



Construction Completed at West Windsor Campus

October marked the completion of Mercer's One-Stop Student Center and Library renovation project. Undertaken with the goal of improving services and accessibility for students, the project also brought two of the college's major buildings, constructed in the early 1970s, up to current code standards. Many energy-saving elements were included.

Designed by the Spiegle Architectural Group, the project added 7,000 square feet to the previous structures, with the total renovated space equaling 70,000 square feet. A new parking area near the Student Center facilitates stops up to 30 minutes. A new Reception Center which connects the Student Center and Library houses a security office, information desk, elevator and staircase.

Sophomore Sade Carmichael, a Business Administration major, is enthusiastic about the renovation, noting the enhancement of student life. "I love it. The environment is more relaxed and inviting."

Julian Harris, a new student who enrolled for spring Criminal Justice classes, commented, "It's very convenient. I parked right outside. You walk in and go right up the stairs. It's all here."

Renovated or newly constructed areas include Enrollment and Registration, Financial Aid, Bursar's Office, Bookstore, Learning Center, Academic Testing Center, Office of Special Services, Student Government, Student Activities, and the Mercer County Holocaust/Genocide Resource Center. A new Student Success Center encompasses a variety of accessible services such as Transfer, Counseling, Career, PASS Programs, Veteran's Affairs and the Nursing Resource Center. Space has been allocated for large and small group study sessions.

MCCC's Judy Galayda Takes Top Pilot Award

Last year she won the "Top Female Pilot" award, and this year Aviation student Judy Galayda took the "Top Pilot Award" at the National Intercollegiate Flying Association Region VII SAFECOM Competition, besting 34 male and three other female contestants. The event was held Oct. 23-27 in Schenectady, NY.

Mercer finished second in the overall team rankings to Dowling College, a four-year school in New York. In addition to Dowling, Schenectady County College, Delaware State University and Daniel Webster College also competed. Last year Mercer took the top spot in the competition, as it had for several prior consecutive years.

Galayda is attending Mercer through the NJSTARS scholarship program. A Phi Theta Kappa honors student, she recently completed her Commercial Instrument Rating, Multi-Engine Commercial Instrument Certificate, and Flight Instructor Certificate. Her accomplishments earned her the "Timothy Burns Memorial Scholarship" for a continuing Aviation student in fall, 2009.

The Flight Team's high score means it is eligible to compete in the national competition in May in Terre Haute, IN. Mercer's Aviation Flight Technology program is one of only two in New Jersey, and the only one with a fleet of airplanes, which are housed at Trenton-Mercer Airport in Ewing. The program draws students from the tri-state region.



In their new radio station quarters, student volunteers, standing from left, are Mitchell Richtman, LaMar Rice, Joe Melendez and Matt Nelson. Seated are Tacara Hall and Danny Wheeler. The station is now broadcasting on the college's HD3 channel under WWFM, reaching most of Mercer County.



Judy Galayda is congratulated by Aviation Program Coordinator Joseph Blasenstein.

SHORT TAKES



Students Make Good Use of Break Time in MCCC's New Winter Session

Mercer's new Winter Session attracted hundreds of students seeking to use their winter break to catch up on college credits, or get a head start on the spring semester. While many were current MCCC students, some came from other colleges to earn transferable credits.

Enrollments for the six-week online session, which began Dec. 21, totaled 154, while there were 274 enrollments for the three-week, on-campus session that ran from Jan. 4-22.

The Winter Session included nearly 30 courses from the divisions of Liberal Arts, Business and Technology, Arts and Communication, and the Health Professions.

Student from Africa Relates to Message of Women's Plight

Ask African student Christopher Gartei when he came to America and he recalls the exact date. "January 28, 1999." A former high school math teacher in Liberia, he fled his war-torn country for Ivory Coast before settling in the United States. He earned his A.S. degree at Mercer in 2006, majoring in mathematics and graduating with honors, and is back on campus studying for his Nursing degree.

Gartei was among the students who attended a lecture by Rutgers University Vice President, Dr. Joan Bennett, entitled "Don't Take This Wrong, But You Are Really Good for a Girl and Other Stories About Being a Woman in Science," presented Oct. 27 as part of MCCC's Distinguished Lecture Series. Bennett is a geneticist and professor who is internationally known for her efforts to promote the advancement of women in scientific fields.

Gartei was passionate about Dr. Bennett's message. "In Liberia, women are deprived," he said. "They have no rights, no futures. We must create awareness of their situation and support efforts to help with education and careers."



From left, student Christopher Gartei with lecturer Joan Bennett and Associate Professor of Biology Diane Hilker.

Bachelor Degree Programs on Campus Continue to Grow

William Paterson University, the newest college to join the University Center at Mercer, reports that enrollment numbers its first semester were on target, with 29 students. Under the agreement, community college graduates may transfer their credits into three WPU majors offered on the MCCC campus to complete their bachelor's degrees. Majors are Early Childhood Education (pre-school-3 and K-5), Liberal Studies and Psychology. The curriculum includes a mix of online and on campus courses. A summer semester is planned.

The WPU program adds to two existing partnerships with four-year schools on MCCC's campus. Fairleigh Dickinson University offers bachelor's degrees in Business and Technology, Communication Studies, Criminal Justice, and Hospitality Management, and a master's degree in Hospitality Management. Felician College provides registered nurses the opportunity to earn their BSN at Mercer through a 19-month program that meets one day per week. Learn more about all programs at www.mccc.edu/university-center.

MCCC alumna AnnaKay Thomas is the new WPU advisement coordinator. Read her story on page 9.

Hands-on Experience Key to Success for MCCC's Entertainment Technology Students

When Theatre students took to the stage for two ambitious fall productions, "The Rimers of Eldridge" and "Peer Gynt," MCCC's Entertainment Technology (EnTech) students had their backs, creating lighting and sound that gave the shows a sizzling, dramatic edge.

Established in 2005, the EnTech program provides concentrations in either Lighting and Sound Technology or Music and Sound Technology. According to EnTech Program Coordinator Bob Terrano, "We emphasize real-time, hands-on experience from day one. The program meshes technical and creative aspirations. The sky's the limit."

Terrano notes that those who concentrate in Lighting and Sound Technology prepare for careers as technicians and technical managers for concerts, stage performances and video, while Music and Sound Technology majors pursue careers as record producers, recording and remix engineers, and sound technicians. Some graduates have continued their studies at The College of New Jersey, The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, and Temple University.

MCCC students routinely take their skills into the field, Terrano says. Recently they have secured jobs or internships at the Prudential Center in Newark, in off-off Broadway theaters in New York, at Trenton's Passage Theatre, and with area theater education programs, to name just a few.

On Sept. 27, approximately 10 EnTech students took on a unique challenge, when they participated in WWFM's Jazz On 2 anniversary celebration at Katmandu in Trenton. This real world assignment gave them the opportunity to produce multi-track recordings, requiring the continual set-up and recalibration of equipment and the infusion of special effects for each track.

