

## MCCC Students Cook with PBS TV Chef Lidia Bastianich of "Lidia's Italy" at Patriot's Theatre

MCCC culinary students donned their white hats for celebrity chef Lidia Bastianich, of PBS's "Lidia's Italy," when she visited Patriot's Theatre at Trenton's War Memorial on Nov. 6 to demonstrate recipes from her new book "Lidia's Italy in America."

After spending several weeks practicing Lidia's recipes under the guidance of MCCC Executive Chef/Culinary Instructor Jorge Maldonado at the James Kerney Campus (JKC), the students prepared a full-course buffet meal for 75 VIP guests prior to the show, prepped food for Lidia's presentation, and assisted her and her sous chef, Cody Hogan, on stage before a crowd of food enthusiasts. The students also served Lidia's prepared dishes to five food tasters selected from the audience.

Dishes included stuffed artichokes, Rigatoni Boscaiolla, Chicken Sorrentino and Zuppa Inglese. On Nov. 4, Chef Hogan oversaw a full day of food preparation by students and their instructors at the JKC training kitchen in downtown Trenton.

The student participants are studying culinary arts in MCCC's Career Training Institute (CTI), a short-term program, and in the college's associate degree programs in Culinary



*Students and staff who participated in the "Lidia's Italy in America" event, from left, are Chef Instructor Jorge Maldonado, students Gieter Montgomery, Pam Ballard, Roosevelt Smith and Beth Jones, Chef Instructor Frank Benowitz, TV Chef Lidia Bastianich, JKC Provost Monica Weaver, student Jeff Johnson, MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue, students Takako Cusack, Angel Mitchell and Erika Diaz, and Associate Professor Doug Fee. Student participants not pictured are Daniel Placa, Shonda Hill and Dasha Ben-Tempherith.*

Arts, Culinology, and Hotel, Restaurant and Institution Management. Also assisting the students with preparations were Associate Professor Doug Fee and Chef/Instructor Frank Benowitz.

Says CTI student Jeff Johnson, "It was a great experience and very exciting for me. I am inspired because I want to become a celebrity chef one day." Johnson plans to continue his culinary studies in an MCCC associate degree program.

Students Pamela Ballard and Beth Jones

were delighted to meet the famous chef, as they had just completed a paper and slide show about her life, books and TV show. "This is quite a thrill for us," Ballard said.

Lidia ended her presentation with a question-and-answer session, and her signature mantra: "Tutti a tavola a mangiare," meaning "Everyone to the table to eat."

The event was part of Lidia's tour to promote the book, which coincides with her new TV series. A portion of all ticket sales went to Autism Speaks.

## Honors Symposium Concludes Semester of Enriched Learning



*The Mercer Honors Program held its end-of-semester symposium on Dec. 10, with 50 students presenting their capstone projects. Pictured are students in Associate Professor Carol Bork's Honors English 101 class, from left, Alex Henry, Barbara Stoffels, Mike Maganzin, Chris Bliziotis, Holly Hagy and Tyler Seip. In their presentation, the students engaged in a stimulating literary discussion to demonstrate the interactive nature of their learning environment.*

## MCCC Opens Its Doors, Welcomes Public At November "Report to the Community"

The Conference Center at Mercer opened its doors to prospective students, parents and community guests on Nov. 10 for the college's fifth annual Open House and Report to the Community, hosted by the MCCC Board of Trustees.

The annual showcase provides the public with an overview of Mercer's extensive opportunities for learning, and reports on college and student accomplishments of the past year. Faculty, students and alumni eagerly met with visitors to explain their academic programs,

while admissions representatives explained the application process and answered questions about enrollment and financial aid.

For young people, the Open House provided a first look at the college. Seventeen-year-old Hayley Richtman, who attended the event with her father, is contemplating a career in business and considering a start at Mercer next fall. "I have heard about Mercer's great reputation through friends. I am really impressed with the college and its Business program in particular," she said.

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## “First Thirty” Office to Reinvent First-Year Experience, Increase Student Success

One of President Barack Obama’s stated goals is that the country will have the best-educated workforce and the highest proportion of college graduates in the world by 2020, an aspiration endorsed by many in the business and educational communities.

MCCC has taken an important step toward that goal. According to MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue, the college will open the doors to a new “First Thirty” office in January, dedicated to supporting successful outcomes for students during their first 30 credit hours. The initiative comes after a year of intensive self study involving approximately 100 faculty and staff members as part of a Gardner Institute project called Foundations of Excellence.

A faculty member, who will serve on the college’s Executive Team, will soon be appointed as Assistant to the President for First Thirty. An Advisory Board will provide key recommendations for moving forward. The office will cultivate change in two broad categories: initiatives that percolate up through the college which can be easily implemented, and more far-reaching changes to policies and procedures. The office will report regularly to college governance groups.

“This is a transformational effort,” Donohue said. “It’s all about how we think about and support students as they make a successful start in college. It encompasses everything we do, inside and outside the classroom.” She adds that the college’s trustees are fully committed to the effort.

The First Thirty office will search for, gather and analyze data and assess the impact of policies and procedures, while it provides a bridge between Student Affairs, Academic Affairs, and Administration and Finance. It will also work to enhance the admissions process and build on a welcoming campus culture with student success as its cornerstone.

## New Teaching Kitchen Adds Space for Budding Chefs and New Courses



Cutting the ribbon Sept. 14 to officially open the third teaching kitchen on the West Windsor campus are, from left, Vice President Guy Generals, Dean Judy Ehresman, Chef/Instructor Frank Benowitz, President Patricia C. Donohue, Guest Chef Sam Morgante, Associate Professor Doug Fee, Chef/Instructor Chris DePagnier, and students Jacqueline Cephas and Chong Wang. Made possible through federal Perkins Grant funding, the new facility will accommodate the growing number of students interested in the college’s many hospitality and culinary programs.

## Mercer in the Vanguard Of Solar Farms in Nation

Up to 90 percent of the energy needs for MCCC’s West Windsor campus will be supplied by a new 43-acre solar farm now under construction by SunLight General Capital. The installation will be one of the largest on a college campus in the country, according to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.

The farm will create educational opportunities for students in many MCCC programs, including Solar Energy Technology, Architecture and Engineering.

The farm was made possible through the Mercer County Improvement Authority and Mercer County’s Office of Economic Opportunity and Sustainability as part of the county’s Renewable Energy Initiative.

## Fashioning Opportunities In Trenton

The college’s new program in Fashion Design was off to a great start in the fall with a full class of students. Now Fashion Merchandizing will be added to accommodate students interested in the business and marketing side of the fashion industry. The program is currently awaiting final state approval. Both programs are offered in downtown Trenton at the James Kerney Campus (JKC).

Also new at JKC are an increased number of course offerings designed to provide students with more choices and greater flexibility. Among them are Basic Drawing, Two-Dimensional Design, and African American Art.



## MercerOnline Offers Degree Programs

Students who prefer online learning will now be able to complete an associate degree program fully online through MercerOnline at MCCC. The programs officially begin in fall 2012 in Liberal Arts, Business Studies and Criminal Justice/Corrections.

For students who live a distance from the college, placement testing can be arranged at a site near their home. Additional details are available at [www.mccc.edu/MercerOnline](http://www.mccc.edu/MercerOnline).

## Holocaust/Genocide Resource Center to Offer Expanded Programming

The Holocaust Genocide Resource Center, located on the second floor of the library building, is open for business. Following a transitional period after the former director, Professor Emeritus Saul Goldwasser, stepped down, new co-chairs Susan Goldberg and MCCC Assistant Education Professor Elizabeth DeGiorgio are planning programming for the spring semester. More information is available at [www.mccc.edu/holocaust](http://www.mccc.edu/holocaust).



