

## “Be Dangerous Dreamers,” Says Dr. George Boggs at MCCC Commencement



Student speaker David Hoyt.

At a festive ceremony May 20, Dr. George Boggs, president of the American Association of Community Colleges, encouraged graduates to consider Mercer their first step in a lifelong learning process. “And don’t be afraid to chart your own course,” Boggs declared. “Be dangerous dreamers. Go out and make a difference.”

Wowing the large crowd of students, families and friends, student speaker David Hoyt told a moving story of hardship followed by outstanding academic achievement. After leaving high school because of illness, Hoyt was a swim instructor for disabled children. “What they taught me was that regardless of the difficulties each of us faces, we can overcome them through unyielding determination and hard work.”

At Mercer Hoyt studied Chinese, Japanese and Arabic as part of his liberal arts degree. An Honors Program graduate, he won the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke award of up to \$30,000 per year for three years to continue his education, and will be going to Stanford University to study international relations and business.

MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue shared some of the year’s highlights. She noted that, of those who filled out a graduation survey, all who were seeking to transfer to four-year schools were accepted. Six of Mercer’s eight athletics teams won either a region or conference title this year, and four athletes were selected as All-Americans.

Donohue praised the graduates for their volunteer work and fund raising projects. “Our students practiced the citizen’s role of giving back to the community,” she said.

County Executive Brian Hughes, who welcomed the graduates and their families, was joined on the podium by county officials, freeholders, local mayors, and members of MCCC’s Board of Trustees and Foundation Board. Music was provided by the Mercer County Symphonic Band.



Faculty, graduates and guests at Commencement on May 20.

## Students Call Italy Study Tour “Amazing” and “Magnificent”

With students and faculty members alike suffering from gelato and Limoncello withdrawal, a group of intrepid travelers from MCCC’s Study Tours program gathered for a final evening class on June 3.

As students shared photos and reflections of their nine-day whirlwind tour of Italy, May 19-28, they enjoyed a feast prepared by instructor Chris dePagnier. “We are dining on historic Roman dishes that date to medieval and ancient times,” he said. The meal included wheat polenta with flaxseed, kale soup flavored with wine, and chicken cooked with almonds, pomegranate and saffron. “In ancient times, saffron was considered the ‘gold’ spice. If you ate it, you would have increased wealth,” dePagnier noted. Almond and chocolate biscotti – and espresso, of course – completed the meal.

Associate Professor of Business Andrea Lynch, who coordinated the trip, listened to students’ presentations with fascination. “We all began with different perspectives and got different things out of it,” she said. Of the 23 students who participated in Mercer’s inaugural Study Tours experience, some were enrolled in Professor Marilyn Dietrich’s “International Architecture and Culture” course, some came from dePagnier’s “Food and Culture” course, and still others traveled as noncredit



Students and faculty at the Roman Coliseum.

students. Their ages spanned three generations.

Students credited their professors and tour guide, Massimo, with making the trip an incredible learning experience. Brian Rue and Lara Orner, both studying Hotel, Restaurant and Institution Management (HRIM), agreed that it exceeded expectations. “We learned so much. We could not have asked for a better experience,” said Orner, who had never before left the East Coast of the United States. “Every nook and cranny of Rome hides something.”

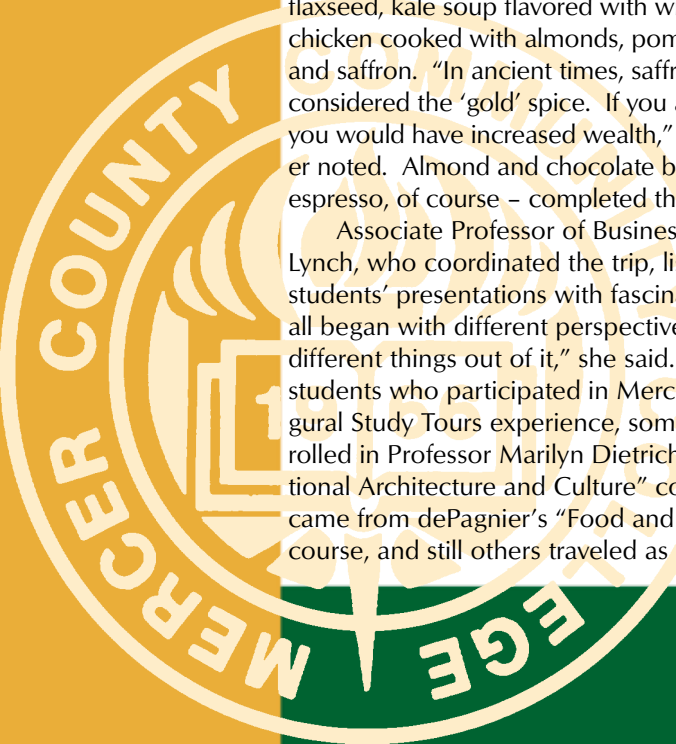
Rue had not expected to travel abroad as a Mercer student. “I had always wanted to go to Italy. This was a great opportunity. We squeezed every single minute out of the trip.”

The lessons learned were both academic and social. Lynch was struck by students’ enthusiasm and attentiveness as they made their way around the sites. “These students were in the moment,” she said. “That’s where learning happens.” They also formed close bonds. “The experience allowed them to connect naturally,” she said.

As they recounted their experiences, students spoke passionately about many special places – the Vatican, the Coliseum, the ancient city of Pompeii, and the magnificent Amalfi coastline. A cheese-making demonstration and a tour of the Limoncello Distillery, which included samplings of the strong Italian liqueur made from lemon rinds, were also highlights.

Pompeii was Lara Orner’s favorite stop. “It’s a place preserved in time.” Following Pompeii, the group stopped at Mt. Vesuvius. “We toured the entire city of Pompeii and then decided to hike up a volcano,” she said with amusement.

(continued on page 5)



# SHORT TAKES



**Linda Martin**

## Dean Linda Martin Earns Ed.D.

Dr. Linda Martin, dean of Science and Health Professions, recently was awarded her Ed.D. in Higher Education Leadership from Nova Southeastern University. Her dissertation focused on maximizing student success in Nursing programs and on the licensure exam. Based on her research, the college has introduced a number of changes to its Nursing program's admission and progression policies.

Martin served as director of MCCC's Nursing program since 2005, and was interim dean in 2006-07. In addition to her M.S. in Nursing, Martin holds a post-master's certificate as an Adult/Gerontological Nurse Practitioner.

## The Center for Training and Development Secures New Grants



**Catholic Charities employees at a Spanish language class.**

Through new one-year grants from the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (LWD), MCCC's Center for Training and Development (CTD) will provide training services for the African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey and the State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey. Businesses that are members of these groups will be able to upgrade the skills of their employees at no instructional cost. The program will focus on English as a Second Language, computer applications, communications, mathematics and measurements. For more information or eligibility questions call Ron Hayspell at 856-264-5826.

Through an earlier LWD grant, more than 30 employees of Catholic Charities learned Survival Spanish this spring. The course focused on basic conversational skills.

The CTD provides full-service customized training programs for organizations both large and small. Visit [www.mccc.edu/ctd](http://www.mccc.edu/ctd).

## Sports Management Option in Business Begins This Fall

MCCC is offering a new option in Sports Management under the Associate of Arts program in Business Management. Students will gain a solid foundation applicable to the sports industry, in business, computers, liberal arts, public speaking, writing, and general economics. They will also be introduced to financial accounting, marketing and legal issues.

## Equipping Women for Growth

MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue and staff members Dr. Khalida Haqq, director of Programs for Academic Services and Success, and Margarita Leahy, registrar at the James Kerney Campus, were recently recognized with awards from the American Association for Women in Community Colleges (AAWCC).

Dr. Donohue, who is past president of the AAWCC, received the Carolyn Desjardins CEO of the Year Award for Outstanding Service and Support. "Dr. Donohue has contributed time, energy, passion and leadership to the national board of AAWCC for more than two decades," said AAWCC President Dr. Cynthia A. Bioteau. "She has sponsored and mentored more than 50 women for national leadership training."

