



VIKING

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County Community College
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Summer 2007

Women's Softball Team reaches World Series for first time since 1988. See story on page 10.



Photo by Leslee McCall

The Inauguration of Dr. Patricia C. Donohue

The Mercer community formally installed Dr. Patricia C. Donohue as the college's fifth president, and first woman to hold that office, on May 4 at the Conference Center auditorium. Dr. Beverly Richardson, vice president for College Advancement and provost of Mercer's James Kerney Campus, served as mistress of ceremonies.

A lifelong educator, Dr. Donohue most recently was president of Luzerne County Community College in Pennsylvania. She was escorted into the auditorium by a procession of invited dignitaries, and robed college faculty and staff.

In her acceptance speech, Dr. Donohue stressed the many ways that community colleges are "creating the future" for students, the workforce and the community. "The community college mission is to provide access and excellence in educational opportunities, to nurture students, and to support economic and community development."

Speaking for the higher education community were Dr. R. Barbara Gitenstein, president of The College of New Jersey, Dr. Karen Stout, president of Montgomery County Community College, and Dr. Lawrence Nespoli, president of the New Jersey Council of County Colleges.

Following the installation, guests enjoyed a festive reception in the Conference Center atrium prepared by the college's culinary students. Other talented students served as musicians, videographers, photographers, facilitators and floral designers.

Before her tenure at Luzerne, Dr. Donohue was vice chancellor for education at St. Louis Community College and acting president of St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley. At Harrisburg Area Community College, she was vice president of external affairs and community development, interim dean of the Lebanon Campus, and dean of the School of Business, Engineering and Technology.

Mercer's new president, Dr. Patricia C. Donohue.

MCCC Celebrates 40th Commencement



Husband and Wife Graduate Together

Burnell and Rebecca Matthews began college together and graduated together. Both plan to transfer to Rutgers University. Burnell will study environmental policy and Rebecca plans to become a math teacher.

For more graduation coverage, see pages 6-7.

Airline pilot MaryJane Harris, the student speaker for Mercer's 2007 commencement ceremonies, wished her classmates "clear skies and tail winds in your future endeavors." A member of the U.S. Air Force Reserve, Harris is the first Mercer student to graduate with the college's new Honors Program designation.

Taking to the air was a recurring theme this year, as the campus celebrated its 40th graduation for more than 850 students on May 24. In her keynote address, the college's new president, Dr. Patricia C. Donohue, urged graduates to take a global perspective on the world and to pursue leadership and community service in their work and personal lives. She spoke of the college's Flight Team, which recently returned from a national championship competition. The team won first place in the region and third place in the country for two-year colleges.

Celebrating the diversity of this year's



Student speaker MaryJane Harris

graduating class, Harris said, "I'm not sure there is such a thing as a non-traditional student at Mercer... The diversity of the student body made it easy to fit in here." Like Harris, many of Mercer's students are career changers. She returned to college for a science degree, and immersed herself in complex science research projects as part of a cooperative program with Rider University. Her goal is to graduate from medical school. Harris was named to the Phi Theta Kappa New Jersey All-State Academic Team by the New Jersey Council of County Colleges.



Javier Quiyu received the Programming and Networking Award at MCCC's Honors Convocation. He achieved Dean's List status every semester and graduated with high honors in Information Technology.

Your Best Choice!

short takes



"Color Theories" Delights Art Lovers

Two artists who studied extensively at Mercer exhibited their work at the college's Gallery in March. Pictured with artist and MCCC Professor of Art Mel Leipzig are Jeanne Calo, left, and Graziella Smith, right. Each artist's work is behind her. Conceived as part of the college's celebration of Women's History Month, the exhibit also featured work by Betty Curtiss and Marie Sturken. Gallery Director Tricia Fagan said, "The show was a celebration of color, offering the viewer an entry into the color-saturated, unique worlds of four women – most of whom came to visual art later in life."

New Concentration on Gender Studies

The Liberal Arts Division has introduced Women's and Gender Studies as a new concentration for liberal arts majors, who would be required to take four courses. These courses also fulfill general education or elective requirements for most majors. Among the offerings are: Women in Modern Europe, Communication and Gender, Women in Literature, and the Psychology of Women. The program is coordinated by Denise A. Ingram, assistant professor of Sociology.

Arabic Language Classes Reach Across Cultures

To the uneducated eye, the figures on the blackboard look like random squiggles, dots and circles. But to MCCC's students of Arabic, a new language and culture are unfolding before them.

Their professor, Dr. Taysir Nashif, was born and raised in Israel. Of Arabic descent, he came to the United States in 1969. Having received his bachelor's and master's degrees at Hebrew University of Jerusalem, he is a fluent speaker of both Arabic and Hebrew. He continued his education in America, receiving his doctorate in Political Science (including Middle Eastern history) from the State University of New York at Binghamton.

Dr. Nashif began teaching Arabic 101 at Mercer last fall and taught Arabic 102 in the spring. "I am delighted to have this opportunity to facilitate cultural communication," he said. "Arabs and Americans need to improve their knowledge of each other to reduce and, hopefully, overcome cultural barriers. Learning language can be one tool to achieve this objective."

Dr. Nashif points to the many job opportunities that exist for speakers of Arabic. "One can join institutions doing research on Middle Eastern history, societies and cultures, work for government departments with interest in that region's affairs, or teach." He himself has put his valuable language skills to work at the United Nations in New York City for close to 25 years, serving as a political affairs officer and translator for General Assembly and Security Council meetings.

Dr. Nashif's Mercer students have chosen to learn the language for a variety of reasons. Business major Nichole Pollard has career goals in mind. "There is so much more interaction with the Arab world," she said. "I think



Dr. Taysir Nashif began teaching Arabic at Mercer in the fall of 2006.

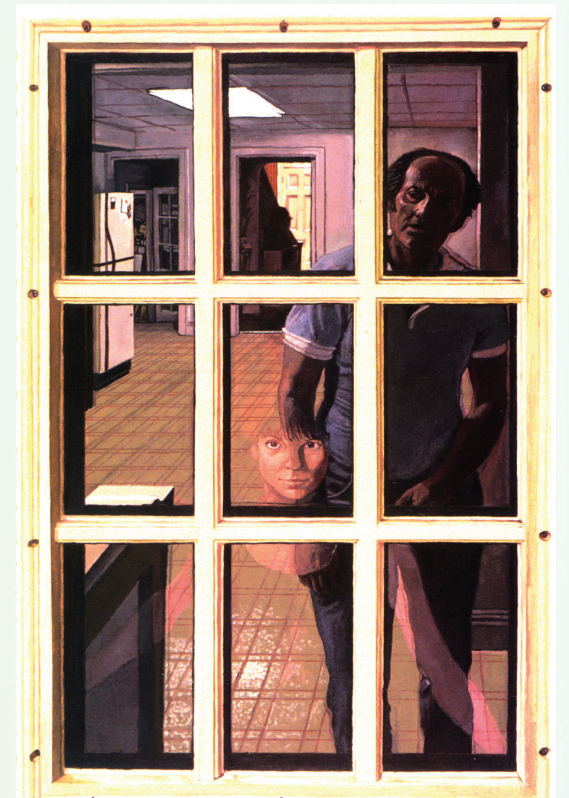
it will be a great asset for my resume." For Hakim Chebly, who emigrated from Lebanon nine years ago, the class is serving as a refresher course. "I was beginning to forget my language," he said. Andrew Crane took the course as more of a random choice, but it has turned out to be a good one. "It's a beautiful language and I'm glad to be exposed to it," he said.

