

# THE VIKING



Summer 2005

Women's  
Tennis Team Wins  
National Title!  
(see page 11)

## Mercer Students Use Their Educations in Service to the Country

**D**onald Ropp is using his knowledge of network engineering to set up computer operations at an army base in Iraq. When he was called to active duty by the Army National Guard last January, Ropp was an evening student at Mercer.

Writing from his base camp, Ropp said, "What I learned at Mercer prepared me to take the lead in administering the network here. I add computers and printers, set up shared folders and files, manage users, troubleshoot problems, and a few other things along the way."

For Jennifer Long, it was her nursing skills, learned at Mercer, that she put to immediate use during her tour of duty in Iraq from February '03 to April '04. A member of the National Guard, Long worked as an emergency room medic, serving both American troops and Iraqi citizens.

With an uncle in the Marines, Long said she took an interest in military service at a young age. "I always wanted to join. I thought it was cool to prove myself and be tough." Another motivation was free college tuition.

Now completing her bachelor's degree in

nursing at The College of New Jersey, Long remembers her Mercer classes fondly. "If I could get my four-year degree from Mercer I would be there," she said. "It was really great."

Carolina Gutierrez, a 2004 Mercer graduate, is using her education in science and math as a member of the National Guard. She works state-side in Homeland Security, currently assigned to guard the nuclear power plant in Forked River, NJ. She is also pursuing a bachelor's degree at Thomas Edison State College.

Gutierrez, who grew up in Colombia, South America, heard a lot about terrorism, kidnappings, robberies, rapes and corruption at the highest levels there. After she settled in the U.S., she had high hopes for life in her adopted country, which were shaken by the September 11, 2001 attacks. She felt called to action. "I know what terrorists can do to people and cities and I don't want this beautiful country to become anything like that," she said. Gutierrez signed up for eight years in the National Guard.

(continued on page 3)



Donald Ropp at base camp. Ropp uses technical skills learned at Mercer while on active duty in Iraq.

## Commencement 2005

Students were in the mood to celebrate at Mercer's festive commencement ceremonies on May 26. With 866 students graduating in 2005, the total number of Mercer County Community College grads over the past 38 years is more than 28,000. This year the largest numbers were in Nursing and Humanities and Social Science.



The student address was delivered by honors grad Theresa Feo, an Advertising Design major with three children. She plans to transfer to the University of Pennsylvania to study marketing communications. Feo was awarded an Alfred B. Kahn Scholarship, which is given to students who maintain the highest academic rank in their degree designation.



Drew Kintzel, left, and Joseph Fusco are graduates of the Fire Science program. Kintzel is a fire inspector in Raritan Township. Fusco is employed by Lockheed Martin. Both plan to continue their studies.



Filomeno Cuino was chosen as the 2005 graduate who best embodies the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) program. The Humanities and Social Science major gave freely of his time as a tutor. He received an Academic Achievement award, the Community Advisory Board Award and the Commendation Award from the N.J. EOF program. He plans to pursue a bachelor's degree.

(More on pages 6 & 7)

# Your Best Choice!

# short takes

## Exercise Science Program Will Prepare Students for Health and Fitness Careers

Responding to growing interest in fitness and sports, Mercer will begin offering an associate degree in Exercise Science when classes begin this fall. Students will take a wide range of courses that include anatomy and physiology, health and fitness, team sports management, exercise physiology, nutrition, exercise measurement/prescription and kinesiology.

A practical field experience will also be part of the program, which is now pending final state approval. Graduates will be prepared to transfer to four-year colleges to major in areas such as exercise physiology, kinesiology, personal training, biomechanics, cardiac rehab, coaching, health and fitness, education, and strength conditioning for athletes.

Program Coordinator John Kalinowski has been teaching health and fitness classes at MCCC for several years and taught at The College of New Jersey as an adjunct faculty member. He is also the strength and conditioning coordinator for Mercer's championship athletics teams. Kalinowski has worked with corporate, college, and semi-professional fitness and athletics programs as well as youth and professional athletes for the past ten years. His client list includes the New Jersey Wildcats, the New York/New Jersey Hitmen, and MLB and NFL players.

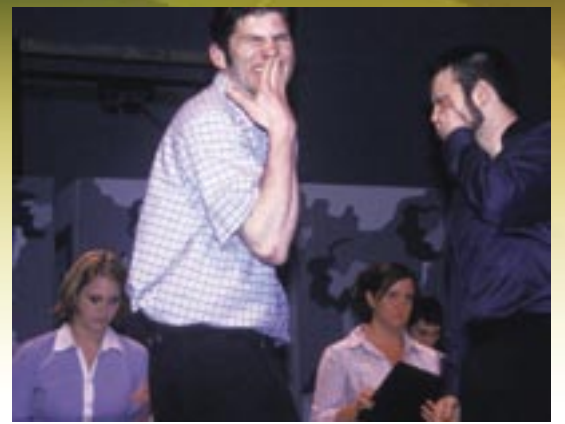
Kalinowski holds a B.S. in Corporate Fitness/Exercise Science from The College of New Jersey and an M.S. in Kinesiology from Georgia Southern University. He is also a strength and

conditioning specialist certified by the National Strength and Conditioning Association.

For more information contact John Kalinowski at 609-586-4800, ext. 3675, or e-mail [kalinowj@mccc.edu](mailto:kalinowj@mccc.edu).



One of the first students to sign up for MCCC's new Exercise Science program is Jenny Takter. With her is faculty member John Kalinowski, who is coordinating the program.



Mercer students perform skits written by high schoolers.

## "Aspirations" Brings Literature and Art to the Stage

When a high school student gets to see his or her own poem or skit acted out on stage by college students, it's surely a special day. Dozens of teens had that memorable experience this spring when their literary works were performed by MCCC theatre majors on the stage of Kelsey Theatre.

Visual arts students saw their work projected larger than life on a huge screen in the darkened theatre, while the college's jazz band played.

The special event, with high schoolers, parents and teachers in attendance, marked the publication of *Aspirations*, an annual literary and art journal for high school students. This year's joint editorial board, composed of college and high school representatives, read hundreds of submissions and chose 141 of the very best stories, poems, essays and drawings.

*Aspirations* is made possible in part through funding from Mercer County's Cultural and Heritage Commission, Mercer County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State.

## "I Do?" -- The Social, Legal and Cultural Definitions of Marriage

What is marriage? Is it a holy union of two people consecrated by God? Is it a civic institution bound by legal obligations and conferring certain legal rights? Is it the ultimate form of public commitment two people make to join their lives together? Is it all of the above, some of the above, or none of the above?

As part of a series of community forums, Mercer joined forces in February with the Princeton Theological Seminary's Religion and Society Committee and *The Times of Trenton* to sponsor three workshops that explored these issues.

A distinguished panel participating in the workshop at MCCC's Conference Center included Professor Carol Sanger of Columbia Law School, and Hui Chen, a student at Princeton Theological Seminary and former attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice and Microsoft Corporation.

Plans are underway for future forums in 2005-06.