Haqq and Leahy were presented with a Model Program award for developing and implementing "Equip Women for Growth: A Peer to Peer Mentoring Program."



**MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue and James Kerney Campus Registrar Margarita Leahy.**

## New Online program Increases Nursing Students Served

MCCC's popular Nursing Program began a new online option in fall 2009 to increase the number of students that can be served. For motivated self-starters, online courses are a great way to fit college into a busy schedule. The online option is also open to out-of-county and out-of-state residents.

According to Dr. Linda Martin, MCCC dean of Science and Health Professions, the professional phase coursework is completed online and clinical rotations are completed at Mercer County hospitals 1½ days per week. Martin notes that students with previous or current health care experience are more likely to successfully complete the Nursing program and be ready to take on the challenges of a career in nursing.

Students must meet specific prerequisites and petition for the online professional phase of the program between September 1 and October 1 to start in the spring 2011 semester. Preference will be given to students who reside in Mercer County. For complete admission requirements, visit [www.mccc.edu/nursing](http://www.mccc.edu/nursing) or call 609-570-3391.

## Career Services Invites Alumni to Use Online Career Assessment Tool

The Office of Career Services invites MCCC alumni to log onto Focus 2, a new online tool for educational and career planning. According to staff member Gail LaFrance, Focus 2 assesses respondents' personality traits, work interests and values and then develops a list of appropriate careers, salary information, job prospects, and additional educational requirements. Printed reports are available at the click of the mouse.

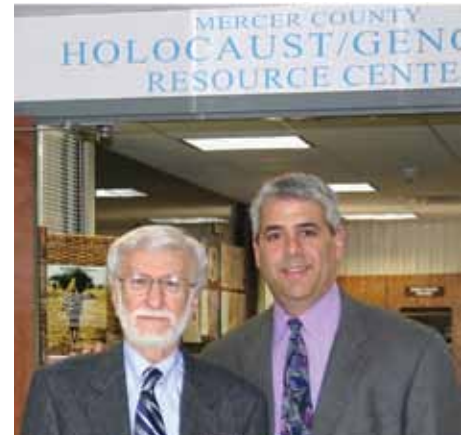
"Our goal is to help people make meaningful and logical decisions about their careers and futures based on their interests and strengths," LaFrance explains.

Noting its descriptions of 1200 different jobs, LaFrance says, "Focus 2 has just about every job you can think of." The program has been customized for Mercer, with career fields linked to academic programs offered by the college. It also supplies links to national professional organizations.

Learn more at [www.mccc.edu/careerservices](http://www.mccc.edu/careerservices).

## Mercer County Holocaust Center Moves to New Home on Campus

Approximately 60 members of the community gathered for a somber yet celebratory rededication ceremony for the Mercer County Holocaust/Genocide Resource Center on Jan. 27. The event marked the center's move to spacious new quarters on the second floor of the college's newly renovated Library Building.



**MCCC Professor Emeritus Saul Goldwasser with Rabbi Adam Feldman.**

Event participants included musician Tamara Freeman, who played melodies from the Holocaust's Jewish ghettos on a historic viola, and Rabbi Adam Feldman of the Princeton Jewish Center, who brought a Torah from his temple, reuniting it with one on permanent loan at the center. Both Torahs originated in Susice, a small Czechoslovakian town.

With a mission to reduce prejudice and advocate for human rights for all people, the center houses educational materials for use by Mercer County teachers. It is one of 24 such centers across the state.

## Two Online Courses Earn QM Seal of Approval

Online courses taught by two MCCC faculty members, Associate Professor of English Bettina Caluori and Assistant Professor of Accounting Ken Horowitz, have earned the Quality Matters (QM) stamp of approval. Their courses are English Composition (ENG 101) and Office Accounting (ACC 106) respectively.

According to Debbie Kell, assistant dean for The Virtual College, Mercer is an active member of Quality Matters, an inter-institutional initiative that supports and certifies quality assurance in online courses. QM's faculty-driven peer review process addresses online course design, student learning and assessment, and professional development.

For each of the last two academic years, the college counted more than 5500 enrollments in distance learning courses. In a number of Mercer's academic programs, students may now complete a significant portion of the required courses online.

# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

## MCCC Faculty Chefs Visit the White House, Support Initiative to End Childhood Obesity

For Doug Fee, coordinator of Mercer's Hotel, Restaurant, and Institution Management Program (HRIM), June 4 was a day like no other. Fee was among the nation's culinary professionals invited to the White House to launch "Chefs Move to Schools," a grassroots initiative in support of First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move!" national campaign to end childhood obesity within a generation.

Share Our Strength (SOS), the nation's leading organization working to end childhood hunger, kicked off the day by hosting a welcome breakfast at the JW Marriott Hotel.

At the White House South Lawn, the First Lady spoke of the importance of everyone working together to serve nutritious meals, and the need for bipartisan support of the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act.

"It was great to hear from our First Lady and to talk with colleagues across the country about ways to provide cost-effective, healthy meal programs for youngsters," said Fee, who was accompanied at the event by HRIM adjunct faculty member Bill Beyer. The two are involved in teaching good nutrition to children served by New Jersey Tennis & Learning in Trenton, a group dedicated to working with overweight children and their parents.

Mercer's chefs also chatted with industry leaders and celebrity chefs such as Food Network's Ellie Krieger and Iron Chef Cat Cora, the latter having been featured in a promotional event June 2 with MCCC's Hospitality Club students in Hamilton.

"The trip to the White House was a surreal experience," said Fee, a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America. "There is so much synergy to get things moving in the right direction. We are motivated and excited."



**Associate Professor Doug Fee, left, and adjunct faculty member Bill Beyer at the White House.**

## Philosophy Prof Explores "Plato's Cave" at International Conference



**Ken Howarth**

On April 15 Professor Ken Howarth delivered a paper at the 16th Annual Association for Core Texts and Courses international conference in New Brunswick, NJ.

Titled "She-Lunking Plato's Cave," the paper examined how a poem by modern feminist Adrienne Rich, "Living in the Cave," offers both a critique of Plato's ideas as presented through the Parable of the Cave in his classic dialogue, "The Republic," and an effective way to engage today's diverse students. "She juxtaposes key classical themes with contemporary ideas, putting into relief the strengths and weaknesses of both thinkers' views," Howarth said. The conference theme was "Engaging Worlds: Core Texts and Cultural Contexts."

Howarth serves as MCCC's philosophy coordinator and adjunct liaison, and is faculty advisor to both the Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society as well as the college's Philosophy Club. He has initiated several new courses, and says the number of students taking philosophy courses at Mercer has risen over 30% in the past year. "For students who plan to transfer and are looking ahead, philosophy will help them outperform others on graduate school entrance exams, as documented by Educational Testing Service," Howarth says.

## Alvyn Haywood Getting to the Heart of Matters With Prison Inmates



**Alvyn Haywood**

Twice a week, Assistant Professor of Communications Alvyn Haywood connects with individuals with whom he has developed a close bond – present and former inmates at the Garden State Correctional Facility in Yardville, NJ – as a part of the Project Inside program. For him, it's a cathartic experience. "These incarcerated young men have begun the process of correcting their attitudes and behavior," said Haywood, whose work as a human communications facilitator has received commendation from the U.S. District Court Probation Office. "What I most enjoy is the co-creational dynamic of the teaching-learning experience. I present certain concepts and they bring forth what they know as a result of their reflections, reading and searching. It's like light shining on light and the effulgence is what I absolutely adore.

"Whether one is depressed or angry, learning how to communicate effectively enables one to feel better," continued Haywood. "I encourage my students to heal, love and respect themselves. We learn from each other."

Haywood is particularly appreciative of colleague and friend Dr. Renee Walker, professor of social science/education, who recruited him for Project Inside more than a decade ago. "She has done a phenomenal job in her conceptualization of a grant to fund such activity. I thank her immensely," Haywood said.

An ongoing quest to engage others has led Haywood to his work as originator and host of MCCC's Channel 26/20 "What Might Happen," a student-run cable TV variety program. He also hosts "Jazz School" on MCCC's JazzOn2 radio.

