Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Hamilton (RWJ) cut the ribbon for a new lab at the hospital Sept. 24 that will help prepare nursing students for the real-world challenges of patient care.

According to MCCC Dean of Science and Health Professions Linda Martin, when the Nursing program expanded to include an on-line option in fall 2009, a need was identified for a lab where these students could practice their clinical skills prior to their actual clinical experience. RWJ Hamilton agreed to provide lab space in the hospital and MCCC has contributed an 80-pound medical mannequin named Anne, created by Laerdal Medical. Hospital staff nurses will also refresh their skills in the new lab.



Pictured with Anne, the new mannequin that mimics bodily functions, are nursing students, left, with RWJ President and CEO Anthony Cimino and MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue.

Science Students Present Summer Research Projects



Each year, highly motivated MCCC students are given the opportunity to pursue honors projects with biology and chemistry researchers at MCCC and other universities. This past summer, four science students took the challenge. Pictured at the students' final presentations in September are, from left, Chemistry faculty member Helen Tanzini, Monmouth University's Dean of Science Michael Palladino, MCCC Biology faculty members Ron Smith and Diane Hilker, MCCC Dean of Science and Health Professions Linda Martin, students Holly Hagy, John Marion and Patrick Puliti, MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue and Vice President Guy Generals. Not pictured: student Keith Blauvelt.

Radiography Upgrades to Digital Technology



Radiography faculty and students show off new digital equipment recently purchased through a Carl D. Perkins federally-funded grant. The program's lab is now using state-of-the-art equipment on par with hospitals nationwide. At left are Radiography Program Coordinator Sandra Kerr and Clinical Coordinator William Petrosky, with students, front row, from left, Heather Hummel, Dana McGowan and Kristen Cipolloni, and back row, from left, Mohammed Javed and Shravani Das.

Fashion Design to Launch in Fall 2011

The college is awaiting final approval from the state to launch its Fashion/Apparel Design program for the fall 2011 semester. This A.A.S. degree program will prepare students for direct entry into the dynamic world of fashion or for transfer to four-year schools.

Notes Program Coordinator Tina LaPlaca, "Our tri-state region is one of the nation's largest for this industry, where skilled students can find employment as assistant fashion designers, stylists, visual display artists, product and merchandise managers, and fashion illustrators."

The curriculum will draw from numerous disciplines, providing a foundation in art and design, technical skills in sewing and computer applications, and the business aspects of the industry. Students interested in transfer will find that the MCCC curriculum parallels the first two years at several four-year institutions in the region.

Among the program's requirements are the development of a portfolio and completion of a capstone project to include both print and digital formats. Students will also take field trips to design and production houses and will showcase their work in a regularly scheduled fashion show.



Top Chef Gives Thumbs-Up to Student Restaurant



A surprise visit by Bravo's Season 7 "Top Chef" Kevin Sbraga, fifth from left, capped off a stellar fall at the MCCC student restaurant "Pepita" on Nov. 17. Pictured with Sbraga are, from left, students Sandra Barnes, Dave Aust, HRIM Coordinator Doug Fee, Kevin's father, Harvey Beachem, faculty member Frank Benowitz, and students Tiffany Millen and Robert Solomita.

New Lab to Expand Options for EnTech Students and Others in Entertainment Studies

With the transformation of a standard Communication classroom into a state-of-the-art lab that opened its doors in January, Mercer's Entertainment Technology (EnTech) program has found a true home on campus.

First introduced in 2007 after numerous requests from students, the EnTech program began by sharing classrooms and facilities with the Radio/Television program. With steadily increasing enrollments, the time is right for the new lab, according to EnTech Program Coordinator Robert Terrano. "Students who have started the program since 2007 are now reaching a more advanced level and will benefit greatly from this enhanced instructional setting."

The program has two tracks, Music and Sound Technology, and Lighting and Sound Technology. Fifty students are currently enrolled.

The lab is equipped with 14 computer work stations that contain "Pro Tools," software that includes a full complement of sound and video programs and is considered the industry standard for recording. Other sophisticated tools include mixers and live sound reinforcement equipment.

Terrano says the main objective is for students to learn post-production. The lab is also acoustically treated to serve as a soundproof isolation booth to give students the opportunity to work on live recordings, both multi-track and multi-layer, as well as videos. "It will function like a real studio experience," he said. He is particularly excited about several upcoming projects where students will record live talent using the lab's multi-track capabilities with the goal of creating a music CD for demos and potential distribution.

According to Terrano, the lab will enable the college to offer more advanced classes, with a new intermediate level audio production class rolling out next fall. Students will also be able to compose digital music, including soundtracks for film and music for theater.

Terrano predicts that the lab will be in use from morning till night, and eventually on weekends. In addition to EnTech students, those studying television, radio, digital film, music, and game design will take advantage of this high-tech environment. "All of these fields require sound design and audio production, so we will be able to serve many students in a truly high-tech fashion," Terrano said.

Just down the hall, another room is being refurbished to double as a client meeting and project screening room that will be utilized by students from several majors. "We are creating a professional environment for students from start to finish," said Judy Ehresman, dean of Arts and Communication.

Students have interned at companies such as Boheme Opera, Passage Theatre and the NYC Fringe Festival. Several students have started their own lighting and sound production companies that have secured gigs on a regular basis. One student is the lighting designer for the New Jersey Devils and the Nets at the Prudential Center.

Terrano notes that the whole area of entertainment studies is flourishing at Mercer. "With eight programs in the performing arts or entertainment production fields and numerous concentrations within these majors, Mercer has become the place to go for learning the entertainment industry."



Students enrolled in Audio Production prepare microphones and other equipment for a live recording session by the Mercer Jazz Band this fall. Pictured are, from left, Josh Mendelsohn, Krzysztof Kutnik, Dennis Kovak, Charles Laurita (who also sang with the band), Michelle Piaggio, Jenny Gilbert and Ryan Lawrence. Following the recording session, students worked individually to make their own mixdown (version) of one of the songs. The session was a joint project of the Music, EnTech and Radio/Television programs.