## A Challenging Year for MCCC Budget

This spring the college's Board of Trustees approved a tightened budget and a modest increase in tuition and fees for 2005-06. "When planning our budget each year, our students are our top concern," said MCCC President Robert Rose, who has lobbied for more county and state support to hold down tuition costs. "Our goal and our commitment is to make college affordable for everyone."

The tuition increase of \$1 per credit hour for in-county students is below average for the state's 19 community colleges, and brings Mercer's per-course tuition cost to \$76.50, still a bargain compared to four-year colleges. For students who live outside of Mercer County, tuition has increased \$3 per credit hour, and for students from out of state the increase is \$5. For all students, college fees have gone up by \$2 per credit hour, from \$12.50 to \$14.50, and a once-per-semester registration fee has increased from \$15 to \$20. Even with the increase in fees, Mercer's total tuition and fees are lower than average among New Jersey's community colleges.

Rose is appreciative that Mercer County Executive Brian Hughes and the Mercer County Board of Chosen Freeholders have raised Mercer's funding for a second consecutive year. At 4.35%, this year's increase is above the average received in the past. Funding from the State of New Jersey is anticipated to remain the same as last year, while income from tuition will increase slightly. While enrollment has risen sharply in the past three years at Mercer and other New Jersey community colleges, Rose predicts that in the coming year the increase will be about one percent.

When community colleges were instituted in 1962, the commitment from government entities was for one-third state funding, one-third county funding, and one-third tuition funding. Today the reality at Mercer is that students pay 47% of the costs, the State of New Jersey contributes 21.2%, and Mercer County contributes 26%. Other entrepreneurial activities at Mercer cover 5.8% of the costs.

The pressure on colleges to raise tuition has been tremendous for the past several years, Rose said. At New Jersey's four-year public colleges, tuition increased 9.74% for 2004-05 and 9.69% for 2003-04. In comparison, Mercer's increases total only 3.4%. Salaries and benefits for faculty and staff members account for the biggest portion of the college's budget, and utility costs have risen dramatically.

Despite the leaner budget for the coming year, President Rose assures students that they will continue to find quality education, caring faculty members and great opportunities at Mercer.

## Technical Studies Major Nears Final Approval

Individuals who have acquired valuable job skills through apprenticeship training or instruction offered by industry, corporate or military programs will have a head start on their college education at Mercer through a new AAS degree in Technical Studies.

According to Mark McCormick, MCCC's Dean of Business and Technology, Mercer is finalizing the new degree program, which will offer up to 20 credits based on prior training in a variety of fields.

All 19 county colleges in New Jersey are eventually expected to be part of this initiative of the New Jersey Council of County Colleges, which is titled "New Jersey Pathways Leading Apprentices to a College Education" (NJ PLACE).

"The idea seemed a natural fit," McCormick said. "It is consistent with our mission to respond to community needs and emerging trends. The program recognizes the value of workplace experience and builds on it with a strong academic core of general education courses and individual concentration in technological areas. Our goal is to give as much credit for academic-equivalent experience as we can."

Pointing to the building and construction trades, where skilled craftsmen such as carpenters and electricians go through extensive apprenticeship training, McCormick said, "We will evaluate each incoming student or groups of students by trade and award from three to as many as 20 credits for noncredit training and on-the-job experience." Students will earn 26 credits from required General Education courses such as math and English. They will select another 14 or more credits with the assistance of a faculty advisor to reflect particular career objectives.

McCormick cited numerous examples of the degree's usefulness. An employee of a large corporation working in information technology, for example, might want to retool in order to teach IT skills to high school students, so he or she would take education courses. A construction worker seeking a position in management would take business management courses.

McCormick expects Mercer to begin evaluating apprenticeship programs in the fall. For more information, contact Mark McCormick at (609) 586-4800, ext. 3482.

## Radiography Students Participate in Disaster Drill



Fifteen Mercer Radiography students made themselves willing victims of the "plague" during the statewide "Top Off 3" disaster drill in April. Participating from the sophomore class, from left, were Jenny Edu, Nick D'Amico, Diane McLaughlin, Richleu Gehyeka, Janine O'Hearen, Annapurna Chandwani, and Nikki Carr. Not pictured is Patricia Petersack. The students took on the roles of patients with coughs and fevers awaiting health care.

Mercer's associate degree program in Radiography prepares students to take the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists Examination to become nationally certified and licensed in New Jersey. One hundred percent of the college's 2004 graduates passed the exam, with a mean score above the national and state averages.

## Judith Ehresman Appointed Dean of Arts and Communication

Mercer has a new dean of the Division of Arts and Communication. Judith Ehresman, who served as interim dean since January of 2004, will continue to lead the division, which includes programs in the visual and performing arts, architecture, engineering, radio, television and communication.

Ehresman has been a faculty member and administrator at Mercer since 1985. She has coordinated and expanded several college programs, including Office Systems Technology, Computer Concepts and Microcomputer Systems Administration. After establishing a Medical Office Assistant program, she developed a cooperative program with Mercer County Vocational Technical School's Medical Assistant program. As a result, these students are now able to earn a credit certificate from Mercer as well as the diploma from the vo-tech school. Ehresman offered the college's first distance learning courses and wrote a monograph, "Distance Learning: What About Instructional Design?," which she presented at a League for Innovation national conference. She also presented on behalf of Educational Testing Service at several national conferences as part of its launching efforts for new assessment software.

In her new position Ehresman will take on the leadership of the college's theatre and art gallery, and the off-campus ARTWORKS facility in Trenton, where the college began offering an array of visual arts courses last September. She plans to increase her division's outreach to the surrounding visual arts community and to strengthen links with James Kerney Campus youth groups to promote educational opportunities available within the division's programs. She is also negotiating with four-year colleges to develop more transfer opportunities for Mercer's graduates.

Ehresman's experience includes serving as program administrator at the Bradford Business Schools in Philadelphia, and as business department chairperson at Archbishop Carroll High School, Radnor, PA. She has a B.A. in English and Economics from Holy Family University and an M.Ed. in Business Education from Temple University.



Judith Ehresman

## Mercer Students Serve the Country (continued from page 1)



For all three students, the military paid for their college educations at Mercer, and all worked closely with Paul Scheid, who directs Mercer's Veteran's Affairs office. Each year Scheid helps dozens of students understand the regulations and file the paperwork for their educational benefits.

"Paul has made me glad I'm going to MCCC. He guided me through the enrollment process when I was a new student and made it all quite painless for me," said Ropp, who plans to be back home in time to start the spring 2006 semester. Ropp enjoys writing long e-mail messages to Scheid, describing a soldier's life in the desert in vivid detail.

Scheid, who has been with the college since 1967, said, "I'm impressed with the quality of Mercer's students who are serving in the military. I get to know them really well; they have so much potential." Previously a professor of music, Scheid also serves as an academic counselor.

Carolina Gutierrez

Professor Paul Scheid, MCCC Veteran's Affairs Director



## Community Service Adds Rich Layer to Public Speaking Course

"Encouraging a lifetime of service." That is the hope with which MCCC Communications professor Donna Munde launched a new section of the college's popular "Public Speaking" course this semester.

Fresh from a mid-career fellowship at Princeton University last year, where she concentrated on "Academic Service-Learning," Munde was eager to introduce this teaching methodology in her courses back at Mercer.