MCCC also offers noncredit classes in Arabic. Taught by instructor Carla Helou, a native of Lebanon, these classes emphasize practical conversational elements of the language, such as numbers and days of the week.

Professor Mel Leipzig Puts MCCC on the Artistic Map

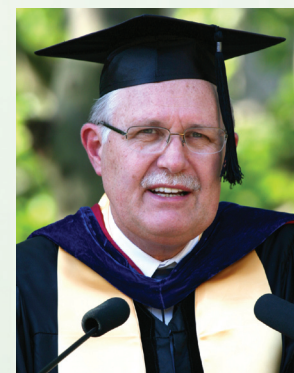
Famed artist and MCCC Professor Mel Leipzig has long attracted accolades. Recently he was invited to become a member of the National Academy Museum and School of Fine Arts in New York. This is one of the oldest artist-run organizations in the country, housing more than 8,000 works of American art. "It's an honor," Leipzig said. "I was floored when I saw the list of other members."

Leipzig has painted Mercer's classrooms, offices and studios in detail, featuring numerous members of the campus community as models. Many of these paintings were on display recently at Trenton's ARTWORKS School and Gallery. During open hours visitors watched Professor Leipzig in the process of completing a painting of the ARTWORKS facility.



Leipzig's painting, "Francesca at the Door," will be donated to the National Academy in New York.

Vice President Thomas N. Wilfrid Receives NJCC Commendation



Dr. Thomas N. Wilfrid, Mercer's long-time vice president for Academic Affairs, has received a Resolution of Commendation from the New Jersey Council of County Colleges. This acknowledgement expresses gratitude and appreciation,

and cites his exemplary leadership on a number of key college priorities when he served as MCCC's acting president. These included initiating an honors program, expanding online and blended courses, securing approvals for several Chapter 12 capital projects, opening the Mercer County Police Academy on the West Windsor Campus, and establishing a formal partnership with Educational Testing Service.

Dr. Wilfrid will be leaving the college this November after 38 years of service. He has accepted an offer to become the next executive director of the Princeton-based Charlotte W. Newcombe Foundation.



DREAM Program Counts Successes

Pictured above, students in Mercer's DREAM program attend a "College Success" class. Last September the grant-funded pilot program accepted nine students who are intellectually disabled, giving them an opportunity to explore their interests and test their abilities. These highly motivated students have achieved much success and are making their mark on campus in classes for credit and audit. All returned in the spring – a 100% retention rate.

This September eight new students will enter the program. They and their families attended a reception in June where they met with staff, faculty and current students to prepare for their new educational venture.

Coming August 8: Information Session for People in Transition

Come and discover your options at MCCC! On Wednesday, August 8, the college will host an Information Session from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. for people in transition – those who are thinking of returning to college, want to change careers, enter the workforce or prepare for retirement.

Representatives from both credit and noncredit programs will be on hand. Information will be available about coming to Mercer to get a degree, or retraining for new careers in areas such as health, security, computers and technology, construction and interior design.

According to Lorna Strang, director of Community Programs, "We will also be introducing a new program called C.A.R.E. (Classes for Adults Returning to Education) to provide help to those returning to college – in areas such as taking tests, brushing up on math, reading, writing, and computer skills."

The information session will also showcase courses to be offered this fall, designed for others who are in the process of transitioning out of the workforce, on topics such as "Live by Design not Default," "Retirement: Starting Your own Business," "Volunteering Opportunities," and "Small Business Workshops."

For more information or to register, please call Lorna Strang at 609-570-3856, or e-mail strangl@mccc.edu

Transfer Eased to Strayer University

Mercer's graduates will now be able to transfer with greater ease into bachelor's degree programs at Strayer University, thanks to a new agreement between the institutions. Offering both undergraduate and graduate programs at 47 campuses in 13 states, Strayer is known for its abundant online courses and programs that enable adults to earn degrees while continuing to work full time.

Mercer Trains Teachers in International Business Practice Firm

A student in MCCC's "International Business Practice Firm" speaks with teachers who visited MCCC for two days of training in this innovative teaching method. Professor Carol Weber led the training for 15 teachers from throughout the country. Participants learned the pedagogy and business sides of the program – such as marketing, human resources and accounting. The program teaches international business through simulated practice firms that trade with other such firms worldwide. Mercer is the only college site in the country providing such training.

Governor Speaks at MCCC

Governor Jon Corzine held a "Town Hall" meeting at MCCC's Kelsey Theatre on January 11. Speaking to a packed house, Corzine took questions for nearly two hours on budget and quality of life issues. MCCC's Television students taped the event for Cable Channel 26.



Students Install Garden to Attract Butterflies

Who doesn't take a moment to stop and watch when a butterfly flits by? In an effort to establish a bit of butterfly heaven for disabled residents at Project Freedom in Hamilton, the MCCC Horticulture Club spent an evening in June installing the first phase of a garden specially designed to attract these graceful insects.

According to Horticulture Program Coordinator Amy Iseneker, the installation includes bird baths, benches, and a pathway, along with shrubs and flowers that butterflies prefer: butterfly bushes, zinnias, bee balm, Echinacea and more.

Iseneker notes that the goal is to get Project Freedom residents out into nature, along the pathway if they are ambulatory, or along the sidewalk if they are in wheelchairs. With additional funding, the students hope to expand the plantings in the 50' x 50' plot. "We have planned it to grow," Iseneker said.

Dr. Edward Carmien Publishes Fantasy Tale

Assistant English Professor Dr. Edward Carmien has published a short story entitled "Before the Wind" in *Black Gate*, Issue 10, Spring 2007, a quarterly magazine of epic fantasy fiction. According to Carmien, an avid sailor, the idea for the story evolved from a simple but vivid image of what it would feel like to drive a land-based cart equipped with sails powered by the wind. He asked himself: Who would build such a cart? In what kind of environment would such a vehicle make sense?

"The answers are in the story," Carmien said. "I have created a low-tech society, a planet on which there are apparently endless plains with constant winds, and hunters who must catch dinner and all of life's necessities, as did the plains tribes of days gone by." The story's protagonist is Kris, a talented, spirited "out-rider" who ably defends herself against some unsavory fellow hunters. Fantasy fiction author and reviewer Sherwood Smith calls Carmien's story an "appealing adventure...the writing is so full of image and verve...". The story's sequel, "Knives Under the Spring Moon," is due to appear in *Black Gate*, Issue 12.

MCCC Theatre Students Challenged to Create Performance “Anywhere”

If you are rushing down a corridor at Penn Station and suddenly come upon some young people moving in slow motion, you may be encountering the weird, wonderful world of MCCC Theatre students. According to Theatre Program Coordinator Jody Person, “It’s easy to create work that affects people. You don’t need sets and costumes. Students can create performance anywhere.”