Lee Pietrieka, a Music and Sound Technol-

ogy student, says the program has given him the opportunity to further hone skills that he developed working in a home-based music studio. "I have thorough knowledge of the latest equipment," said Pietrieka, treasurer of MCCC's new Entertainment Technology Club. "It has definitely given me a competitive edge."

Chris Ghaffoor, a Lighting and Sound student and president of the club, concurs. Currently working part-time in video production at the Prudential Center, Ghaffoor programs and operates lighting for the New Jersey Devils hockey team. He also assists the Devils' production engineer with various audio and visual needs.

"The program definitely helps students land jobs in the industry," Ghaffoor said. "I am passionate about creating ideas and feeding off of others. I love putting everything together."



EnTech student Fredy Barrientos

Survivorfest '09 Highlights Public Speaking

A group of 15 students who completed a public speaking course presented MCCC's third annual Public Speaking Fall Festival Oct. 21. "Survivorfest '09" featured heartfelt speeches, a few fake speech anxiety attacks, music, comedy, snacks and prizes. Pictured, from left, top row, are Jackie Allen, Anida Masoud, Joe Kovacs, Stephanie Ewaskiewicz, Brittany Mabin, and Kenneth Campbell. Bottom row, from left, are Maria Delaracruz, Meghan Sickler, Gicheru Mwariri, Christopher Sanicki and, at front, is Assistant Professor of Communication Kathi Paluscio.



History Lessons Come to Life for MCCC Honors Students

In trips to Philadelphia and Gettysburg this fall, six MCCC Honors students got to walk in the footsteps of history. "My students stood where the Declaration of Independence was signed, where the Constitution was written, and in the fields in which the most significant battle of America's bloodiest and most important war took place," observed Associate Professor Craig Coenen, who traveled with his "U.S. History Since 1865" class to the renowned historic sites. "You simply can't get that out of a textbook."

Student David Hoyt concurred. "It's much better than learning from the textbook. You can see what it actually looks like. It seems to matter more."

The group especially enjoyed their guided tour of cemeteries, battlefields and monuments in Gettysburg. A stop at Little Round Top, where Southern troops were turned back as they tried to attack the Union line, was especially fascinating for Brian Kaplan. "It was cool to be standing on the actual terrain where the battle took place," he said. Aiste Velyvyte added that the field had once been littered with tall piles of amputated limbs.

The students agreed the experience was a highlight of the semester. An unexpected benefit was getting to know each other better. "The trips really brought the class together," Hoyt said.

All six are enthusiastic about the MCCC Honors program. "I really like it – small classes, more discussion, and group projects," Danielle Steward said. The work feels more substantial, she added.

Students from all six Honors classes offered during the fall semester presented projects at a symposium held on Dec. 11 for faculty, family and friends. Eight classes are being offered in the spring, 2010.



History students visiting Cemetery Ridge in Gettysburg are, clockwise from left, Danielle Steward, Kristina Babinskaite, Aiste Velyvyte, Amber Zahn and Brian Kaplan.

MCCC Recognized with 2009 Community Service Award



From left, Ray Sziber and Jeff Zeiger, co-chairs of the 2009 Renaissance Ball sponsored by the Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce, present the Community Service Award to MCCC President, Dr. Patricia C. Donohue, during an awards dinner Oct. 23. Chamber President Michele Siekerka said the college was chosen because of the far-reaching impact its programs have on individuals, families and businesses.

New Options in Health Care and Fitness Through The Center for Continuing Studies

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that more new jobs will be generated in health care than any other industry through 2016. MCCC's Center for Continuing Studies remains on the cutting edge of health careers training, offering affordable tuition and flexible scheduling, with new courses added regularly based on industry demand.

Health career courses and programs for winter/spring 2010 include Pharmacy Technician, Basic Dental Office Skills, Preparation Course for Dental Radiologic Technologists, EKG Technician Certification, Intravenous (IV) Therapy, Certified Nurse's Aide, Gerontology Certificate, and the Certificate in Medical Billing/Coding.

Training options for careers in fitness continue to expand. Current offerings include Personal Training Certification, Flexibility for Performance, Business Selling Skills for Personal Fitness Trainers, and Nutritional Concepts of Today.

For more information on all of the offerings of MCCC's Center for Continuing Studies, call (609) 570-3311, e-mail ComEd@mccc.edu, or visit www.mccc.edu/ccs.



New Look, Easier Navigation for College Website: www.mccc.edu

With the launch of Mercer's newly-designed website on August 19, online visitors are enjoying a cleaner, updated look and new navigation that features additional home page menus for prospective students, current students and noncredit programs. The "My-Mercer" link has a new look and includes on-line registration and a sign-in area for students, faculty and staff.

Design work was completed by Information Technology and Graphic Design staff members led by Web Designer Tim Fitzpatrick, with guidance from the college's Web Advisory Committee. The new site earned a bronze award from the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations.

Marketing Staff Wins 12 Awards



Marketing staff members, pictured from left, front row, are Web and Print Editor Brad Kent, Marketing Director Lynn Holl, Public Information Coordinator Saveria Symons, and Web Designer Tim Fitzpatrick. In the back row are Graphic Designer Tracy Patterson, Senior Graphic Designer Francis Paixao, and Public Information Writer/Editor Wendy Humphrey.

Mercer's Marketing staff took twelve awards at the Eastern Regional Conference of the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations Nov. 2-3, including five gold awards.

MCCC won gold awards for the college's marketing campaign, outdoor advertising, transit advertising, a press kit and a special event – the Board of Trustees' 2008 Community Open House. Two silver awards were for a brochure and a color photograph, and five bronze awards included one for a student theatre poster. The eastern region includes two-year colleges from Maryland to Maine, plus eastern Canada and the United Kingdom.

Board of Trustees Hosts 2009 Community Open House

MCCC opened its doors to well over 300 guests on Nov. 12 for the 2009 Board of Trustees Open House and Report to the Community. Families came to learn about program opportunities for their college-bound children, adults sought information about career retraining, and others attended as friends and supporters of the college. The event also showcased student successes over the past year, and recognized a special alumnus and two major college supporters.

Highlights included displays by every division of the college, and guests had an opportunity to talk to deans, faculty members and students. Admissions representatives were busy explaining the application process, answering questions about enrollment and financial aid, and even registering some visitors for classes.

Live music was provided by the MCCC Jazz Band, while Physical Therapist Assistant students saw a steady flow of people eager for chair massages. Culinary students prepared their signature dish, Bananas Foster, while Career Training Institute chefs served made-to-order tacos.

Selected for the Alumni Leader Award was Les Venella Jr., CFSP, a graduate of Mercer's first Funeral Service class in 1976. He is president of Saul Funeral Homes, which offers services in four Mercer County locations. Venella is a member of the college's Funeral Service Advisory Commission and has consistently provided employment opportunities to graduates of the program.



The Community Open House provided the perfect venue to honor three important partners. Pictured are, from left, Mark Galley of the American Chemical Society's Trenton Section, Margaret Pego of PSE&G, and alumnus Les Venella, president of Saul Funeral Homes, with MCCC Board Chair Rev. William E. Coleman, Jr. and MCCC President Patricia Donohue.