"Service-learning asks students to meet course objectives by volunteering in the community," she explained. "In the process, they gain a deeper understanding of course content, and of themselves." There may even be future jobs in the nonprofit sector, she added. A member of the MCCC faculty since 1986 following many years in the radio business, Munde has been coordinator of the Communication program since 1995.

For the first six weeks of the semester, Munde's students conducted research and presented speeches about service-learning and the world of nonprofits. Then in March they began replacing one classroom period each week with volunteer assignments. Following each community visit, students recorded their impressions and experiences in a journal, and then used that material as the basis for oral presentations and speeches.

The organizations that welcomed MCCC students this spring were the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK), where students assisted in food preparation and meal service; Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic, where students served as audio editors; the Latino Land Trust, where they tutored first through eighth graders;



From left, front, students Christine Busacca, Katie Girdali and Lemaiyan Esther Naicianut with Trenton Area Soup Kitchen Director Peter Wise.

and the GED (high school equivalency) program located at Mercer's James Kerney campus, where volunteers sat in on classes and then helped students study for their GED exam.

"I am very energized," Munde said. "My favorite part was visiting the sites and working alongside my students. Staff members at these organizations were very supportive. They were impressed with the caliber of our students and their level of commitment."

Student volunteer Christine Busacca, having participated in fund-raising walks in high school for various causes, welcomed the unusual requirements of Munde's class. Juggling her work schedule, Christine left her Mondays open to travel to the soup kitchen for a 3 to 6 p.m. shift.

While some TASK clients were initially standoffish, Busacca became a familiar face. "I got to know the 'regulars,'" she said. "I learned

the names to go with the faces and made connections."

Student Dana Kalinowski, who also has extensive volunteer experience, was a GED tutor at Mercer's James Kerney campus. Working with students two days a week, Kalinowski got to know them

quickly and was impressed with their enthusiasm and willingness to learn. Her volunteer effort also benefited her as she completed her own class work.

"It helps with speeches to be able to talk about experiences that are meaningful to you," she said. "I took a public speaking course at another college and we were asked to just talk about something. Here, we are focusing on issues and people that we care about."

The class's final assignment was a group speech combining the journal material of all students working at a particular site. Munde plans to offer two sections of the course in the fall, reaching out to a new group of nonprofit organizations. "If, in addition to teaching course content, we can increase students' empathy for the less fortunate and promote awareness and action in serving the community, we are really accomplishing our mission," Munde said.



## Ad Design Pioneer Rajie Cook Inspires Students

Mercer is honored to have a man quite famous in his profession as a member of its Advertising Design Advisory Commission. Palestinian-American artist Rajie Cook recently inspired Mercer's design students as he spoke to their class about his lifetime of experience in the field. Cook is best known for the "symbol signs" he created that hang in airports and train stations throughout the world, communicating through icons rather than text. Cook now devotes himself to creating fine art which draws attention to the Palestinian conflict. His work has been displayed at the Whitney Museum and other major museums across the country.

## MCCC Impresses Middle States Visiting Team

Members of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education conducted an on-site evaluation of the college April 3-6. The accrediting process, required every ten years, includes a thorough review of the college's internal self-study report, a tour of the facilities, and interviews with personnel and students. Based on the Middle States document, "Characteristics of Excellence in Higher Education," the assessment contains 14 standards covering all major aspects of college activity.

Visiting team chair, Dr. Charlene Nunley, president of Montgomery College (MD), announced in her formal exit report that the team had found Mercer to be in compliance with all 14 standards and deemed it a strong institution, meeting the needs of its community and continually identifying new and responsive ways of fulfilling its mission. The final report included commendations, suggestions and recommendations. The college anticipates receiving the formal decision on reaccreditation shortly.

The college's self-study report was prepared over a two-year period with the input of numerous faculty and staff members under the leadership of Committee Chairs Dean Al Porter and Prof. Al Leister.



## Drama Students Present "Kindergarten"

MCCC Drama students presented "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten," the inspiring show based on the books of Robert Fulghum. The performance closed out a banner year for the Drama program, which staged four productions under the direction of coordinator Nick Anselmo. The "Kindergarten" cast included (front row, from left) Tarin Chalifoux, Danielle Madera and Marsha Green; (second row, from left) Cadence Dickinson, Lyndsey Potosky, Michelle Wood, and Todd Cabrera; (back row, from left) James Bryan, Nicole Russano, Glenn Calhoun, and Clayton Gage.



Lights, camera, meringue! Taking a break in taping are, left to right, Ozzie Alfonso, director of Terra Associates, MCCC Television student Jennifer Joyce, Chef Gail Sokol, Teaching Assistant Frank Benowitz, and Dean Mark McCormick.

## Premier Kitchen Facilities Shine in DVD

When the new demonstration kitchen for MCCC's culinary students was completed this spring, no one anticipated its starring role in a series of DVDs on baking.

However, after scouting ten sites from New York to central New Jersey, Terra Productions chose MCCC's state-of-the-art culinary facilities as the setting for three instructional DVDs to be published by Thomson Delmar Learning. For nine days in June, the production crew turned the space into a full-scale television studio.

Featuring Chef Gail Sokol, the DVDs are companion materials to her book *"About Professional Baking."* "The facilities are gorgeous," said the enthusiastic chef during a break in taping. Herself an adjunct instructor at Schenectady Community College, Sokol said, "I'm thrilled to be breaking in your new kitchen for you."

Equipped with gleaming prep tables, a six-deck oven, a grill, a smoker, and sliding glass doors that open into the dining room, Mercer's facilities proved ideal for taping the DVDs. According to HRIM Teaching Assistant Frank Benowitz "The crew was able to use our previously existing kitchen as a prep area, the dining room for production equipment, and the new kitchen as the set."

Benowitz notes that MCCC students took part in the DVD production – with pay. "Two culinary students assisted each day with food prep, and two students from the Television program assisted the film crew. It was a great opportunity for them."

Completed with corporate and government funding, the premier facility is expected to enjoy continuous use for both credit and noncredit courses (see article below).

## Abbondanza!

Mercer will welcome the community to its new kitchen this fall through an exciting series of noncredit courses taught by enthusiastic area chefs.

Claire A. Berg, a certified "Chef de Cuisine," will present workshops on making artisan and holiday breads, ravioli and internationally-inspired appetizers. Chef Anne Lumberger will offer baking classes for "bakers who want to advance to the next level of expertise," with classes in bread, pie dough, and cake. She will also present workshops on pairing desserts and cheese with wine.

Mercer's own Chef Douglas Fee, who coordinates the Hotel, Restaurant and Institution Management Program and the college's culinary programs, will teach a "Fat Busters Series," demonstrating delicious ways to cut fat but not flavor. Chef Donna Squillaro will give workshops on Italian-American cooking, including old world recipes and pasta sauces.

Classes start each month beginning in September. For information or to register call MCCC's Division of Corporate and Community Programs at 609-586-9446.