Of course, these students have utilized plenty of sets and costumes too. In April, they presented the visionary German play, *Woyzeck*, written by Georg Buchner in 1836. An ambitious extravaganza of color, costumes, make up, lighting and props, this unusual work chronicled the travails of a young man put upon by his impoverished circumstances and a callous society. Student Peter Deane, who played the starring role, noted, “I have been amazed at what I have been able to accomplish here at Mercer.” He has especially enjoyed the Theatre program’s emphasis on individual attention. According to student lore, he adds, Jody Person never sleeps.

Person, who earned his bachelor’s degree in Theatre from SUNY-Purchase, and a master’s from Mason Gross School of the Arts (Rutgers), does appear to have a lot of waking time and spends much of it focused on the Theatre program. He relishes the idea of bringing classroom learning to life on the stage, as evidenced by this year’s emphasis on historical plays, and of giving audiences something to chew on with thought-provoking interpretations of universal themes. His goal is to help students grow as artists and as human beings. “They have to be able to give everything they’ve got,” he said.

As with other concentrations at Mercer, the Theatre program is grounded by general education courses. “As an actor, you can use everything you learn,” explained Josiah DeAndrea, who graduated in May and received the Theatre program award for academic excellence. He points out that while studying Shakespeare in Person’s advanced theatre class, students did extensive research on Elizabethan England.

“You need to learn the behaviors, pacing, locales, and ideals of beauty for the time period of the piece,” agrees Deane. In *The Mysteries*, a series of Biblical plays performed in February, students drew heavily on their study of Medieval times, when local theatre was presented mainly by traveling troupes.

“We are always excited at the start of Jody’s class,” Deane observed. “He is a wealth of knowledge.” Adds Communications major Yiraldi Reyes, “In order to do well, you have to



Window display: Theatre students during their Manhattan performance include, from left, Michele Ferry, Lorelle Gray and Josiah DeAndrea.

put in a lot of effort and commitment, but you will see progress.” Reyes, who considered transferring after the spring semester, decided to stick around. “Jody has a lot to give. I want one more year.” Deane notes that college is just the time to do offbeat work. “It gives you more tools for the difficult material you might tackle later on.”

For all three students, acting is clearly a passion. Said DeAndrea, “I want to make acting my career. My goal is to do nothing but. If I’m not acting, then I’ll get my master’s and teach it.” DeAndrea will study drama at Pace University in the fall.

Person encourages his students to spend as much time as they can in New York City, both as performers and theater-goers. In December, they inhabited a storefront window, splitting up into groups and acting out original works. DeAndrea’s group performed a story with music. “We told the story in loop fashion; we would rewind and change it. We even critiqued passersby.” Reyes’ group explored notions of good guys and bad guys. “The label is based on what side you are on,” she said. Deane found himself unexpectedly performing solo, “So I did all the parts. I turned it into a monologue.”

Person has escorted groups of students and their parents and friends to numerous New York productions that are decidedly *not* Broadway. “They can find Broadway on their own,” he said. “All are inexpensive, no more than \$20 a ticket.”

These outings don’t end when the curtain comes down, however. Person asks students to create “performance art” during the subway ride to Penn Station after the show. In one recent subway improv, the group separated before boarding the train and then spread out through

the car. “One of us began laughing, then another joined in, and then another. The other riders were confused at first, but then they broke out laughing too. Sometimes they applaud,” he said. “We’ve altered someone’s day in a positive way. It’s really as simple as that.”

Person is also committed to providing professional opportunities to students after they graduate. This August, DeAndrea along with MCCC Theatre grads Deena Jiles and Michelle Wood, and current Dance student Erik Rojas, will perform in Person’s production of a new play, “To Be Loved,” at the 11th Annual New York International Fringe Festival in Manhattan. “Professional gigs like the Fringe Festival don’t always come along, but when they do, I want to take my most committed students with me,” Person said.

While he is losing some of his “stars” to graduation, Person won’t slow down for a minute. In collaboration with faculty from other MCCC Fine Arts programs – Dance, Digital Media Arts and Photography – the theme for the coming year will be “The Seven Deadly Sins.” Students will participate as playwrights, choreographers and website designers for productions including one-act plays and dance in the fall and “MacBeth” in the spring.



Photo by iflokes

“The Mysteries” featured, from left, Yiraldi Reyes, Justin Schilling and Clayton Gage.



MCCC Culinary Center Serves Up Five-Star Feast

Imagine a restaurant ready to serve you and 25 of your closest friends. Imagine that you can plan the menu, learn a bit about each course as it is served, and then enjoy a glorious six-course meal. No, you are not a judge on a reality television series. You are, in fact, enjoying an evening in the Culinary Center at Mercer County Community College.

That was the experience for Julio Menendez, his wife Pam, and a group of their luckiest friends. Last year, at the MCCC Scholarship Gala’s silent auction, Menendez bid on the “MCCC Restaurant Fantasy Dinner.” He cashed in on his prize in February in honor of his wife’s birthday. According to MCCC Hospitality Program Coordinator Doug Fee, he and Pam Menendez sat down together to develop a detailed menu that reflected her culinary preferences.

“Diners received an education with each course that was served,” Fee said. “We discussed elements such as preparation methods, sauces, and flavor combinations.”

The meal began with a crudite platter, followed by a salad of assorted greens with tomatoes, goat cheese, cranberries and walnuts. A fish course featured pan-seared sea bass, fennel and olives, followed by prosciutto chicken with asparagus. The main course was roasted tenderloin and Yukon Gold mashed potatoes. The splendid feast concluded with homemade assorted pastries.

Student volunteers and guest chefs prepare a feast in the college’s kitchen.

**PTA Program Celebrates
10th Anniversary With**

A Chocolate Affair

In an event drenched in chocolate, Mercer's Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program celebrated its tenth anniversary on April 12. Close to 100 guests attended "A Chocolate Affair" at MCCC's Conference Center, bringing together program alumni and current students, physical therapy professionals and community supporters. It also showcased the talents of MCCC's culinary students, who baked 22 chocolate mousse tortes – some specially decorated in honor of generous donors. Guests enjoyed a chocolate fountain featuring dipping items such as pretzel sticks and fresh fruit.

PTA Program Coordinator Barbara Behrens, who organized the event, said, "Our students have achieved a 91.67% pass rate on the national licensure exam. One hundred percent of our licensed grads have been employed within six months. I am proud of our students, who have developed into excellent clinicians." Mercer's is one of only three such community college programs in the state. Behrens noted that a real team effort has gone into the program's success, citing some 50 community facilities that serve as clinical training sites, and the many clinicians who mentor Mercer students.

One of the program's first graduates, Donna Mottola ('99), originally attended Mercer in the 1980s and earned an A.A.S. in General Business. Returning to school to attend the PTA program when her own children started school was "the best decision I ever made," she said. A clinician at Arcadia Nursing and Rehab Center in Hamilton, Mottola has found a good fit in this small facility with a family-like atmosphere. Still, she observes, it's a demanding field. "I have always been into fitness and I wanted to help people. This field combines both."

Jessica Sliker, a 2002 grad, also loves her career. "Being able to see progress in my patients on a daily basis and making a difference in someone's life is extremely rewarding." She returns to campus on a regular basis as an instructor, assisting students as they prepare for their national competency exams.



PTA Program Coordinator Barbara Behrens, seated, and Jessica Sliker, a 2002 graduate, with the program's skeletal mascot.