Student volunteers greeted guests at the Community Open House Nov. 12. From left are Brianna LaCava, Mitch Richtman, George Diosteanu as the Viking mascot, and Adrienne Sherwin.

The Corporate Partner Award went to Public Service Electric and Gas Company because of its generous support of MCCC students and programs. In 2003 the company partnered with Mercer to develop the A.A.S. degree program in Energy Utility Technology. The award was accepted by PSE&G Senior Vice President Margaret Pego.

The Trenton Section of the American Chemical Society was the recipient of the Partner in Learning Award for its annual funding of a "Chemistry Road Show," presented by MCCC science students to approximately 700 elementary school children during National Chemistry Week. Accepting the award was Mark Galley, acting chair of the society's Trenton Section.

Chemistry Week Tour is Success by Any Measure

If you measure it in cups of slime, students from MCCC have distributed ingredients to make the gooey stuff to approximately 7,000 elementary school students in 34 schools over the past 12 years. Each year the college's science students, accompanied by MCCC faculty and several students and faculty members from

Rider University, fan out across the county to share the joys of chemistry during National Chemistry Week, which was held Oct. 19-23. This year, students from The College of New Jersey joined in the effort. The event receives funding from the American Chemical Society's Trenton Section.

Coordinating the popular program is Helen Tanzini, MCCC associate professor of chemistry, who is committed to the idea that exposing young children to the marvels of science plants a seed that may one day grow into a career choice. "We want youngsters to be filled with a sense of wonder. They consistently react with amazement and delight – and lots of 'wows.'" Tanzini says.

This year, a merry band of students presented their experiments to 740 youngsters at six schools – Rogers Elementary School in Hightstown, Greenwood Elementary in Hamilton, Langtree Elementary in Hamilton, John Witherspoon School in Princeton, Roosevelt Elementary School in Roosevelt, and Dutch Neck School in West Windsor. Said Dutch Neck third grade teacher Marty Hobaugh, "I have been teaching here for ten years. I look forward to this visit. It's a great program."

This year's experiments focused on chromatography, a separation technique using a coffee filter, water and soluble markers; a color-changing acidity experiment; a "snow-making"



On a visit to Dutch Neck School are, from left, MCCC faculty members Helen Tanzini, Linda Falkow and MaryAnn Norcross, students James Hodges and Adrie Kornasiewicz, instructor Ron Russell, and students Erica Grabell, Shraddha Desai, Afefa Butt, and Scott Pecaric.

demonstration using sodium polyacrylate and water; and more. Each 30-minute presentation ended with the grand finale, where the children were given the ingredients to whip up their very own batch of slime, using polyvinylalcohol (PVA) mixed with detergent and glitter.

Twenty-eight college students participated in the project, including those who helped with set-up and clean-up.



What does fake snow feel like? Dutch Neck School third graders Will Marsh (with hand in bag) and Akul Telluri with MCCC student Scott Pecaric.

Mercer County Fire Academy Equips Students with Life-Saving Skills

In every profession, thorough and intensive training is necessary in order to perform a job at a high level. For a firefighter, it can mean the difference between life and death.

That fact is taken quite seriously at the Mercer County Fire Academy at the Dempster Fire Training Center, located on Lawrence Station Road in Lawrence. The facility, which is owned by the county, has been overseen by MCCC since 2007. The college's Fire Science Technology program offers training in four major areas: an associate degree in Fire Science; certificates in Fire Code Enforcement and Fire Officer/Administrator; noncredit training for firefighters who would like to become fire officials; and a career prep program for high school seniors in conjunction with the Mercer County Technical Schools.

According to Director Scott Loh, there



Shannon Pope '08

MCCC's Center for Training and Development Secures Training Grants for Area Workforce

Mercer's Center for Training and Development (CTD) has assisted in securing training grants from New Jersey's Department of Labor and Workforce Development for six area businesses and nonprofit organizations.

Totaling over \$300,000, the grants will provide staff training to boost employees' skills and bolster their ability to manage change. Classes will run for one year and will include leadership, supervision, communications, customer service, computer training, ESL or Spanish, and quality initiatives.

Recent grant recipients are Perceptives Informatics, Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic, SES Americom, TRI Princeton, The Martin House, and The Hibbert Group. The CTD is also the lead agency for a grant to 12 nonprofit organizations.

According to CTD Director Elaine Weinberg, the center works closely with organizations to determine their training needs, and then writes grant proposals for them. There is no cost to the company other than releasing their employees for training during normal work hours.

In addition to securing grant funding, the CTD works with businesses to design and deliver customized training solutions. "Having well-trained employees increases the value of a company immediately, and gives workers the technical and management skills needed to handle changing work responsibilities. This is an opportunity to save the bottom line by building a stronger workforce," Weinberg said.

were 623 students enrolled in 32 noncredit classes alone in the 2009 spring semester, and 316 students registered in 28 programs. There were also 12 high school seniors involved in the career prep curriculum, pursuing certification as a dispatcher, emergency medical technician, or firefighter.

Loh says the role of firefighter has changed, making the availability of formal training more important. The advent of semi-automatic defibrillators, for example, has meant firefighters now are called to the scene of medical emergencies more often.

What type of person makes a good firefighter? Loh stresses several attributes, such as resourcefulness, commitment, and the willingness to face tough challenges. Having himself started as a volunteer firefighter in Hamilton, he believes that volunteering is the best way to test the waters. "Then you know what you want. Maybe you get in a certain situation and see it's not for you," Loh said. He cited vehicle extrication as an example of a particularly demanding situation where "the rubber hits the road" for many aspiring firefighters.

One graduate who is no stranger to "rubber-hitting-the-road" situations is Drew Kintzel, a fire inspector for the Raritan Township Bureau of Fire Safety and a volunteer firefighter for Union Fire Company & Rescue Squad in Titusville. A third-generation firefighter who has basically grown up around a firehouse, Kintzel nevertheless gained invaluable training at Dempster. He earned his A.A.S. in Fire Science at Mercer in 2005.

"They care about students," Kintzel said. "The classes are small, so all the instructors know your name, and they give you all the tools you need for your toolbox."

Kintzel has put those tools to good use. At 25, he was named the youngest fire chief in the history of Union Fire Company and is currently the deputy fire chief. He is studying for his bachelor's degree in Fire Science and Public Safety Administration at Holy Family University and hopes eventually to pursue a graduate degree.

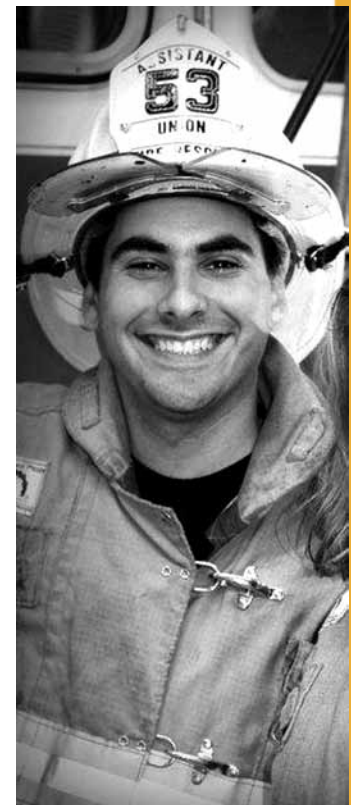
Kintzel stresses that even for those with no experience – just the simple desire to become a firefighter – Dempster will guide you along until you reach that goal. "You can go in knowing absolutely nothing and you can walk out ready," he said. "You will learn how to make a rapid decision when it matters most."