*Students work in Mercer's new kitchen.*



## Noreen Duncan Helps Design New SAT

If you followed the launching of the new Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) in March you may have heard National Public Radio's interview with MCCC Professor Noreen Duncan. A member of the English faculty for 26 years, Duncan has been active throughout her career with the College Board, which designs and administers the SAT college entrance exam. She was a member of the team that determined the type of writing to be rewarded or penalized on the new exam, which for the first time requires each student to write an essay.



Professor Noreen Duncan

Duncan said developing the grading process for essay questions was not an easy task. Her team of test designers looked at sample essays from students who were pre-tested, evaluating different writing qualities and skills. She said those who grade the essays – usually English teachers or professors – read them "holistically." "We read for an impression and we do not identify individual oddities or errors. All is taken into consideration as we read the whole."

Duncan felt qualified for the daunting task of SAT redesign because of her years of experience developing and evaluating test questions for GMAT and CLEP exams. During the summer she reads and grades Advanced Placement (AP) tests and conducts training classes for AP teachers. But it's her years of teaching experience that Duncan said best qualifies her to work with the College Board.

A native of Trinidad/Tobago, Duncan began her teaching career in Jamaica. One of her many roles at Mercer is editing two student literary magazines, *Drumbeat* and *OPEN*. In 1993 she was selected by her peers and students for Mercer's Distinguished Teaching Award.

## Grant Funds Parent Education/Early Literacy

Mercer recently received a \$210,000 grant from Children's Futures to implement the "Parent Education and Early Literacy Project" in Trenton. A public/private partnership committed to ensuring that every child in Trenton enters preschool healthy and ready to learn, Children's Futures is primarily supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Every Saturday, Mercer faculty members and students will offer workshops for parents and young children. The parents will learn about child development and the stages of growth, children's sensory-motor skills, and social and emotional development.

While parents attend workshops, their children will take part in an enrichment program conducted by MCCC students enrolled in a course called "Early Literacy Seminar." Under faculty supervision, students will put into practice skills they are learning in the classroom.

"This project is part of the college's commitment to literacy in our community," said MCCC President Robert Rose, who spearheaded a team that developed the proposal. "We see this as an expansion of our work with Adult Basic Education and GED programs in Trenton."

# Commencement 2005



Graduates Magdi Simon, left, and Ping Zhang were chosen to represent MCCC as part of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society's 2005 "All Star Academic Team." Simon, a Business Administration and Management major, served as secretary of the honor society and won a state competition in international business. Zhang, a Chemistry and Medical Lab Technology major, won a full scholarship to Rutgers University, where she will major in nursing.



Mackington Joseph, a member of the first class to graduate from the new Energy Utility Technology program, won the program's academic award. He is employed full-time by Public Service Electric and Gas Company.



Amna Pervez, an Advertising Design major, received the Jack Harris Memorial Award in Fine Arts during the Honors Convocation dinner. She also received a Student Leadership Award for serving as president of the Islamic Awareness Club. Presenting the award is Professor Mel Leipzig.



John Fradin has been accepted to Cornell University to major in Hotel Administration. An honors graduate in Hotel, Restaurant and Institution Management, he also earned a certificate in Professional Cooking.

## James Kerney Campus Awards Achievement

"Education is key to changing one's life," according to James Kerney Campus Provost Beverly Richardson. Hundreds of adult students demonstrated the truth of that statement when they were honored at a "Celebration of Academic Achievement" on May 10.

One success story followed another as the celebration honored those graduating from the many programs offered at Mercer's downtown Trenton campus: credit degree and certificate programs, high school equivalency programs, the Career Training Institute, and the English Language Institute, which served students from 24 countries.

A festive spirit prevailed as each graduate received personal congratulations from Mercer County Executive Brian Hughes, MCCC President Robert Rose and MCCC Board of Trustees President Anthony (Skip) Cimino. "It is an honor to be here to take part in this important program," Hughes said. "You are enriching our county."

Don Jones, director of Enrollment and Student Services at the James Kerney Campus and master of ceremonies for the evening, is also a talented singer who led the audience in "God Bless America." After the ceremony, graduates and their family members were treated to refreshments provided by the Career Training Institute's culinary students.



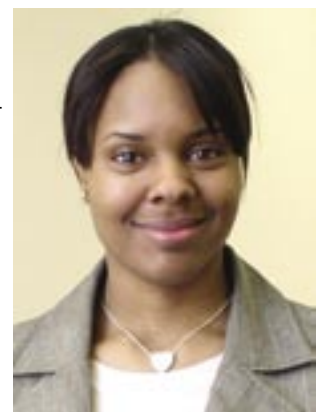
Lori Meyers spoke for the 65 credit program graduates who began their college studies at the James Kerney Campus. A Paralegal Studies major, she plans to continue at Rutgers. Meyers is a mother of four and the first in her family to earn a college degree.



Representing 59 graduates of the Career Training Institute (CTI), Monique Richardson spoke about returning to school for training in legal secretarial work so she can better support herself and her child. Richardson is now enrolled as a credit student at Mercer.

## An Upward Bound Success Story

Sheena Rush credits MCCC's Upward Bound program at the James Kerney Campus as a key part of her success. She participated throughout her teen years at Trenton Central High School, and even came back after her high school graduation to work as an Upward Bound summer peer leader.



Sheena Rush

Now a senior at Delaware State University majoring in public relations, Rush's goal is to earn a master's degree and work in the entertainment industry. "Upward Bound was fabulous. I loved it," she said.

The federally funded Upward Bound program provides Trenton students with college preparatory courses, tutoring, and personal and career counseling. The program's goal is to help students improve their grades and develop the skills needed for college and future careers.

## Associate Professor Laura Blinderman Wins Distinguished Teaching Award



Associate Professor Laura Blinderman

Laura Blinderman has always loved science. Since high school she has pursued her scientific interests, earning B.S. and M.S. degrees, and working in scientific research. After moving to New Jersey 13 years ago, Blinderman tried her hand at teaching college classes at Mercer County Community College.

First as a part-time adjunct, and for the past nine years as a full-time associate professor, Blinderman has taught biology, genetics, and anatomy and physiology classes to a diverse student body. At this spring's commencement ceremonies, her decision to change careers was affirmed in a way she never expected. She was selected by her colleagues and students to receive the prestigious "Distinguished Teaching Award" for 2005.

In her acceptance speech Blinderman said, "What I love about teaching science is the opportunity to be immersed in the study of the beauty, the complexity, and the elegance of living systems and to be able to share that fascination with others. I encourage you to keep asking questions, be curious, view the world with wonder, and maintain a healthy skepticism."

A comment from one of Blinderman's colleagues sums up the opinion of many on the Mercer campus. "I believe that she personifies a great teacher: tough but fair, dynamic, available, approachable, interested and committed. She is one of the unsung heroes who goes about her duties without a lot of noise and fanfare."

Students were equally laudatory: "She is a wonderful educator and truly cares for all

students. She was one of the kindest professors I had at Mercer." "She is an outstanding teacher. She explains the subject matter so that everyone can understand it. She knows how to make classes a truly enjoyable learning experience."

After growing up in Massachusetts, Blinderman lived for five years in San Diego, where she earned her M.S. in biology from San Diego State University and did graduate work in genetics at the Center for Reproduction of Endangered Species at the San Diego Zoo. She then conducted scientific research for Bristol-Myers Squibb and several biotechnology firms. Although she loved her research work, Blinderman has found another love in teaching, and she can see the results of her work every day.