MCCC Education students recently engaged in a lively discourse with Dr. Paul Winkler, executive director of the N.J. Commission on Holocaust Education. Dr. Winkler discussed approaches to eliminating intolerance and bullying in the classroom, using children’s literature as a key tool.

## Non-Credit Career and Life-Enriching Programs

A wide variety of career certificate programs and individual skill-building classes continue to attract adult learners to MCCC’s Center for Continuing Studies (CCS). This spring, the CCS offers hundreds of classes for the business community such as Total Quality Management, Adaptive Lean Six Sigma Green Belt, and Market Your Business on Social Networking Sites. Computer literacy classes include MS Office 2010 and Adobe products such as InDesign, Dreamweaver and Flash CS5. Many programs lead to professional certificates.

Numerous programs are designed for health professionals or those seeking entry-level positions. Among these are the Certificate in Gerontology, Certified Nurse Aide, Pharmacy Technician, Ophthalmic Assistant and EKG Technician.

For fun and enrichment, the CCS offers an array of personal interest classes in topics ranging from foreign languages to an appetizing assortment of cooking classes at the MCCC Culinary Center.

The full course catalog is available online at [www.mccc.edu/ccs](http://www.mccc.edu/ccs), or call 609-570-3311.

# FACULTY FEATURES

## MCCC Brings Credit Courses to Hopewell And East Windsor

New partnerships with the Hopewell and East Windsor school districts have made it possible for MCCC to offer credit courses at the high schools in both townships for the Spring 2012 semester.

The courses will provide accessibility to qualified high school students to challenge themselves with college level courses, earn transferable college credits, and enhance their college applications. Classes are also open to all community members, including current MCCC students.

## Former Police Chief Elizabeth Bondurant Moves from Policing to Professor

Ask Criminal Justice students in classes taught by Assistant Professor Elizabeth Bondurant where they see themselves in five years and, chances are, they have a pretty good idea.

"I require my students to have a five-year plan," says Bondurant, who considers it to be one of the valuable lessons she can offer. "I want to shed light on whether their goals are realistic and achievable and where they need to go from here."

Bondurant also warns, "If you want to be liked, be a firefighter. It's just a fact that people usually don't like police officers."

Bondurant speaks from experience. Indeed, she regularly enlivens classroom discussions with anecdotes from her 25 years in the Plainsboro Police Department, where she served in roles of increasing responsibility until her retirement in 2009. In her final two years, she was chief of police, one of only six women serving as a New Jersey municipal chief at the time.

Bondurant shares her professional background with students from day one. "I do that for two reasons," she explains. "As a woman teaching criminal justice, it establishes my credibility and expertise. As a retired police chief who started out as a patrol officer, it lets students know it is possible to rise through the ranks, an especially encouraging message for women."

An adjunct instructor at Mercer from 1996-2009, Bondurant has made a seamless transition from policing to professor. "Teaching was the up side of my previous career," she

## Coenen and Knight Learn Lessons During Princeton Mid-Career Fellowship

MCCC English Professor Laura Knight and History Professor, Dr. Craig Coenen, enjoyed an energizing academic experience at Princeton University last year as part of the Mid-Career Fellowship Program. MCCC selects two faculty members for the experience each year.

Coenen and Knight met monthly with community college colleagues from across the state to talk about issues at their schools, as well as approaches to teaching and assessment.

As part of their fellowships, both professors completed research projects. Knight focused her research on "New Student Orientation or 'How Do I Read My Schedule?'" while Coenen wrote about the value of intercollegiate sports at the community college level.

Also part of the Mid-Career Fellowship was the opportunity for the professors to take Princeton classes. "It was invigorating to be on the student side again," Knight observed. "It makes it that much easier to relate to my own students."



*Professors Laura Knight and Craig Coenen*

## Voorhees Selected for Fellowship in L.A.

Assistant Television Professor Steve Voorhees headed to Hollywood this fall. He was one of 20 professors from across the country selected to attend a seminar from Nov. 8-12 hosted by the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences entitled "See How Primetime Entertainment Works Behind the Scenes."

Voorhees participated in discussions and presentations with representatives from the major networks, studios and production companies. Topics included the role of producers and writers; working with directors in different genres; story development and pitching; the latest in digital entertainment and new media, industry trends and production techniques. The group also went behind the scenes on studio sets.



*Assistant Professor Steve Voorhees on the set of the TV Land show "Hot in Cleveland."*

## NJIT Offers Opportunities for Engineering Grads

A transfer agreement now enables MCCC's Engineering Science graduates to transfer seamlessly into engineering programs at the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), Newark College of Engineering. Mercer graduates may transfer up to 62 credits, saving thousands of dollars over the course of their studies.

The Newark College of Engineering's Bachelor of Science degrees prepare graduates to enter engineering professions in industry, government, and academic settings with a broad knowledge of math, science, analysis and design. Students experience real-world lab research and solve design problems.

For additional information, contact Professor James Maccariella at [maccarij@mccc.edu](mailto:maccarij@mccc.edu).



*In class, standing from left, are Criminal Justice students Eric Mensah, Stephen Arnold, Chris Forero, Assistant Professor Elizabeth Bondurant, students Tara Clayton, Oscar Garcia, Rudy Orellana Orantes, Mike Wegscheidler and Rasheda Riddick; (kneeling) Brittney Fornarotto, left, and Andrew Brown.*

## Intergenerational Classrooms Add Rich Perspectives to Learning

While community colleges are typically known for their ethnic diversity, another type of diversity also adds richness to the learning experience. Professors say older students add to classroom discussions in unexpected ways. With an average age of 29, MCCC students range in age from 18 (or younger) to 60 (and much older).

Dr. Eric Watson, who teaches English and African American History, says older students can be invaluable, especially in history classes, where they may add real life experiences to textbook accounts.

Watson recalls a lecture he delivered about the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. "Born 30 years after the major civil rights battles ended, many of my younger students seemed unconvinced that their country, which elected President Barack Obama, at one time enforced laws that made it difficult, if not impossible, for blacks to vote, attend all-white schools, and eat at public facilities," Watson said.

And then, the words of an older black student "converted my class of doubters into ardent believers, right on the spot," he says. "She recounted humiliating details about growing up in Alabama in the 1950s when she had to sit in the back of the bus, drink from separate water fountains, and was denied entrance to all-white restaurants. She spoke about her participation in the 1963 March on Washington and heard Dr. King deliver his 'I Have a Dream' speech. From that moment on, she became a celebrity among her classmates," Watson said.



*English Professor Sharmila Sen, left, is pictured with returning student Jigna Rao.*

As in Dr. Watson's class, History Professor Craig Coenen notes his older students often function as primary sources. "Sometimes their experience contradicts what is in the textbook, which covers the event, but may not be the full story. That's a great addition to any history discussion."

English Professor Sharmila Sen also relishes the words and wisdom of her older students. "More mature students are more mature thinkers. They bring richness to the conversation when they share and the young people are listening. I can prepare for a lesson all I want, but I can never achieve some of this."

One voice of experience is returning student Jigna Rao, who took English 102 with Professor Sen in the fall. Originally from India, Rao is back in school to prepare for a new career. "I take the material and assignments seriously," she says.