The academic experience of Fire Academy graduate Shannon Pope echoes Kintzel's. Pope earned an A.A.S. degree in Fire Science in 2008. She is a full-time firefighter at Station 43 in West Windsor, where her primary job is firefighting, but she also responds to emergencies such as EMS, HazMat, and water rescues.

"I don't look at firefighting as just spraying water at fire; it is truly a science," Pope said. "College taught me that there are so many parts to firefighting that no one gets to see."

That "big-picture" approach to education is embraced by the Dempster Center staff, according to Pope, who said that staff members not only assisted her with scheduling to ensure timely graduation, but also helped her select courses that were beneficial for her career.

"There is never one answer to any situation, and the diverse teachers and teaching styles show you that, which gives you the multiple skills to perform your job correctly and safely so everyone goes home at the end of the day," Pope said.



Drew Kintzel '05

Mercer's International Students Reach Out to Community

A series of events during International Education Week in November highlighted Mercer's diverse student population and the many community outreach efforts of the International Student Organization (ISO).

In the fall 2009 semester, MCCC enrolled 59 new international (F-1) students, bringing the total number to 203. The top five countries represented are South Korea, Poland, India, China and Brazil. Programs most chosen for study include Business Administration, Liberal Arts, Education, Biology, and Hotel, Restaurant and Institution Management.

After raising more than \$600 through three events – a costume dinner dance, a bowling fundraiser and a bake sale – the group purchased 72 bags of food for the charity Womanspace. They also visited a charter school and read poems from their countries of origin to students in two third-grade classes. "The children really enjoyed themselves," said Student Advisor Amy Im-mordino. "They had so many questions to ask our students."

On Nov. 17 the students hosted a Mul-



Mercer's international students hosted a Multicultural Festival to showcase their countries of origin. From left are Nisha Rattan, Chun-Chih Wah and Loc Tran.

ticultural Festival on the West Windsor campus, showcasing their talents, music, cultures, and backgrounds.

FOUNDATION

Save the Date for "Puttin' On The Ritz," MCCC's 2010 Scholarship Dinner Dance

Supporters of MCCC will be "Puttin' On The Ritz" to raise dollars for student scholarships on Saturday, April 24, 6:30 p.m., at the Hyatt Regency Princeton. This annual Foundation Board event will include a silent auction with original artwork, a festive dinner and dancing. Three important community partners will be honored.

Alumni and friends of Mercer may participate through corporate sponsorships, advertising in the program book, purchasing tickets, making a donation or contributing items for the silent auction. For further information contact Art Cianfano in the Foundation Office at 609-570-3728.



**Saturday
April 24, 2010
6:30 p.m.
Hyatt Regency
Princeton**

Making the Difference for Students: Scholarship Event Brings Donors to Campus

Each year, many of Mercer's top students receive recognition for their academic performance through generous scholarships. At the college's annual Recognition Ceremony for Continuing Students on Oct. 27, approximately 200 people came together – students and their families, along with the donors who have committed funds to educating the next generation.

Mrs. Nadia Kopcho established the Ronald J. Kopcho Memorial Scholarship shortly after her husband, the former dean of MCCC's Liberal Arts Division and professor of psychology, died in 1998. The scholarship is presented to a sophomore student who is pursuing a degree in the Humanities and Social Sciences, her husband's passion. "I wanted Ron's name to be remembered at Mercer. He was devoted to the college and to helping students," Mrs. Kopcho said, recalling that her husband often would leave the house at 6 a.m. and stay on campus well into the evening to teach night classes. "It was a fulfilling life for him. I wanted to honor that."

Kopcho was accompanied to the ceremony by her daughter and son-in-law, Nicole and Jay Wendel, and their two daughters. "My daughter comes every year. I want my family to be part of this event and for my granddaughters to know this is for their grandfather," Kopcho explained.

Mrs. Kopcho was particularly inspired by student Shawn Scott, this year's Kopcho Scholarship recipient. "He is a special young man. He and his family expressed their gratitude." Scott plans to pursue a career in psychology and possibly teach at the college level one day.

Also in attendance was Bill Doerler, owner of Doerler Landscapes, who established the Mary Monroe Doerler Scholarship in memory of his first wife, who died in 1982. Mrs. Doerler had returned to college at Mercer part-time to study horticulture, while working in the family business. "She had been a teacher and I thought it would be nice to award a scholarship to working women who return to school to get a degree in horticulture," Mr. Doerler explained. He later amended the scholarship requirements so that employees of Doerler



Presenting the Mary Monroe Doerler Scholarship are, from left, Assistant Professor Amy Iseneker, Bill Doerler, student Jonathan Barrera and Steve Doerler.

Landscapes might also benefit. This year's recipient is Jonathan Barrera, a Doerler employee who loves his work and is happy to have the opportunity to study in his field.







To learn more about giving opportunities at Mercer, visit www.mccc.edu/give.



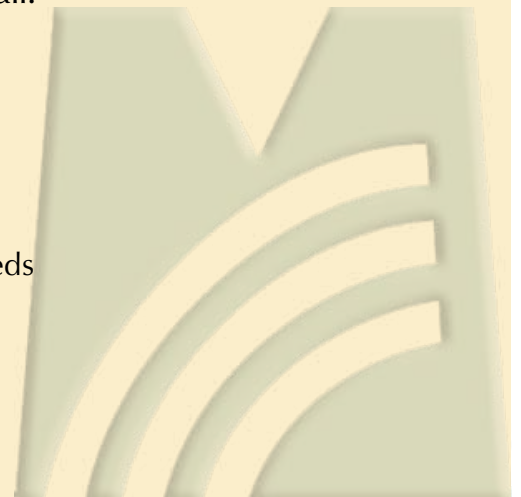
Presenting the Ronald J. Kopcho Memorial Scholarship are, from left, back row, Nicole Wendel, Jay Wendel, and Nadia Kopcho, with scholarship recipient Sean Scott; front row, Anna and Ella Wendel.

Change a Life and Our Community Through Education

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

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-  Technology
-  Program and Instructional Needs
-  Emergency Fund for Students

**www.mccc.edu/give
609.570.3607**



MCCC Annual Golf Classic Is Fruitful Day for Golfers and Students

Student athletes came up the big winners at the MCCC Golf Classic on Oct. 6 at Mercer Oaks Golf Course. Seventy-eight golfers and additional corporate and individual donors helped to raise approximately \$10,000 for the Student-Athlete Scholarship Fund.

