The 2005-06 academic year has been a time of renewal and growth at MCCC. Throughout the year we have been celebrating the college’s 40th anniversary. Enrollment grew, highlighted by 13.5% growth in credits taken at the James Kerney Campus. New academic programs and new collaborations began. A presidential search was initiated, and a three-year strategic planning process has engaged the entire college community in shaping a renewed vision for the future.

Building on a two-year relationship with ETS, Mercer recently became the first college ever to sign a formal contract to collaborate with this pre-eminent educational testing organization whose headquarters is right here in Mercer County. We took a look back to our distinguished original Board of Trustees when a member of that group, Henry Drewry, revisited the college this summer (see photo above).

The upgrade of college facilities continued, with a new entrance and classroom for the James Kerney Campus completed. As we begin 2006-07, we are working on six facilities improvements with state and county funds secured. We also reorganized the administrative structure and welcomed six talented new members to our administrative team.

MCCC appreciates the consistent and growing financial support it has received in the past three years from County Executive Brian Hughes and the Mercer County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

To our trustees, faculty, staff, supporters and all others who have worked with us throughout the year, I extend my deep appreciation for your commitment to the mission of Mercer County Community College and to its students.

Message from Acting President Thomas N. Wilfrid

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Thomas N. Wilfrid

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Campus Improvements

Mercer’s James Kerney Campus (JKC) now welcomes students with a shiny new entrance on North Broad Street in Trenton. Underscoring the college’s commitment to the downtown Trenton campus, the 2,000-square-foot addition includes a sloping glass-walled entryway, a 27-seat classroom, a security station and a terrazzo stairway. The Spiezle Group of Trenton was the project’s architectural firm. The JKC English Language Institute classroom was also refreshed this year with flooring, paint, carpeting and new furniture.

More than 2,700 credit and noncredit students attend classes at the James Kerney Campus each year. Enrollment has been growing rapidly – increasing by 13.5% in 2005-06.

Cutting the ribbon for the newly-completed entrance to Mercer’s James Kerney Campus are, from left, Freeholders Keith Hamilton and Anthony Carabelli, County Executive Brian Hughes, MCCC Vice President and JKC Provost Beverly Richardson, MCCC Trustee Reverend William Coleman, and MCCC Board Chairman Anthony Cimino.

Landscaping projects designed and installed by the college’s own facilities staff have added to the beauty of the West Windsor Campus, where five classrooms and numerous faculty offices were renovated this year. Other improved areas include the cafeteria entrance, photographic dark room, the West Windsor Campus Learning Center, a new conference room in the Administration building and more.

The dining patio outside the Student Center.

Students enjoy the pool table in a renovated area of the Student Center. Another new room, called the “quiet lounge,” provides additional study space.
Academic Innovation

This year brought innovative additions to academic programs, two enriching lecture series, revised educational standards for students, and new transfer opportunities. A newly developed major called Culinology™ will serve students with a passion for both science and food preparation. Developed in cooperation with Rutgers University and the Research Chefs Association, the program prepares graduates for transfer into the junior year of Rutgers University’s “Interdisciplinary Food Science” program. Graduates will enter careers in food manufacturing, research and development.

From network technology to database administration and web development, Mercer’s broad selection of courses in Information Technology has been expanded to offer students a greater variety of choices, including both beginning and advanced certificate programs. A new associate degree program in Information Systems will prepare students for transfer to baccalaureate programs.

An invigorated and updated set of standards for Mercer’s General Education policy, introduced this year, is the result of a multi-year, comprehensive review process. The new policy ensures that students will learn the skills required for success in today’s world. The Middle States regional accreditation body has cited Mercer’s assessment and review for General Education as a model process.

This year Mercer took a lead role in developing a statewide initiative, “New Jersey Pathways Leading Apprentices to a College Education” (NJPLACE), which offers an Associate in Applied Science degree to apprentices in the building and construction trades. Applicants can earn up to 25 credits – almost a full year of college – for their training and work experience. The program’s first students begin their studies this fall.