Rao notes that she gradually began to open up with her classmates, offering her perspectives after 10 years in the United States. Recalling a discussion of "Harlem," a poem by Langston Hughes, Rao had lots to say. "There was so much bubbling under the surface," she recalls. "The younger students were surprised that I was able to see so much in it. But you have to go out in the world to gain these perspectives." Rao says Mercer has proved the perfect place for non-traditional students like her to get their feet wet at



*History/English Professor Eric Watson*

the college level.

Twenty-year-old sophomore Kristina Kopec, who is studying Education, says she has had older students in every class she has taken at Mercer. "They add another viewpoint," she says. "Especially in psychology classes, older students use examples from their own lives, like what they did when their kids were growing up. It makes the lecture content more interesting."

## Psychology Honor Society Reactivated with 58 Inductees

Psi Beta, the national honor society in psychology for community and junior colleges, is back in action at MCCC. Fifty-eight students were recently installed as members of the Mercer chapter.

Associate Psychology Professor Karen Bearce, who serves as advisor, began efforts to re-establish the group last spring. (The chapter was last active at Mercer in 1999 under Professor Emeritus Angela McGlynn.) As the word spread, Bearce says it was clear there was great interest among students. Mercer's new inductees join more than 32,500 active members nationwide. With the mission of promoting the professional development of psychology students and other students interested in the field, the national organization celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2011.



*Pictured at the induction ceremony are, front row from left, Carol Baillie, Stephanie Marraffa, Christina Aponte, and Shane Wojeciechowski; back row, from left, faculty advisor Karen Bearce, and students Pamalli Prather, Paul Jones, Ayodele Kanyako, Jared Albrecht, Michelle Smith-Griffin, Katie Soto, Justine Nazarethian, and Selina Rivera.*

## Clear Skies for MCCC's Aviation Program

The weather cooperated nicely during the first semester of a new partnership between the college's Aviation Flight Technology program and Royal Karina Air Service, the long-time flight training company based at Trenton-Mercer Airport. "Students flew on a daily basis," Royal Karina President Moses Frenck reports.

Mercer's revitalized Aviation program is a true success story for the college, its students and the community at large. The first two-year program in the country to earn accreditation from the prestigious Aviation Accreditation Board International, it continues to be the only collegiate program in New Jersey with Federal Aviation Administration 141 training certification. So, despite its high cost, the college administration believed it was a program worth saving if a budgetary solution could be found.

Enter Royal Karina, which is based just a stone's throw from Mercer's original airport

Operations Building. In preparation for the fall semester, the Aviation faculty revamped the curriculum, with simulation and other classes to be taught by Mercer instructors and the flight component to be managed by Royal Karina.

According to Program Coordinator Joan Jones, the transition has been virtually seamless. In October, Royal Karina moved into a newly renovated flight training facility dedicated for Mercer's Flight Academy.

"Royal Karina has been in existence for many years," Jones says. "Its business is flight training. Our program will not only survive, but will have the potential for major growth due to the number of aircraft and resources available for our students."

In the fall semester, 19 students began or continued their professional pilot training, and several accomplished important milestones,

including earning pilot licenses. Two MCCC alumni who were working as flight instructors for Royal Karina have been hired by commercial airlines.

"We are extremely excited about the new life that has been infused into an already excellent program," Jones says. "We can continue to offer our students a reasonably priced route to their associate degree and certification in aviation, while maintaining high quality standards. Mercer is an excellent stepping stone to professional careers."

Scholarships and financial aid are available. The program is also approved for veterans' benefits. More information is available at [www.mccc.edu/aviation](http://www.mccc.edu/aviation).

Visit [www.mccc.edu/alumni-success](http://www.mccc.edu/alumni-success) to read the story of Aviation alumnus Klaus Thalinger '02.

# ACHIEVEMENT

## Students Serve Community as They Complete Practicum in Social Services

By the time MCCC students majoring in Social Service complete their degree, they have not only spent many hours in the classroom, they have also fulfilled an internship requirement with a social service organization. According to Program Coordinator Renee Walker, the internship component is key to helping students gain practical skills and refine their career goals.

Walker estimates that since 2009, when the program added the internships (along with new math and science requirements), her students have logged in approximately 4,000 volunteer hours at agencies including the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, Catholic Charities, the Children's Home Society, the Salvation Army, and Capital Health's adult day care facility.

According to Dr. Walker, front and center among those offering internships are members of the program's Advisory Commission, who represent leading community organizations and have also helped to develop and update the Human Services curriculum, which leads

to an Associate in Science degree and enables further study in undergraduate and graduate programs in behavioral health science counseling and social work. "Commission members have been essential to the evolution of the program," Walker notes. "They provide intern experiences and supervise students on site." As of spring 2011, 161 students were enrolled.

Graduating sophomore Lauren Miller spent the fall semester as an intern at Womanspace, where she assisted with marketing and development for a major annual outreach project, "Communities of Light," that raises funds while publicizing the issue of domestic abuse. Miller's duties included reaching out to retailers to sell luminaries in their stores, contacting municipalities to request participation in holiday lighting ceremonies, and even making luminary package deliveries.

Miller felt her time was well spent. "All areas of social work require a lot of paperwork. I didn't have any office experience, so this was



**Members of the Social Service Advisory Commission visited the class of Professor Renee Walker. Pictured are, from left, Hawwah Momolu of the Parents Empowering Parents program of Isles Inc., Susan Adams, outreach coordinator for Womanspace, student Lauren Miller, who completed an internship at Womanspace, and Walker. Not pictured, Laurie Komjati, volunteer coordinator for Parents Anonymous.**

## Telly Award Winners

**Television students won a Telly Award for their work on a live cable telecast of the Mercer County High School Basketball Championships in February 2011. Seated, from left, are Bianca Zuzzio and Zohair Zaidi. Standing, from left, are Assistant Professor Steve Voorhees, Ben Stentz, David Pitchford, Richard Fofana, Kevin Daniel, Jim Giglio, Sam Han, Professor Craig Coenen, David Erdely, Katie Bavoso, Ivy Storaci and Moneshe Mann.**



really good background for me." She adds that the people skills she used in her internship will be helpful. She is continuing to work toward her bachelor's degree at Drexel University.

Like Miller, most of Walker's students envision a helping career. Their internships provide a critical addition to their resume. "By working in social service agencies, they get a real experience learning how to serve the people, spaces, and places they will work with in the future, typically children, families in crisis, human service agencies, and communities seeking life sustaining human rights and social justice," Walker says.

Dr. Walker is currently working with her Advisory Commission members to establish a human services national honor society.

## Cenlar Trains Staff Through Free NJBIA Program

When it comes to first-rate companies in Mercer County that invest in the development of their employees, Cenlar Federal Savings Bank, a leading mortgage subservicer, is a prime example. In the late 1990s Cenlar turned to MCCC's Center for Training and Development (CTD) to establish a leadership training program for its employees, a relationship that continues today.

Grant funding for Cenlar's current training program is provided by the New Jersey Business and Industry Association's (NJBIA) Basic Skills Workforce Training Program, with support from the N.J. Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Fifty-seven companies and more than 1700 registrants have participated in NJBIA training through the CTD since the program's inception in 2008, at no cost to the companies.

In addition to grant-funded training, the CTD also offers customized training programs for companies in areas such as project management, qualitative initiatives, supervision and consulting.

For more information on how to participate in the NJBIA no-cost training program or other services of the CTD, contact Director Elaine Weinberg at 609-570-3612.

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Others came to explore new career directions, such as Patty Janda, who previously worked for the federal government. Her passion for horticulture made for a good conversation with Ornamental Horticulture Program Coordinator Amy Ricco and current students.