"This is more gratifying than anything that could have happened to me in research unless perhaps I developed a cure for a disease," she said. "Opportunities here are greater for having an impact. Sometimes years go by and I get an e-mail from a student, and on a day-to-day basis I can see the results of my work instantly."

While Blinderman never expected to teach at a community college, she has come to embrace the idea, and she appreciates the older and more diverse student population. "Now that I'm here I think this is where I would have chosen to teach. My students know what they want and they value what they are doing. I particularly enjoy working with the adult population."

An influential member of many college committees, Blinderman sees the college environment as continually stimulating and challenging. "The thing about teaching is there are unlimited things you can get involved in. The biggest problem is having to limit what you do. I can't see ever getting bored and I think that's true for education in general – it is always interesting."

Among her many activities, Blinderman serves on the steering committee for the New Jersey chapter of SENCER (Science Education for New Civic Engagements and Responsibilities), a project funded by the National Science Foundation.

Blinderman, whose husband Jim Riggs chairs the biology department at Rider University, said sharing experiences with him has been a bonus. Many Mercer science graduates transfer to Rider, so he is teaching his wife's former students.



## Professor Angela McGlynn Inspires Graduates

Angela McGlynn, a professor of psychology at Mercer for 34 years, gave the keynote address during the college's spring commencement ceremony. The popular professor, a past winner of the college's Distinguished Teaching Award, is the author of many books and articles that focus on college teaching strategies, classroom environment, motivation, women's studies and diversity. Her most recent book, *Successful Beginnings for College Teaching: Engaging Your Students from the First Day*, was published by Atwood Publishing in 2001.

McGlynn said, "On whatever paths you take in life, I hope that you live your lives serving others. Even if you become powerful and rich, use your power to set things right in this world and use your wealth to help the less fortunate. Some of you have heard my favorite Chinese proverb, 'If you want to be happy for an hour, take a nap. If you want to be happy for a day, go shopping. If you want to be happy for a week, take a vacation. If you want to be happy for a month, get married. But, if you want to be happy for a lifetime, live your life serving others.' Or, in the words of Winston Churchill, 'We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.'"

Professor Angela McGlynn

## Funeral Service Graduate Achieves Top Score in Nation

When Kathryn Radice of Red Bank graduated from Mercer's Funeral Service program last May, she was as apprehensive as her classmates about taking her board exams. She never imagined she would earn one of the top two scores in the nation for 2004.

Radice was honored for her performance by the international conference of the Funeral Service Examining Boards in early April. She traveled to Arkansas for an awards banquet along with Robert Smith, faculty coordinator of MCCC's Funeral Service program, and faculty member Deborah Tolboom. "Mercer's program is excellent and the faculty is very dedicated," said Radice, who was the winner of MCCC's 2004 academic award in Funeral Services.

A mother of three, Radice came late in life to her new profession. She worked as an antique dealer for many years and has a B.A. in English from Rutgers University. After working for a friend at Worden-Hoidal Funeral Home in Red Bank she decided to become a certified funeral director.

While few students match Radice's near perfect score on the board exams, Mercer graduates have achieved a higher than average exam pass rate. Of Mercer's full-time students who graduated in 2004, 94% passed the exam. In two recent years Mercer graduates achieved a 100% pass rate.

Mercer's Funeral Service program is the only one of its kind in the region, and draws students of all ages from a wide geographic area. The program emphasizes business management, public health, and the sciences, as well as the legal, technical, and regulatory aspects of funeral service. Both full-time and part-time students may enter the program, and internships further develop the skills needed for professional success. For more information contact Robert Smith at 609-586-4800, ext. 3472.



Kathryn Radice



Mercer's dean of College Advancement, Bill Mate, who is retiring this summer, was honored at the gala for his years of service to the college. From left are Timothy Losch of Yardville National Bank and chairman of the college Foundation Board, Bill Mate, MCCC President Robert Rose, and then Board Chair Wayne Griffith.



## "Surfin' Safari" Heats Up Scholarship Donations

MCCC's festive Scholarship Dinner Dance, "Surfin' Safari," was a smashing success, with more than 500 supporters helping to raise over \$200,000 for student scholarships.

Special guests of the evening were the 2005 "Spirit of Education" awardees:

- "Distinguished Corporate Friend": Yardville National Bank
- "Community Service Award": Ritchie and Page Distributing Company, Lou and Chris Natale
- "Distinguished Alumnus": Jane Foy

The awardees were featured in a video shown at the event which was produced by students in the MCCC Television Club, under the guidance of Senior Teaching Assistant Valarie Daniels.



Many Mercer students helped to make the Dinner Dance a success.

Jane Townsend Foy, the 2005 "Distinguished Alumnus," received a gift from then Board of Trustees Chair Wayne Griffith. She has served as the MCCC "Alumni Historian" for many years and was president of both the Nursing Alumni and MCCC Alumni Associations. A 1970 graduate of Mercer's Nursing program, Foy also worked at the college as a staff nurse and instructor in the Nursing program.

## Videos Donated to Holocaust Resource Center



Former MCCC Trustee and current Foundation Board member Richard Perlman of Borden Perlman Insurance Company presented a four-video documentary, "Testimony of the Human Spirit," to MCCC President Robert Rose.

The videos were added to the educational resources of the Mercer County Holocaust/Genocide Resource Center located in the MCCC Library. They examine the Holocaust through the eyes of six men and women who were children or teenagers during the rise and fall of the Third Reich.

For center hours, call (609) 586-4800, ext. 3355.



## Golf Classic a Winner

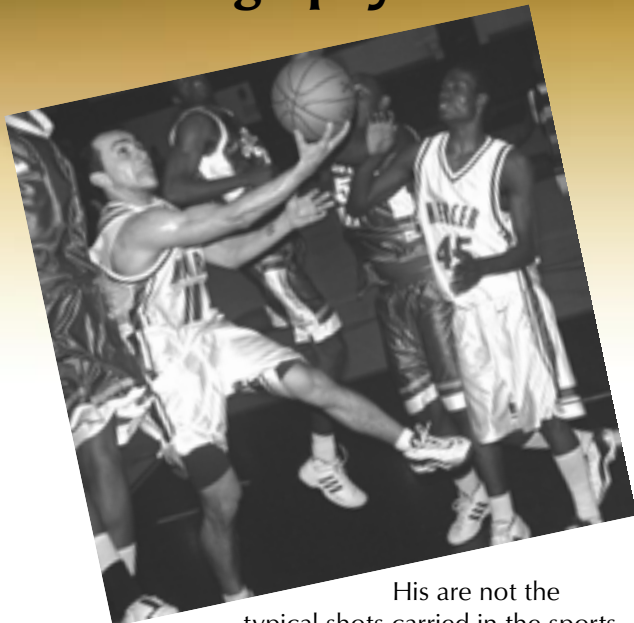
Mercer Oaks East hosted the college's annual MCCC Golf Classic June 14, which benefits student-athletes. The event was in memory of former Foundation Board member Dr. Cynthia Schaffer.