Renowned Speakers Featured in Lecture Series

The college’s Distinguished Lecture Series brought 13 guest lecturers to campus, offering talks on subjects such as the Darfur region of the Sudan, the Iraq war, cancer studies, the criminal justice system, environmental contamination, the Holocaust, still life painting and photography. Two lectures focused on the U.S. space program, delivered by a former astronaut and a “space tourist.” Pictured prior to his lecture is Pulitzer-Prize winning author and Civil War scholar James McPherson, center, with MCCC’s Acting President Thomas N. Wilfrid, left, and Professor Emeritus Saul Goldwasser, right.

Special Programs for High School Students

Studying dance, drama and vocal music, 44 high school students from throughout the county completed programs of the Mercer County Performing Arts High School on MCCC’s campus this year. The program enables students to devote their afternoons to the pursuit of excellence in the performing arts. MCCC also welcomed high schoolers to college classrooms as part of the Career Prep program. This year, 57 high school students completed two semesters of classes at Mercer, for which they earned both college and high school credit.
Academic Innovation and Enrichment

New Agreements Ease the Transition
Mercer signed a new dual admissions agreement that will enable qualified Mercer students in 17 different programs to transfer into their junior year at Wilmington College, Delaware. From left are MCCC’s Acting Vice President for Academic Affairs Mark McCormick and Wilmington College’s President Jack Varsalona and Vice President Betty Caffo. Philadelphia’s Peirce College has also signed an agreement with Mercer, making it easier for graduates of business and information technology programs to transfer into their junior year in pursuit of a Peirce bachelor’s degree.

Africans in the Diaspora Lecture Series
The “Africans in the Diaspora” lecture series added a rich new perspective for students, as eight members of Mercer’s faculty shared their areas of expertise. Attracting community members as well as large numbers of students, faculty and staff, the lectures covered a fascinating array of topics in African and African-American culture, education, music, history and literature. Pictured is Diane Campbell, dean for Enrollment and Student Services, who spoke about the aftermath of slavery in America, including the philosophies of African-American leaders in the post Civil War era. Among the cultural influences still apparent today are respecting and honoring elders, using drums and dance during worship services, and preserving an oral history.

Culinary Programs Expand
The college’s premiere demonstration kitchens brought increased opportunities for noncredit culinary courses. Taught by MCCC instructors and talented area chefs, the classes welcomed community members of all ages, who came to create delectable appetizers, main courses, desserts, and baked goods. Pictured is MCCC faculty member Douglas Fee teaching a special class for faculty and staff members.

Distinguished Teaching Award Recipient a 38-Year Veteran
Having taught mathematics at Mercer for 38 years, Betty Cornelius was honored with the college’s 2006 “Distinguished Teaching Award,” presented at commencement ceremonies in May. Each year an awardee is chosen by faculty and staff members. Cornelius specializes in helping students overcome math anxiety by making difficult subject matter clear and understandable.
Students Present Honors Research in Science

Biology and Chemistry honors research students are pictured with their faculty mentors before presenting their research papers on science projects they conducted at Rider University. From left are MCCC Chemistry faculty member Helen Tanzini, student MaryJane Harris, Rider faculty member Dr. Julie Drawbridge, student Kathy Litman, and MCCC Biology faculty member Diane Hilker. Both students are career changers. Harris is a part-time student who works as a pilot with Continental Airlines. Litman, who has a bachelor’s degree in business, plans to pursue a career in pharmaceutical health care. Program coordinators Tanzini and Hilker arrange partnerships with area universities to give students the experience of working with highly sophisticated instrumentation under the guidance of university professors.