From left, faculty member Dr. Gianna Durso-Finley, with Honors students Laura Christiansen, Kevin Dower, Jen Vitella, Twyla Malone, and Program Coordinator Dr. Carol Bork.

Honors Students Share "Intellectual Journey" as Program Celebrates Successful First Semester

Did you work hard? Would you do it again? The resounding response from MCCC Honors students was "yes" and "yes." Many of the 30 students who participated in the inaugural semester of Mercer's Honors Program gathered with faculty and family members for a symposium in the Student Center on May 8 to share their honors projects and experiences.

Honors Coordinator Dr. Carol Bork, a member of the English faculty, addressed the assembled students. "You are pioneers of the Honors Program. You were willing to take intellectual risks." In its first semester, the program included three classes: history, English, and sociology. Courses in international business, microeconomics and psychology will be added for fall, 2007.

Explained Jacqueline Kotnarowski, who took Honors History with Dr. Craig Coenen, "We focused on concepts, not facts. There was a substantial amount of work, but it was the right kind of work." Kotnarowski, who plans to transfer after graduating from Mercer to pursue her bachelor's degree in psychology, looks forward to completing the Honors Program with three additional classes next year. "It's worth the extra work," she said. "I got a lot out of this course and I know the Honors designation will expand my transfer options."

Several students pursued a second Honors option: developing an individualized contract with their professor. Helen Emrick created a contract in her major, Exercise Science. "The contract works really well. You get to be creative and you get to know the professors better and share in their areas of interest."

Bork notes that the Honors Program sets the highest possible goals for intellectual growth and critical thinking. "In this setting, students are expected to take on more responsibility for their own learning within a community of scholars," she said. Honors courses emphasize analytical writing, effective public speaking, interactive and collaborative learning, use of primary source materials, and information literacy.

"High-achieving high school seniors who are weighing their college options should welcome this news," Bork continued. "For a fraction of the cost of a four-year school, Mercer's Honors Program provides a classroom setting that utilizes the most advanced teaching methods. Those who graduate from Mercer with an Honors designation will find themselves extremely well-prepared for transfer to a four-year college or university. Scholarship opportunities will also be enhanced," she said.

Acceptance into the program requires an application, a faculty recommendation, 12 prior college credits with a grade point average of 3.5 or better, and an interview with the Honors Council, comprised of program faculty and advisors. To earn an Honors designation on their diploma, students are required to take four Honors courses (12 credits) as part of their regular curriculum and to maintain a 3.5 GPA or better throughout their schooling at Mercer.

For more information e-mail borkc@mccc.edu or call (609) 570-3890.

A Life in Fur and Feathers: MCCC Dancer Gets Break at Sesame Place

For the past three years, MCCC Dance major Erik Rojas has had a secret life. A student during the fall and spring, in the summer he turns into...Big Bird, and occasionally Telly Monster, Cookie Monster and Oscar the Grouch.

Rojas is an enthusiastic employee at Sesame Place in Langhorne, PA. He reports that this summer will be his first sans fur or feathers, having been promoted to stage manager for the "Elmo's World LIVE" show. Considering that temperatures can reach 100 degrees and performers are in full body costumes, Rojas relishes the added benefits of his new post.

"I go to my job every day with a passion to work and to make the experience fun for my employees and guests," he said. Rojas says he liked playing every character. Sesame Place dancers typically perform five days a week, for a total of 15 shows and 10 parades.

Rojas expects to graduate from Mercer in 2008 and to continue his education in dance at a four-year school. As he develops discipline and technique, he says, "Mercer is helping me to become a better dancer."



Erik Rojas as Big Bird.

Graduation News

James Kerney Campus Graduates Applauded



Michael Colon and his daughter, Michelle Colon, completed the GED program together at Mercer's James Kerney Campus.

Hundreds of graduates and their family members packed Patriots Theater at the Trenton War Memorial on May 8 to celebrate the achievements of students completing both credit and non-credit programs at Mercer's James Kerney Campus (JKC). High spirits combined with heartfelt words of encouragement.

Dr. Beverly Richardson, MCCC vice president and JKC provost, opened the program by applauding the 37 credit program graduates who began their studies at the Trenton campus or took most of their courses there. In noncredit programs the honorees included 12 Career Training Institute graduates in the Culinary program and 61 in the Office Automation program. Fifty-nine students completed the GED program and 78 completed programs of the English Language Institute. These students came from countries worldwide. "Our reach extends throughout the world," Richardson said. Many graduates of noncredit programs continue their studies in Mercer's degree programs.

Keynote speaker was Mercer graduate Ana Berdecia ('88) of the Center for the Positive Development of Urban Children at Thomas Edison State College. She credits MCCC with helping her achieve her lifetime goals.

After the ceremony, all enjoyed refreshments prepared by JKC culinary students.

Award-Winning Flight Team Scores First in Region, Third in Country

Four members of MCCC's Flight Team Club, from left, Evan Conley, Luis Nazario, Tabatha Ialacci and John Gusrang, accept the "Club of the Year" award at Mercer's annual student banquet. The team won first place in the Northeast Region of the National Intercollegiate Flying Association competition, then competed in the national competition in Ohio this May. Events both in the air and on the ground tested their skills against two-year and four-year colleges from across the country. Mercer's team scored third in the nation for two-year schools.



Phi Theta Kappa Academic All-Stars

Graduates MaryJane Harris and Warren Schaeffer were named to the Phi Theta Kappa All-State Academic Team and honored at a luncheon hosted by the New Jersey Council of County Colleges in May, along with the honorees from other N.J. community colleges. Harris, who was the student speaker at this year's commencement ceremonies, is a pilot who plans to go to medical school. She did honors research through a cooperative program with Rider University. Schaeffer served as a mentor for students with intellectual disabilities in MCCC's DREAM program, was president of the Future Teachers Club, and has been involved in many charitable efforts. Recipient of the college's "Student Community Service Award" for 2007, he plans to transfer to Rider University for a degree in Special Education.

Phi Theta Kappa All-State Team



Warren Schaeffer and MaryJane Harris

Alum Presents Scholarship to Accounting Graduate

David Misiura, CPA, at left, a 1983 Mercer graduate and controller for WA Cleary Corporation, presents a scholarship to Accounting graduate Albert Giple on behalf of the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants. Misiura transferred for a bachelor's degree from Rutgers-Newark. He credits Mercer with giving him a very solid background, and he promotes Mercer's Accounting students whenever he can. Giple, who left war torn Liberia several years ago and spends much time working on Liberian humanitarian efforts, plans to transfer to Rutgers University to continue his studies. At Mercer he served as a mentor with the DREAM program for students with intellectual disabilities.



Nursing Program Celebrates Graduation

Mercer's Nursing Program celebrated the graduation of 36 students on May 16 at a festive ceremony at Kelsey Theatre, bringing the year's total to 78. In addition to its own Nursing program, Mercer works with Capital Health System and St. Francis Medical Center in cooperative programs. The Nursing students raised money through a cookie sale and granted \$100 scholarships to help fellow students pay for their licensure exam. They also purchased flowers for their ceremony and presented a donation to the Nursing laboratory.