First-year science student Nyamenta Sainvilus served as a volunteer at the Student Activities table and enjoyed sharing her college experiences with community members. A native of Haiti, she is active in the International Student Organization (ISO) and advises students to get involved in campus life right away.



**Honoring Mercer's learning partners: pictured from left, MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue, awardees Greg Zanoni of WZBN TV, Douglas Clayton of SES, Alumnus Jeff Callahan, and MCCC Board Chair Mark Matzen.**

Following the informal program, MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue presented awards to three community honorees who have demonstrated a commitment to education and to Mercer. She also presented a slide show highlighting the year's accomplishments based on the seven visions outlined in the college's 2010-2013 Strategic Plan.

Among other highlights were music by the MCCC Jazz Band, dessert prepared by culinary students, a carving station presented by Career Training Institute student chefs, and hors d'oeuvres served by the Conference Center staff.



**Guests enjoyed a performance by MouthWorks, an improvisational student performance troupe. The students offered advice and told stories about unique opportunities at Mercer.**

Read MCCC's 2010-11 Annual Report and Foundation Annual Report at [www.mccc.edu/annual-reports](http://www.mccc.edu/annual-reports).

# FOUNDATION AND



## “Spring Into Student Success” on April 2

This year the MCCC Foundation Board invites alumni and friends to a different kind of “Big Event” to support students and scholarships. Replacing the dinner dance gala will be “Spring Into Student Success” on April 2 at the Westin, Princeton. The event remains true to the gala’s spirit of fun and generosity, and will feature elegant hors d’oeuvres, a silent auction including original artwork, networking and a raffle.

MCCC’s music students will provide entertainment, while horticulture students will show off their talents by crafting festive floral arrangements. Single tickets are \$115; two tickets are \$215. For more information, visit [www.mccc.edu/mainevent](http://www.mccc.edu/mainevent) or call Amy Frangione at 609-570-3293.

**Committee members planning for “Spring Into Student Success,” from left, are MCCC Vice President Mellissia Zanjani, Foundation Board member Lori Danko, Co-Chair Nina Melker, Foundation Board members Ruth Rosser and Jim Faridy, MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue and Co-Chair Pasquale Colavita.**

## Celebrating Student Achievement and Donor Generosity

At an event that brings together Mercer’s high achieving students and the donors who help to make their education possible, there were smiles, handshakes and applause all around. Approximately 240 guests filled the cafeteria on the West Windsor campus for the Annual Continuing Student Recognition Ceremony Oct. 18. A total of 136 students received scholarships, with 10 students receiving two awards.

MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue emphasized that the students selected for these scholarships are some of the college’s most motivated learners, ones who often make major sacrifices to attend college. She congratulated them and the families who support their efforts.

Dr. Donohue also singled out Mercer’s generous donors. “Our donors recognize the vital role of education in improving lives,” she said. “Through your support, all of you play a role in helping these students learn and succeed.” MCCC Foundation Board members and Chair E. Karen Kennedy were recognized for their leadership.

Presenters included Dr. Guy Generals, vice president for Academic Affairs, Dr. Robin Schore, dean of Liberal Arts, and Dr. Linda Martin, dean of Math, Science and Health Professions. Also participating were program coordinators, other faculty members, and a number of corporate and private donors who had an opportunity to meet their student recipients.

A unique tradition at Mercer is the Chef Jacket Partnership Scholarships. This year, nine restaurants and food service companies contributed to the program. The scholarships cover the cost of chef whites, as well as additional college expenses. Each jacket is inscribed with the donor’s logo and the student’s name. Participating companies include Blue Bottle Cafe, Duncan Hines, Elements, Mercer Oaks Catering, RC Fine Foods, Sysco Foods, Terra Momo Restaurant Group, Wegmans Food Markets and Vlastic. Merrill Lynch and several private scholarship funds provided support for four additional hospitality students.

Architecture students also benefitted from the major generosity of donors. Ten students earned Architecture Scholarships, an endowment effort spearheaded in the 1990s by retired architect and Foundation Board member Jamil E. Faridy and MCCC’s former Dean of Arts and Communications, Dr. David Levin. Mr. Faridy also funds a scholarship awarded annually in his name. The David R. Fraytak Scholarship, established by architect and MCCC alumnus John Veisz, honors Mr. Fraytak for his many years of service with Fraytak Veisz Hopkins Duthie P.C.



**Charles Prettyman, right, president of MCCC’s Professor Emeritus Scholarship Association, presents scholarships to, from left, Maria Dasana, Linda Cruzeta and Dana Boso. (Also receiving scholarships, but not pictured, were Carla Fletcher and Jane Plunkett.)**

## New Grants to Fund Essential MCCC Projects

Mercer’s Grants office recently secured funding for many important projects.

Bristol-Myers Squibb has granted \$30,000 to help purchase a Mobile HazMat Tanker Fire Trainer for use in educating firefighters at MCCC’s Dempster Fire Academy.

An additional Bristol-Myers Squibb grant of \$20,000 will expand science education at the James Kerney Campus (JKC) in downtown Trenton. Laboratories will be equipped to accommodate students in both chemistry and biology classes. Creating these universal laboratories will enable the college to offer more science courses in Trenton.

Also at JKC, a \$20,000 grant from Ortho-McNeil Janssen Pharmaceuticals has provided funding for equipment and laboratory modifications so that caregiver training programs can be offered for Certified Nurse Assistant and Home Health Aide programs.

An unrestricted \$10,000 grant from Dow Jones has been made to MCCC’s Annual Fund, another example of Dow Jones’ ongoing commitment to the success of Mercer students.

## “Floyd Fest” Draws Outpouring of Scholarship Support

With education as its theme, 150 friends, family members and elected officials gathered at Princeton’s Nassau Inn Oct. 16 for MCCC’s second “Floyd Fest for Education.” It was a celebration to honor the rich legacy of long-time Princeton area community volunteers Jim Floyd and his late wife Fannie, catalysts for the Jim and Fannie Floyd Scholarship Fund at Mercer. Jim has been a member of the college’s Foundation Board for more than 30 years.

The first Floyd Scholar, Gwendolyn Alex-

ander, a Funeral Service major, received her award for the fall semester from funds raised through last year’s Floyd Fest. This year the event netted more than \$70,000 for the endowed scholarship.

Princeton resident Hendricks Davis and MCCC Foundation Board member Robert Humes co-chaired the Floyd Fest Committee, which included members of the Foundation Board and community volunteers. “We are honored that so many have come out to build upon Jim and Fannie’s good names and good will,” Davis said. “The money raised will help students utilize the college’s resources to be all that they can be.”

The first African American elected to the Princeton Township Committee, and the first to serve as mayor of Princeton, Jim Floyd has been an active volunteer for decades. He and his wife, Fannie, who passed away in 2008, worked throughout their lives to foster educational opportunities and to combat discrimination in housing. Now 89, Jim continues to serve on many boards in the nonprofit sector.



**Enjoying Floyd Fest, from left, are Foundation Board members Joseph Ridolfi, Jim Floyd, and Foundation Chair E. Karen Kennedy.**

# DONOR NEWS

## Alumni and Friends Invited to “Pave the Way to Excellence” at MCCC

As Mercer actively works to revitalize its Alumni & Friends Association, the first initiative is to invite alumni and friends to set their names in stone and help Mercer “Pave the Way to Excellence.”