Recognized in 2008 as recipient of the college's Distinguished Teaching Award, Haywood noted, "I love being open to this classroom called life. I call it the proverbial light bulb; there is an energy shift that's transformational."

## Padhraig Higgins Publishes Irish History Book; Wins Award

Growing up Catholic in Dublin and London during the 1970s and 1980s, Assistant Professor Padhraig Higgins was well aware of the bombings, hunger strikes and armed militants in Northern Ireland resulting from Protestant-Catholic sectarian strife. He vividly recalls the Irish Republican Army's bombing campaign in England. This time of heightened political factionalism fueled his intense interest in Irish history, self-identity and politics, he says.

Making his mark as an Irish history scholar, Higgins has drawn upon years of research to publish his first book, "A Nation of Politicians: Gender, Patriotism, and Political Culture in Late Eighteenth-Century Ireland" (The University of Wisconsin Press, 2010). The book focuses on a period of Irish history that has received minimal scholarly attention - 1778 to 1784.

"I am particularly fascinated with 18th century Irish history because it symbolizes the emergence of a vibrant style of vocal politics which overcame sectarian divisions," explains Higgins, who teaches Western civilization, world history, European women's history, English history and honors courses at MCCC.

Teaching at Mercer for the past four years has been a high point in his life, Higgins says. "My students are great; they always challenge me to think about the material in new ways."



**Padhraig Higgins**

## Jim Maccariella Combines Teaching with Award-Winning Bridge Design

It may not be a typical combination, but James Maccariella successfully merges his work in bridge design with his teaching career at Mercer. Joining the faculty as coordinator of engineering programs in fall 2009, he recently served as a project manager and chief bridge engineer for the design and construction of the Alexander Road Bridge, which spans Amtrak's Northeast Corridor at Princeton Junction Station.

Maccariella oversaw the schedule, budget and quality of the design while coordinating the project with Amtrak, New Jersey Department of Transportation, and West Windsor Township. In March, the American Council of Engineering Companies of New Jersey recognized Maccariella's design team with an Engineering Excellence Award.

Next month he will present a paper at the International Bridge Conference in Pittsburgh on the design work he conducted on the SEPTA Jenkintown, PA, bridge.

As excited about teaching as he is about bridge design, Maccariella says, "I enjoy math, mechanical drawing, and construction. When you put them together, you get engineering. I am having fun sharing my optimism with students."

He sees myriad job opportunities in the field for graduates. "Although the economy is tough, engineering graduates are in demand," he said. Maccariella is appreciative of work by Professor Emeritus John Santosuosso in building the framework for strong programs at Mercer.



**Jim Maccariella**

# CELEBRATING



## Transferring to Colleges of Choice

Three stellar graduates who have been accepted into bachelor's degree programs, from left, are Jennifer Dow, president of the NJSTARS group on campus (Rutgers Camden); Taj Laster, student speaker for the PASS program (William Paterson); and Ashley Rose Stumbaugh, 2010 Student of the Year and recipient of the 2010 Community Service Award (American University).

## Grad Lauded for Excellence in Science and Math



Chemistry grad James Hodges, center, was one of 72 students presented with awards and Honors at the MCCC Honors Convocation May 20. He is pictured with, from left, Professor Linda Bregstein Scherr, scholarship donor Jeffrey Cornelius, Associate Professor Richard Porter, President Patricia C. Donohue and Vice President for Academic Affairs Guy Generals. Formerly in the culinary field, Hodges returned to college to embark on a new path. Graduating with high honors, he was presented with three academic awards: the MCCC Faculty Association Scholarship in honor of Professor Emeritus David Collier; the Professor Betty Wallace Cornelius Excellence in Mathematics Award; and the Outstanding Achievement in Organic Chemistry Award. He will continue his education at Rider University as a chemistry-math major and plans to pursue a graduate degree with a goal to work in science research.



## PASS Salutes Top Students

Mercer's Program for Academic Services and Success (PASS) saluted top students for their academic accomplishments on April 30. Among the honorees were four who received scholarships from the Central Jersey Network of Black Women, Inc. Pictured, from left, are CJNBW members Hattie Blanchard, President Joyce Abbott, Ruth Timins, and MCCC Professor Noreen Duncan, with students Barbara Simmons (back), Stacy Bryant, Melanie Livingston and Virginia Hinton. Established 29 years ago, CJNBW has awarded thousands of dollars in scholarships to high school grads and women returning to college.



**Stay Connected!**  
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All are cordially invited to keep up with coming events at MCCC, see the latest photos and get news updates via the college's Facebook or Twitter pages. The links are available at [www.mccc.edu](http://www.mccc.edu).

Alumni are also invited to receive our monthly E-News bulletin. To be included, send an e-mail to Public Information Coordinator Saveria Symons at [symonss@mccc.edu](mailto:symonss@mccc.edu).

Or, connect with other alumni and friends through the MCCC alumni group on LinkedIn.

## James Kerney Campus Graduates Applauded

Cheers greeted each award recipient at Trenton's War Memorial theatre on May 11, when the James Kerney Campus (JKC) hosted its Celebration of Academic Achievement. Receiving awards and recognition were students who completed both credit and noncredit programs at the downtown Trenton campus. Four successful students, one from each of the programs, spoke about how MCCC changed their lives.

Honored were 42 associate degree graduates who began their studies at JKC or took most of their classes there. Fifty-three graduates of the Career Training Institute completed programs in office administration or culinary arts. The largest group included 94 graduates of the GED preparation program. With roots in more than 20 countries, 44 students completed programs in the English Language Institute.

Linda Barlow, a social science graduate, spoke for credit graduates of the James Kerney Campus. She plans to transfer to Rutgers for a degree in social work.



## Scholarships Presented to James Kerney Campus Students

Ten students were presented with scholarships during the James Kerney Campus awards celebration in May. Pictured, from left, are MCCC Vice President for College Advancement Mellissia Zanjani, scholarship recipient Devina Peterson, Foundation Board member Tom Kull, and Foundation Board Chair Karen Kennedy. The scholarships were established by the MCCC Foundation Board along with area organizations and individuals, including the Urban League Guild, the Metropolitan Trenton African American Chamber of Commerce, Albert Kahn, and the Arthur J. Holland Scholarship Fund.

# ACHIEVEMENT



## Helen Tanzini Honored as Distinguished Teacher

For Associate Professor of Chemistry Helen Tanzini, teaching is a privilege, a chance to make a difference in people's lives that trumps money and fame.

Helen Tanzini

That was Tanzini's message as she accepted the 2010 Distinguished Teaching Award at commencement ceremonies on May 20. In introducing Tanzini, who serves as Chemistry program coordinator, MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue noted that this dedicated faculty member is appreciated by students for her extensive knowledge, enthusiasm, preparedness, teaching style, and availability to provide help outside the classroom.

A member of the MCCC faculty since 1998, Tanzini is well known for her tireless efforts as an advocate for science learning. For the past 12 years during National Chemistry Week in October, she has organized a group of students and faculty that presents science experiments at area elementary schools. Each spring she organizes a group that volunteers at Super Science Saturday at the New Jersey State Museum.

A beaming Tanzini addressed the graduates, first recalling her early years at Mercer. "As time passed I began to see Mercer as the exciting, thriving community that it is and I wanted to be a part of it." She reflected on the important role that teachers play and invited audience members "to think of a teacher who made a difference in your life...and give them a round of applause so loud that no matter where they are they can hear it."

## The Honors Program Soars; Now Open to High-Achieving Freshmen

Starting with just 30 students and a few sections in its inaugural spring 2007 semester, the MCCC Honors Program has by all measures taken flight. Nine sections of classes were offered in spring 2010, with enrollment numbers growing to more than 100 students.

The program was well represented at this year's Honors Convocation for graduating students. Thirteen Honors Program scholars were recognized for their academic achievements, up from four last May. Among the transfer institutions for this year's graduates are American, Columbia and Stanford universities. Past grads have headed to Bryn Mawr, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke and The College of New Jersey.