Five Grads Earn Special Awards

Students who participated in Mercer's Programs for Academic Services and Success (PASS) were honored at a May awards banquet. Pictured are five graduates who were presented with achievement awards from the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education's EOF (Educational Opportunity Fund) office. From left, front row, are Rodney Wright, Melanie Pollard, Kim Coleman, Rebecca Matthews and Rhoda Bowser. At back is Dr. Khalida Haqq, program director. PASS incorporates the EOF program and the Student Support Services program.



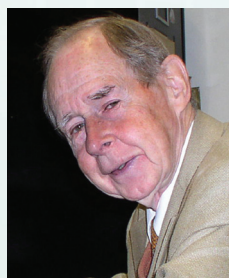
Basketball Grads Take It to Higher Level

Members of MCCC's 2006-07 basketball team suit up before marching in commencement ceremonies. From left are team members Landry Nguema, Eric Blackmon-Hayes (team captain), Head Coach Kelly Williams, Miles Smith and Jores Dongo. All have plans to continue their educations at four-year colleges.



Scholarship Renamed In Honor of Long-Time Professor

The MCCC Faculty Association has renamed its annual scholarship in honor of Professor Emeritus David E. Collier, who retired in 2006 after a 45-year career teaching history and geography. According to advisor Fred Weiner, a colleague and friend, "The classroom was his home and his students were his family. The faculty is proud to honor him." The scholarship is awarded to a high-performing graduating student who plans to pursue a career in teaching.



Professor David Collier

The 2007 scholarship recipient is Tim Petro, who earned his associate degree in Education with highest honors. He plans to continue at Rider University for his bachelor's and master's degrees in Education. For the past eight years, Petro has been employed as a paraprofessional in the Trenton School District.

Design Student Wins Cash Award

Advertising Design graduate *Xiomara Serrano* is pictured with her logo design which won a \$2,500 prize from the NJ Governor's Council on Mental Health Stigma. The competition included submissions from college students statewide. Serrano, who has lent her talent to redesign the student newspaper, was active in the Graphic Design Club. She was honored at a May 23 awards luncheon with former New Jersey first lady, MaryJo Codey.



Associate Professor James Kelly

The 2007 Distinguished Teaching Award

Quoting the late Joseph Campbell, Associate Professor James Kelly, the recipient of MCCC's 2007 Distinguished Teaching Award, told the graduates to "follow your bliss." Coordinator of the college's Music program since 1994, Kelly is credited with revitalizing the program, introducing new courses and inspiring students. With a bachelor's in Music from Swarthmore College and a master's from the New England Conservatory of Music, Kelly is a classical and jazz guitarist and conductor of the college's Jazz Band.

Kelly has revamped the four-semester "Music Theory" course to conform with what is offered at four-year schools. "Our students are now transferring more easily," he said. He also introduced a "History of Jazz and Blues" class and expanded jazz studies. "Now students can concentrate on classical music or jazz performing."

Mercer's Music graduates often go on to become teachers and performers. A newer career path lies in the business side of the music industry, and the college now offers a music option in its Entertainment Technology major. Whatever the career path, Kelly feels strongly that students must follow their passion.

"Find that thing, that interest, that activity that makes you feel most alive and pursue it," he said. "Pursue it with all the passion, dedication, and commitment to excellence that you can summon from yourself, and things will have a tendency to work out. I followed mine, and it led me to a surprising and unforeseen place - Mercer County Community College. I'm so glad it did."

Security Officer Excels in Science

Timothy Klockner received the Chemistry Award and Faculty Scholarship at the MCCC Honors Convocation. Klockner earned his associate degree in Biology and will complete a second degree in Chemistry in August. He plans to continue at Mercer to earn his Engineering degree and pursue honors research. His eventual goal is a Ph.D. in the pharmaceutical field. Klockner has been a part-time MCCC Security officer since 2005.

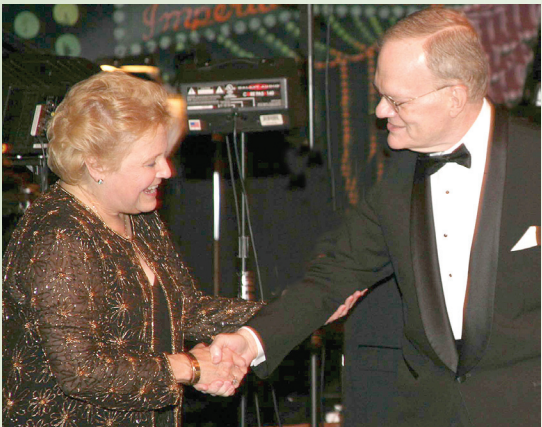


On Broadway



Person of the Year Award

MCCC Vice President Dr. Beverly Richardson escorts "Person of the Year" Henry N. Drewry from the podium. A member of MCCC's founding Board of Trustees, Mr. Drewry served Mercer from 1966 to 1973, during the critical transition from Trenton Junior College to Mercer County Community College, and the construction of the West Windsor Campus.



Special Appreciation Award

President Donohue congratulates Dr. Andrew W. Conrad upon his acceptance of a "Special Appreciation" award. Dr. Conrad has been a professor of English at MCCC since 1987 and served as Dean of Liberal Arts from 1996 to 2003. He was instrumental in establishing a new scholarship endowment for a Mercer student interested in serving people with AIDS.

Dinner Dance Hits a High Note for Student Scholarships

The MCCC Foundation Board's 2007 Scholarship Dinner Dance, "On Broadway," attracted an enthusiastic crowd to the Princeton Hyatt Regency on March 10 to raise dollars for student scholarships. Chairing the Dinner Dance Committee was Nina Melker of The Bank of Princeton, formerly of Yardville National Bank. The elegant evening included a tribute to Broadway and a successful silent auction.

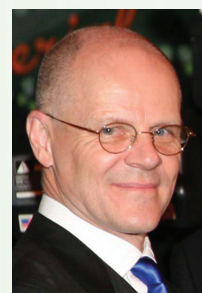


Student scholarship recipients met with MCCC Foundation Board Chair Timothy Losch of Yardville National Bank, at right, and Nina Melker, chair of the 2007 Scholarship Dinner Dance, second from right. In the front row, from left, are Emmanuel Kwarfo and Keiko Ishida; back row from left are Erik Rojas and Lindsey Weigand.



Community Service Award

Will Jarred accepted the "Community Service Award" on behalf of Educational Testing Service. With its national headquarters in Mercer County, ETS has committed itself to community service initiatives, with thousands of volunteer hours given by employees each year. The company also opens its facilities to many charitable organizations and schools.



Distinguished Corporate Friend Award

Dr. Anders Hedberg, Director of Corporate Communications at Bristol-Myers Squibb, received the "Distinguished Corporate Friend" award. The company is a major annual supporter of the James Kerney Campus Project SMILE program, which prepares Trenton 7th and 8th graders for science and math success.



Attention Alumni! Stay Connected

The MCCC Alumni Association webpage is being enhanced to serve you better. Our new online system for graduate updates allows you to submit current contact information and/or let us know about your "life after Mercer." Another new feature will enable you to post comments to long-lost friends from a variety of programs.

Did you know? As a Mercer alum, you are eligible to use the MCCC library, receive discounted membership at our Fitness Center, and more.