Commemorate your time at the college and become part of Mercer’s history by purchasing a personalized engraved brick, which will be located on the walkways around the West Windsor Campus quad. This central part of campus is widely traveled by students who dream of a successful future, just as you did when you were a student.

By buying a brick, you are supporting the MCCC Alumni & Friends Association’s efforts to promote student success. The Alumni & Friends Association is your connection to Mercer – educating, energizing and engaging you in support of the

invaluable work of the college.

Become part of Mercer’s legacy. Visit [www.mccc.edu/alumni](http://www.mccc.edu/alumni) to order online or to download the “Buy A Brick” order form. For additional information, call 609-570-3659 or email [alumni@mccc.edu](mailto:alumni@mccc.edu).



## Great Day of Golf Dedicated to MCCC Student Athletes

The clouds cleared out just in time for a great day of golf for 76 enthusiastic college supporters. The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Classic, hosted by the MCCC Athletics Department, went off without a hitch at Mercer Oaks Golf Course on Oct. 4.

The event raised more than \$10,000 for the MCCC Student Athlete Scholarship Fund. The tournament is held in memory of Dr. Cynthia Schaffer, who served on the MCCC Foundation Board and was deeply committed to youth sports.

Prior to the shotgun start, MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue welcomed and thanked the assembled golfers. Pointing to the 16 student athletes who came out to assist at the tournament, she said, “You see here today representatives from our nine athletic teams. Virtually every year some of our teams are regional or district finalists, or advance to national tournaments. They represent Mercer with distinction and they couldn’t do it without your support. So we thank you for being part of this effort.”

Athletics Director John Simone joined with Dr. Donohue to acknowledge the more than 30 generous sponsors who contributed to the total

proceeds. He noted, “We see the life-changing impact of students’ involvement in athletics. This is a cause well worth supporting.”

Following the tournament, guests assembled in the Mercer Oaks ballroom for a celebratory banquet, including awards and a silent auction of sports items and other valuables. Representing the MCCC Foundation Board was Chair E. Karen Kennedy, who expressed her appreciation to guests for making MCCC athletes a special priority.

Community members who participated on the Golf Tournament Committee included Victoria Baldwin of The Bank, Doug Borden and Jeff Perlman of Borden Perlman Insurance Company, Dave Fraytak of Fraytak Veisz Hopkins Duthie, Tom Kull, Nina Melker of The Bank of Princeton, Scott Needham of Princeton Air Conditioning Inc., and Steve Ritzau.

Major sponsors included Architectural Window Manufacturing Corporation, Borden Perlman Insurance Company, Clayton Block Company Inc., Coryell Tree Service, Dave Fraytak, Honeywell, Fox Rothschild LLP, New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance Company, Spiezle Architectural Group Inc., and Tom Kull. A complete list of the many generous corporate and individual supporters is listed on the MCCC Foundation webpage at [www.mccc.edu/foundation](http://www.mccc.edu/foundation).

## Annual Campaign Reaches Fifty Percent of Goal

Each year from July 1 through June 30, the MCCC Foundation embarks on an Annual Giving Campaign to raise unrestricted funds for high priority projects. This initiative supports a range of college needs – ones that make a vital difference to teaching and learning which could not be met through operating funds. Past projects have focused on developing new curricula and updating technology to enhance teaching. As of this printing, supporters of this year’s campaign have donated close to \$24,000.

Donations are welcome from all whose lives have been changed by Mercer and all who support its current and future mission – alumni, community members, members of our Board of Trustees, Foundation Board members, faculty, staff, corporations and private philanthropic organizations.

In the words of Alice Chung, an MCCC financial aid advisor who contributed this year: “Mercer is a wonderful school that offers a solid foundation for many students who transfer to four-year colleges and also prepares students for professional careers. I meet students who face unemployment, job changes or family hardship. Despite these obstacles, they try so hard to come back to retrain and retool at Mercer. I strongly support Mercer’s mission and am proud to take part in it.”

Choose to be part of our future. Help us reach our goal of \$43,000. Visit [www.mccc.edu/give](http://www.mccc.edu/give).



*At the tournament are, from left, Athletics Director John Simone and President Patricia C. Donohue with Golf Committee members Scott Needham, Dave Fraytak, Nina Melker, Steve Ritzau, Victoria Baldwin and Jeff Perlman. Not pictured: Tom Kull.*

## 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.

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

## Legacy Society Members

Jeffrey Callahan  
James Floyd  
Estate of Arthur Forman  
Estate of Fred Frankel  
Estate of Henrietta Frankel  
Howard Marcou  
Richard & Bonnie Perlman  
Estate of Clarence Weber

## Invest in MCCC

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

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



[www.mccc.edu/give](http://www.mccc.edu/give)  
609-570-3607

# ARTS AND ALUMNI

## Long-time Art Student Becomes Subject of Painting for Professor Mel Leipzig



*In the studio at MCCC with Professor Mel Leipzig and student Jeanne Calo*

Ask 95-year-old Jeanne Calo of Princeton her secret for living well and she'll tell you, "Painting has helped to get me to old age."

Calo, a former professor of French and Italian at Trenton State College (now The College of New Jersey) who retired in 1985, picked up painting where her career left off. She has been taking art classes at Mercer almost continuously since the 1980s and has been the pupil almost exclusively of just one teacher – Professor Mel Leipzig, a celebrated

artist who has taught at MCCC since 1968.

"I have been delighted by Mel's classes. He encourages you to do what you are best at," Calo says. Early on, she tried to paint landscapes, but "they looked like everyone else's." Then, one week, she brought in some artifacts from her extensive foreign travels and set up a still life. "Mel said to me, 'This is what you should do.'"

Since then, painting twice weekly in three-hour sessions, Calo has created stacks of colorful canvases inspired by the fabrics, masks, dolls, wood carvings, animal figurines and other handicrafts acquired in her travels through Europe, Asia, Africa and South America. "I like patterns and brilliant colors," she explains. Born in Tunis, Tunisia, Calo grew up in Paris and has lived in Princeton for 28 years.

Calo finds the concentration and effort she puts into her painting to be stimulating and relaxing at the same time. "My pleasure is the act of painting," she says. "I don't need to be famous and if someone doesn't like what I do, it doesn't hurt my feelings."

Recently, in a wonderful turnaround, Calo found herself the subject of a painting by her revered professor. She and Leipzig share in common a sharp eye for detail and Leipzig is known for painting his subjects in the surroundings that make a statement about their lives. Seeing the items Calo brought to class, Leipzig asked if he could visit her at home.

"I knew he would like to paint my house," says Calo, whose rooms are filled with hundreds of exotic souvenir artifacts. Objects even hang from the ceiling. And anyone who has seen a Leipzig painting knows that he loves to paint ceilings.

Calo says she is very pleased with

Leipzig's final work, noting that she is not the painting's star. Rather, it's her collection that takes center stage. "He understood that the main thing was my objects," she says.

For Leipzig, who maintains that he only paints people he likes, Jeanne fit the bill perfectly. "She is an exceptional person. I would have painted her no matter what the conditions. But her house proved to be the perfect setting." He notes he had several inviting rooms to pick from, and even captured some of her paintings in his own work.

Featured in area exhibits since 1990, including a four-woman show at the MCCC Gallery in 2007, Calo says these days she is content to donate her paintings for good causes. She has participated in benefits for the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, the New Jersey Mental Health Institute, and FINCA.