Student Speaker Overcomes Odds

Humberto Solis delivered the 2006 student commencement address. At back are County Executive Brian Hughes, MCCC Acting President Thomas N. Wilfrid, and MCCC Board Chair Anthony Cimino. An honors student and the first graduate of Mercer’s Entertainment Technology program, Solis returned to college in his late 40s, after battling cancer. He will long be remembered for his heartfelt message and dynamic delivery. Solis ended his talk with a song in the college’s honor: “Something Wonderful, Something Good.” He is continuing his education at Temple University, majoring in Film Media Arts.

Club Cooks Up Success

The Hospitality Club had one of its most active years ever, catering numerous events for the college and community. In recognition of its stellar efforts, the 39-member group was recognized as “Club of the Year” at the Student Activities Banquet in May.

Student Achievement

Advertising Students Design for Museum

As their final project of the year, teams of advanced Advertising Design students presented comprehensive ad campaigns to a panel of professional designers. This year’s chosen client was the New Jersey State Museum. The students designed posters, print ads, brochures, websites and give-aways. Pictured are members of the winning team, from left, Rosemary Wassef, Marketa Urbanova, Michael Alessi, Lindsay Morris and Patrick Kuhn.
Television Students Sweep Awards

Mercer’s Television students won three awards for their work this year, including two “Telly Awards.” One was for their documentary, “Once Upon a Time: Storytelling Arts,” and one for their live coverage of the 2006 girls and boys Mercer County high school basketball championships. The show was aired live on MCCC’s cable TV station. The students also won a “Communicator Awards” honorable mention for one of their weekly live news broadcasts.

Pictured are some of the participants. Front row, from left, are students Joshua Miller, Wilmar Luna and Jennifer Leigh, Assistant Prof. Craig Coenen, who served as broadcaster, and student Tom Carroll, the show’s director. Back row, left to right, are TV program coordinator Steve Voorhees, TV program graduate and MCCC staff member Jeff Zygmunt, and students Michael Gradzki and Jake Wiley.

Two Chosen for All-State Team

Two May graduates, Jessica Harhigh and Marie Luisi, were chosen as members of New Jersey’s “All-State Academic Team” for 2006 by the Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society. Both attended Mercer on full scholarships from NJ STARS. Harhigh, a Communications major, has transferred to Rowan University, while Luisi, a Humanities and Social Science major, is continuing at Rider University.

Flight Team Wins Regional Competition

The MCCC Aviation Flight Team won first place at the National Intercollegiate Flying Association’s Region VII competition for 2005, hosted by Bridgewater State College in New Bedford, MA. They competed in both flight simulation and written examinations. Displaying their trophies are, from left, Jacob Copeland, Evan Conley, Ben Shamy, Mike Scuderi, Dean Tzitzis and Sean Day. Evan Conley received the Top Pilot award for the region, which came with a $500 scholarship.

The James Kerney Campus Recognizes Achievement

College administrators present diplomas and certificates of achievement to students during the James Kerney Campus “Celebration of Academic Achievement.” Awardees included credit program graduates who began their studies at the downtown Trenton campus or took most of their courses there. In noncredit programs, honorees included Culinary and Office Automation graduates of the Career Training Institute. There were a record 83 graduates of the GED program, and 85 graduates of the English Language Institute, who came from 35 different countries. Many noncredit program graduates are continuing in MCCC credit classes.

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**Increasing Opportunities**

**Mercer Athletes Score Big Victories**

This year, our Viking athletes scored big – on the field and court and, even more importantly, in the classroom. More than 120 students participated on one or more of Mercer’s eight athletic teams; twenty-four student-athletes are continuing their educations at four-year schools this fall. Three players were named academic All-Americans; nine athletes received NJCAA athletic All-American honors.

Among the highlights in Vikings sports for 2005-06 were the men’s soccer team’s third place finish in the NJCAA tournament in Tyler, TX; the women’s tennis team’s second place finish at the nationals in Tucson, AZ; and the men’s tennis team’s third place finish at the nationals in Plano, TX – its best showing in school history. The men’s basketball team finished the season as Garden State Athletic Conference (GSAC) champs and competed in the Northeast District Tournament for the first time since 1998. After a dramatic, mid-season turn around, the women’s softball team came in first in the GSAC.