Visit us at www.mccc.edu/student_alumni

Golf Classic Set for Oct. 16

Mercer's Athletics Department will host its 16th Annual Golf Classic on Tuesday, Oct. 16 at the Mercer Oaks East Golf Course in West Windsor. Proceeds will be donated to the Student-Athlete Scholarship Fund. Sponsorship opportunities are available from \$125 to \$5,000, and prize donations are welcome. For more information call Athletics Director John Simone at ext. 3740 or e-mail simone@mccc.edu.



MCCC Alum Combines Two Careers Into Satisfying Whole



Renee Altman

With a master's degree in education and a tenured position as a fourth grade elementary school teacher, in career terms, Renee Altman was set for life. But Altman was looking for new challenges when she decided to return to school at Mercer in the 1980s.

In that pioneering decade when computers were beginning to take hold of business operations everywhere, Altman decided to pursue an associate degree in computer programming, graduating from Mercer with honors in 1987. Looking back, she says, "I received an excellent education. It was the perfect program for me."

After graduation, Altman took a job with the state as a programmer/analyst, and then worked for Educational Testing Service. But in a circle that led her back to her first career, Altman's next job was in adult education as a computer trainer. Many years and many, many courses later, she still loves her career as a computer instructor, teaching the latest computer software skills at corporate sites and to corporate clients through Mercer's Center for Training and Development. As president of her own firm, Personal Computer Training, Inc., she says, "I am never bored. I can teach the same Excel software class five days in a row, and each day will be different depending on who is in the class. People come with different levels of knowledge and different workplace needs. My goal is to make them all happy."

Altman also teaches one-on-one, including clients who are transitioning to new careers, as well as senior citizens who want to learn specific functions on the computer. One recent client, who turned 90 in May, was delighted to learn how to use e-mail, which she found especially helpful for keeping in touch with a granddaughter living in France, how to play computer bridge, and how to look up information on the Internet, especially on health-related concerns.

"I love teaching adults," Altman said. "They come ready to learn. They get gratification and I get gratification. They will go right back to the office and use that information."

Altman's own learning continues unabated. "Every time a new version of a software program comes out, I have to learn it before I can teach it," she explained. In the case of Microsoft XP and, most recently, Microsoft Vista, this has meant buying a new computer. "On the one hand, I have to purchase new equipment, but on the other hand it's good for business."

Alumna Moves from Pharmacy to Photography

For talented photographers, one exhibit can beget another, and hopefully another and another. That's been the experience for Mercer alumna Alina Bliach '06. Her show at Princeton Library last fall led to a solo show for the Passaic County Cultural and Heritage Council at Passaic County Community College's Broadway & LRC Galleries in March. "It was their biggest opening ever," Bliach said.

The March exhibit, called *Mar y Tierra*, focused on both the desert and the sea, blending photos from Bliach's travels to the American Southwest in a trip organized by MCCC faculty with a three-week excursion to the coast of California. "The show meant a lot," Bliach said. "It really spoke to me."

While she photographs "a little of everything," landscapes are Bliach's first love. "Sometimes I climb little barriers or get too close to the edge. Then I go home and realize I shouldn't have done that. But I've got a great photo to show for it." Some of her best work has been shot close to home. "You don't always have to travel far. Nature is everywhere," she said. Bliach takes time to compose before she starts to shoot. "I make sure the shot works. If it doesn't excite me, I'm not going to take it."

Although she always pursued photography as a hobby, when it came time for college, Bliach followed her mother into the more practical field of pharmacology, earning a bachelor's degree in pharmacy science and working as a pharmacist for five years. After marriage and children, she decided to return to college at Mercer in 2000 to study photography. "You've got to do what you love," she explained. "I really wanted to take classes - on technique, developing and printing."

Mercer provided that and so much more. "The art program is phenomenal. The whole team of instructors was really there for the

students, not for themselves," Bliach said. She took her first three photography classes with the late Prof. Lou Draper. "He gave me an unbelievable amount of encouragement." His support was well-founded. Bliach thrived in her studies, winning two honorable mentions in the Lucy Awards, an international competition, and graduating with highest honors in 2006. She exhibited her work in six group shows.

Bliach said her training has proven critical. "It helped me see things I hadn't seen before. Mercer will always have a warm place in my heart. It helped me pursue my passion."



Alina Bliach



Captain Brian Amantia speaks from experience.

Police Captain Offers Wise Words to Criminal Justice Students

MCCC alumnus Brian Amantia '89, a detective captain and commander of Internal Affairs for the Trenton Police Department, returned to campus in April to speak to students in the Criminal Justice program. He encouraged students to get their degree. Mercer is "a perfect fit for a police officer," he said. While most municipal police departments don't require a college degree, schooling clearly helps with promotions.

As commander of Internal Affairs for the past three years, Amantia oversees disciplinary issues for 360 police officers. His department is also responsible for hiring, including background checks on all applicants.

Since joining the department in 1985, Amantia has gone from sergeant to lieutenant to captain, scoring first on the captain's exam. As a lieutenant, he ran the Trenton Police Academy. "I started with the Trenton Police at the age of 20. I was already working when I came to MCCC for my degree. It was great to get real life experience along with theories in the field. I could see the relevance of what I was learning."

9/11 Sparks New Career Path for MCCC Alum



Erica Friedman

Erica Friedman was sitting in traffic at the inbound Holland Tunnel when the first plane struck the World Trade Center. Jolted out of her Tuesday morning routine, she thought, "I'm seeing something important here."

Friedman credits that momentous event with beginning a whole new direction in life. "I owned my own jewelry and precious metals business for 30 years," she said. "But after 9/11, I decided I wanted to find something else fulfilling to do."

After a conversation with a Mercer advisor, she began classes in Fall 2002 at the age of 45. Reflecting back to her youth, when New York radio had played a big part in her life, she decided to major in Radio/Television. She served as general manager of the college radio station for two years, working alongside younger students "any one of whom I was old enough to be the mother of," she said with a smile. "We found ways to relate. I like to think I was an example for them of what you can accomplish if you want to." She graduated with honors in 2004.

Following an internship at Nassau Broadcasting, Friedman was offered a full-time job as an account executive. In the future she would love to buy a radio station.



Women's Softball

Going from a club team to the NJCAA World Series in five years is not a feat most teams can claim. But that's been the impressive path for Mercer women's softball. With a final record of 38-8, this year's team distinguished itself by earning its best record in school history and qualifying for the nationals for the first time since 1988. The roster included a group of young women committed to hard work and each other, making success a sweet experience, according to third-year Head Coach Ryan Zegarski, who was named the Region 19 Coach of the Year.

In the opener of the double-elimination tournament in Normal, IL, on May 17, the Vikings recorded a 2-0 victory over the home-

town favorite, Kankakee CC, a team that had been to the tournament six out of the last ten years. "We played a perfect game. Kankakee was shocked," Zegarski reported.

The second game – against Phoenix, the three-time defending champ and the tournament's eventual winner – was closer than the Vikings' 11-1 loss would suggest. "We were winning 1-0 in the fifth inning. We were close to an upset. The girls gave it a great shot," Zegarski said. By the time the Vikings played their last game of the day at 9 p.m., fatigue had set in and the Vikings went down 3-0 against Murray State CC.