*Mel Leipzig's portrait of Jeanne Calo*

## MCCC Gallery Hosts County Photography Exhibit

Thirty-eight area photographers were featured in the 2011 Mercer County Photography Exhibit, hosted by the MCCC Gallery this fall in partnership with the Mercer County Cultural and Heritage Commission. The show included 51 works selected from 184 entries by juror Ricardo Barros. According to Gallery Curator Tricia Fagan, almost a third of the photographers (22) were first time submitters; 10 were chosen for the show.



*Among the photographers featured in the show were, from left, Lionel and Ruth Goodman, Larry Parsons, Richard Trenner and Frank Magalhaes.*

*MCCC alumna, photographer Alina Bliach ('06), left, with her photo entitled "Rose." She is pictured with the photo's subject, Theodora Codrington, owner of Theos of Princeton Salon and a former model.*



## Pennington Players' "Seussical" at Kelsey Theatre Earns Perry Awards



*MCCC alumnus John Maurer ('84), left, and William Mercado display their Perry Awards, presented by the New Jersey Association of Community Theaters (NJACT), for their work in "Seussical," which was performed at Kelsey Theatre during the 2010-11 season. Kelsey Theatre productions were nominated for a total of ten awards. Approximately 500 plays presented around the state are reviewed each year; more than 150 theater companies are members of NJACT.*





## Tammy Duffy Advances in Radiography Career And Second Career in Fashion



Tammy Duffy, Ph.D., '86, (A.A.S., Radiography) was drawn to the radiography field with a simple desire: she wanted to help people. She worked as a radiological/CT scan technologist at Mercer Medical Center and Freehold Hospital. An avid learner, she then earned a bachelor's degree in Advanced Radiation Science from Thomas Jefferson University, a master's in Radiation Science, and a Ph.D. in Health Physics from Pacific Western University. Her trajectory up the career ladder paralleled her education, ultimately advancing her to the role of radiation health physicist at Bio-Med Associates.

Then Duffy took her technical skills in a new direction, applying them to the sales side of her field for Fortune 500 companies and as an operations and marketing consultant for small start-ups. Currently she works for Toshiba Medical Systems as the zone business manager for cardiovascular and radiographic products.

"Mercer was a great place to get my start," Duffy said. "It more than prepared me to excel on the undergraduate and graduate school levels."

In September, Duffy turned what started as a hobby into a thriving side career, as she premiered her cutting-edge women's wear designs for spring 2012 in a show at the Manhattan Waldorf Astoria as part of Couture Fashion Week. Duffy creates her fashions from her Hamilton studio. "Creating lovely apparel for women is a joy." She notes that fashion design began as a diversion from the pressures of her day job.

Duffy says she has used her experience working with small businesses to build her fashion business. She took classes online and also pursued networking opportunities in New York City with dogged determination.

With the launch of Mercer's Fashion/Apparel Design program in the fall, Duffy looks forward to sharing her experiences and knowledge with MCCC students.

## Juan Chavez-Valdes Banks on Success



Juan Chavez-Valdes '08 (A.S., Business Administration) will always remember the moment when he decided to take a bold career leap. At TD Bank three years ago while seeking assistance with student loans, he inquired about job opportunities. He was in the process of completing his bachelor's degree in Finance and Economics at Pace University.

The bank representative expressed interest in Chavez-Valdes and gave him an application. "The next thing I knew, I was called in for an interview. One thing led to another," he says.

In 2009 Chavez-Valdes started work as a bank teller at TD Bank (formerly Commerce) while still at Pace. Upon earning his bachelor's degree in 2010, he was promoted to customer service representative and this past spring landed a position as a financial services representative. With a flair for numbers and problem solving, he enjoys helping people with their banking needs.

"Addressing people's specific needs is the toughest yet most exciting part of the job," Chavez-Valdes said. "I find solutions that will suit each person's best interests."

Upon arriving in the United States in 2005, Chavez-Valdes enrolled at Mercer, in part to shore up his English language skills. He made a lot of progress quickly and today is a fluent English speaker. "The ESL program at MCCC was one of my best choices," he says.

Chavez-Valdes went on to excel in all his classes. He was named to the Dean's List or President's List every semester and graduated with high honors. He was also a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

Chavez-Valdes is full of praise for MCCC faculty, who played a key role in giving him the fundamentals for success.

## Norris Kirk Taylor Is Dedicated Educator Returning to Community College Roots



According to Norris Kirk Taylor '80 (A.A., Humanities and Social Service), MCCC provided the underpinnings for all of his subsequent academic success. After more than two decades as a public school teacher in North Carolina, he recently returned to the community college setting at Roanoke-Chowan Community College (RCCC, Ahoskie, NC). His goal is to help young people begin to mold their futures just as he did at Mercer.

Originally from Hamilton Township, Taylor took a range of classes at MCCC in the 1970s, ultimately focusing on a career in education. After Mercer he transferred to Elizabeth City State University in North Carolina, where he earned his bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, followed by his master's in Middle Grades Education from East Carolina University in Greenville. He pursued a second bachelor's degree in Religion and Philosophy at Shaw University in Raleigh. Additionally he earned a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study in Educational Leadership.

A long-time resident of Hertford County, NC, Taylor enjoyed a 21-year career as a teacher in the Bertie County School System. He retired in 2009.

In his current post at RCCC, Taylor serves as coordinator of the Computer-Assisted Instruction Lab, which is part of the Learning Resources Center. Taylor says he is creating the kind of environment that encouraged him to succeed as a young person.

"I have established a climate that fosters student learning and inspires students toward upward mobility. I hope they will take advantage of this additional resource to help them achieve their dreams," he said.

Taylor has inspiring words for MCCC students, especially those who have struggled in life. "It's not how you start out; it's how you end up," he says. "A champion is defined by his or her ability to overcome adversity." Clearly, Taylor is hoping to create some champions at RCCC as he continues to dedicate his life to education.

## Research for MCCC Alumni Directory is Under Way!

Mercer's alumni share a common bond — the place where their higher education began. Now the college is working on a new directory designed to help bring alumni back together. It will include biographical listings with contact information, career overviews, and family highlights. A special historical section about the college will help you reminisce.

Our publisher, Harris Connect, will begin contacting alumni this spring to verify that your listing is accurate and complete. Please be sure to respond and update your profile. No information will be released to any third parties. If you do not receive a mailing, or would like to verify your listing by phone, call MCCC's College Advancement Office at 609-570-3607.

This publication will be a fun and useful reference, and a way for you to reach out to your MCCC friends.

## Was MCCC a Starting Point For Your Success?

Dear Alumni & Friends,

Now that the new year has begun, we ask you to reflect on what your time at MCCC meant to you — a starting point to a successful future, a new beginning, an exciting opportunity for growth?

As our students begin their spring semester, they are making plans for their future and thinking about the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Mercer's Annual Giving Campaign gives you the opportunity to help current students realize their dreams as you did. Funds raised will support innovative programs, enrich learning, and enable Mercer to continue to deliver top-quality education.

We ask everyone to give something; each and every dollar is important and very much appreciated. Join us as we continue to build a culture of philanthropy at Mercer — and GIVE! Visit [www.mccc.edu/give](http://www.mccc.edu/give) to make your donation online, or mail your check, made payable to MCCC Foundation, to Finance & Accounting, P.O. Box B, Trenton, NJ 08690.

Sincerely,

Mellissa Zanjani, CFRE

Vice President for College Advancement

# SPORTS

## Men's Soccer



**No. 1 Jonni Ventura**

While the men's soccer team was packed with talent under new head coach Patrick Snyder, the Vikings did not play at full strength until the first round of the Region 19 tournament. "We finally had our whole team together for the first time in our region opener on Oct. 25," Snyder said.