Pictured is the winning foursome composed of Foundation Board members, from left, Greg Blair of Nottingham Insurance and Greg Scozzari of V.J. Scozzari & Sons, their guests Al Pellegrino and Jim Fell, and MCCC President Robert Rose.

Major event sponsors included Verizon, Yardville National Bank, AAA Mid-Atlantic, and Waters & Bugbee Inc. The hole-in-one sponsor was Colonial Cadillac/Hyundai.



## Photography Student Focuses on Men's Basketball Team



His are not the typical shots carried in the sports section of the local newspaper. What they capture, according to MCCC Photography student Sean Shearer, is the human side of athletes in action.

Sean focused his photographer's eye on the 2004-05 Vikings men's basketball team, taking hundreds of photos of players and coaches as they fought their way to an 18-13 season. This was Shearer's first foray into sports photography, marking a departure from his usual concentration on portraiture and landscapes. "Basketball is something that more people can relate to. These shots are for everyone to understand," he said.

Shearer's decision to become "team photographer" for a season sprung from his part-time job on campus. For the past two years, he has been an attendant in the MCCC Fitness Center. "I got to know a lot of the players, who would come to the center to work out. They were nice guys," Shearer recalled. "It seemed like a good idea to take shots of them for my portfolio." He also captured the fledgling MCCC Cheer Dance Club on film, document-



ing the squad's inaugural season cheering for the Vikings.

The experience of taking sports photos has improved his photography, Shearer said. "It taught me to move fast and never hesitate. You've got to have the guts to get the shot," he noted, recalling a referee who was staring him down during a game. "That would have been a great shot. The shots you miss can keep you up at night."

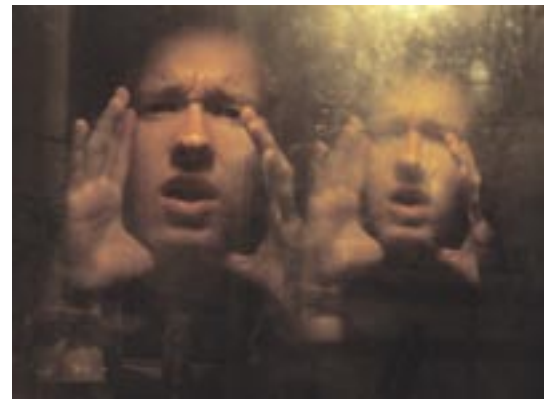
Shearer, who first took photography classes in high school, graduated from Mercer with an AS in Fine Arts in May, winning the college's annual Photography Award. He plans to transfer to a four-year school for a bachelor's degree. "I would like to teach high school photography, as well as drawing and painting," he said.

Shearer believes that Mercer was the right place to begin his college career. "It's a great starting point, where you can decide what you want to do without spending a fortune." He praised the Photography program's superior facilities.

While he has sometimes doubted the prac-



ticality of pursuing photography as a career, Shearer decided, "When you're passionate about something, you have to stick with it." And Mercer has given him the chance to do just that.



Shearer self-portrait.

## Cheerleaders Turn Up the Volume at Vikings Basketball Games

Fans used to the raucous noise level at high school basketball games may notice a striking difference during games at many community colleges. The cheerleaders are missing.

That changed at Mercer during the 2004-05 season, thanks to a group of dedicated, spirited students and their staff advisor, Tonia Harrison. An MCCC network engineer since 1991, Harrison, a Mercer alum and a former high school cheerleader, noted, "There have been other cheerleading squads that didn't last. But when we started the Cheer Dance Club this fall we said we're going to make it for the full season and we did."

Tryouts were held in October with Harrison and two other judges selecting 14 club members based on enthusiasm, coordination, and the

ability to master routines. The group immediately got to work raising funds to purchase uniforms - through campus bake sales and two weekends as employees at Great Adventure's "Fright Fest." Selecting a stylish skirt and sleeveless top, the squad tapped Sports Styles at Quakerbridge Mall for a good deal on sneakers. Sports Styles threw in the socks for free.

The next step was practice, practice, practice. Harrison said the women got together three evenings a week. "If someone was having particular trouble with a routine, they would meet before practice or at each other's homes."

The students cheered at all home games, held Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday afternoons. In addition to leading cheers from the sidelines, they also performed dance routines at halftime. "It was a lot of hard work for all of us," said Harrison, who attended every practice and every game, watching from the sidelines, taking notes, and providing post-game critiques and suggestions.

Harrison's commitment to the club grew out of her own experience. When she came to Mercer as a student in the late 1980s, she

had hoped to stay involved in cheerleading but came up empty. "It's not common to find cheerleading at a community college. I wanted to be able to give it to these girls," she said.

"Cheerleading teaches you how to get along in a group," Harrison said. "Especially when your role is to relay positive energy to a crowd, you have to work out problems among yourselves."

Part-time student Tracey Jackson, who is studying to be a nurse, said she twice attended the college's student leadership retreats and picked up important skills that she was able to apply to the Cheer Dance Club.

"I learned the difference between being a leader and being a friend," she explained. "I learned to give everyone a role so they would have an investment in the program's success." And with Harrison's steady support at practices and games, and the contributions of team captain Tamesha Livingston and co-captain Chante Jones, issues never developed into full-blown problems. The squad ended the season with a tight bond.

According to Men's Basketball Coach Kelly Williams, the cheerleaders were a welcome presence at the games. To show his appreciation he presented them with flowers and a pizza party at the end of the season. Harrison also presented the women with certificates of achievement.



Photo by S. Shearer

The Cheer Dance Club in action (left to right): Shaquanna Kasey, Tamesha Livingston, Julia Benetiz, Janai Scoggins, Chante Jones and Tracey Jackson.

# sports

## Women's Softball

What a difference one year can make. Under first-year Head Coach Ryan Zegarski, the Mercer women posted a 22-14 record this season and came just one game short of winning the Region 19 title. Compared to last year's 11-18 record, the Vikings softball team let the region know they are back.

The season had plenty of drama. With a pair of wins over Cecil Community College (MD) on March 5 to start the season, the Vikings proceeded to lose their next six games. But as the season progressed, the new coach and his team jelled.

"We needed time on the field, some games under our belts, and a chance to increase our confidence," Zegarski said.

From the earliest days of the fall, Zegarski emphasized conditioning. He believes it was a key reason why the players suffered no major injuries. Team dynamics also played a role in the Vikings' winning ways. "Through good times and bad, the players continued to be very supportive of each

other and very committed to the team. They all attended practice regularly," he said.

The team's two freshmen pitchers, Ashley McHenry and Jessica Goodstein, were a great addition to the roster. "We didn't know what we were going to get from them," Zegarski said. "They were a big part of our success."

April was the Vikings' strong month as they posted a record of 16-4. Then came the long road to the Region 19 championship. After losing to Lackawanna 5-3 and 3-2 in a doubleheader on April 13, the women found themselves heading back up the Pennsylvania Turnpike to face the very same team in the "play-in round" to qualify for the tournament in a best two-out-of-three series. The Vikings lost the first game, 6-3, but came back to win the next one, 14-9, in ten innings, followed by a solid 10-5 win.