Originally developed as a career-track degree program, EnTech also has seen students successfully transfer to continue their studies at four-year schools including Mercy College (Westchester, NY), Temple University, Stockton College, TCNJ and in January, Ramapo College. Students taking a full course load can complete the program in two years plus one summer.

Grant to Help High Schoolers with Careers in Business

For high school students with big ambitions, the path to high-wage jobs and acquiring the requisite skills is not always clear. A new three-year \$340,000 grant from the NJ Department of Education has been awarded to the MCCC Business Division to help students statewide start planning for their future careers. The goal, says Business Professor and project administrator Ellen Benowitz, is to provide an educational bridge from school to work, making

students more aware of the relevance of their high school curriculum and better prepared to chart a course for career success.

Entitled "Career and Technical Education (CTE) Partnership: Enhancing Teaching and Student Leadership in Business, Management and Administration, and Finance," the project has four career-focused goals: the development of statewide CTE programs that align with New Jersey's high school Core Curriculum

Standards, as well as industry standards; the development of a CTE classroom module that charts at least one pathway to a high-wage, high-skill or high-demand occupation; the delivery of statewide professional development workshops for secondary administrators and educators; and the enhancement of student leadership opportunities in career and technical organizations.

Alumna Natalie Tolle Knows Value of Career Education

MCCC alumna Natalie Tolle '07 (A.S., Communication) knows the importance of career education starting in high school. Now an assistant account executive at Oxford Communications in Lambertville, she recalls that her first exposure to the advertising world came randomly when she was a high school senior. A retired ad exec who was serving as a substitute teacher for her art class gave the class an assignment to create an ad. Tolle's was simple, direct and terrific, he told her. He encouraged her to think about a future in the field.

Originally planning to be a teacher, Tolle turned in a whole different direction. Once at MCCC, she majored in marketing and was active in the Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) Business Honor Society, serving as state secretary for two years and winning national awards at two leadership conferences. Tolle transferred to Rider University to complete her bachelor's degree and expects to earn her M.B.A. from Rider this spring. As a Rider undergrad, she reactivated the university's FBLA chapter after a 15-year hiatus, serving as both president and secretary.

Tolle notes that even in difficult economic times, she nailed a job quickly. "Lots of people have good grades and a good resume," she emphasizes. The difference for Tolle was learning interview skills and people skills. "PBL really prepared me," she said. "I had a much better grasp of how to present myself and how to succeed."



Study Abroad With MCCC

MCCC faculty will, for the first time, lead Study Tours to Costa Rica and Paris this spring and summer. During spring break, March 12-18, participants will spend seven days in Costa Rica with host families, visiting notable cultural sites and experiencing a bit of everyday life. Called "Spanish Immersion and Society," the tour has reached its registration capacity for credit students, but is still open to noncredit participants. An eight-day trip to Paris from July 10-17 is open for both credit and noncredit students. Called "Paris: Culture, Food and Science," the tour will feature Parisian cuisine, historic sites and scientific contributions.

"Studying abroad enables you to grow," said Andrea Lynch, MCCC's Study Abroad coordinator. "It makes you a better person." Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information call 609-570-3660, or e-mail studyabroad@mccc.edu. More information about Study Abroad is available at www.mccc.edu/studyabroad.

Philosophy Club Has Students Contemplating Big Questions in Discourse Series

"The mind is like an ocean. It's constantly moving. It's up to you to learn to ride the waves." This was one of the pieces of wisdom shared by Beverly Sanford, of the Princeton Buddhist Meditation Group, in her discussion with students on Buddhist teachings. The event was held Dec. 3 as part of the MCCC Philosophy Club's Civil Discourse Series.

Providing a forum for students, faculty and staff, the club presented nine lunchtime dialogues this fall, the most extensive schedule since the group's formation four years ago. Among the topics were current events such as cyberbullying, the limits of political correctness, and the proposed Muslim center near Ground Zero in New York City, as well as age-old debates on ethics, the nature of evil, and objectivity and perception.

The series concluded with four presentations titled "Understanding Religions." Local religious leaders shared core beliefs and practices in Protestant Christianity, Islam, and Tibetan Buddhism, and fielded questions from participants.

Students have taken an active role in suggesting topics and preparing for discussions. The club's president, Christopher Fuentes, has taken five philosophy courses at Mercer, but chooses to take a backseat during discussions to facilitate the sharing of views among participants. Also serving as a facilitator is Kelly Bravo, the club's vice president. Thomas Powers, the club's secretary, explains why he is a regular at



Beverly Sanford, center, of the Princeton Buddhist Center, with students, from left, Philosophy Club President Chris Fuentes, Kimani White, Club Secretary Thomas Powers, Chong Wang and Ed Wittmann, and club adviser Ken Howarth.

these sessions. "In the classroom, we are learning facts A, B, and C from a set curriculum. Here we can discuss contemporary issues that we deal with every day."

Faculty member and club adviser Ken Howarth notes, "These are discussions more than debates, without the aim to win, insist or resist, but instead to build the respect that is so conducive to learning. It seems plain that there is a need these days for this sort of discourse."

The club has about 15 active members, and opens its discussions to all on campus and in the community. Plans for the spring Civil Discourse Series are underway and will be posted to the general calendar on the MCCC website.

Career Services Expands Offerings To Aid Students in Job Search

For students who are actively engaged in a job search or expect to seek employment in the near future, these are tough times. This fall, the MCCC Career Services office enhanced its offerings to give students the tools they need to turn their job search into a job.

In "Strategies for a Successful Job Search," a six-week series held in October and November, human resources recruiter Richard Stone shared wisdom culled from 30 years of experience in the field. Stone's approach was to break down the process into segments, starting with a discussion of where the jobs are, and moving on to creating a strong resume, improving interview skills, enlisting an employment agency, and handling a job offer and salary negotiations. "I wanted to draw the students out and help give them confidence," Stone explained. He firmly believes there are jobs out there. "But you have to work to get them; you have to do everything you can."