According to Sociology Professor Gianna Durso-Finley, co-coordinator with English Professor Carol Bork, the program offers some of Mercer's most fully engaged students a chance to experience in-depth scholarly exploration. With its emphasis on seminar-style, student-driven instruction, "these students develop strong connections with faculty members and other highly motivated students," Durso-Finley said. "They can realize their potential in a nurturing academic environment."

New this fall, the Honors Program will be open to high-achieving incoming freshmen. Classes will be offered in English, psychology, history and sociology. (Previously students were required to attend Mercer for at least one semester and earn a GPA of 3.5 or better to qualify.)



Honors Program graduates accept awards at MCCC's Honors Convocation May 20. From left are MCCC Vice President Dr. Guy Generals, Jaime Bravo, Ryan Mark, David Hoyt, Brian Kaplan and Ashley Stumbaugh with Honors Program Coordinators, faculty members Gianna Durso-Finley and Carol Bork, and President Patricia C. Donohue, far right. Not pictured are Honors graduates Leo Capoferri, Piers Duffel, Sarah Fodor, Sara Gatling, Edwin Harmor, Daisuke Katsumata, Yu Lung Law, Adrienne Sherwin and Kent Watanabe.

## ITALY TOUR (continued from page 1)

Seasoned traveler Leon Nolting, a retiree, signed up as a noncredit student because he wanted the input of professors and guides. "I want to absorb history, culture, economics, the whole thing," he said. He was particularly interested to discover that archeological excavation is still actively going on in Rome and Pompeii.

Orner, who completed her HRIM degree at Mercer this semester, missed MCCC's commencement ceremonies while on the trip. But she has an even bigger regret, echoed by many of her traveling companions. "I wish we'd had more time," she said.



Students learn about the ancient city of Pompeii.

## Study Abroad Options to Grow in 2010-11

With a keen appreciation for the world's increasing interconnectedness, Mercer is expanding its Study Abroad options for the 2010-11 academic year. According to Study Abroad Coordinator Andrea Lynch, four short-term Study Tours are planned for next spring and summer. Additionally, the college has joined the College Consortium for International Studies and International Studies Abroad, two organizations that arrange for students to study for up to a full semester in 34 foreign countries from Central and South America to Europe and Asia.

"We are thrilled to be at this point in our Study Abroad program," Lynch said. "Taking students outside the traditional classroom to absorb another country's culture, art, history, economics, science, and architecture is an unforgettable and broadening educational experience."

She points to the students who just returned from Italy. "They have described the trip as life-changing," she said, noting that they grew both academically and socially.

Incorporated into the curriculum of select credit and noncredit classes and led by MCCC faculty members, the 2011 Study Tour destinations include Costa Rica for Spanish Immersion and Society (March 11 - 18); London for Western History, Art and Architecture (May 23 - June 1); Germany/Switzerland for the Business of Europe (May 30 - June 5); and Paris for Food and Science (July 10 - 17).

"We have looked at courses where an international component significantly enhances the curriculum and then developed trip itineraries around course topics and themes." Lynch observes that students from different disciplines will travel together, providing further opportunity for learning.

Multiple Study Abroad information sessions are planned. The first is scheduled for August 25 at 6 p.m. For more, visit [www.mccc.edu/studyabroad](http://www.mccc.edu/studyabroad) or e-mail [studyabroad@mccc.edu](mailto:studyabroad@mccc.edu).

# FOUNDATION AND

## “Puttin’ on the Ritz” for Student Scholarships

A good time was had by all when MCCC’s Foundation Board hosted its major fundraiser of the year on Saturday, April 24 at the Hyatt Regency Princeton. Event co-chairs were Nina Melker of The Bank of Princeton and Mercer County Freeholder Pat Colavita. This year the event raised nearly \$64,000 in net receipts.

Special guest honorees were Judith and William H. Scheide of the Scheide Fund, who received the Distinguished Benefactor Award; Dow Jones & Company, which received the Distinguished Corporate Partner Award; and Mercer County Executive Brian Hughes and MCCC Foundation Board member J. Lynne Cannon, who both received Spirit of Education Awards. Cannon is president of Princeton Management Development Institute.

The festive event included dinner, dancing and a silent auction featuring original artwork donated by area artists.

Last year the MCCC Foundation awarded scholarship funds to more than 200 high-achieving and financially deserving students, including part-time students and single parents. Additional students benefited from endowed or named scholarships established by donors through the Foundation.

Businesses and community members participated through corporate sponsorships, advertisements in the program book, silent auction donations, and tickets to the event. (See list of corporate sponsors at [www.mccc.edu/foundation](http://www.mccc.edu/foundation) and click on Dinner Dance Gala.)



*Sidney Hagans, a Funeral Service major representing the college’s scholarship recipients, delivered heartfelt words of thanks to supporters of MCCC who made his education possible. MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue looks on.*



*From left are Scholarship Dinner Dance co-chair and County Freeholder Pasquale Colavita, honorees Bill and Judith Scheide, Dow Jones Vice President of Corporate Affairs Howard Hoffman who represented honoree Dow Jones & Company, honoree J. Lynne Cannon, MCCC Foundation Board member Kristi Sells, a vice president at Dow Jones, MCCC student honoree Sidney Hagans, honoree and Mercer County Executive Brian Hughes, MCCC President Patricia Donohue, MCCC Vice President Mellissia Zanjani, and MCCC Foundation Board President Karen Kennedy.*



*Scholarship Dinner Dance Committee members tip their top hats in preparation for “Puttin’ on the Ritz.” Pictured, from left, are co-chairs Pasquale Colavita and Nina Melker, MCCC Vice President for College Advancement Mellissia Zanjani, event coordinator Art Cianfano, and committee members Ruth Rosser, Karen Kennedy and Robert Hume, who are also members of the college’s Foundation Board.*

## Foundation Board Member Makes Internship Possible

One of the stated missions for members of MCCC’s Foundation Board is to represent the interests of the college and its students in the community. Tom Kull demonstrated how such advocacy works when he commented to a friend, Tom Cunniff of Fox Rothschild in Princeton, that Mercer’s students are always looking for internship opportunities.

Mr. Cunniff contacted Eric Perkins, coordinator of the college’s Paralegal program, and soon student Joe Lewin began his paid internship at Fox Rothschild.

A nontraditional student, Lewin had been employed as a newspaper reporter and editor before taking a buyout offer last year. He decided to re-train for a new career, and recognized the similarities between reporting and paralegal work. “Both require attention to detail, being able to do research, and knowing the right procedures,” Lewis said.

Among his duties at Fox Rothschild, Lewin works on cataloging and organizing legal files. He said such hands-on, real world experience can’t be fully learned in a classroom.

Lewin chose Mercer for several reasons. “I wanted a place close to home where I could go part-time, and that was American Bar Association-approved,” he said. “Mercer fit the bill on both counts.” The fact that legal classes were offered at night also fit Lewin’s schedule, as he juggles college, family and work. He enjoys his classes. “The instructors at Mercer are really top-notch in helping you,” he said.

For Tom Kull, helping students comes naturally. Not only does he serve on the college’s Foundation Board, he also teaches math as an adjunct instructor at Mercer’s downtown Trenton James Kerney Campus.

## Mark Your Calendar for MCCC Golf Classic

The date is set for the MCCC Athletics Department’s 19<sup>th</sup> annual Golf Classic on Tuesday, Oct. 5 at Mercer Oaks Golf Course in West Windsor, NJ. Proceeds will benefit Mercer’s Student-Athlete Scholarship Fund. The tournament is held in memory of local physician Dr. Cynthia Schaffer, an MCCC Foundation Board member who supported youth athletics.

Numerous sponsorship opportunities are available. Contact MCCC Athletics Director John Simone at 609-570-3741 or e-mail [simonej@mccc.edu](mailto:simonej@mccc.edu).



# DONOR NEWS

## Calling All Donors: It's a New Era in Funding for Community Colleges

The community college system was established in the 1960s to provide affordable access to quality higher education. The original funding plan for the state of New Jersey's county colleges was for equal thirds from the state, the county, and student tuition. That has changed significantly over the years, says MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue.