Magnificent weather set the tone for a great day. Twelve student athletes came out to assist on the 18-hole championship course, located on a beautifully landscaped site adjacent to Mercer County Park.

The round of golf was followed by a banquet dinner, which included a silent auction of donated sports and other valuable items and the presentation of awards by MCCC Athletics Director John Simone. Foundation Chair E. Karen Kennedy expressed her gratitude to those who have made MCCC a priority – both the dedicated members of the Golf Committee and the many participants.

The winning foursomes included Dan Madden, Brad Strauss, Joe Coscia and Bill Narleski from Honeywell, which also served as a Target Sponsor; tied for first place were Bob Klee of Clayton Block Company, and guests Bob Iamello, Mike Millemann, and Allen Neylon.

Serving on this year's Golf Committee were: Foundation Board members David Fraytak, of Faridy, Veisz, Fraytak Architects; Thomas Kull; Timothy Losch of The Bank; Scott Needham of Princeton Air Conditioning, Inc.; Steven Ritzau; Doug Borden of Borden Perlman Insurance Company; and Michele Siekerka, Esq., president and CEO of the Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce. The tournament is held in memory of Ritzau's wife, Dr. Cynthia Schaffer, an MCCC Foundation Board member and area physician. Schaffer strongly supported Mercer's mission and was an ardent sports enthusiast, especially in golf and youth tennis.

For a full list of corporate and individual sponsors, visit www.mccc.edu/golf.



The tournament committee includes, from left, Athletics Director John Simone, VP for College Advancement Mellissia Zanjani, Dave Fraytak, Steve Ritzau, Scott Needham and Tom Kull.



First place winners are, from left, Dan Madden, Brad Strauss, Joe Coscia and Bill Narleski (not pictured) from Honeywell, an event sponsor.



MCCC student athletes assist on the course.

Annual Campaign Makes New Technology Possible

Mercer's staff, faculty, trustees and Foundation Board members donated generously to MCCC's 2008-09 Annual Giving Campaign in support of scholarships and other college needs.

The funding made possible the purchase of cutting edge software call Wimba, which adds voice capability to distance learning. According to Virtual College Director Debbie Kell, Wimba is part of a pilot project, and is now being tested by faculty and staff. Online professors will be able to conduct voice discussions, and students can speak with each other remotely.

Additional funding priorities include special Library software to assist students with disabilities, and equipment for the college's new Solar/Energy Technology program.



Jazz On 2 Celebrates First Anniversary



Professor Jim Kelly, left, with Ben Russert on bass guitar and John Gervasoni on drums.

The sounds of Bebop, Dixieland, Latin Jazz, Modern Jazz and Blues filled the air as MCCC presented "Jazz On 2 at Katmandu" Sept. 27, to celebrate the one-year anniversary of WWFM radio's new jazz station.

The all-day event, at Katmandu restaurant in Trenton, included a lineup of world-class talent, with special performances by the MCCC Jazz Trio, led by Music Program Coordinator James Kelly, and Zingu, a band featuring Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Guy Generals.

Jazz On 2 airs on 89.1 HD2, a digital channel of WWFM The Classical Network, a station of MCCC, and includes a combination of locally-produced programming and programs offered in collaboration with WDUQ in Pittsburgh.

Generous Gift Added to the Betty Wallace Cornelius Scholarship

Gifts to MCCC come from many sources, some predictable, others unexpected. In November 2009, the college was pleased to receive a generous gift that will be added to the existing Betty Wallace Cornelius Scholarship, awarded annually to a graduating student for excellence in mathematics.

After more than 140 years of service to the Baltimore City community, the Boys Home Society, a nonprofit Maryland agency, is ceasing operation. Throughout its long history, the Boys Home Society provided an immediate and temporary residential group care setting for boys who were either homeless or not able to be cared for in their own homes. The agency's ultimate goal was to prepare each resident for return to his family when possible or placement in a foster home setting.

With the closing of the organization, the Boys Home Society Board of Trustees selected the Professor Betty Wallace Cornelius Scholarship at Mercer to be a recipient of a \$25,000 gift from its financial holdings, in order that its funds will continue to provide a pathway to a promising future for students who strive to improve their lives through education.

Professor Cornelius, who passed away in 2006, dedicated her life to teaching math to students at MCCC and was awarded Mercer's Distinguished Teaching Award. The college, as well as her husband, Dr. Jeffrey Cornelius, who

established the scholarship in her memory, are delighted by this generous gift. "I know that Betty would be very honored that the Boys Home Society chose to support her scholarship in this way," Dr. Cornelius said. "This gift will further assure that her legacy of dedication to teaching and to excellence will serve future generations of students."



Dr. Jeffrey Cornelius with Ryan Schwartz, the May 2009 recipient of the Cornelius Scholarship for excellence in mathematics.

Alum Abby Watrous Works in China on Fulbright Scholarship



Abby Watrous at the Great Wall of China.

Abby Watrous' academic career has taken her to Texas, Colorado, Africa, and now, courtesy of a prestigious Fulbright Scholarship, to China. Watrous is in Beijing studying Chinese and researching alternatives to coal for cooking and heating in rural China. She also is working toward a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering at the University of Colorado (CU) at Boulder.

The seeds for her travels were sown as a precocious 15-year-old studying science in the labs of MCCC. As a child in Kingston and Belle Mead, she received home schooling from her parents, but when she began high school studies, the fledgling engineer didn't have an available lab to conduct the biology and chemistry experiments in which she was interested. That's where Mercer came in.

Watrous soon found herself taking classes with older students, many of whom had jobs and families, and that helped teach her that education should be taken seriously. It also enabled her to take advantage of the instruction that Mercer offers. "Professor [Arthur] Schwartz for math was one of the best professors I've ever had," Watrous said. This fourth-generation engineer also recalled Professor Helen Tanzini, who taught her organic chemistry, a major influence.

Watrous enjoyed Mercer so much that she stayed until she was 20 years old, earning associate degrees in both Mathematics and Chemistry before leaving for Rice University. There she developed an interest in sustainable development and international travel, and went to Africa with Engineers Without Borders. After graduating from Rice, Watrous began graduate studies at CU and received a master's degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering in 2006.

While working on her master's, Watrous taught elementary school students about engineering and renewable energy as a National Science Foundation teaching fellow. The experience led to fellowships the next year at Tsinghua University in Beijing, where she wrote a book on renewable energy for English and Chinese elementary students called *Let's Explore Energy*. She stayed to continue her research until after the start of the summer 2008 Olympics.

"I love working with kids on finding energy alternatives," she said. "I like to show them how engineers help people around the world."

Despite a large population that is largely dependent on coal, and growing prosperity that has residents buying about 1,200 cars a day in Beijing alone, Watrous says China is making significant strides toward renewable energy sources.

China is the world's leader in the use of so-

Nursing Alum Theresa Fordyce Personifies Lifelong Learning

Combine her impressive skill set, solid work ethic and holistic managerial philosophy, and it's no wonder that MCCC Nursing alumna Theresa Fordyce has risen to the supervisory level at Princeton House Behavioral Health, a unit of Princeton HealthCare System. She is intent on fostering a work environment where employees are respected for their individual contributions, but understand that teamwork is essential.