**Tennis Star Wins Scholarship and Awards**

Natalia Huff, center, a May graduate and winner of the Cynthia Schaffer Memorial Scholarship for women’s tennis, is pictured at an Honors reception with John Simone, left, director of Student Services and Athletics, and college supporter Steve Ritzau, who endowed the scholarship in memory of his late wife, Dr. Cynthia Schaffer. Huff also won the Alpha Mu Gamma academic award for excellence in French, and was named an NJCAA Distinguished Academic All-American. A native of Poland, Huff majored in International Studies.

**MCCC Foundation Raises Funds for Scholarships**

Pictured are some of the Mercer students who attended the 2006 “Hollywood Lights” Scholarship Dinner Dance, hosted by the MCCC Foundation. Held March 11 at the Hyatt Regency Princeton, this year’s festive event included an elegant dinner, silent auction and dancing. More than 400 attended. Scholarship dollars were also raised this year through the annual Golf Tournament held in June. Both events relied on numerous community volunteers and on generous corporations, businesses and friends.
Grants Support New and Expanded Initiatives

A major grant from the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development has enabled a consortium of seven local agencies to deliver adult basic skills education in Mercer County. MCCC is the lead agency, working with the Mercer Street Friends, West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional Schools, Princeton YWCA, Latinas Unidas, Literacy Volunteers in Mercer County, and the Mercer County Corrections Center.

The consortium provides adult education and English as a Second Language instruction at numerous sites in Mercer County, improving reading, writing, speaking, mathematical and problem-solving skills. As the consortium’s lead agency, MCCC provides fiscal and data reporting services and is the primary liaison with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

A unique new opportunity, made possible by the college’s grants program, is helping students with intellectual disabilities go to college. The pilot program, called DREAM (Developing Real Expectations for Achieving Mastery), was developed and funded by a grant from Laura and Steve Riggio through the National Down Syndrome Society. Working with the Academic Support Services office, students ages 18 to 25 develop a personalized schedule based on their unique interests and needs, for credit or audit. Students are beginning their programs in the fall of 2006. DREAM was developed and funded as a national model for other community colleges, and has attracted national media attention from *Newsweek* and *The New York Times*.

Another innovative program, funded by a grant from Children’s Futures, works with children from birth to age 3. Trenton parents are invited to participate in a “Parent Education and Early Literacy Project” each Saturday with their young children. While parents attend workshops, the children are part of an enrichment program conducted by MCCC college students who are enrolled in the “Early Literacy Seminar.” The program’s goal is to strengthen young Trenton families and help parents gain new insights into child development and positive parent-child interaction.

ETS Selects MCCC as First College Partner

Mercer has become the first institution of higher education to sign a contract with ETS. This summer Mercer and ETS signed a formal agreement to collaborate in the development and pilot testing of assessment and instructional solutions for community colleges. Pictured are MCCC’s Acting President Thomas N. Wilfrid, who serves on the ETS National Community College Advisory Council, and ETS Senior Vice President of Higher Education Mari Pearlman.
As a major center for the cultural life of the county, Mercer’s Kelsey Theatre partnered with nine regional theater companies this year, presenting a dazzling array of theatrical performances – an area premiere of “CATS,” a rock’n roll triumph with “Tommy,” a sentimental retelling of “A Christmas Story,” and a colorful production of “La Cage Aux Folles” – to name just a few of the shows that brought audiences to their feet.

For the youngest of theater goers, Kelsey’s children’s series included 17 productions presented by award-winning touring companies and talented community troupes.

At Trenton’s Gallery 25, faculty and students collaborated for the second year on a ground-breaking exhibit, “The Garden State Project,” an exploration of contemporary issues and ideas expressed through fresh, multidisciplinary media. Courses offered through MCCC at ARTWORKS gave both professionals and amateurs a chance to explore new media and techniques within a creative community of artists.