"We have seen a gradual but steady shift in our funding sources," Donohue observes. "Ten years ago, students were paying 42.9 percent of the total cost of their education, and today they pay 51 percent. By 2011, we project that number will rise to 53.9 percent."

Donohue says that the college is keenly aware of the financial burden for students. "Many of our students face financial hardships. For them, coming to college requires great sacrifice. This is not a well we can return to repeatedly."

Emphasizing that community college is still an excellent value, especially when compared to costs at four-year schools, Donohue said, "The fact is that we are facing a tough budgetary climate. Increasingly we will be turning to generous community supporters to help us meet our goals."

In light of the current state budget, the outlook for the coming years is troubling. State funding has been reduced by 9.6 percent, and while the county's contribution holds steady at 25.8 percent, costs at the college continue to rise.

According to Donohue, the college anticipates making up some of the shortfall through increasing enrollment, a trend that has continued throughout the recession. "We have also taken creative measures to reallocate limited resources and increase revenue as well as eliminate some positions." Donohue said the college will continue to find ways to economize, looking at the areas that will have the least impact on student learning.

Mercer is seeking to expand philanthropic and grant-driven revenue sources as well. Last year, the college's Annual Giving Campaign kicked off with a fund drive targeted at a broad constituency that included Board and Foundation members, faculty and staff, and alumni and other community supporters; donations have totaled over \$30,000 in the last six months. Some of the money has been awarded to professors who applied for grants to further student learning (see "Annual Giving" article at right), while other funds will be used for instructional and capital needs.

"The college is now actively pursuing private foundations, alumni and community donors," Donohue said. She notes that scholarships for deserving students have been a traditional form of giving and the need continues. Now the college will also be reaching out for restricted and unrestricted gifts that can be used to refurbish buildings and supplement aging equipment.

"I do not believe we will ever return to a time when public funding will be plentiful enough to pay for all construction and renovation projects that must be completed as part of our stewardship of this almost 40-year-old campus," Donohue said. "Such projects will require significant fundraising.

"Because of these major challenges, we must reach out to alumni and the community to partner with us in our mission to educate students and address the county's workforce needs," she continued. "We ask that supporters share our story and join with us in investing in the college's future."

Make a contribution to Mercer County Community College by returning the envelope enclosed in this issue of *The Viking* or donate online at [www.mccc.edu/give](http://www.mccc.edu/give). To discuss a major gift to the college, contact MCCC's Vice President for College Advancement, Mellissia Zanjani, at 609-570-3661.

## State Farm Presents Grant for Student Volunteer Project

The State Farm® Youth Advisory Board presented a \$38,500 check to MCCC at a Feb. 22 ceremony to fund a service-learning project called Discovering Options, which will help Trenton Central High School students prepare for college.

During the presentation, four students who took part in writing the grant spoke in detail about the project. They are part of an MCCC service-learning program called LEADS, whose members will work directly with the high schoolers each week, focusing on college selection, college tours, financial aid literacy, SAT preparation, and life skills. The project will run through June of 2015.



Front, from left, are MCCC student grant writers Shanique Stoddard, Sade Carmichael, Sharon Herrera and Latrial Jackson. Back row, from left, are State Farm Agent Mark Ullman, MCCC Trustee Mark Matzen, PASS Director Khalida Haqq, State Farm Agent Jim Moore, EOF Recruiter and LEADS Advisor Al-Lateef Farmer, and State Farm Agent Joseph Meeks.

## Annual Giving Campaign Makes Innovative Learning Possible

Generous donors to MCCC's Annual Giving Campaign have made possible a mini-grant program for college faculty and staff to develop projects of significant innovation, complexity, and depth with the goal of aiding student learning. Four inventive proposals will be funded this fall:

- A program in convergence media that integrates writing and research with new media technology;
- A technology project to integrate Google apps into the curriculum;
- A best practices conference for adjunct faculty members;
- A reading and writing hybrid class for developmental students.

"These projects demonstrate the power of donor support to help us develop innovative curriculum and enhance our teaching strategies and educational support services," said MCCC President Patricia Donohue. "We thank our donors for making this possible."

## Bristol-Myers Squibb Supports JKC Biology Instruction



**Bristol-Myers Squibb continued years of support by presenting a \$17,500 check to MCCC on May 5 for laboratory equipment which will enhance biology instruction at the James Kerney Campus. Accepting the check, from left, are MCCC Foundation Board member Jamil Faridy and MCCC President Patricia C. Donohue. At right is Bristol-Myers Squibb Director of Community Affairs Frederick J. Egenolf. Surprising all in attendance, Faridy presented a \$2,500 check, also earmarked for the initiative, bringing the amount to \$20,000.**

## Bequest to Create Lasting Imprint

Bequests to the college give donors a way to recognize Mercer's special place in their lives after they are gone, while supporting the college's mission to change lives through education, says Mellissia Zanjani, vice president for College Advancement. "After providing for those you love, a gift to the college is a wonderful way to establish a lasting legacy."

Mercer is grateful to announce a generous \$200,000 bequest from Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Anthropology Arthur Forman, who passed away in March. Two scholarships have been established in his memory – one for a continuing student athlete and a second for a continuing liberal arts student. Additional contributors to the fund include Forman's colleagues and former students.

Another recent act of generosity came from an area family that made a sizeable donation from the estate of relatives. Recognizing the importance of education, the family chose to give back to the community by supporting the county's college.

For more information on planned giving, contact Mellissia Zanjani at 609-570-3661 or e-mail [zanjanim@mccc.edu](mailto:zanjanim@mccc.edu).

# STUDENT AND

## Student Newspaper, *The College Voice*, Makes Headlines

*The College VOICE*, MCCC's student newspaper, came out a big winner in this year's Mark of Excellence Awards competition sponsored by The Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ).

*The VOICE* won six awards, including being selected as a national finalist in the Best All-Around Non-Daily Student Newspaper category. In the regional awards, which encompass two-year schools from New England to the New Jersey tri-state area, *The VOICE* took first place for Best All-Around Non-Daily Student Newspaper; plus first, second and third in General News Reporting; and first place in In-Depth Reporting.

At the regional level, Mercer student Matt Williams won first place in General News Reporting for his article "Hate crime hits too close to home." Sara Gatling, *The VOICE*'s editor in chief from fall 2009 to spring 2010, earned second place in General News Reporting for her article "Exxxotica draws 18,000 despite mayor's attempts to make it go away." Gatling, who graduated this May, will transfer to Columbia University. The third place award in General News Reporting went to Sarina Prior for her article "Where have all the young men gone?" Rounding out the awards was a first place win for Ronald Russell III for In-Depth Reporting on "More Mercer students have to take remedial courses." In October *The VOICE* will be honored at the SPJ conference in Las Vegas.

*The VOICE* has also been recognized for its in-depth reporting on Megan's Law. Work by student reporter Daniela Rocha was featured on NBC News 10 in Philadelphia on the May 25 evening news. The investigative report included excerpts from Rocha's interview with an incarcerated sex offender. The full article examined legal and ethical complexities of the law, intended to notify citizens when a sex offender moves into the area, and included interviews with lawyers, law enforcement officials and Maureen Kanka, Megan's mother.



After a period of inactivity *The College VOICE* was reinvigorated when Associate Professor of English Holly Johnson stepped in as adviser in spring 2008. In 2009 *The VOICE* earned six New Jersey Press Foundation awards, including the award for General Excellence. See it online at [www.mcccvoice.org](http://www.mcccvoice.org).

**Sara Gatling, who served as editor-in-chief of *The College VOICE* student newspaper, will continue her education at Columbia University.**

## Arts and Communication Division Evolves Along with New Media

Nowhere is the explosion of new and enhanced media being more keenly felt than in Mercer's Arts and Communication Division, home to technology-reliant majors such as Photography, Television, Radio, Web Design, 3-D Animation, Architecture and Entertainment Technology.