Said one student who attended almost every session, "Coming back over and over, I discovered I'm not alone in my job search. It's good energy. I am going to keep networking, to see and be seen." Another noted that the task of getting a job can feel overwhelming, but the sessions provided manageable steps. "I had more interviews in the last six weeks than I have ever had. I have more direction."

In an additional service for students, consultant Susan Bershad was booked solid for her free one-on-one interview counseling sessions, scheduled over eight weeks, to help students prepare for job interviews.

Other well-attended career events this fall included a presentation by officials from the U.S. Secret Service and another presented jointly by representatives from the Mercer County Corrections Center, the NJ Department of Corrections, the NJ State Parole Board and the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Bequests Ensure the Future of WWFM The Classical Network

MCCC's WWFM The Classical Network has received two bequests, including \$260,000 from the estate of Victoria Mastrobuono of Bay Head, NJ, and \$100,000 from the estate of Ruth Miles of Newtown, PA. According to WWFM General Manager Peter Fretwell, both donors were dedicated listeners to the classical music station and wanted to ensure its future.

"These bequests are representative of why the college has continued its support of WWFM for the past 28 years," Fretwell said.

"For many people, the station is a daily companion and represents a gift of great music and cultural education." Fretwell is appreciative of support from listeners such as these, who remember the college in their wills to ensure that the great musical programming will continue.

Located on the college's West Windsor campus and licensed to MCCC, WWFM is New Jersey's only full-time classical music station providing 24-hour programming. It is listener supported and serves New Jersey, eastern

Two-Year Grant to Enhance Literacy at James Kerney Campus

The NJ Department of Labor, through the Workforce Investment Act, has awarded MCCC and its literacy partners, known as the Mercer County Consortium, a \$565,694 two-year grant to expand programs and services for area adult residents in need of basic literacy and job readiness skills. For many years MCCC has provided programs in Adult Basic Education, General Educational Development (GED) and English as a Second Language (ESL) at its downtown Trenton campus and at extension sites.

As lead agency, MCCC will work collaboratively with seven literacy partners to help area residents lift barriers toward reaching educational goals, job obtainment and advancement. Consortium partners include Latinas Unidas, YWCA of Trenton, Literacy Volunteers in Mercer County Inc., Lutheran Social Ministries Immigration and Refugee Services, YWCA of Princeton, Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK), Mercer Street Friends and the West Windsor-Plainsboro Board of Education.



Photo by Andrew Wilkinson

Pictured are instructor Gay Egan and student Zaire Smith, who benefits from the Literacy Program offered at Mercer Street Friends.



Richard Stone presented six workshops to share tips with job seekers.

Pennsylvania, and portions of Delaware and Maryland, and is simulcast via satellite to an additional translator in Steamboat Springs, CO. Through webcasts, the station reaches listeners worldwide through www.wwfm.org and through iTunes.

The station also takes advantage of HD technology, with digital broadcasting via 89.1 HD1. In 2008, WWFM began to offer jazz programming on 89.1 HD2, called JazzOn2.

FOUNDATION AND

MCCC Celebrates Student Achievement and Donor Generosity At Scholarship Ceremony

In an event that celebrated both student achievement and the generosity of the college's donors, MCCC welcomed approximately 250 guests to the Student Center for the Continuing Student Recognition Ceremony on Sept. 28. In addition to scholarship recipients and their family members, Foundation Board members, administrators, faculty, staff, and donors came out in force in support of education. Close to 40 corporate and private donors presented scholarships in person to 109 deserving students, with eight receiving two awards.

Addressing the large gathering, President Patricia C. Donohue noted how proud the college is of students who make the most of what Mercer has to offer. She also expressed her sincere gratitude to the donors who provide vital assistance. "We are so indebted to all of you present — donors, parents, friends, faculty and staff, who help to make our work of teaching and student success possible."

Robyn Kohn, a representative of Janssen Pharmaceutica Inc., presented Dr. Paul Janssen Memorial Scholarships to two nursing students, Vi Ngoc Hoang and Justin Framolaro. Kohn noted that Janssen is truly committed to giving back to the community, and supporting scholarship programs at MCCC is an excellent way to do that. "We recognize the importance of giving students the opportunity to pursue all they wish in terms of career development," Kohn said. "Nursing is such a versatile profession, with educators, counselors and healthcare providers who give so much of themselves."

Sam deTuro, representing the Marquand Park Foundation, presented horticulture scholarships to four students, Cynthia Begue, Sean Cox, Louis Kiesling and Sean Clayton. "We are very enthused about Mercer students," he said. Recipient Cynthia Begue, a military retiree, is equally positive about her Mercer experience. "I love it here. Everyone is so helpful."

Thanks to the college's unique partnership with restaurants and food service companies, 11 students studying Hotel, Restaurant and Institution Management were recipients of Chef Jacket Partnership Scholarships, which cover costs for chefs' whites, as well as additional college costs. Observed presenter Suzanne Maxwell, a sales manager for Barilla Pasta, "Barilla always looks to partner with up-and-coming chefs in the workplace. We show them how our products work for them. It's all about cooking, networking and marketing." In addition to Barilla, this year's donor group includes Blue Bottle Café, Flavor Dynamics Inc., Grover's Mill Coffee, KatManDu, Mercer Oaks Catering, PIM Brands, RC Fine Foods, Sysco Foods, Terra Momo Group and Wegmans Food Markets Inc.



Michael Leuthy, assistant vice president at Roma Bank, second from left, presented scholarships designated for health professionals to nursing students Nadia Gabsi and Christopher Randolph. Pictured at left is MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue, and at right is Vice President for Academic Affairs Guy Generals.

Charles Prettyman, left, presented the MCCC Professor Emeriti Scholarships to six outstanding students. He is pictured with student Zoya Zhukova-Higazi.



Larry Anker, left, presented a scholarship awarded in memory of his father, Fred Anker, a Business Division faculty member, to student Cheryl Jeffrey. Majoring in Business Administration, Jeffrey plans to complete her bachelor's degree in management. The Ankers have proven a model of tribute giving, with gifts made in honor of family members throughout the year. Learn more about tribute giving at www.mccc.edu/give-tribute.