"As a manager, I have to do certain things, but I don't see myself as better than my employees," Fordyce says. "I strive for cohesiveness. You have to have consistency for good patient care."

Fordyce herself has been a model of consistency, earning her MCCC Nursing degree in 1986 and twice adding to her expertise through Mercer's Center for Continuing Studies. When she began studying at Mercer in the 1980s, Fordyce had already earned a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Belmont Abbey College (NC). After attending an open house at MCCC with friends, she scrapped her original plan to continue on to grad school and instead decided to focus on psychiatric nursing.

She recalls that her nursing education was very well-rounded. "You name it, we did it," she says. "Classes were tough, but the professors were supportive. You could go to them even if they weren't your teacher for that class." Fordyce notes that students formed close bonds. "We tormented each other; we pushed each other."

Fordyce stood out as a leader in the Nursing program, serving as president of the New Jersey Student Nurses Association. She was also an active member of the National Student Nurses Association.

After graduating in 1986, Fordyce worked at Trenton Psychiatric Hospital. It was there that she learned the value of everyone's contributions – especially the nursing assistants with whom she worked side by side. Relocating to South Carolina, Fordyce worked in several facilities, but returned to Central New Jersey in the mid-1990s. She began working at Princeton House in 2002, first as a staff nurse and then as the 11-7 supervisor.

With responsibility for as many as 17 employees per shift and 40 employees overall, Fordyce decided to supplement her limited managerial experience. "I wanted more than I could get out of a book," she said. In 2005, she enrolled in the American Management Association certificate program offered through MCCC's Center for Continuing Stud-

lar hot water heaters, and many of the positive changes the country made for the Olympics have become permanent, she said. Changes have occurred in rural China as well, where many villages now cook with methane from pig excrement instead of coal. This is especially noteworthy considering the economics of the area. "It's tough in villages when someone is making three dollars a day," Watrous said.

Watrous plans to finish her Ph.D. in 2011



ies. Led by an instructor with extensive experience, the courses covered topics such as conflict resolution, human resources, and delegating, and emphasized peer interaction by asking "what would you do?" in a variety of scenarios.

"We were all from different industries. Everyone contributed to the discussion," Fordyce said. "I would take ideas back to my work setting and then discuss in the next class what worked and what didn't. It was very useful."

Counting increasing numbers of older adults among her patients, in 2008 Fordyce again returned to MCCC, this time to earn her Gerontology Certificate. "I got tired of hearing staff members say 'because they're old.' I wanted to find out what was and wasn't normal behavior in the elderly. Cognitive loss is not normal," she stresses. "It can be a side effect of medication or the result of an infection."

The MCCC Gerontology program approaches elder care holistically – covering topics from housing to Medicare to grief and loss. According to Fordyce, people are in the class for different reasons. "Some want to change or add to their careers, while others are dealing with elderly family members," she explains. She is now working on her final capstone project, an elder care brochure to be distributed to staff and families at Princeton House.

Since last spring, Fordyce has been pursuing yet another career goal. With encouragement from MCCC Health Professions Dean Linda Martin, who taught one of the Gerontology courses, Fordyce enrolled in a master's degree program in Nursing, "so that I might teach one day." As an adult student, she finds learning especially rewarding. "I can apply what I learn in my job," she says.

With her demanding work and academic schedules, Fordyce must be disciplined and adhere to strict deadlines. But she believes her dedication is worth the sacrifice. "When a patient says, 'You saved my life,' those folks make your day."

and focus on green design, energy efficiency, and renewables. She then would like to continue her pursuit of developing renewable energy sources in rural areas, and would also consider teaching again.

Whatever she decides, Watrous won't forget that her experiences at Mercer helped fuel her passion for research, teaching, and helping others. "I'm really thankful I got such personal attention and professors who cared so much."

**For more alumni features, visit
www.mccc.edu/success-stories**

Alum John Maurer Takes Productions to New Heights at MCCC's Kelsey Theatre

As the artistic director of Maurer Productions OnStage, John Maurer has been responsible for presenting shows at MCCC's Kelsey Theatre since 2004. His work has been seen as a huge boost for regional theater in Central New Jersey, and recently he was recognized for his efforts by the New Jersey Association of Community Theaters (NJACT) with the David P. McMenemie Award, given to an individual who has made a significant, lasting and invaluable contribution behind the scenes.

The Ewing resident got his start in show business as a Mercer student, running spotlight for performances at Kelsey in 1982. "I had the opportunity to do so many different things at Mercer, and I'm very much into trying new things," Maurer said. A Television Production major with a minor in Theater, Maurer became involved not only in multiple areas of the theater, but also in the college's television studio and radio station, graduating with a degree in Radio/Television in 1982.

After receiving his associate degree, Mau-

rer worked in television production for the Arts and Entertainment Network, Lifetime and the Medical Entertainment Network before beginning his own animation and graphic design business. When he and his wife, Diana, whom he met at Kelsey Theatre, decided to start a family, Maurer took a job as new media coordinator for NJM Insurance Group in Ewing, a position he currently holds. He has also taught 3-D animation and multimedia courses at Mercer.

As Maurer developed his career, he has still found time to perform in remarkable and colorful ways. He has entertained audiences as a clown, magician, stilt walker, and "strolling character" on the Atlantic City boardwalk.

In 2003 Maurer began to focus his energies at Kelsey Theatre after being approached by Artistic Director Kitty Getlik to produce children's programming. Teaming up with his wife, John developed the popular "Nosing Around" clown shows that quickly drew a loyal following among the younger set.

These days, Maurer and his company are



John and Diana Maurer clowning around.

taking on great American theater classics – and receiving rave reviews for their work. In the 2007-08 season, Maurer Productions presented "Driving Miss Daisy," with an on stage convertible as a prominent prop, and "Singin' in the Rain," which featured an actual rainstorm. The two shows were nominated for 17 NJACT Perry Awards between them, with "Daisy" winning five. Last season, the company's production of "Man of LaMancha" was nominated for four awards.

Theatre Director Kitty Getlik Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

In her 31 years at Kelsey Theatre, Kitty Getlik has performed practically every job. From actor to stage manager, from director to lighting technician, even to ticket seller, she has done it all with the passion of a true theater lover.

Recently her commitment was rewarded by the New Jersey Association of Community Theaters (NJACT) with its Lifetime Achievement Award, one of the coveted Perry Awards the association gives annually.

A Philadelphia native who attended Penn State and Temple universities, Getlik began her career at Kelsey as stage manager after gaining experience at theaters in New York City and in the South. She also signed on as technical director of the Open Air Theatre at Washington Crossing Park, where she began to connect with various community theater groups. The seeds for what the public now enjoys at Kelsey were planted there.

Originally known for hosting expensive specialty shows, Kelsey Theatre would be better suited, Getlik believed, for community productions that would be more cost-effective and



beneficial for the college and the public.