That may explain why the MCCC Vikings looked – and played – like a true championship team in their 3-2 semi-final win against Del Tech Stanton at the MCCC Soccer Stadium. The Vikings took the lead early and stayed in control of the action throughout.

In the Region 19 final against Burlington CC on Oct. 30, the ball didn't bounce Mercer's way in the final minutes of the game. After taking a 2-1 lead with just 30 minutes left, the Vikings suffered a tough 3-2 defeat. All three BCC goals were scored by the same striker.

Ending their season 11-7-1, Snyder was disappointed not to advance to the national tournament, but he reflects proudly on the Vikings' successes in the course of the season. "When we stuck to our game plan, we were a formidable force," he said. Partly as the result of injuries, many freshmen earned playing time by stepping up the pace and accuracy of their games. "It's a much different game than in high school," Snyder notes. "Freshmen came in green and got good minutes. That's one of the true benefits of playing at the community college level. And it bodes well for next year."

The season started off on a high note as the Vikings rolled to a 9-0 victory over Delaware Tech Terry Sept. 3. Other early wins included a 3-0 win over Del Tech Stanton and a 1-1 tie with Burlington. They were tied for first place with Burlington for much of the regular



**No. 5 Sheldon Parkinson**

season. Their highest point came at the end of September when they were ranked no. 14 in the nation and sophomore Sheldon Parkinson was ranked third in the nation in goal.

An unusual challenge came mid-season, when the Vikings had nine straight away games, including road trips to North Carolina and Maryland. They came out of that stretch with five wins and four losses. "You get tested on the road. You accumulate toughness and get experience in hard games," Snyder said.

Many players contributed to scoring totals and a strong defense. Team leaders included sophomores Jonni Ventura, Alex Giaquinto, Osiris Cecilio, Precious Iloka, Kyle Bijou, Jon Louisignau and Nic Newcomer, and freshmen Ben Asor, Kelvin Flores, Carlos Torres, Rochee Bell, Edwin Benavides, Chris Scharff, Gustavo Vega, Trevor Lamb, Sascha Haecker, Lorenzo Laurenti and Lido Guzman. Sharing duties in goal were Parkinson and Ruben Morales.

Selected to the All-Region team were Flores, Haecker, Iloka, Parkinson and Ventura. Ventura was named Player of the Year for Region 19; Haecker was named no. 3; and Parkinson was no. 5. Ventura was also selected as a NJCAA Third Team All-American. Ventura, Parkinson and Haecker were also named to the All-GSAC First Team.

Snyder was assisted by John Pietrowski, Bill Daily, Art Taylor and Tigana Dalce.



**No. 3 Sascha Haecker**

## Women's Tennis

Marc Vecchiolla, head coach for women's tennis, loves the game, but also approaches his matches with mathematics in mind. Going into the NJCAA National Tournament after winning the region, he strategized in typical fashion. "I thought if we won seven of nine flights on the first day, we would be in contention to win the national title," he said. His team came through, winning seven flights on Oct. 26, the first day of the 2011 NJCAA Women's Division III Tennis Championship, played at the Billie Jean King Tennis Center in Queens, NY.

What Vecchiolla didn't count on was the team from Rock Valley Community College (IL), which went nine for nine on day one and went on to earn 33 points. "Nine for nine rarely happens; they were incredibly deep," Vecchiolla said.

So, the Vikings were pleased with their 27-point second-place finish. Fashion Institute of Technology followed in third, and regional rivals Ocean County College and Brookdale finished fourth and fifth respectively.

There were many reasons for the Vikings to feel satisfied. Mercer had five flights advance to the finals and came away with two national champions, sophomore Alison Noll at no. 1 singles for the second year and freshman Kelly Tanzone at fifth singles. Both were named First Team All-Americans. Runners-up included Alina Vitukhnovskaya at no. 6 singles, Ewa Szyszko and Noll at first doubles, and Melanie Hunter and Tanzone at third doubles. All were named Second Team All-Americans.

Coach Vecchiolla considers this year to be a model of a successful turnaround. Having won zero matches last year, the women lost their first two contests. But then the team chemistry kicked in and the Vikings won every following match, including the Mercer Invitational and the Region 19 title. They ended the regular season 5-2.

Freshmen expected to return next year include Szyszko, Tanzone and Vitukhnovskaya. Vecchiolla was assisted by Ralph Bencivengo and Barb Pleva.

## Women's Soccer

A 7-12-1 record might not sound like a year of great achievement, but there is much behind those numbers that adds up to a stellar first season for women's soccer coach Michelle Ogborn-Haywood. The Vikings had a rocky start, as team members adjusted to a new coach, suffered some injuries, and tried to mesh a small group of returning sophomores with many freshmen faces.

Then, the victories began to come. On Sept. 29, the Vikings trounced Camden County College 8-0, followed by a 2-1 win against Lackawanna on Oct. 2. Topping Sussex 2-0 on Oct. 8, Mercer suddenly found itself 3-3 in NJCAA Region 19 play. By season's end, the Vikings had advanced all the way to the Region 19 tournament, beating Morris CC 2-1 in the quarterfinal Oct. 22 before losing 1-0 in the semis to an almost unbeaten Burlington squad Oct. 25.

Ogborn-Haywood notes that the entire season was a work in progress as the coaching staff tried to find the best fit for each player. Versatility proved key. "At least half the girls could make solid contributions anywhere on the field, including both offense and defense. To have that option makes a team so much stronger," she says.

Adding to the process, the team held meetings where players could watch film. Ogborn-Haywood also worked to create a sense of family that she believes is essential to successful women's teams. In addition to their time on the field, in the weight room and in the pool, there were team dinners and a community service project. "We traveled together, laughed and cried together," she says.

Ogborn-Haywood refuses to single out any one player as the key to the Vikings' success. "So many players contributed – certain girls in certain games made the difference. Our strength came from the bonds and integrity of the entire team."

Sophomores Irene Calabria Nuevo and Samantha Biondi were both named to the First Team All-Region 19. Chelsea Pitonyak was named to the Second Team All-Region 19. Calabria Nuevo and Biondi were also chosen to the All-GSAC Team.

Ogborn-Haywood was assisted by Mike DeAngelis, Bobby Gioscio and Nicole Hover.



**MCCC soccer players, front row from left, Amanda Lutz, Kelly Diamond and Alyssa Donahue; middle row from left, Jessica Larsen and Coach Michelle Ogborn; back row from left, Irene Calabria Nuevo and Samantha Biondi.**



**With their second place trophy at nationals are, from left, Kati Courtney, Kelly Tanzone, Melanie Hunter, Ewa Szyszko, Alina Vitukhnovskaya and Alison Noll.**



## Women's Cross Country



**Women's cross country at nationals, from left, Erika Manley, Jaqueline Goncalves, Sierra Downs, Coach Erin Cahill and Anajae Register.**

In just its second season, the women's cross country team sent four runners to Hobbs, NM, for the NJCAA Division I Championships, hosted by New Mexico Junior College. Head Coach Erin Cahill called the trip "an amazing experience for all of us." Freshmen Erika Manley, Sierra Downs, Jaqueline Goncalves, and Anajae Register represented the Vikings in a meet that featured 52 teams and 268 runners.

The championship 5K race took place Nov. 12. Cahill reports that although the weather was warm, high winds produced slower times overall. Erika Manley was Mercer's top runner with a time of 23:50.56, beating a rival from Essex (NJ) CC who had beaten her at the Region 19 Championships in October. Sierra Downs crossed the finish line in 24:52.65, just 10 seconds behind an Essex runner who had finished over two minutes faster than her at regionals.