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Dear Community Friends,

Mercer County Community College is turning to you — our alumni and friends in the community — to support the initiatives that continue to make us a premiere community college in the state and the nation. Whether you or one of your family members has benefited from programs at the college, you have learned the difference that a Mercer education can make in changing lives for the better.

Our abundant and innovative academic programs help those seeking to make their way in the new economy. Last year the college provided a supportive learning environment to nearly 14,000 credit students and thousands more in noncredit programs who are pursuing dreams of education.

In order to maintain our standards for excellence and access for all, the college must seek support from private individuals and community organizations. Please consider making a gift that says, "Yes! I support students and the mission of Mercer County Community College."

A prepaid envelope has been provided in this issue of *The Viking* for your donation. Our staff is available to answer questions regarding your gift options. You can find us on the web at www.mccc.edu/foundation, or by e-mail at foundation@mccc.edu.

Sincerely,
Mellissia Zanjani, CFRE
Vice President for College Advancement

Change a Life and Our Community Through Education

Support academic and student success by donating to the Mercer County Community College Foundation...because higher education should be an option for all.

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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:

- Estate of Arthur Forman
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- Estate of Henrietta Frankel
- Estate of Howard Marcou
- Estate of Richard and Bonnie Perlman

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.

DONOR NEWS

“Floyd Fest” Honors Jim and Fannie Floyd; Creates Scholarship Fund

Jim Floyd, a member of the MCCC Foundation Board for more than 30 years, has dedicated himself to improving the lives of young people through education. Joining with him in this lifelong endeavor was his late wife Fannie.

To honor the Floyds and create the “Jim and Fanny Floyd Scholarship Fund,” MCCC’s Foundation hosted “Floyd Fest” on Oct. 17 at the Nassau Inn in Princeton, drawing 180 guests and raising more than \$35,000 for needy students. The planning committee included members of MCCC’s Foundation and Princeton community volunteers.

Given the success of this year’s event, plans are already underway to host a second “Floyd Fest” fundraiser in October, 2011. For more information visit www.mccc.edu/foundation or e-mail frangioa@mccc.edu.

Floyd Fest



Pictured at “Floyd Fest” are, from left, MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue, supporters Bill and Judith Scheide, and honoree Jim Floyd.



Displaying proceeds from “Floyd Fest” are, from left, co-chair Debby D’Arcangelo, honoree Jim Floyd, MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue, and co-chair Hendricks Davis.



Save the Date for “La Bella Notte”

Supporters of MCCC will enjoy “La Bella Notte,” an elegant Italian-themed dinner dance to raise dollars for student scholarships and educational program needs. Set for Saturday, March 26, 2011, at the Hyatt Regency Princeton, the evening will include a silent auction with original artwork, a festive dinner and dancing. Three community partners will be honored.



Co-chairs of this annual Foundation Board event are MCCC Foundation Board member Nina Melker and Mercer County Freeholder Chair Pasquale Colavita, who are assisted by a committee of volunteers and MCCC staff members.

MCCC alumni and friends are invited to participate through corporate sponsorships, program book ads, ticket purchases, donations and contributions for the silent auction. For further information contact Amy Frangione at MCCC’s Foundation Office, 609-570-3293.

Show Your Mercer Spirit!

Order Mercer gear online at www.mccc.edu/apparel or purchase at the MCCC Bookstore at the West Windsor Campus.

Rain Doesn’t Dampen Spirit of Philanthropy at 19th Annual Golf Classic

For the first time in years, clouds and showers ruled the skies, but did not dampen the spirits of the 80 participants who came out for MCCC’s 19th Annual Golf Classic on Oct. 5. Hosted by the Athletics Department at Mercer Oaks Golf Course, the event raised nearly \$13,000 for the MCCC Student-Athlete Scholarship Fund. Last year, tournament proceeds assisted 51 student athletes with their college education. The tournament is held in memory of area physician, Dr. Cynthia Schaffer, who served on the MCCC Foundation Board and was an ardent sports enthusiast, especially in golf and youth tennis.

The afternoon on the course was followed by a banquet dinner, which included a silent auction of donated sports items and other valuables, and the presentation of awards by MCCC Assistant Dean and Athletics Director John Simone.

Simone noted that athletics plays a valuable role at the community college level. “Participation on a sports team is both an academic motivator and a character builder,” he said. “This showing of community support encourages our student athletes to stay on track academically and continue on a productive path.”

Tournament winners included the foursome from Spiezle Architectural Group Inc., Scott Spiezle, Michael Wargo, Brian Keane and Matt Wolski. Awards were also given for second place, longest drives for men and women, and closest-to-the-pin on four holes.

Addressing the assembled guests, Foundation Chair E. Karen Kennedy expressed her gratitude to this special group that has made MCCC student athletes a priority – both the dedicated members of the Golf Committee and the event’s many golfers. Also participating in the festivities were MCCC Vice President Guy Generals and Executive Dean Diane Campbell.

Community members who served on the Golf Committee included Doug Borden of Borden Perlman Insurance Company; David Fraytak of Faridy, Veisz, Fraytak Architects; E. Karen Kennedy; Thomas Kull; Timothy Losch of The Bank; Nina Melker of The Bank of Princeton; Scott Needham of Princeton Air Conditioning Inc.; and Steve Ritzau.

Many generous corporate and individual sponsors contributed to the event. Major sponsors included Architectural Window Manufacturing Corporation; Borden Perlman Insurance; Coryell Tree Service; Faridy Veisz Fraytak, P.C.; Harrison-Hamnett, P.C.; Honeywell; Steve Ritzau; Spiezle Architectural Group Inc.; and Tom Kull. Foursome sponsors included Thomas Edison State College, Philadelphia Insurance Company, Great Eastern Technologies, and Merrill Lynch.

For a complete list of sponsors, visit www.mccc.edu/golf.



MCCC athletes came out to meet, greet and thank Golf Classic participants.



At the tournament are, from left, MCCC Assistant Dean and Athletics Director John Simone, Golf Committee members Scott Needham, Steve Ritzau, and Dave Fraytak, and MCCC Vice President Guy Generals.