"It seemed like a win-win situation for us. The idea is to get people to visit the campus and become interested in theater and everything MCCC has to offer. And it's very important to me to keep ticket prices low," said Getlik,

Kelsey's artistic director since 1992.

Getlik also emphasizes the many opportunities that Kelsey provides for both experienced and fledgling actors. "In a given season, more than 1,000 community members, ranging in age from 4 to 86, appear on stage and assist behind the scenes."

The involvement of young people is key to Getlik, because she believes that people should be exposed to live theater at a young age. "There's nothing like the magic and energy of live theater. No two performances are ever the same," she said.

While her award may have been for lifetime achievement, Getlik has no plans to slow down any time soon. The theatre's annual schedule this year includes 19 adult and family performances and 13 shows in its Kelsey Kids Series.

"When people come to Kelsey Theatre, I hope they realize the professionalism and quality that goes into every performance, and what a unique and multi-level resource the college is. There is much to experience and enjoy at Mercer."

Alumna Returns to MCCC Campus as Advisor for William Paterson

It is fitting to alumna AnnaKay Thomas that she now serves as an advisor for William Paterson University (WPU), which began offering four-year degrees on the MCCC campus in September. "When I was a student here, we would always say that Mercer should be a four-year school because we liked it so much."

As a 2004 graduate of Mercer and a 2007 graduate of WPU, Thomas is able to offer valuable advice as graduating students transition to WPU. "I advise students on courses and help them navigate the WPU enrollment process, website, and submitting applications," she explains.

While at Mercer, Thomas excelled both academically and interpersonally, immersing herself in extracurricular activities. Though not an international student, she hails from Jamaica and joined the International Student Organization, where she was able to share with others who were transitioning to American culture.

She thoroughly enjoyed meeting a diverse group of students. "It was a wonderful experience. We're still close." She participated in student government, serving as SGA president, and also wrote articles for the college newspaper.

Thomas proved an excellent student, graduating with honors with an A.A. in Communication. She was a member of the Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society and selected for the Student Volunteer of the Year Award.

"My classes were challenging and the professors were very helpful," she recalled. "They were always available, even if it was not during regular office hours."

Thomas followed her success at MCCC with similar achievement at WPU, graduating with a degree in Communications and a minor in Psychology. Her emphasis was on interpersonal communication, which served her well after college in her position as program coordinator

with Operation Link-Up, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping at-risk students prepare for college. "At that point, I decided I wanted to work with students in the higher education setting," she said.

She considers her new advisement position to be a "perfect fit." She notes that she is happy to have returned to the MCCC campus, where "everyone is helpful and I feel very comfortable." She enjoys the experience of working alongside former professors and administrators. Those interested in learning more about WPU at Mercer should contact Anna-Kay Thomas at Thomasa20@wpunj.edu.



AnnaKay Thomas

Men's Soccer

Losses have been few and far between for the men's soccer program. But the final loss of the Vikings' 2009 season, only the second of the year, stung as much as any game could for the players and Head Coach Charlie Inverso, who has compiled an amazing 434-46-14 record in 24 seasons of guiding the program.

The Vikings fell to Essex County Community College, 1-0, in the Region 19 Tournament title game, which they had won the previous eight seasons. That defeat ended a 14-2 season and ultimately kept the Vikings from playing at the National Junior College Athletic Association Division I Men's Soccer Championship, the eight-team tournament hosted at MCCC from Nov. 18-22.

"Sometimes it is easy to take our success as a given and to take it for granted," Inverso said. "The players and coaches are still down about the loss to Essex and very disappointed."

Not forgotten, however, is the overall excellence of the season. The sophomore class went 33-5 over two seasons, forward Frank Tweneboa was named an NJCAA First Team All-American in 2009 (following sophomore midfielder Amit Aburmad's honor in 2008), forward Ido Ligety earned a full scholarship to

Big East champion St. John's University, and defenders Nigel Blair and Darnell Edwards made outstanding contributions while leaving a lasting impression on the freshman class.

"I thought we had a very good team and played well throughout the season," Inverso said. "The sophomore players gave us two great years and have great futures."

The Vikings posted two seven-game winning streaks and outscored opponents by a combined 59-16. Tweneboa was a versatile standout, totaling three goals and seven assists, while Aburmad posted team highs with 13 goals and eight assists. Both made the Region 19 and Garden State Athletic Conference first teams along with freshman goalie Sean Duble. Ligety's skilled play on the front line earned him GSAC first-team honors.

Forward Luigi Moriello (six goals, four assists) came on strong as another key sophomore and sophomore goalie David Schindewolf helped back Blair and Edwards. The freshman class featured Duble, Kadeem Dacres (six goals) and Joe Joe Jappah (six goals), as well as Arturo Barajas, Mohammed Conteh and Rocike Kazouh.

Inverso was assisted this season by Bill Daley, Larry Povia and Art Taylor.



All-American Frank Tweneboa

Note: Team review articles were contributed by sports writer Craig Haley.

Women's Soccer



It is hard to talk about Mercer's 2009 women's soccer season without talking about the 2008 season as well. The two-year run of success is intrinsically linked. Before capturing back-to-back titles the last two seasons under third-year head coach Jodie Ricciardi, the Vikings had not won a Region 19 Tournament title since 2001.

Many of the key players who fueled last year's success returned to power this fall's 16-5-1 season. An eight-game winning streak included six of the squad's 11 shutouts. Ricciardi also added a strong freshman class which is expected to keep the Vikings competitive in 2010.

"Not only did we have a great season because we won our region again," Ricciardi said, "but we had such great chemistry and so much heart. It was amazing to watch the players improve and get stronger as a team because they worked hard every day at practice and in games."

The Vikings advanced to the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) District G tournament, where their season ended against Monroe Community College of Rochester, NY.

Sophomore Kasey Kenny finished her two-year career as one of the more decorated players in program history. The dynamic forward from Staten Island, NY, surpassed the 29 goals she tallied in her NJCAA All-American season of 2008 with 31 goals this fall. She added six assists while earning All-Region 19 and All-Garden State Athletic Conference first-team honors.

With 14 goals, Carolyn Walters was an outstanding No. 2 scorer. The team's assist totals, however, accentuated the Vikings' team-first mentality. Walters had nine assists, while fellow sophomores Erika Juricic had 11 assists to go along with nine goals and Brittany Usarzewicz dished off for six assists with three goals. Newcomers Samantha Biondi, Jess Villalba and Sheila Frank also got into the offensive act. Biondi, a key midfielder, had seven assists with three goals, while Villalba had eight goals and four assists and Frank collected seven goals and four assists.

The defense should be a focal point in 2010 after the success of freshmen Marissa Segal and Brianna Byrne this season. Segal made the All-Region 19 and All-GSAC first teams,

Top row, from left: Assistant Coach Bobby Gioscio, Sheila Frank, Marissa Segal, Kelsey Capuano, Samantha Biondi, Gianna Greco, Carolyn Walters, Jess Villalba, Kasey Kenny, and Coach Jodie Ricciardi; middle row, Stephanie Gaspari, Caitlin Wilson, Alexandra Casperson, Angelica Modica, Brittany Fornaratto, Jacklyn Tellefsen, Carly Blanton and Lauren Sparano; front row, Brittany Usarzewicz, Brianna Byrne and Erika Juricic.

while Byrne, the iron-woman in goal, made both second teams. Among midfielders, Caitlin Wilson was a freshman standout and made the All-GSAC first team. Sophomore Alexandra Casperson, who had five goals and three assists, rotated between midfield and defense.