According to Dean Judith Ehresman, this dynamic group of faculty members is successfully taking on the challenges of evolving media. "We support and encourage innovation and exploration," she said.

TV Program Coordinator Barry Levy and Digital Media Arts Coordinator Sarah Sweeney joined forces in the spring semester, team-teaching "Digital Portfolio Seminar" for advanced students from several majors. "Students in the class were a diverse group with different skill sets," Sweeney said.

Added Levy, "Sarah and I brought our design perspectives to the curriculum based on our expertise. Our goal was to give students multiple perspectives and an increased understanding of how various types of media intersect and overlap in the workplace."

According to Ehresman, the course got high marks from students. "The talk among students was very positive. They got a real sense of the connectivity among their fields," she said.

To supplement the classroom experience and help prepare students for a tough job market, faculty members across the division took their students to multiple destinations in New Jersey and New York, visiting design and photography studios, attending conferences, and enjoying exhibits at the Guggenheim Museum, Museum of Modern Art and Zimmerli Museum. They toured CBS with a studio exec, had a hands-on recording session with a rock band, and observed printmaking at Rutgers' Mason Gross School of the Arts.

"This effort is part of the division's increasing emphasis on real world learning," Ehresman explains. "It's essential career preparation in this evolving and highly competitive field."



**Digital Media students on tour at CBS studios in Manhattan. Pictured at far right are faculty members Barry Levy and Sarah Sweeney.**

## Club Learns Lessons in Art and Altruism



**Following his presentation about the Art Institute of Chicago, Greyson Hong, right, assistant director of Admissions, reviews the portfolio of Fine Arts major Matt Polito.**

Members of the MCCC Art Club have learned lots about painting, drawing and sculpting this year – and also about altruism. According to club adviser, Assistant Professor Lucas Kelly, the club has raised the bar with three ambitious community service projects. "Each year, students get excited about different things. Community outreach and service projects were the focus this year," Kelly says.

Spearheading the effort was Fine Arts student Meghan Yake, who graduated this spring and plans to transfer to the University of the Arts (Phila.) in the fall. Community service has added a fulfilling dimension to her college experience. "It's so nice to know I'm doing something worthwhile for charity," she says.

The first outreach effort took place in early December, when 15 student volunteers visited a K-8 After School Program for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Trenton. They spent more than two hours making holiday art projects with 110 youngsters. According to Yake, the children didn't want to leave. "They were great kids and really into it," she said.

In January, Art Club members again reached out, this time to the ZieherSmith Gallery in New York City. Several students submitted work and served as volunteers for "Postcards from the Edge," an annual benefit event for the nonprofit organization Visual AIDS, which helps artists with HIV/AIDS and promotes awareness and education.

In February, the group teamed up with the Teal Wings of Hope Foundation for a pasta dinner and karaoke night. The event raised \$8,000 for women with ovarian cancer.

Kelly notes that these projects get students to think about themselves and their art in the larger world outside the classroom. "We want them to see the connection between the arts and the community. Eventually, in their work and their lives, they need to do things not because they are given a class assignment, but because it's worthwhile."

In addition to its community service work, the Art Club invites representatives from four-year schools to campus to discuss transfer opportunities and review portfolios. The group also organizes bus trips to major museums each year.



# ALUMNI FEATURES

## Deb Delpopolo's Dance School Fosters Skill and Self-Esteem

Deb Delpopolo has put her knowledge of psychology to use in more ways than she could possibly have imagined when she graduated from Mercer in 1995 with an A.A. in Liberal Arts and a focus on psychology. As owner of All That Jazz Dance Academy (ATJ) in Hamilton since 1998, she has created an instructor-friendly and kid-friendly dance school that emphasizes building self-esteem almost as much as developing dance skills.

Currently, ATJ's ten instructors offer 50 classes per week for over 200 students in tap, jazz, ballet and more, including a new breakdancing class for boys. In order to prepare students for a broader performance experience, the school also offers classes in acting, singing and guitar. Students range in age from pre-schoolers to adults.

At Mercer, Delpopolo performed with the Mercer Dance Ensemble under Janell Byrne. "She



was wonderful. I loved her choreography," Delpopolo said. She also immersed herself in the humanities and fondly recalls Professor Angela McGlynn, now retired. A course in child psychology has proven especially helpful, she says. And, because tuition was affordable, Delpopolo was able to take extra courses that interested her.

Some of Delpopolo's former students, a few who are AJT instructors, are currently studying at Mercer. "I tell my students, 'Go to Mercer! Everything is available there.'"

## Alum Shannon Sked '07 Promotes Green Landscaping



Shannon Sked

Informing the public about the benefits of going green has long been a mission of Shannon Sked, a 1998 MCCC graduate with dual degrees in Biology and Plant Science. As sole proprietor of AgServe Land Management in Bordentown, NJ, he provides consulting services to clients who seek eco-friendly, sustainable options for the care of their lawns and landscapes. His job runs the gamut from designing blueprints, to providing marketing and accounting analysis, to service delivery. "I'm a one-man show," he proudly admits.

Growing up in rural Bethlehem, PA, Sked worked as a farm laborer, where he gained an

appreciation for agronomy. He is the first in his family to graduate from college. "My experiences at MCCC and beyond have demonstrated that anyone can make a difference with a lot of dedication, hard work and drive."

After Mercer, Sked earned a bachelor's degree in Natural Resource Management from Rutgers University, a master's degree with honors in Entomology at Penn State, and certifications from the University of Georgia, Plant LandCare Network, and the Entomological Society of America. Both his undergraduate and graduate research on the cross benefits of sustainability and cost efficiency have been published in scholarly journals.

In addition to running his business, Sked serves as a branch manager for ValleyCrest Landscape, a commercial lawn services company. His ultimate goal is to promote sustainability more effectively and make AgServe a household name.

## Culinary Student Work Rated by Professionals



Mercer's advanced culinary students demonstrated their skills on March 11 when they served up their creations for judging by area chefs and other interested food professionals. Organized into four teams, the students prepared and served full-course dinners, and guests were asked to rate each course. Speaking with culinary professionals are, from left, students Gail Kay, Daniel Santiago, Kristy Chao and Jeffrey Harvey.

## Success Is All About Attitude

Each weekday, Tashira York-Funchers focuses on children, families, and matters of money. As a child support paternity specialist in New Jersey's Division of Family Development, her goal is to serve as a neutral intermediary between the custodial and non-custodial parent. She often seeks federal and state dollars to aid children in need.

Attending night classes at the downtown Trenton James Kerney Campus, York-Funchers recalls the challenge of going back to school full-time. "I could not have done it without the support of my husband, mother, great instructors, and my mentor, the late Don Jones, Kerney's assistant dean."

After earning her MCCC degree in Humanities and Social Science in 2004, York-Funchers earned a bachelor's degree in 2007 and a master's in Organizational Leadership in 2009, both from Rider University. She plans to pursue her doctorate in Management Services online.

"Mercer prepared me to succeed at a four-year college and beyond," she said. "Once you've been out of school for a while the transition can be hard. I knew what to expect because Mercer has the same level of expectations that universities have. If you come in with the attitude that you will succeed, you will."



Tashira York-Funchers

## Youth College Equals Success

Bustling with credit and non-credit classes and activities year round, Mercer's James Kerney Campus not only offers educational programs for adults of all ages, it provides academic enrichment and college preparation for Trenton area youngsters through federally-funded Youth College programs - Upward Bound, Educational Talent Search, and SMILE / GEAR UP.

"We are the access point to higher education for low income and first-generation college students in Trenton. We hope to change lives," says Wayne Murray, director of SMILE / GEAR UP.

For Franchesca Saraison, the 2010 valedictorian for Trenton Central High School's Chambers Campus, Youth College has been a home away from home. A participant in Upward Bound, which includes a six-week summer academy and field trips, she benefitted from college preparation activities and career counseling, and even completed three college courses at Mercer. Through the program she volunteered in the community.

"Upward Bound taught me a lot," said Saraison, who plans to one day open a performing arts school in Trenton. "The staff was always there to help with personal and academic issues."