FEATURES

MCCC Trains the Workforce

Through the New Jersey Business and Industry Association's (NJBIA) Basic Skills Training Program, MCCC's Center for Training and Development (CTD) continues to offer free training services to employers and employees. The program is made possible through a partnership between the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the New Jersey Community College Consortium, and the NJBIA. The program provides training to groups of employees through their employers, and to individuals with proof of employment. Courses include basic math and measurements, verbal skills, writing skills, customer service, Word (2007 and 2003), Excel (2007 and 2003), Outlook, Introduction to E-mail, and English as a Second Language (I and II).

Additional new grants secured from the Department of Labor and Workforce Development are also enabling the CTD to provide year-long training services to Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic (RFB&D), and MedAvante.

Last year the CTD helped 50 companies improve customer satisfaction, increase productivity, and gain a competitive edge via training services to almost 4,000 employees.

The Center also offers the ultimate in convenience, providing computer training for businesses via its Mobile Computer Lab. Instructors carry laptop computers directly to business sites.

For more information contact Elaine Weinberg at 609-570-3612.

From the Warsaw Ghetto to Darfur

As part of its mission to teach and understand the concepts and lessons of the Holocaust and other genocides, the Mercer County Holocaust/Genocide Resource Center presented an exhibit at MCCC's Gallery this fall. Called "From the Warsaw Ghetto to Darfur: Photos, Text and Commentaries," the exhibit featured powerful photographs from the Warsaw Ghetto during World War II, displayed courtesy of the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. Also featured were Jerry Casciano's post-war photographs of concentration camps and survivors, with accompanying commentaries.

Another group of photographs, on loan from pediatrician Jerry Ehrlich, M.D., of Doctors Without Borders, were taken in refugee camps in Darfur during his service there in 2004. He also shared children's drawings collected on his trip.



Holocaust survivor David Wiznia, third from left, stands in front of his photo during the opening reception of "From the Warsaw Ghetto to Darfur." Pictured with him, from left, are Dr. Paul Winkler, executive director of the NJ Commission on Holocaust Education, MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue, and Congressman Chris Smith.

Gallery Volunteers in Exhibit of their Own



The artists featured in "Plastics Alchemy," the show that opened the MCCC Gallery season in September, all have talent in common. They also have another defining bond: They are volunteers at the college's welcoming, light-filled exhibit space. All have given amply of their time over the past decade to ensure that the Gallery keeps its doors open for as many hours as possible each week.

Said Gallery Director Tricia Fagan, "We hope the exhibit serves to remind patrons that the engaging, knowledgeable people who greet them at the Gallery are often gifted artists." She notes that some of them

Gallery volunteers featured in this season's opening exhibit are, from left, Jon Allen, Arlene Milgram, Janis Purcell, Susan Luty and Beverly Ardos Fredericks.

have taken years, even decades, of art classes at the college.

"There is a sacredness about this space," said artist Renee Kumar, who staffs the desk each Thursday. She is enthusiastic about her Gallery post. "I enjoy seeing students visit. Being exposed to art opens their minds. That's what education is all about."

Like numerous other MCCC art students, Fine Arts alumnus Jon Allen ('04) volunteered at the Gallery when he studied at Mercer earlier in the decade. He recalls an environment that helped him gain the knowledge and confidence to continue his education. "It was one of the most nurturing environments for developing my talent and getting the foundation to move on," he says. Allen completed his bachelor's degree at Pratt Institute and earned a master's from the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in 2009. He always recommends Mercer. "If you want to study art in this area, Mercer is the place to be."

New volunteers are welcome. To contact the MCCC Gallery or see the exhibit schedule, visit www.mccc.edu/gallery.

"Other Views" by MCCC Arts Faculty



Lucas Kelly, second from left, was one of several MCCC art faculty members to share his process and perspective with students during a Gallery walk-through in December.

A multimedia exhibit featuring artwork by 25 MCCC faculty members, on display at the college's Gallery in November and December, included acrylics, collage, photographs, ceramics, mixed media, watercolors, prints, computer art and more.

Gallery Director and Curator Tricia Fagan noted, "Mercer has one of the best Fine Arts programs in the region, hands down. We're constantly singing the praises of our visual arts faculty to Gallery visitors."

Among the full-time and adjunct faculty members participating in the show were Jonathan Conner, Michael Dalton, Sandra C. Davis, Yevgeniy Fiks, Jonathan Gabel, Ingrid Jordan, Lucas Kelly, Mel Leipzig, Scott Lizama, Matt Lucash, Terri McNichol, John Monahan, Paul Mordetsky, Colin O'Con, Mircea Popescu, David Rivera, Sean Shearer, Leonid Siveriver, Kyle Stevenson, Sarah Sweeney, Richard Thompson, Miles Truesdell, Michael Welliver, Aundreta N. Wright, and Nancy Zamboni. Four of the instructors studied visual arts as MCCC students.

To view images from the show, visit www.mccc.edu/gallery.

2010 Kelsey Review Offers Vivid Characters and Local Places



Co-editors Holly-Katharine Johnson and Ed Carmien hold a copy of the 2010 Kelsey Review, MCCC's annual community arts journal. This year's edition features the work of 17 writers, artists and photographers who live or work in Mercer County. Copies are available at all branches of the county's libraries, and in public areas of the West Windsor and James Kerney campuses. For a list of contributors and submission information for the 2011 edition, visit www.mccc.edu.

MCCC Alumni Win Contest; Take Bite Out of Hunger

In a bighearted effort where practically every connection leads back to MCCC, a group of Mercer alumni is doing its part to take a bite out of hunger. They are winners of the "Partners in Caring Expressions of Hunger" contest sponsored by ShopRite and General Mills for their video, "Half a Sandwich," which illustrates the hidden face of hunger in America. A photo of the five alumni was featured on the back of 150,000 boxes of Cheerios cereal this fall, along with photos of five other contest winners.