Pitching was a key ingredient in the Vikings' success this season. Sophomore Jackie

The 2007 women's softball team: back row, from left, Head Coach Ryan Zegarski, Danielle Juricic, Jackie Sasko, Rebecca Pacheco, Kathy Park, Patti Foley, and Robin Clausen; front row, from left, Nicole Hover, Danielle Brossoie, and Sara Contento. Not pictured: Ashley Williams, Meghan Faust and Brittany Marcinkowski.

Sasko was stellar on the mound with a record of 19-3, followed by freshman pitcher Robin Clausen with a record of 14-5. Sasko was a great hitter (.480), as was outfielder Ashley Williams (.460). Sasko and Williams were named to the All-Region team, and were also named second team All-Americans. Other key contributors were outfielder Sara Contento (.376), shortstop Meghan Faust (.330), and catcher Danielle Brossoie.

In the Region 19 tournament April 28-29, the Vikings defeated Mercyhurst 1-0 and 4-0, a particularly satisfying outcome given that Mercer had lost to Mercyhurst in the regional final the last two years. Then the Vikings beat Orange CC (NY) in the district tournament – 4-1 and 8-4 – after losing to Orange twice during the season. The Vikings had three notable winning streaks – 9 games, 10 games and 14 games.

According to Zegarski, his team's magic had partly to do with a relaxed attitude. "Their free-spirited approach helped them achieve. They never got too high or too low. They stayed cool-headed and their chemistry was great. They left the worrying to the coach," he said with a smile.

Men's Baseball

With three-quarters of the men's baseball roster comprised of freshmen, the need to step up to the challenges of college-level play was at the top of the "to do" list for second-year Head Coach Matt Wolski. He reports that many of his players were up to the task, having come equipped with talent and experience from their years of playing high school ball. "This year, I had baseball players instead of guys who play baseball," Wolski said.

With a final record of 18-16, the Vikings are glad to be back to a winning season, after last year's 14-18 record. "The roster included a lot of talent this year," Wolski said, noting that the record does not adequately capture the team's true ability, with eight losses decided by a single run.

Pitching and defense were the Vikings' key strengths. Pitchers Pat Johnson, Greg Hough, Will Blackmon and Chris Dolan proved tough on the mound. Able defense was provided by numerous players. "These guys could catch. You can teach them how to hit, but they have to be able to run to the ball and make the catch," Wolski said.

Going into the Region 19 tournament, the Vikings were successful in the play-in round, defeating County College of Morris 7-6 in 11 innings, and 12-1 in the second game. They did not fare as well at the double-elimination tournament, losing to Lackawanna 8-4 and Salem 8-3.

Still, things are clearly looking up. With as many as 16 players expected to return next year, the Vikings already have a roster full of talent, including third baseman Frank Mercurio, who was named to the All-Region team, Mike Mocerri, Greg Martoccio, Corey Radice, Jeff O'Connell, and all of the pitching staff except Johnson. With approximately 12 new recruits anticipated, next year's squad may be the Vikings' largest in years.

Men's Basketball

With a 12-0 record as of the winter break and a no. 5 ranking nationally, expectations were high for the Mercer men's basketball team in the 2006-07 season. While the second half of the season was not quite as successful, the Vikings still managed a respectable 21-10 record.

What the team's accomplishments did not include, however, was a Region 19 championship, a goal that Head Coach Kelly Williams has set for the Vikings every year since he started at Mercer in 1999. The Vikings defeated Salem CC 97-71 in the first round of the tournament, but followed with a 75-63 loss to Harcum Junior College in the semifinal on March 1. "The title has eluded us for another year," Williams said. "That's part of the challenge of coaching and why I love coming back, trying to find the right combination to make that happen."

Still, Williams' players gave it everything they could. "This group of sophomores will be hard to replace. I am proud of their efforts on the court and in the classroom," he said. The roster included sophomores, 6'8" center Jores Dongo, captain and point guard Eric Blackmon-Hayes, forward Landry Nguema, guard Miles Smith, and forward Awel Ahmed.

Dongo was named to the All-Region 19 first team. Nguema and Blackmon-Hayes were named to the All-Region second team. All three were named to the GSAC first team.

Women's Basketball

While the Lady Vikes earned a respectable 17-11 record on the season completed in February, they did not attain their goal of a Region 19 title, last achieved two years ago. It was 2006 all over again, as they fell to Essex County Community College on Feb. 26 by a score of 82-77 in double-overtime.

Observed Head Coach Mike Tenaglia, who finished his 17th season with the Vikings, "I am a bit disappointed to be knocked out again in the first round – to Essex at Essex." But, he said, his players never gave up. "We played well; we didn't quit."

Tenaglia notes that the game of women's basketball is changing. "The game is getting very up-tempo and much more physical," he said. "The players are taller, faster and stronger. It means that our players must get up to speed very quickly."

Grounding the Vikings squad were sophomore forward Patti Foley and freshman center Charlene Phelps. Foley, who made history at Mercer when she was named a pre-season All-American, achieved another milestone when she scored the 1,000th point of her Mercer career in a game against Bergen Community College on January 27. Both women were named to the All-Region 19 team. Foley, also named a post-season All-American, is only the third woman in Mercer history to attain this goal.

Also contributing to the team's success were guards Nicole Hover, Christine Calabrese, and Krystal Schnarr, and forward Rosie Fedak. After losing two key defenders in the second half of the season, Tenaglia recruited two additional guards, Beth Perez and Jorunn Evju, who added much needed depth to the lineup.



Bob Pugh Receives Award for Dedication to High School and College Basketball

Professor Bob Pugh has been selected as the winner of this year's Bob Kanaby Award from the N.J. State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) in recognition for his outstanding contributions to the sport of basketball. NJSIAA Executive Director Steven Timko and Bollinger Insurance representative John Spiotta presented Pugh with a trophy before a crowd of approximately 9,000 fans at a halftime ceremony of the 2007 boys state championship game on March 19 at Continen-

tal Airlines Arena.

Pugh has been a faculty member at Mercer since 1972. He is coordinator for Health and Fitness, and has served as Faculty Association president for the past six years. Since 2001, he has been a member of the National Federation of State High School Associations' Rules Committee, attending an annual meeting with rules interpreters from across the country.

According to Timko, "Bob is our ultimate resource when questions come up during the season about how to interpret a particular rule." Timko notes that Pugh is not one to seek personal recognition. "It's never about Bob Pugh; it's about the kids and the sport."

Since 2003, Pugh has served as supervisor of the NJCAA Region 19 men's and women's

basketball officials, and since 1996, he has been the supervisor of officials for the Eastern College Athletic Conference. From 1972-76, Pugh was on the MCCC coaching staff for men's basketball, including two seasons when the Mercer Vikings won the national basketball championship.

As of June, 2007, 23 MCCC student-athletes announced plans to continue their education at four-year schools. For a complete list, visit www.mccc.edu/news_sports.

The Winning Ways of Alumnus and GW Coach Joe McKeown

Wearing a friend's sneakers that were two sizes too big, but in much better shape than his own size 10s, Joe McKeown tried out for the Mercer men's basketball team in 1974. McKeown was selected to the Vikings' roster from hundreds of hopefuls, all of whom had turned out to join a team that had won the national championship in the previous two seasons. McKeown was on his way.