At the Center for Continuing Studies, thousands of adults explored a new hobby, gained practical information, and pursued recreational goals through short-term courses as diverse as finance, languages, interior design, cooking, fitness, recreation and horticulture.

Community members at all stages of academic life succeeded at the James Kerney Campus. Enrichment and college-preparatory programs for children and teens included the federally-funded SMILE, GEAR UP, Educational Talent Search, and Upward Bound programs.

Vice President Beverly Richardson served as on-air host for six college-produced half-hour radio programs that aired from December through May on radio station WIMG. Targeting the greater Trenton community, the shows featured faculty, students and staff members who conveyed abundant information about college programs and services.

With amazing coordination, volunteers from MCCC’s staff, faculty and student body joined forces with community volunteers to donate, collect, sort and pack needed supplies for victims of Hurricane Katrina last September. Volunteer professional drivers took the 40-foot truck to a distribution center in the town of Belle Chase, LA, and with the help of National Guard members, unloaded tons of water, soft drinks, food, diapers, clothing, paper and cleaning supplies for needy residents.

The Conference Center at Mercer hosted conferences, meetings, training sessions, weddings and other social events at its state-of-the-art facility. Businesses large and small, as well as government and nonprofit organizations, took advantage of the Center’s videoconferencing, wireless Internet service, computer labs, professional event planning and quality food service. Students in Mercer’s Hotel, Restaurant and Institution Management program were an outstanding staffing asset in the delivery of culinary services at the Center.
Youth Connections

More than 800 Children Enjoy Sports Camps

The college’s Sports Camps had an active, busy season on courts and fields. More than 800 young athletes chose from ten different sports, working on skills and competing in friendly competitions. Pictured at a new “girls only” basketball camp, front row from left, are Evie Clausell, Stefanie Fox and Gabriela Bennett. At back are coach Kelly Dutko and MCCC women’s basketball coach, Mike Tenaglia, who headed the camp this summer.

Tomato Patch Enriches Through the Arts

Teens participating in the Tomato Patch Visual and Performing Arts Workshops perform on stage at Kelsey Theatre during rehearsals for the “Festival of the Arts,” an exciting evening of dance, theatre and song. Tomato Patch provides an enriching summer arts experience for children and teens. This summer MCCC faculty member Jody Person worked with students in the Master Class on performance techniques.

WWFM Promotes Musical Excellence

New Jersey’s only full-time classical music station, WWFM continued to provide programming 24 hours each day throughout New Jersey, eastern Pennsylvania and portions of Delaware and Maryland, with simulcast programming via satellite in Colorado.

Camp College Combines Learning and Fun

Mercer’s commitment to the families of Mercer County was never more apparent than during the summer of 2006, when the college welcomed more than 1,100 students, ages 6 to 17, to its West Windsor campus for Camp College. The children enjoyed academic, recreational, arts and athletic programs. Pictured is Sharon Vlasac, MCCC’s Director of Youth and Special Programs, at the popcorn machine during a Camp College carnival.

The Visual Arts Thrive at MCCC’s Gallery

The Visual Arts Student Show at MCCC’s Gallery in April/May exhibited 140 works by students of all ages. Featured were works in watercolor, drawing, photography, digital prints, ceramics, mixed media, oils and acrylics. With its light-filled, atrium-style space, The Gallery was an ideal setting for five major exhibits featuring nationally recognized artists. Seventy-nine pieces were displayed in the Mercer County Artists Exhibit, an annual juried show.
You’re Unique, So Are We

This year brought the development of a new theme for MCCC’s advertising and promotional items. Mercer’s new award-winning college catalog, with six different covers, features six students, six majors and six faculty members.

Mercer’s Information and Technology Services staff has given the college website an updated look and feel. The information-rich site welcomes visitors with animated images of words and photos, and an easy-to-follow navigation menu. You can learn more about MCCC at any time via www.mccc.edu.