With momentum on their side, the women moved on to the double-elimination Region 19 tournament on May 6. Going in as the no.

4 seed, they pulled a 2-1 upset over no. 1 Del Tech Owens, a team they had lost to twice during the regular season. Then they beat no. 2 Del Tech Stanton 3-2 in 11 innings.

Mercer next faced newcomer Mercyhurst CC, from Erie, PA. After a rain-out on May 7, they played the game the following day, losing 2-1. The teams had to meet again, but with more rain, the tournament concluded without a winner.

Thus, both Mercer and Mercyhurst headed to the Northeast District championship at Dean College in Massachusetts to complete their unfinished business. With yet another rain-out on May 14, the game was finally played on May 15, with the Vikings losing 3-1. "It was more than just a loss; it was the end of our season," Zegarski said. "For some of our sophomores it was the end of their playing careers. That's hard."

Still, the Vikings know how far they came this season. The team was well served by co-captains Jill Benningfield and Kristin Lup. Four players made All-Region: pitcher Ashley McHenry, catcher Dana Pallotta, who received the most votes, outfielder Kristin Kuzma, and shortstop Jill Benningfield. Also contributing were Lisa Dey, Crystal Everett, Adria Frascella, Cyndi Fregoni, Ingrid Measor, Samantha White and Danielle Zaletski.

Losing nine sophomores, Zegarski will have plenty of positions to fill next season. He was assisted by Regina Brown and former player Katie Banas.



*Pictured at an Athlete Appreciation Breakfast in May are softball team members (back row, l. to r.) Katie Ashe, Crystal Everett, Kristin Lup, Lisa Dey, Head Coach Ryan Zegarski, Samantha White and Asst. Coach Regina Brown; (front row, l. to r.) Ashley McHenry, Ingrid Measor, Dana Pallotta, Cindi Fregoni, Kristin Kuzma and Jill Benningfield. Not pictured: Danielle Zaletski, Adria Frascella, Jessica Goodstein and Assistant Coach Katie Banas.*

## Men's Tennis

Stan Dlugosz has been coaching tennis at Mercer for 34 years. Some of his teams have been especially memorable for their talent and positive outlook and, according to Dlugosz, this was one of those years. With a regular season record of 8-2, the team won the Garden State Athletic Conference and advanced six players to the national tournament in Plano, TX.

Starting the season with a 6-3 win over Ocean CC on March 31, the Vikings continued their winning ways. Freshmen Jeremy Schmitter at no. 1 and Scott Zanon at no. 2 set the tone for the high level of play. Accomplished singles players, they were also a formidable doubles team, winning the doubles title at the invitational tournament at Harford College on April 2-3.

Also adding to the team's success were no. 3 Brian Bunn, no. 4 Felipe Faundez, no. 5 Jeff Weber, no. 6 Anthony Neuls, and no. 7 Aidan Thornley. For his two years on the team, Bunn received the 2005 male scholar-athlete award.

At the national tournament, every player contributed, as the Vikings earned sixth place out of 11 teams. A special highlight was Dlugosz' selection as the winner of the 2005 Hershel Stephens Coaching Award, given to a coach for "outstanding service and dedication" by the NJCAA Tennis Coaches Association.

Dlugosz was assisted by Marty Devlin and Peter Stratton.

## Men's Baseball

The baseball team had a tough season, playing only 35 of its 56 scheduled games due to weather-related cancellations. Ending the year with a 14-20-1 record, Head Coach Kip Harrison reports that the team's disappointing stats do not adequately reflect the time and effort his players put in on the field, and the improvements they made in their game. "The main thing we do at the community college level is to help players prepare for the challenges of playing at four-year schools," he noted.

Fundamentals were the focus. "We worked to slow the game down. We focused on one pitch, one at bat, and one inning at a time." Harrison emphasized the process rather than the outcome. "You can do things the wrong way and be successful for awhile. But eventually, that will catch up with you."

With their first eight games cancelled, Mercer finally headed to North and South Carolina in mid-March to face teams that were already well into their seasons, coming out with just one win out of four. "We played well, but the other teams were sharper," Harrison said. "We compressed a season into six weeks. Playing in the Northeast, that's just the way it is."

Harrison observed that a lack of pitchers made life more difficult for the pitchers he had. "No one pitched with full rest." While Mercer enjoyed comfortable leads in some games,

most games were tight all the way through. "For a pitcher, that's a lot of pressure."

Still the Vikings had some glory days in the Garden State Athletic Conference, including a 7-1 win over Ocean on March 31, a 17-6 win over Camden on April 4, a doubleheader victory over Atlantic 12-2 and 11-2 on April 10, and a 13-2 win over Cumberland on April 12. But the season ended all too soon, as the Vikings lost 13-3 and 8-7 in the regional play-in round against Salem on May 1.

According to Harrison, team members showed character through hard times. "When players were struggling, their teammates would find a way to pick up their spirits."

Key contributors were sophomore Dan Czepiga, lead off hitter and centerfielder, who led the team in RBIs and stolen bases; freshman Mike Platas, who played third base and was selected to the All-Region first team; freshman pitcher/outfielder Bill Crawford, who batted .416 and was also named to the All-Region team; freshman first baseman Chris Foley, who batted .300 and was named to the All-GSAC second team; and infielder/pitcher John Persicketti. Sophomore Pat Sharples was strong on the mound and ended the season 4-2.

Assistant coaches were Fred Carella and Ken Jones.

## Women's Tennis

The Mercer women's tennis team has solidified a national dynasty, winning its fourth NJCAA title in eight years in Tucson, AZ, May 7-13. "It was a dream week," Head Coach Marc Vecchiolla said. Five players were named All-Americans and Vecchiolla was inducted into the NJCAA Tennis Coaches Hall of Fame during a special ceremony.

Going into the tournament, the Vikings knew they had a distinct advantage: all of Mercer's players were strong, not just the top flights. "There was very little difference between our no. 1 and our no. 6," Vecchiolla said. So, on Day 3, when Mercer was in fifth place, the team was still confident. Mercer proceeded to win all eight matches that day against their strongest opponent, Broome CC (NY), and never looked back. Their final point total was 321/2; Broome earned 23.

While Mercer earned a number of points in the no. 1, 2, and 3 spots, they cleaned up at 4, 5 and 6, winning the final in each. No. 4

Krystle Duay, no. 5 Rachel Hendrickson, and no. 6 Siobhan Cahill won titles in their singles flights, while no. 3 Natalia Dabrowska took second. Duay and Hendrickson partnered to win third doubles, and Silvina Wills partnered with Dabrowska to earn third place at second doubles.

Five members of the team were named All-Americans: Duay, Hendrickson, Cahill, Dabrowska and Wills. Other team members were no. 1 Caitlin Bagdonas, a consolation finalist, and Monica Nichols.

With Wills the lone sophomore, six of Mercer's seven players are expected to return. "These girls deserve a lot of credit. They worked hard all through the fall season, coming out of Region 19 with a 10-0 record, and then practiced all through the winter and spring to prepare for the nationals. They made winning the title look easy," Vecchiolla said.