Christine Magyarits, ShopRite's spokeswoman for the Expressions of Hunger contest, said the competition was fierce, but the video project stood out among the many entries from a six-state region. "You moved us. The video was touching and powerful, beautifully acted and produced," Magyarits said at a ceremony in September. "We hope that by posting it, your video will motivate others." The video is available for viewing on YouTube.

The video project is the brainchild of MCCC alumnus and current adjunct instructor Dominick Rodriguez '05 (A.S., Architecture) and his business partner, Rutgers alum Nick Kubian. Having met years ago in the military, the two are the founders of "Soupervan," an initiative to create a successful and replicable business model for "evolved fast food," with profits to benefit charitable organizations.

Learning of the Expressions of Hunger contest just days before the deadline in early 2010, Rodriguez and Kubian jumped at the chance

for widespread publicity. After Rodriguez approached MCCC Television faculty member Barry Levy, two of Levy's students, Meek DeBradley and David Palacios, eagerly signed on as videographers for the production.

"We thought it was a good cause and really good practice for us," DeBradley recalled. Cast members included MCCC alum, actress Rachael Platt '08 (A.A., Communication), as a waitress barely making ends meet, alum Cathy Wang '01 (A.A., Advertising Design) as a restaurant customer, and Rodriguez's 10-year-old cousin Cassandra as the waitress's daughter. Also featured in the video is Steven Medina as the other customer.

The resulting 78-second video delivers a compelling message in just three short scenes, as Platt is first seen serving her customers, then stealthily removing a leftover half-sandwich from the customer's plate and wrapping it up. In the final scene, her daughter cheerfully eats the sandwich unawares.

According to Palacios and DeBradley, the video was produced in one very long day in three locations. After several semesters at MCCC, both videographers felt well prepared heading into the assignment. "We have learned film styles, lenses, and shooting skills," DeBradley said. "We began the program with talent and aspirations, but we needed the skills that Mercer gave us."

Palacios added that the college loaned them the equipment for the shoot. "It was one



From left, ShopRite Manager Robert Avalone, MCCC alumnus Dominick Rodriguez, Nick Kubian, MCCC alums Rachael Platt and Cathy Wang, TV students David Palacios and Meek DeBradley, and ShopRite Manager Michael Egan. At front is Cassandra Medina.

of the easiest shoots ever. Everyone was very professional and the sets were ready." Both men are currently pursuing work doing commercials and other video projects.

Actress Platt notes that the connections she formed with fellow MCCC students have remained strong. She met Rodriguez in the early 2000s when they were both participants in MouthWorks, MCCC's student oral interpretation troupe. They have stayed in touch and she was glad to take time out from other acting projects in Philadelphia and New York to help out.

Michael Welliver Creates and Teaches in Clay



Vases by Michael Welliver.

For its December/January "Ceramics Invitational," Trenton's Ellarslie Museum selected seven pieces of ceramic art by MCCC Associate Professor Michael Welliver, and the work of seven of Welliver's students.

Clay, its functionality and its sculptural expression, are keys to Welliver's art and teaching. "There is always pull between function and sculpture in ceramics," he says. The works shown at Ellarslie, which he completed last summer, "hover around the borderline between both."

Also serving as coordinator of Mercer's Visual Arts program, Welliver teaches Wheel Throwing, 3-D Design and Raku. He is especially proud that his students' work was selected for the show. "Their art speaks for itself. It is very high quality, and a good reflection on the program and on the college."

Welliver is a 1981 graduate of MCCC (A.A., Visual Arts) and earned his bachelor's degree from Thomas Edison and his master's from Kean University.

MCCC Support Systems Spell Success For Alum Gibson Zarkar



Gibson Zarkar '04 (A.S., Computer Systems and Networking Administration) is happiest when helping others. As a customer engineer at Agilysys Inc. Technology Solution Group in its Corporate IT Division, he zeros in on clients' technical problems. Agilysys,

a leading provider of IT solutions for corporate and public sector customers, uses technology to help its customers resolve their most complicated needs in the retail and hospitality industries.

Zarkar has mastered the ins and outs of a wide range of hardware and software operating systems. "I love troubleshooting," said Zarkar, who joined Agilysys in 2007. "There are all sorts of fun challenges that make my job enjoyable every day. Mercer gave me the solid foundation that I needed to grow in the field."

As the youngest of seven children from a remote village in Liberia, West Africa, Zarkar could not have imagined as a child that he would play a role in the world of technology. Working from the age of five as a farmhand, his fate changed when an older brother sent him to school in the capital city, Monrovia. He graduated from St. Christopher's Catholic High School and emigrated to the United States in 2000, settling with relatives in Hamilton.

Fascinated with computers and how they operate, Zarkar enrolled at MCCC in 2001, immersing himself in myriad technology-related courses and gaining hands-on experience in

network devices such as Cisco router configuration and LAN/WAN technologies.

He recalls frequent guidance from faculty, academic advisers, and other staff at Mercer. "Everyone, right up to the president, was accessible and approachable," he said. On both campuses, he honed his leadership skills, serving as a senator in the Student Government Association and working in various offices. He earned Dean's List and President's List status, as well as several leadership awards.

After graduation, Zarkar transferred to DeVry University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in Network and Communications Management in 2006. Certified as a Dell Systems Expert and Microsoft Systems Administrator, he gained a lot of job experience while in school, working as a technician for several major firms. Zarkar continued his education through the University of Phoenix Online Campus, earning an M.B.A. in Technology Management with honors this past May.

"I strongly encourage everyone to learn from each other and the world around them," Zarkar said. "By doing so, you will also open doors for opportunity. Success in life depends on you, no matter where you come from."



For more alumni success stories, scan me with your Smartphone app!

Men's Soccer

The men's soccer team can reflect proudly on a season well-played. The Vikings regained the Region 19 title and earned a 7-0 record in the region and a 13-4 record overall. Says first-year Head Coach Larry Povia, "These players made amazing progress from the beginning to the end. I couldn't be prouder of them as players and gentlemen."

According to Povia, this squad was all about teamwork. "There was a total team effort on the field."