A 40th anniversary web page includes a timeline and brief college history, and features some of Mercer’s long-time faculty and staff members, as well as alumni success stories.

Also new this year is Mercer’s electronic news bulletin, e-News@MCCC, designed to help keep college constituents, including alumni and friends, updated on campus news and events. Join us by sending your e-mail address to enews@mccc.edu.
**Fast Facts 2005-2006**

- More than 13,000 students enrolled in one or more credit courses.
- Almost 5,000 students took noncredit courses through the Center for Continuing Studies.
- More than 1,000 individuals received training through the Center for Training and Development.
- Mercer County residents comprised three-fourths of the student population.
- The top two municipalities, by number of students served, were Hamilton Township and Trenton.
- International students (non-immigrant), representing more than 110 countries, made up over 4% of the student population.
- Enrollment included 70% part-time students and 30% full-time; 43% men and 57% women.
- The average age of a full-time student was 23. The average age of a part-timer was 30.
- The average class size was 21.
- MCCC offered 64 degree program options and 50 credit certificate programs. The three most heavily enrolled areas were Liberal Arts, Nursing and Business.
- In a recent poll, 99% of alumni said they would recommend Mercer to prospective students.
- The College Central Network, a computer-based database of jobs, included 755 students and 379 alumni at year end. There were 471 employers registered and 853 jobs posted.
- In addition to many recruitment visits by individual employers, job fairs were held for students in the Nursing, Criminal Justice, General Business, and Hotel, Restaurant and Institution Management programs.
- Approximately 80 students per semester were employed through work-study programs. The college hosted 20 transfer workshops for students.
- Forty percent of Mercer’s 2006 graduates planned to transfer immediately to 4-year colleges or universities.
- Seventy-four percent of transferring graduates went to Rider University, Rutgers University, The College of New Jersey, Thomas Edison State College or the New Jersey Institute of Technology. Other transfer institutions included Fairleigh Dickinson University, Rowan University, Temple University, New York University, the University of Pennsylvania, Cornell University, and many others.
- MCCC employed 136 full-time faculty members and more than 300 adjunct faculty members. Other full-time employees included 26 administrators, 161 professional staff members, 63 secretarial/clerical staff members and 43 maintenance/security personnel. The college also employed more than 100 hourly part-time workers.
The college’s operating budget for FY 2005-06 was $45.4 million. The chart at left presents an overview of the distribution of revenues and expenditures.

In 2003-04, the most recent fiscal year for which audited figures are available, the college operated at a net cost of $6,548 per full-time-equivalent student. This was exactly the median among New Jersey’s 19 community colleges.

MCCC consistently ranks second highest among New Jersey’s community colleges in its enrollment of credit students in relation to the county’s population. For example, in Fall 2003, the ratio between enrolled credit students (9,033) and county population (350,761) was 25.8 individuals enrolled per 1,000 Mercer County residents.

For 2006-07, tuition and fees have been increased in the face of a cutback in state support. However, financial support from Mercer County has grown in the past three years.
Executive Officers

Jacob Eapen, M.S.W., M.B.A., Vice President for Administration and Chief Business Officer

Mark A. McCormick, J.D., Acting Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs

Beverly A. Richardson, Ph.D., Vice President for College Advancement and Provost, James Kerney Campus

Thomas N. Wilfrid, Ph.D., Acting President

The Mercer County Community College 2005-06 Board of Trustees

From left, seated, are Elizabeth Sowa, Chair Anthony J. Cimino, Vice Chair William E. Coleman, Jr., and Concetta Maglione. Standing are David Applebaum, Gwendolyn L. Harris, Robert DiFalco, Acting President Thomas N. Wilfrid, Michael Klavon, and Mark Matzen. Not pictured are Mary Lou Armiger, Dianne Brake and Pamela Hersh.