Assistant coaches were Barb Pleva and Ralph Bencivengo.



MCCC's championship tennis team: back row, l. to r., Assistant Coach Ralph Bencivengo, Natalia Dabrowska, Rachel Hendrickson, Siobhan Cahill, Caitlin Bagdonas, Head Coach Marc Vecchiolla and Assistant Coach Barb Pleva; front row, l. to r., Monica Nichols, Krystle Duay and Silvina Wills.

## Men's Basketball

The men's basketball team had much to be proud of this year. No, the Vikings didn't win the Region 19 title. But they did win the GSAC title and, for the first time under Head Coach Kelly Williams, all players were eligible for both semesters. "That represents a good effort academically and on the court," Williams observed.

The competition was as fierce as ever. Williams noted that the team's winning record of 18-13 was a real achievement. He praised sophomores Miroslaw Babirarz and Craig Phillips for their leadership as co-captains. "They really kept the squad together."

Other starters included Reggie Kelly, Anthony DaBronzo, Sharif High, Mantas Armonas and Blake Craft. The team also got help from Clinton Barnhill, Jahrell Benson, Tom DeStefano, Josh Hernandez, Tom Gutowski, Marcus Johnson, Markesh McNair and Reggie Taylor.

The Vikings had numerous exciting games, including an overtime win against Atlantic, 97-94, and an overtime win against Camden, 86-84, when the Vikings came back from six points down with one minute left to tie the game and force the OT.

The last home game, against Ocean County College on February 22, was also memorable, providing a chance to bid farewell to the sophomore players with a 77-59 win. "With that victory, Mercer captured the GSAC title," Williams said. "They really played to their ability that night."

Next came the Region 19 tournament, with the Vikings facing Del Tech. Despite a solid team effort, the men lost 88-73. Kelly and DaBronzo were named to the GSAC and Region 19 first teams.

The Vikings' season was notable in other ways. For the first time, games were televised on Mercer's cable channel. "It was great to see the games on TV," said Williams. "People would let the players know that they had seen them play."

Losing five key sophomores – Barbirarz, Phillips, Kelly, DaBronzo and High – Williams will need to retool for next year. Two particularly promising freshmen, Craft and Armonas, should anchor the 2005-06 squad.

Assisting Williams this season were Mike Falco, Gary Williams, Greg Grant and Scott Nance.

## Women's Basketball

According to Head Coach Mike Tenaglia, this was a good year for women's basketball, as the Lady Vikes captured the Region 19 title for the seventh time in eight years. The title was particularly sweet because the road was tough this season. With a 21-12 final record, the women improved as the year progressed and worked extremely well as a team.

"This team had a lot of heart and a lot of enthusiasm. There was a very positive flow among the players and a great attitude," Tenaglia said.

Going into the regional tournament as the no. 2 seed behind undefeated newcomer Harcum Junior College, Mercer cruised through its quarterfinal victory against Union on March 1, 70-52. Next up was Essex on March 3, a bigger, more physical opponent. Mercer pulled out a 57-55 win with just a minute left, thanks to some heroics from forward Kourtney Gibbs and guard Tashema Whittaker. In addition to co-captains Whittaker and Nicole Brown, Tenaglia credits freshmen Gibbs, Leslie Maurer and Randi Temple with some key plays.

Then came Harcum Junior College, a team that had beaten Mercer twice during the regular season and had a record of 26-0 going into the Region 19 final. "Harcum is the kind of team that presses the entire time," Tenaglia explained. "We turned the tables by pressing them back. Ultimately it came down to which team was going to have a run at the right time."

On March 5, Mercer was that team. Pulling ahead 62-61 with just five minutes left, Mercer went on to score 13 unanswered points. All five starters scored in double figures.

Facing the Community College of Rhode Island in the Northeast District championship, Mercer met its match. CCRI was the same school Mercer had lost to in overtime in last year's district championship. Mercer had also lost to CCRI twice earlier this season.

"We got stopped once again at the district level. We can't seem to get by them," admitted Tenaglia of CCRI, which boasted an all-sophomore starting lineup. "We got behind early and had to play catch-up for the rest of the game." The final score was 88-61.

The process of building up for next year has already begun. While the Lady Vikes will lose sophomores Whittaker and Brown, a skilled group of freshmen – Gibbs and Maurer, as well as Toschi Shilow, Chrissy Redondo, Amora Dawson-White and Kathy Prassas – should step on the court next season with experience and confidence.

Tenaglia was assisted by Regina Brown and Tameka Turner.

### They're on Their Way

#### Student-athletes transfer to four-year schools

##### Men's Soccer

Roy Sharaby West Virginia University  
Shay Sharaby West Virginia University

##### Softball

Samantha White The College of New Jersey  
Dana Pallotta York College  
Ingrid Measor Marywood College  
Kristin Kuzma East Stroudsburg University

##### Baseball

John Persicketti Delaware Valley College

##### Men's Tennis

Brian Bunn Rutgers University

##### Men's Basketball

Miroslaw Babirarz St. Paul College

##### Women's Basketball

Randi Temple The College of New Jersey

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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 in credit and noncredit courses. Previously registered students can view their grades and course history.



RACHEL PLATT  
Theatre major

# 2005

## Mercer Arts Calendar

*Something's Cookin' at Kelsey Theatre*

### FALL 2005 Schedule

#### Full Length Productions

**Bye Bye Birdie**

Sept. 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25

**Cheaper By The Dozen**

Sept. 30; Oct. 1, 2, 7, 8, 9

**They're Playing Our Song**

Oct. 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23

**Harvey**

Oct. 28, 29, 30; Nov. 4, 5, 6

**Inspecting Carol**

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

**A Christmas Carol**

Nov. 25, 26, 27; Dec. 2, 3, 4

**You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown**

Jan. 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15

#### Kelsey Kids Series

**Pinocchio**

Oct. 1

**Mini-Powwow –****Native Nations Dance Theatre**

Oct. 15

**Russian American Kids Circus**

Oct. 22

**Cam Jansen**

Oct. 29

**Bob Berky – Out of the Blue**

Nov. 12

**'Twas The Night Before Christmas**

Dec. 9, 10, 11

**The Nutcracker**

Dec. 17, 18

**How to Eat Like a Child**

Jan. 20, 21, 22

## The 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).



## Academic Calendar

### Plan your fall courses now.

**AUGUST 23** Last day to register for most fall semester classes before late fees apply

**AUGUST 29** Classes begin for 5-week, 7-week and 15-week sessions

**OCTOBER 4** Classes begin for 5-week and 10-week sessions

**OCTOBER 25** Classes begin for 7-week session

THE VIKING, a publication for alumni and other friends of Mercer County Community College, is published by IMPACT (Information, Marketing, Publications, Art Gallery, and College Relations Team). Editorial offices are located in room 113 of the Administration building on the West Windsor Campus. THE VIKING welcomes suggestions for feature stories and articles. Mail to Public Information, MCCC, PO Box B, Trenton, NJ, 08690, or email [saveria@mccc.edu](mailto:saveria@mccc.edu).

For Kelsey events call (609) 584-9444 or visit our website at [www.kelseytheatre.net](http://www.kelseytheatre.net).