Likewise for Lakisha Johnson, who has completed a bachelor's degree in psychology at Virginia Union University. She says SMILE and Educational Talent Search provided her with the support to stay academically focused at Martin Luther King Middle School and Granville Charter School.

"Ensuring student success is what it is all about," says Youth College Director Don Davis.



Franchesca Saraison



Lakisha Johnson

## Men's Basketball

According to Head Coach Howard Levy, the success of the men's basketball team is no mystery. It can be attributed to a combination of talent and teamwork. With a record of 5-8 at the winter break, the Vikings stormed back in the second half of the season by playing solid team ball. They ended the year as Region 19 champs for the first time since 1998 and traveled to the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) national tournament in Danville, IL.

While it was a great accomplishment getting to the national championships, Levy maintains that his players went out there to win and were disappointed by the results. He believes their two losses were due in part to a loss of momentum after almost two weeks off between the Region 19 championship and the tournament. In addition, the Vikings' leading scorer, Uros Kovacevic, sprained his ankle in practice the day before the first game, which limited his effectiveness.

Ending the season 20-14, the Vikings clearly embraced Levy's approach to the game,

which includes a disciplined, team-oriented, pass-first style of basketball that dates to his own days as a player at Princeton University. "These guys sacrificed to help the team."

The team's confidence began to build in January, when the Vikings started defeating teams they had lost to earlier in the season. A pivotal point was the Jan. 28 game against Lackawanna, when Mercer won 63-60 in the closing seconds. Then the men enjoyed a run of 10 wins in 11 games. They continued to jell in the Region 19 tournament, with victories against Essex in the quarterfinal and Del Tech in the semi-final, and an upset win against top-seeded Lackawanna in the championship

game on March 2. Kovacevic earned tournament Most Valuable Player honors.

Second in scoring after Kovacevic was center Paco Boussougou, also the team's leading rebounder. Other contributors were point guards Derek Williams and Quentin Loftin, forwards Isaiah Andrews, Gary Carthan and Aaron Smitherman, and guards Anthony Obery, Quincy Hendryx and Marcus Jimenez.

Two players received post-season honors. Kovacevic and Boussougou were GSAC first team selections and Kovacevic was named to the Region 19 second team.

Levy was assisted by MCCC alumni Tom DeStephano and Miles Smith.



**The men's basketball team at the national championship. At far left is Assistant Coach Tom DeStephano, and at far right are Head Coach Howard Levy and Assistant Coach Miles Smith.**

## Women's Basketball

Head Coach Mike Tenaglia is satisfied with much of the Lady Vikes' season – but not the ending. "I was disappointed with our loss in the regionals," said Tenaglia, whose team was defeated by Burlington 64-59 in the quarterfinal round. Just two weeks earlier, the Vikings had beaten Burlington by 20 points.

Still, Tenaglia, who completed his 20<sup>th</sup> season with the Vikings, is proud of his team's 21-9 final record. Leading the effort were freshmen forwards Alexis Sweet, who averaged 21.8 points per game, and Azaria Crews, with 13.5 points per game, and sophomore forward Samantha Foley with 12.7 points per game.

"We knew going in that these three would be our main scorers and they delivered," Tenaglia said. He adds that he saw growth from guard Samantha Cobbs and forward Kiara Boone. The peak of the season came between Jan. 12 and Feb. 15 when the Vikings had 12 victories and only one loss.

Sweet, who was ranked in the Top 10 in scoring in NJCAA Division II, was named to both the Region 19 and Garden State Athletic Conference first teams. She was joined on the GSAC first team by Foley, while Crews was selected for the second team.

Tenaglia anticipates the return of at least four players in 2010-11, which should give him a solid nucleus for next year's squad.



Photo by Mark Campbell

**Rehab complete! MCCC alum and former catcher Dave Angebrannt at bat for the University of Delaware April 18. See full story at [www.mccc.edu/athletics](http://www.mccc.edu/athletics).**

## Men's Tennis

While men's tennis coach Marc Vecchiolla still believes they could have taken home the trophy, the Vikings had to settle for fifth place at the NJCAA Division III tennis tournament, held May 10-14 in Plano, TX.

The competition was the best that Vecchiolla has seen and the teams that finished first and second hailed from MCCC's own Region 19. "But we were as good as any team there. Our guys competed hard," he said, noting that in the tournament point system, a few missed shots can make a key difference in the outcome.

Only no. 1 doubles partners Matt Pierson and Jason Bielski experienced the thrill of ultimate victory, winning the title in three sets over the Brookdale team and being named First Team All-Americans. At no. 2 singles, Bielski reached the final and was named a Second Team All-American. At no. 4 singles Juan Ramirez won his consolation match and no. 5 Ben Pinter made it to the tournament's semi-final round before losing in three close sets. No. 3 Travis McGaughan lost his consolation final match in three sets. No. 3 doubles partners Ramirez and Matt Romano won their consolation match. Bielski and Brendan Belluscio were named Academic All-Americans.

With a total of 20 points, Mercer was fifth after Gloucester, the national champs with 29.5, Brookdale with 27.5, Oxford College (GA) with 27, and Rock Valley College (IL) with 21.5.

The Vikings entered the tournament ranked no. 3 nationally, finishing the regular season with a record of 10-2. Mercer's Region 19 winners included Jason Bielski at no. 2 singles;



**The men's tennis team at the NJCAA tournament. Head Coach Marc Vecchiolla is front row second from left, Assistant Coach Ralph Bencivengo is front row far right, and Assistant Coach Barb Pleva is back row third from left.**

Matt Pierson and Jason Bielski at no. 1 doubles; and Juan Ramirez and Matt Romano at no. 3 doubles. Romano and Ramirez remained unbeaten throughout the regular season with a record of 12-0.

Pierson, Bielski, Ramirez, Romano and Pinter were selected for All-Region first or second teams. All-GSAC selections included Pierson, Bielski, Ramirez and Romano.

Vecchiolla notes that Region 19 will be competitive for years to come. "Gloucester and Brookdale are very well coached. We will have our hands full. I believe our region is a level ahead of the rest."

He was assisted this season by Ralph Bencivengo and Barb Pleva.

## Softball

The MCCC softball team knows what it feels like to compete – and win a game – on the national level. According to Head Coach Ryan Zegarski, his team fought hard in every inning of their three games at the NJCAA Division II World Series, held May 20-23 in Normal, IL.

“We showed we belonged there,” Zegarski said, who has taken two of his teams to nationals in his six years as coach.

The Vikings’ first game against the no. 3-seed Muskegon CC (MI) on May 20 was halted due to rain, with the Vikings trailing 4-0 after one inning. When they resumed play May 21, both teams scored a run. “Essentially, we held them to a 1-1 tie for six innings,” Zegarski said. Muskegon was the tournament’s eventual winner.

In their next game, the Vikings edged 11th seed Highland CC (KS) 8-7. The Vikings were eliminated in their third game with a 9-4 loss to Johnson CC (KS). Mercer took an early 4-3 lead, but saw it evaporate in the 7th inning as Johnson, with two outs, scored six runs.

The Vikings reached the World Series in dramatic fashion. On May 8 and 9, they played five games in poor weather conditions at the County

College of Morris to earn the Region 19 title.

Going into the double elimination tournament as the no. 4 seed after Burlington, Del Tech and Morris, the Vikings beat Burlington 2-1 in their first game. Later that day they lost 3-2 to Morris. The following day they endured nine hours on the field, first eliminating Burlington with an 8-4 win and then facing Morris twice, winning 14-6 and 8-5 to seal the championship.

Numerous players came through on both defense and offense throughout the season, including ace pitcher Jenna Berger, who was named the Region 19 tournament MVP, Jess Maciolek, Kirsten Edinger, Angela Parascando and Alyssa Becker, back-up pitcher Beth Rochon and catcher Amanda Myers-Morales. Berger was named no. 3 on the list of Top Players in Region 19 and was selected to the first team All-Region/All-GSAC; Becker was named to the second team.

The Vikings ended their stellar season with a 32-14 record. Zegarski was assisted by Chris Freihaut. Both coaches are MCCC alumni who played Vikings baseball.