Two games during the regular season foretold this year's satisfying ending. The Vikings defeated Burlington County College 2-1 on Sept. 23. With one of its strongest squads in years, Burlington had been unbeaten in the region prior to facing the Vikings. Mercer's goals were scored by midfielders Dylan Smith and Kadeem Dacres.

Another key win came against regional rival Essex CC 2-1 on Oct. 1, the team that had beaten the Vikings in the 2009 Region 19 championship. Going into the contest, Essex was ranked third in the country, but Mercer dominated with an all-around solid performance. Goals were scored by centerback Robin Patton and striker Rockie Kazouh.

Entering the post-season as the no. 1 seed, the Vikings faced Essex CC in the semi-final game at the MCCC stadium on Oct. 25. Tied 2-2 at the end of regulation, Mercer came away with the win in penalty kicks (5-4). Both of Mercer's regulation goals were scored by Rockie Kazouh.

In the Region 19 final Oct. 30, the Vikings



In the thick of it during their Region 19 semi-final game against Essex CC are Mohamed Conteh (#14), Kadeem Dacres (#10) and Robin Patton (#23).

once again faced Burlington, a team on a successful run of its own. Mercer proved its mettle, winning 1-0 on a goal by Patton. He was decisive on defense as well and was named Defensive MVP. Dacres was named the Offensive MVP.

On Nov. 6, the Vikings continued their great run in the Northeast District Tournament, defeating Monroe CC (Rochester, NY) 1-0 in their semi-final match-up, with Patton scoring the game's lone goal. The season came to an end on Nov. 7 when the Vikings lost 3-0 to Monroe CC (Bronx) in the district final. Povia notes the score was not indicative of the game's competitiveness and credited Monroe's

goalie with a number of brilliant saves.

While some Vikings players remain unsung heroes in the region's tallies, Kadeem Dacres was named Region 19's Player of the Year and Mohamed Conteh was also named to the Top 5. Both players were selected for First Team All-Region honors; Patton and Jonni Ventura were selected to the Second Team All-Region. Conteh and Dacres were also selected to the All-GSAC Team.

Povia credits much of the team's progress to his dedicated coaching staff, which included Assistant Coaches Pat Snyder, Bill Daily, John Kalinowski, John Pietrowski and Tigana Dalce.

Women's Soccer

There's no better time to come together as a team than in the post season. That was the case for the women's soccer team, which had to deal with more than its usual number of injuries during the regular season. According to Head Coach Jodie Ricciardi, who completed her fourth year as head coach, her team proved just how versatile it was. The Vikings' record was 5-2-1 in Region 19 and 7-8-1 overall.

The best example of the Vikings' progress was on display in their 3-0 win against Sussex CC in the Region 19 semi-final, a game that looked far different than the teams' 2-2 tie earlier in the season. Forward Cristina Alonso scored two goals in the first half; another was added by midfielder Ana Garcia-Donas in the second half.

That game stands out for Ricciardi. "We came out ready to play. We passed nicely and kept possession of the ball until we were able to take shots on goal."

In the Region 19 final, the women faced Burlington CC, a team they had lost to 3-0 on Sept. 23. This time around, the Vikings held the undefeated Burlington squad to a 1-1 tie for almost 100 minutes of play, before an unlikely goal by Burlington ended the game — and the season — for the Vikings.

Forward Cristina Alonso proved a major asset. She led the team with 12 goals and 9 assists and was named the NJCAA Region 19 Player of the Year in women's soccer. Named to the All-Region First Team were Alonso and midfielder Marissa Segal. Selected for the Second Team were defenders Irene Calabria Nuevo and Brittney Fornarotto. Alonso, Calabria



Pictured during the Region 19 semi-final versus Sussex are (foreground left to right) Brittney Fornarotto, Brielle Penkola and Jackie Young; background, Marissa Segal, left, and Nicole Gilliland.

Nuevo and Segal were also selected to the All-Garden State Athletic Conference First Team; Second Team selections included Fornarotto and forward Jess Villalba.

Ricciardi is optimistic about the team's prospects in 2011. "We have a very talented freshman class this year that will continue to improve and be great leaders next year. We are already working hard to recruit another strong freshman group to replace the sophomores from this year who made a big impact for our team."

Ricciardi was assisted this season by Mike DeAngelis, Joe Franc and Bobbie Gioscio.

Mercer All-Americans



Kadeem Dacres, a sophomore mid-fielder on the men's soccer team, and Cristina Alonso, a freshman forward on the women's team, were selected as All-Americans by the National Junior College Athletic Association. Each was also named Player of the Year in Region 19 Division 1.

Basketball Alum Plays Pro Seasons in Poland



Miroslaw Babiarz

Former Vikings basketball star Miroslaw Babiarz '05 considers his years at Mercer to have been excellent preparation — not only for the professional basketball career he pursued in Poland for the last two seasons, but also for a future that includes returning to college for his master's degree back in the United States.

"I had a great coaching staff at Mercer," recalls the 26-year-old Polish native, who studied Exercise Science from 2003-2005. Led by former Coach Kelly Williams, the Vikings earned a record of 18-13 and the GSAC title in 2005.

Coach Williams preached the "three Cs," says Babiarz — commitment, consistency and character. "He would say if you have all three, along with basketball talent, you can achieve something big."

Acting on that message, Babiarz earned a leading role on the team. He ended his freshman season second in the nation in free throws at 89 percent; as a sophomore, he was selected as an All-American Athlete of the Year by the National Strength and Conditioning Association.

Babiarz also committed fully to his education. He notes that academics were emphasized by the MCCC coaching staff. After Mercer, he transferred to Goldey-Beacom College (DE), where he continued to play basketball, earning a bachelor's degree in Business Administration in 2008.

When Babiarz was given an opportunity to play professionally back in Poland, he decided to delay grad school and go for it. He found that the game was faster and more physical and the pressure to achieve was intense. "The owners and sponsors put their money in, so you feel more responsibility. Nobody is there to play around, but to win." In his two seasons Babiarz scored over 500 points, dished out more than 150 assists, pulled down over 100 rebounds and had 100 steals.