Cahill notes that Manley and Downs went into nationals well-prepared. "Both runners had strong workouts prior to the trip. They ran their best times of the year in their last meet. They worked hard all year and their dedication and effort paid off. And to have four runners running at nationals was awesome."

Cahill anticipates all four runners will return next year and believes their experience at nationals will motivate them to train hard in the off-season. They will also be better prepared if they return to the national stage. "By seeing the best in the country, these girls now know what it takes to get to the next level. I expect us to come back even stronger and faster next year. We showed we can compete with these other schools."

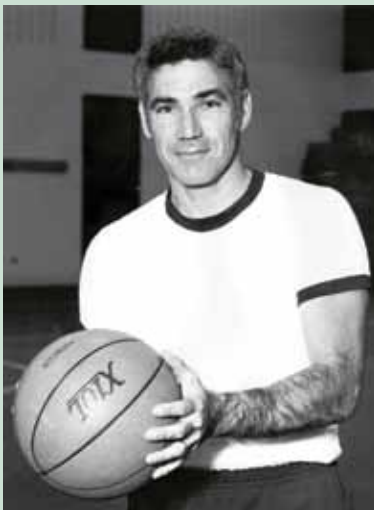
Cahill was assisted this season by Chris Wetzel.

### Root for the Vikings!

For the complete 2011-12 game schedule for men's and women's basketball, visit [www.mccc.edu/athletics](http://www.mccc.edu/athletics) and then click on each team's page.



## College to Honor Former Coach Howie Landa



The legendary Howie Landa will never be forgotten at Mercer. The former men's basketball coach, who came to the college in 1961 and coached for 21 seasons, will be honored in 2012. A committee chaired by former MCCC Athletics Director/Professor Emeritus Al Leister is organizing the Howie Landa Tribute. The committee also includes current Athletics Director John Simone, Physical Education Professor Bob Pugh, who was Landa's assistant coach for six seasons, *Trentonian* sports writer George O'Gorman (the college's former sports information director), Academic Counselor Fred Weiner, who served as advisor to Landa's players, retiree Charles Smith, another assistant coach for Landa, and current Men's Basketball Coach Howard Levy.

According to Leister, fundraising for the tribute is already underway. Plans include inscribing Landa's name on the gym floor in the West Windsor Campus Physical Education Building. A community event will be held Sept. 15, 2012 to unveil the inscription in a special ceremony, followed by dinner at the MCCC Conference Center. Leister and Pugh note that the initiative is the college's way of recognizing Landa's legacy. "Howie made a huge mark on the Mercer athletics program, the college's reputation at the national level, and the many students – not only basketball players – who were positively impacted by his mentoring and guidance," Leister said. "We expect many alumni to donate and attend the dinner."

With a total won-loss record of 555-152, Landa first took the Vikings to the national tournament in Hutchinson, KS, in 1964, and returned to nationals in 1968, advancing all the way to the championship game before losing by two points. The 1972-73 team finally brought home the national title, defeating host team Hutchinson and completing a record-breaking 34-3 season. The streak continued with another national title in the 1973-74 season. Many of Mercer's players continued their successful basketball careers at four-year schools. With their two national titles, Mercer remains the only Northeast team to win the NJCAA title.

In addition to his role as a basketball coach, Landa coached baseball, men's soccer, and also served as athletics director in the 1960s. Most importantly, Landa was a professor and mentor to hundreds of students.

To add your name to the mailing list or for more information, contact John Simone at 609-570-3740 or email [simonej@mccc.edu](mailto:simonej@mccc.edu). To give directly to the Howie Landa Tribute Fund, visit [www.mccc.edu/give](http://www.mccc.edu/give).



**Coach Howie Landa is pictured back row, second from right; Assistant Coach Bob Pugh is far right.**

## Men's Basketball

With only one returning player from last season, 6-foot sophomore Brandin Youngblood, Head Coach Howard Levy sees many new faces – and lots of talent – on the court. Now in his fourth season, Levy says the team has had a slow start, but he is hopeful for a turnaround in the second half of the season as the new players adjust to the Vikings' system.

A striking element on this season's squad is the number of big men. Two of the newcomers are from the Baltic countries: 6-4 Igor Popovic and 6-10 Filip Sekulic. Other freshmen include 6-1 Armando Davis and 6-0 Mustafa El-Amin, 6-4 sophomore Stanley Tuche, 6-1 Demetrius Tilley, 6-4 Kevin Avent and 6-2 Shaquile Butler. Joining the Vikings from outside the Delaware Valley are 5-10 DaQuill Gibbs, 6-4 Ryan Henley, 5-11 Marvin Champ, 6-5 Makaranki Garcon, 6-2 Andre Washington, 6-3 Maurice McNeal, and 6-2 Ryan Roman.

"I expect the team to establish itself in the second semester when the Garden State Athletic Conference and Region XIX battles really heat up," Levy says. Levy is assisted by Miles Smith and Eric Preston.

## Women's Basketball

With a short roster at the start of the season, head coach Mike Tenaglia, now in his 22<sup>nd</sup> season, accurately predicted a challenging first half to the women's basketball season.

"We faced some tough competition, but we plan to work hard and will compete, as always, with the regional title as our goal," Tenaglia says.

Good things are expected from several

strong players who have joined the squad for the second half of the season.

Three sophomores have returned for the Lady Vikes. Sophomore point guard Chanel Johnson has taken a leadership role, averaging 20.3 points per game. She is joined by guard Allicia Pickett and forward Chelsea Holman. Tenaglia is assisted by Jane Berlinger and Samantha Cobbs.

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## the VIKING

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

# 2012

### Kelsey Theatre Spring 2012 Calendar *Open Up A Whole New World!*

#### Full-Length Family Events

- Neil Simon's Laughter on the 23rd Floor**  
January 27, 28, 29; February 3, 4, 5
- Déjà vu Reock And Roll Revue**  
February 17, 18, 19
- Death of a Salesman**  
February 24, 25, 26; March 2, 3, 4
- Xanadu**  
March 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18
- The Wizard of Oz**  
March 23, 24, 25, 30, 31; April 1
- Hairspray**  
April 13, 14, 15, 21, 22
- A Chorus Line**  
April 27, 28, 29; May 4, 5, 6
- Mercer Dance Ensemble "On the Move"**  
May 12, 13
- Stephen Sondheim's Company**  
May 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27; June 1, 2, 3
- The Drowsy Chaperone**  
June 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17
- Jeffrey, The 10th Anniversary**  
June 22, 23, 24

#### Kelsey Kids Series

- The Kazoobie Kazoo Show**  
Jan. 21
- Disney's Camp Rock**  
Feb. 10, 11, 12
- Dinosaur Babies**  
March 3
- Goldilocks & The 3 Bears**  
May 5
- Skippyjon Jones**  
May 19



**For tickets to Kelsey events,  
call 609-570-3333 or  
visit [www.kelseytheatre.net](http://www.kelseytheatre.net).**

### The Gallery at MCCC

For Gallery hours and a listing of upcoming shows, visit [www.mccc.edu/gallery](http://www.mccc.edu/gallery).



*Tapestry by Florence Moonan is featured in "Surface Tension" at the MCCC Gallery through Feb. 9. Works by sculptor Ayami Aoyama are also featured.*

**Mercer's Distinguished Lecture Series continues this spring. Learn more about guest lecturers and topics at [www.mccc.edu/events](http://www.mccc.edu/events).**



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