*The Region 19 champs are pictured with Coach Ryan Zegarski, far left, and Assistant Coach Chris Freihaut, far right.*

## Baseball

From the perspective of Head Coach Matt Wolski, who just completed his fifth season, it’s preferable to lose a close game against a good team than to win by a landslide. “It’s a better game. It teaches players more and that’s what it’s all about. The things they experience come up in championship games,” he explains.

The baseball team learned plenty of lessons this season, as it took on tough competitors in the region. The Vikings faced powerhouses Gloucester CC, the eventual national winner in Division III, and a very strong Brookdale squad. Still, Mercer had its share of successes, earning a 17-13 record and the Garden State Athletic Conference title.

The Vikings kicked their season into gear at the Myrtle Beach Invitational March 15-19, earning a 6-2 record over five days. Strong pitching and hitting were key to the team’s success, which set the tone for a season of hard work and solid progress.

“They played as a team,” Wolski said. “That makes you better; you are counting on each other.”

Heading towards the post-season, the Vikings had momentum as they posted wins in a doubleheader against Salem CC on May 1 and a 16-9 victory over Gloucester on May 4. Facing Burlington CC in the double elimination Region 19 play-in round May 8-9, the Vikings lost the first game 21-7 and then came back to

win the second game 16-10. The third game the next day was close, but the Vikings were the 10-8 losers.

Wolski is proud of his players’ growth during the season. Pitcher Shawn Reindel, who missed the 2009 season due to injury, delivered on the mound. He was the team’s strike-out leader with 72. Veteran pitcher James Page also performed well on the mound. Making significant contributions on offense were Matt Hill, Russ Stupienski, Luis Alvarez and center-fielder Kevin Koscak, the team’s lead-off hitter.

Outfielder Matt Crank was named to the All-Region first team, while Hill, Koscak and Reindel were named to the second team. Named to the All-GSAC first team were Crank, Hill, and Reindel; Koscak was named to the second team.

According to Wolski, Mercer has been a great beginning for a number of his players. “Right now we have seven or eight guys playing Division I and several others in Division III,” he said. He stresses that academics matter. “What coaches [from four-year schools] tell us is that our players are ready to be there – athletically and academically.”

Looking to next season, Wolski is upbeat. “We have a number of good high school recruits coming in,” he says, including players from Steinert, Lawrence, Nottingham and Ewing.

Wolski was assisted by Fred Carella and Kevin Kerins.

## New Coach for Men’s Soccer Has Long History at Mercer

Taking over the reins of the men’s soccer program is Larry Povia, long-time assistant coach and goalkeeping coach under Charlie Inverso, who announced his resignation earlier this year after 24 years at the college.

Under Inverso and Povia, the Vikings earned a record of 434-46-14 and won five National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) titles. Povia helped lead the Vikings to the NJCAA Final Four 12 times since joining the coaching staff in 1984 and has trained a long list of MCCC All-Region and All-American players. He was inducted into the NJCAA Hall of Fame in 2008, one of only two assistant coaches to be selected.

“It’s an honor to come in after Charlie,” Povia said. “I plan to draw on my soccer experience and use this opportunity to help our student athletes achieve their athletic and academic goals.”



*Larry Povia*

## Women’s Cross Country to Begin Training in August



*Erin Cahill*

Head Coach Erin Cahill has high hopes for MCCC’s fledgling women’s cross country team, set to begin training August 1. She spent time during the spring semester attending high school track meets and establishing contacts with coaches.

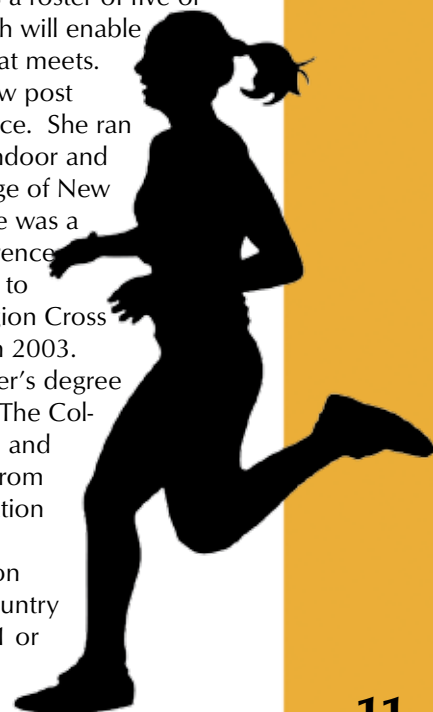
The Vikings will compete in Division I against other regional community colleges as well as Division II and III schools in the tri-state area. Training will take place at neighboring Mercer County Park and other area parks with meets to be held on Saturdays from September through November.

Cahill notes that because this is a new team, prior cross country experience is not required, but runners should have a high level of fitness. As a Division I sport, Mercer will be able to offer in-county tuition rates to out-of-county runners. Her goal is a roster of five or more runners to start, which will enable Mercer to score as a team at meets.

Cahill comes to her new post with considerable experience. She ran varsity cross country and indoor and outdoor track at The College of New Jersey from 2000-2004. She was a New Jersey Athletic Conference Champion and was named to the Division III Atlantic Region Cross Country All-Region Team in 2003.

Cahill earned her master’s degree in Physical Education from The College of New Jersey in 2006 and has coaching certification from the American Sports Education Program.

For more information on MCCC’s women’s cross country program, call 609-570-3741 or e-mail [cahille@mccc.edu](mailto:cahille@mccc.edu).



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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.



# 2010

**TIM KLOCKNER** worked as a security guard while earning his A.S. in Biology in 2007 and A.S. in Chemistry in 2008.

THE VIKING, a publication for alumni and other friends of MCCC, is published by the Marketing and Public Information office.

**Lynn Holl**, Director  
**Saveria Symons**, Public Information Coordinator  
**Wendy Humphrey**, Senior Writer/Editor  
**Bradley Kent**, Web and Print Editor

**Brenda Whiteman**, Public Information Associate

Send story suggestions to [symonss@mccc.edu](mailto:symonss@mccc.edu).

Administration Building  
Mercer County Community College  
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Trenton, NJ 08690

### Kelsey Theatre 2010-11 Season Calendar "Oh, The Places You'll Go with Kelsey Theatre"

#### Full-Length Family Events

##### *Hansel & Gretel*

Sept. 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12

##### *Seussical*

Sept. 24, 25, 26; Oct. 1, 2, 3

##### *Borders of the Mind:*

##### *The Psychic Show*

Oct. 10

##### *Irving Berlin's Annie Get Your Gun*

Nov. 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28

##### *It's a Wonderful Life,*

##### *A Live Radio Play*

Dec. 3, 4, 5

#### Full-Length Adult Events

##### *Chess*

Oct. 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24

##### *The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual*

##### *Putnam County Spelling Bee*

Nov. 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14

##### *Amadeus*

Jan. 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16

##### *A Few Good Men*

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

##### *The Wedding Singer*

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

#### Kelsey Kids Series

##### *Duck for President*

Oct. 9

##### *Rainbow Fish*

Oct. 23

##### *Jack & the Beanstalk*

Nov. 20

##### *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*

Dec. 10, 11, 12

##### *The Nutcracker*

Dec. 17, 18, 19

##### *The Love Bug's Hug*

Jan. 22

##### *Pinocchio*

Feb. 4, 5, 6

### Coming Events

**Sept. 10:** Commemoration of Sept. 11, West Windsor Campus Memorial Garden

**Oct. 5:** Golf Classic, Mercer Oaks Golf Course

**Nov. 11:** Open House and Board of Trustees Report to the Community

For the full calendar, visit [www.mccc.edu](http://www.mccc.edu).

### Academic Calendar

Most fall semester classes begin Aug. 30. Additional sessions of five, seven, eight and ten weeks begin Aug. 27, Oct. 4, 6, 22, 25 and Nov. 10. Visit [www.mccc.edu](http://www.mccc.edu) for the full academic calendar.

### Events at the MCCC Gallery

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



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