In his first season as point guard, the team went 21-6 under then head coach Bob Pugh. The next season, under the legendary Howie Landa, McKeown helped the Vikings to a 32-3 record and a spot in the NJCAA championship game against the College of Southern Idaho. (Mercer lost 62-50.) He was named Junior College National Small Player of the Year in 1976.

Now the acclaimed coach for the George Washington University (GW) women's basketball team, one of the elite programs in the country, McKeown reflected on his Mercer experience. "I owe a lot to Mercer. It gave me the opportunity I needed out of high school. My success as a coach is due to the doors Mercer opened for me. It was a real stepping stone." McKeown received a basketball scholarship to

continue his education at Kent State University, where he was team co-captain as a senior and earned honorable mention in the All-Mid-American Conference. He began his coaching career as an assistant at Kent State while pursuing his master's degree in Athletics Administration.

McKeown recalls his Mercer team as a family. "By sophomore year, we had really bonded. Everyone came together at the right time. I've only seen that five or six times in my career." He and his teammates appreciated everything that came their way. Going to the nationals in Hutchinson, KS, was a high point. "They served us grilled cheese before the championship game. We thought it was great."

After serving as an assistant coach at the University of Oklahoma and head coach at New Mexico State University, McKeown moved to Washington, D.C., in 1989 to take over the women's program at GW. His impact was immediate. Inheriting a program that went 9-19 a year earlier, his first team posted a 14-14 record. By 1991-92, the Colonials exploded onto the national scene, climbing as high as sixth in an *Associated Press* poll – the highest ranking for any women's program in GW history.

The 2006-07 season was yet another for the record books. The Colonials capped their finest year ever with 28 victories and a no. 11 national



Coach McKeown addresses the GW crowd after the Colonials defeated Temple to win the Atlantic 10 regular-season title for the sixth straight year on Feb. 25.

ranking in the final *USA Today/ESPN Coaches' Top 25* poll released in April. After earning their sixth straight regular season crown, they advanced to the NCAA Tournament's Sweet 16. McKeown was named A-10 Coach of the Year, the fifth time in his GW career. (Other years were 1991, 1997, 2000 and 2002.)

In addition to his players' success on the court, they have excelled in the classroom. He tells them lessons he learned at Mercer. "Your basketball career will come to an end. You must balance athletics with academics. A college degree can open many doors."

Men's Tennis

The men's tennis team had much to celebrate this season. Representing Mercer at the national tournament yet again was a great experience for one and all. And as the last squad for retiring Head Coach Stan Dlugosz, these seven players will have a special place in the Mercer record books.

The Vikings completed the regular season 7-3, and then finished second in the Region 19 tournament behind Gloucester CC with wins at third doubles, fourth singles, and first doubles. The national tournament was played in Plano, TX, May 13-18. The Mercer roster included returning All-American sophomore Kyle Devlin (no. 1), John Hand (no. 2), Justin Wagner (no. 3), O'John Dalgic (no. 4), Bryan Weber (no. 5), and Juan Chavez (no. 6). Andrew Holsman, originally listed at no. 3, missed much of the season due to a back injury, but was able to play in the post-season.

While Dlugosz reports that "this year's team was terrific," stiff competition at the national tournament proved too much for the Vikings, who finished eighth out of 11 teams. Devlin, a three-seed, played a fierce contest, losing in three sets over three hours in the quarterfinal round. Devlin and Hand at no. 1 doubles were defeated in the semifinal round.

Spotlight on Tennis Coach Stan Dlugosz



Photo by Mike Dill

Stan Dlugosz announced his retirement this season after a 35-year career as head coach for men's tennis. He has been a fixture in Mercer sports since he joined the college's engineering faculty in 1962. In addition to establishing the tennis program, he started the famed MCCC men's soccer program, and was an assistant coach for baseball and basketball.

Starting the soccer program came naturally to Dlugosz. He had come to Mercer an accomplished and experienced player, having been named the top player in Philadelphia at the age of 16. He continued playing soccer as an undergrad at Drexel University, where he received his degree in Civil Engineering and was selected as a soccer All-American. His stellar soccer career continued with the Philadelphia Ukrainians, a professional team that won the national championship three times and played in European competitions.

Continuing his education in the graduate engineering program at Lehigh University, Dlugosz also assisted as a soccer coach. When the time came to apply for a job, Lehigh insisted that he make a choice between teaching and coaching. At Mercer, he could do both. In his late 20s, Dlugosz discovered tennis, taking to it as naturally – and with as much passion – as he had soccer. When the college moved to its West Windsor campus in 1972, he couldn't wait to get out on the brand new tennis courts and start a college-level program.

Dlugosz' teams have enjoyed great success, traveling to the nationals approximately 25 times. He has made a point of getting to know his players, helping to shape them as young men in addition to improving their game. While he will no longer be at the helm, Dlugosz looks forward to assisting with future Mercer teams.

MERCER

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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.

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2007

Kelsey Theatre Fall 2007 Calendar

Full-Length Productions

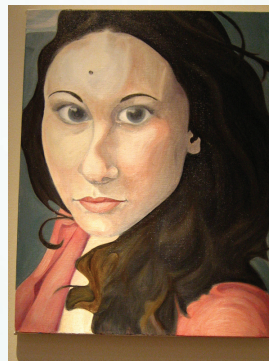
- Bat Boy, the Musical**
July 27, 28, 29; Aug. 3, 4, 5
- Once On This Island**
Aug. 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26
- Falsettos**
Sept. 28, 29, 30; Oct. 5, 6, 7
- Clue - The Musical**
Oct. 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28
- Disney's Beauty & The Beast**
Nov. 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11
- Follies**
Nov. 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25
- Miracle on 34th Street**
Nov. 30; Dec. 1, 2, 7, 8, 9
- Elegies**
Jan. 18, 19, 20, 2008

For Kelsey events call
(609) 570-3333
or visit our website at
www.kelseytheatre.net

Kelsey Kids Series

- Hot Peas 'n Butter**
Sept. 29
- Kids of Polk Street School's Fish Face**
Oct. 6
- The Emperor's New Clothes**
Oct. 12, 13, 14
- The Song of Mulan**
Nov. 17
- Junie B. Jones**
Nov. 24
- 'Twas The Night Before Christmas...**
Dec. 14, 15, 16
- The Nutcracker**
Dec. 21, 22
- Sideways Stories from Wayside School**
Jan. 11, 12, 13, 2008
- Russian American Kids Circus**
Jan. 26, 2008

Events at MCCC's Gallery



Self portrait by Shauna Parsons.

- Dangerous Women Two**
Sept. 4 - Oct. 6, 2007
- Mercer County Holocaust Commission Exhibit**
Oct. 15 - Nov. 15, 2007
- Mercer County Photographers**
Nov. 26 - Dec. 19, 2007

See listings of Gallery events at
www.mccc.edu/community_gallery

Academic Calendar

Plan your fall courses now.

- Aug. 22** Last day to register for most fall semester classes before late fees apply.
- Aug. 27** Classes begin for 5-week, 7-week and 15-week sessions.
- Oct. 2** Classes begin for 5- and 10-week sessions.
- Oct. 23** Classes begin for 7-week session.
- Nov. 6** Classes begin for 5-week session.

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

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