Babiarz is now ready for the next chapter. Taking inspiration from John Kalinowski, his former professor and trainer at Mercer, he plans to return to the United States to complete his master's degree in Kinesiology or Sport Sciences.

With his passion for the game undimmed, he expects to find a perfect marriage between his basketball skills and his academic goals. It's all part of a journey, he says, that began at Mercer. "I will always remember the years I spent at Mercer as two of the best years of my life."



For more on MCCC sports, scan me with your smartphone app!

Women's Tennis

According to Marc Vecchiolla, head coach for women's tennis since 1997, the season just ended was one of his best coaching experiences ever — and the team didn't win a match.

"These women, some of whom were beginners at tennis, showed major progress and had as much fun as any team I can remember," he said. "They all had wonderful attitudes. I took just as much joy coaching this team as I have national champions." (The MCCC women's tennis program has won four national titles under Vecchiolla.)

Vecchiolla recalls that the roster was uncertain at the start of the school year. But the women who joined the team proved highly motivated to improve their games. Vecchiolla reports that, at the start of the season, they were losing matches by large margins. By the end, the margins had lessened significantly.

Katie Courtney, in the no. 1 spot, faced the toughest challenge by playing the region's best competition. "She improved tremendously by playing no. 1," Vecchiolla notes. Rachel Young, at the no. 5 position, was the "quintessential team player," combining a positive outlook with the drive to return every ball.

With a regular season record of 0-6, the women finished fourth at the Region 19 tournament, which was held at Gloucester County College Oct. 15-17. A late addition to the roster, Alison Noll, added excitement as the Region 19 winner at no. 1 singles.

In addition to Courtney, Young and Noll, other team members included Melanie Hunter,



Back row, from left, Head Coach Marc Vecchiolla, Terelle Womble, Katie Courtney, Victoria DeBlasio, Melanie Hunter, Alison Noll and Assistant Coach Ralph Bencivengo; front row, Alicia Monticchio, left, and Rachel Young. Not pictured: Assistant Coach Barb Pleva.

Victoria DeBlasio, Terelle Womble, Alicia Monticchio and Elvira Turganova.

Both coach and players are clearly hooked. Vecchiolla will add a spring season for this squad, to run concurrently with the men's tennis season. "With a couple more months of training, they will be even better," Vecchiolla says.

With all members of this year's team planning to return in 2011, and the addition of some new players, "we could well be at the top of the heap next year," Vecchiolla predicts.

Vecchiolla was assisted by Barb Pleva and Ralph Bencivengo.

Women's Cross Country

The goal of competitive runners is to cross the finish line in a time they can be proud of. But heading into the season, Head Coach Erin Cahill had a different goal for Mercer's first women's cross country team in twenty years — getting to the starting line.

The Vikings lacked enough numbers to compete as a full-scoring team. But the two women who joined the squad, while short on past running experience, made dramatic improvements over the course of the season. Freshmen Graci Leal and Chikasimara Amu-Nnadi ran personal bests at the Region 19 Championships on October 30 at Thompson Park in Lincroft, earning them Division I All-Region honors, with Amu-Nnadi finishing 6th and Leal finishing 7th in the Division I 5K race.

"Clearly, these runners made a major commitment to a new sport, improving both their endurance and their form," Cahill said. "Graci and Chika did whatever I asked of them. They never complained about any workouts, just pushed themselves to get better each time."

She observes that while physical fitness is the most obvious benefit of running, training for meets is also a mental test. "You have to be focused and dedicated to your goal." In addition to the championships, the regular season included four meets in which Mercer competed with both two- and four-year schools.

Cahill is optimistic about 2011, anticipating that both Leal and Amu-Nnadi will return to the roster. "I hope these two girls will carry the success of the last meet into the off-season and use it as an incentive to continue to train for next year," she said.

Cahill also hopes to field a full-scoring team of five runners. She has already heard from

several current students who have expressed interest in joining the squad next fall and will continue vigorous recruitment efforts at area high schools.

"This year was about laying the foundation for future seasons and getting the word out about Mercer women's cross country. We may not have had a full scoring team, but we got to compete and ended with two All-Region performances. I would call that a success," Cahill said.



From left, Coach Erin Cahill with runners Graci Leal and Chika Amu-Nnadi.

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the VIKING

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2011

Kelsey Theatre Spring 2011 Calendar

Full-Length Productions

A Few Good Men

Jan. 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30

The Wedding Singer

Feb. 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20

A Little Night Music

March 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13

Quadrophenia

March 19, 20

Steel Magnolias

March 25, 26, 27; Apr. 1, 2, 3

Hello Dolly

April 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17

The Tempest

April 29, 30; May 1, 6, 7, 8

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels

May 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22

**Mercer Dance Ensemble -
Poetry in Motion**

June 4, 5

Blithe Spirit

June 10, 11, 12, 18, 19

Die, Mommie Die

June 24, 25, 26

Kelsey Kids Series

Pinocchio

Feb. 4, 5, 6

High School Musical 2, Jr.

Feb. 25, 26, 27

Pippi Longstocking

Feb. 26

The Ugly Duckling

March 12

Jigsaw Jones

April 2

Berenstain Bears

in Family Matters, the Musical

April 30

Jack & The Beanstalk

May 21

For Kelsey events call
609-570-3333 or visit
www.kelseytheatre.net.



Works by MCCC faculty, clockwise from top, Ingrid Jordan, David Rivera and Kyle Stevenson.

Events at MCCC's Gallery

For the Spring schedule visit mccc.edu/gallery.

The Distinguished Lecture Series

West Windsor Campus, Communications Building, 12 noon

For more details, visit www.mccc.edu/events

"Collage and Its Influence"

Feb. 22, MCCC Professor Mel Leipzig

"Using Statistical Thinking to Improve Scientific Business Decisions"

March 29, Dr. James R. Kenyon

"Dinosaurs in Your Backyard"

April 7, Dr. William B. Gallagher

"Genius: How to Define It and How to Achieve It"

April 26, Artist Gerard Haggerty

"Serving Others"

TBA, Bonner Programs Director Wayne Meisel

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