"We have a strong freshman class that stepped up this year and worked well with the sophomores," Ricciardi said, "and I know they will be great leaders next year."

Assisting Coach Ricciardi this season were Matt Candor, Mike DeAngelis, Michele Elmer, and Bobby Gioscio.



Sophomore forward Carolyn Walters

MCCC Staff and Volunteers Earn Top Marks as Hosts of National Soccer Tournament

While the best news would have been another national title for the Vikings men's soccer team, another story unfolded during the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division I Soccer Championship, hosted by the college Nov. 18-22.

Approximately 300 players and supporters from eight teams from across the nation traveled to Mercer County. They stayed at two local hotels and dined at local restaurants.

"We enjoyed our guests," said Athletics Director John Simone. "They were a friendly, spirited group of people who love soccer and were very appreciative of our hospitality."

He notes there was a larger than expected crowd, despite Mercer not participating in the tournament. "We had many coaches from four-year colleges scouting at the games, as well as local soccer fans," Simone said.

Staff joined in the effort in all kinds of ways, according to Athletic Trainer Lisa Camillone. "Everyone put on their Sunday best. Facilities and Security staff couldn't have been more supportive. They were everywhere, excellent, and friendly." Camillone reports that staff from around the college volunteered their time to work the ticket and t-shirt booths.

Students also played an important role. Five soccer players kept game statistics, while members of the baseball team served as ball runners on the sidelines. Radio student Matt Nelson announced the quarterfinal game for Barton Community College that was streamed live to Kansas via the Internet, while Television students taped the semifinal and championship games for the MCCC cable network.

The event was also a long overdue oppor-



Athletics staff, front row from left, Lisa Camillone and Erin Cahill; back row, Ryan Zegarski, Matt Wolski, Mike DeAngelis and Assistant Dean John Simone.

tunity to honor the 1963 men's soccer team, the first ever to win a national title for Mercer. Twelve former players came from different parts of the country to participate in a halftime ceremony Nov. 19 with their coach, Stan Dlugosz, who beamed like a proud father. Their accomplishments from that very special season were recounted as team members were presented with a plaque that will hang in the PE Building.

As part of the opening banquet, the NJCAA inducted former players and coaches into its Hall of Fame. Two MCCC players, Stern John and Kante Daoude, were among the honorees.

Men's and Women's Basketball Update



As of winter break, the record for the men's basketball team, under Head Coach Howard Levy, was 5-7, while Coach Mike Tenaglia's Lady Vikes were 7-5. The final regular season home games for both men and women take place Feb. 16 against Gloucester County College.

For the season preview articles and full game schedules and scores, visit the redesigned Athletics website at www.mccc.edu/athletics.

Women's Tennis

Emily Dow went from playing No. 5 singles during the 2008-09 season to No. 1 this fall, yet MCCC women's tennis coach Marc Vecchiolla doesn't even consider her to be the most improved among his four returning players.

The veteran coach gives that nod to Maria Eldridge, who was a National Junior College Athletic Association All-American as a freshman and continued with an excellent run as a sophomore by leading the Vikings with 11 singles wins. Eldridge's rise with the Vikings was remarkable considering the No. 4 singles player was a varsity field hockey, not tennis, player when she attended Lawrence High School.

"I couldn't have been happier with the performance of our players," Vecchiolla said. "They all improved by leaps and bounds individually."

Vecchiolla said MCCC's 4-7 record wasn't indicative of his team's talents. The competition in Region 19 was stronger than in recent seasons, and Vecchiolla believes the Gloucester County College and Brookdale Community College squads that finished ahead of the Vikings at the regional tournament were their best in his 13 seasons of coaching at Mercer.

MCCC's other two returning sophomores also were team leaders. Rebecca Wolf played No. 2 singles as well as No. 1 doubles with Dow, while Kristina Holsman played No. 3 singles and teamed with Eldridge at No. 2 doubles. Holsman earned All-Garden State Athletic



Doubles partners Maria Eldridge, foreground, and Kristina Holsman

Conference first-team honors.

The newcomers were Joanne Zabodyn, Sachiko Nishida and Shantell Bacon-Jones. Nishida joined with Eldridge as Region 19 Tournament finalists, at No. 4 and 6 singles respectively. Each was selected to the All-Region 19 second team.

And if you want to measure the versatility

of Vecchiolla's team, look no further than Zabodyn. Vecchiolla watched the automotive major change a teammate's tire. "Quite a year!" Vecchiolla laughs.

Coach Vecchiolla was assisted this season by Ralph Bencivengo and Barb Pleva.

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



2010

Alumnus Gene Tobia
*Nurse, DaVita
Dialysis Center*
A.S. in Nursing
A.S. in Biology
A.S. in Plant Science

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Send story suggestions to symonss@mccc.edu.

Kelsey Theatre Spring 2010 Calendar "Hooray for Hollywood"

Full-Length Productions

Pygmalion
Feb. 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21

Fiddler on The Roof
Feb. 26, 27, 28; March 5, 6, 7

Tom Sawyer
Mar. 12, 13, 14, 19, 20 21

Rent - MCCC Student Show
Apr. 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18

Annie
Apr. 23, 24, 25, 30; May 1, 2

My Fair Lady
May 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16

Mercer Dance Ensemble
May 21, 22

Ragtime
May 28, 29, 30; Jun. 4, 5, 6

**The James Tolin Memorial Fund:
Sordid Lives**
June 20

Kelsey Kids Series

Bugsy Malone Jr.
Jan. 29, 30, 31

The Little Mermaid
Feb. 20

The Boy Who Cried Wolf
Mar. 27

Are You My Mother?
Apr. 10

Click, Clack, Moo
May 22

Mother Goose
June 5

For Kelsey information and tickets, call 609-570-3333 or visit www.kelseytheatre.net.

The Gallery at MCCC



Artist Eve Ingalls participated in a Gallery talk as part of "Connect/Reconnect" this Fall.

For a listing of spring exhibits at the MCCC Gallery, visit www.mccc.edu/gallery.

The Distinguished Lecture Series

West Windsor Campus, Communications Building, 12 noon
For more information, visit www.mccc.edu/events.

Feb. 17: *Mary Inzana, CEO of LifeTies Inc., will speak about her personal voyage and how LifeTies evolved.*

Feb. 23: *Mel Leipzig, MCCC professor of Art and Art History, discusses the paintings of Matisse.*

Apr. 13: *Patricia Polansky, asst. commissioner for the N.J. Division of Aging and Community Services, will discuss issues of aging.*

Apr. 21: *Martin Johnson, president of Isles of Trenton, will speak about toxic site cleanup and community gardens.*