College to Shorten Semester Length

By Arthur Iurilli
Staff Writer

Semesters at Mercer County Community College will feel more fast-paced when the spring 2007 semester arrives, as the college will shave up to two weeks off its academic term.

Mercer now operates on a 15-week semester, plus an additional week for finals. College administrators and faculty are reviewing plans to cut the week in two. The first, which was recommended last month by the Faculty Forum on Teaching and Learning, is to shorten the semester one week by including finals week in the 15-week semester.

The second plan would shorten the total semester to 14 weeks, including a finals week. Mark McCormick, acting vice president of academic and student affairs, proposed the idea after receiving the Faculty Forum’s recommendation for the 15-week inclusive plan.

Other community colleges around the state and nation are moving to 14-week plans. McCormick has said the change could help the college cut down on unused classroom and other facilities and also add a winter-break session in January, among other benefits.

The Faculty Forum is set to vote Thursday on whether to recommend the 14-week plan. While the committee can only make recommendations, McCormick and other administrators are expected to enact the plan the committee recommends.

Tuition rates would remain unaffected, Zambrido said. She also said that a winter session might save Mercer students money who would otherwise have to pay out-of-county rates to take winter break courses at another college.

Con’t SEMESTER, P6

Flat Enrollment Adds to MCCC Budget Woes

By Emelyne Smith
News Editor

Failure to increase student enrollment has contributed to an income shortfall of almost $750,000 for Mercer County Community College’s 2006 fiscal year.

Acting President Thomas Wilfrid revealed the information at the February board of trustees meeting, when he explained the college’s $1.5 million overall budget deficit.

Revenue from tuition and fees fell $160,000 short of what had been projected for the 2005-2006 academic year, contributing to an overall revenue decrease of $732,511, said Walter Brooks, dean of finance.

“The school had budgeted for a one percent growth in enrollment, but enrollment was essentially flat,” Brooks said. Projections are made based on the enrollment trends of previous years, which Brooks said have been healthy.

“I am at a loss to explain why this happened,” said Diane Campbell, dean for enrollment and student services.

Despite the enrollment shortfall at MCCC’s West Windsor campus (WWC), credit course enrollment grew by 23 percent at the James Kerney campus (JKC). However, that growth failed to generate enough revenue to compensate for the stagnant rates at West Windsor, Brooks said.

Campbell cited JKC’s Daylight Twilight G.E.D. Program as a reason for the campus’ increase. The program allows students to earn high school diplomas through evening classes.

Wilfrid said the school expects an enrollment boost in the fall, citing the large number of students graduating high school this year in Mercer County and high tuition costs at four-year schools.

Mercer also has a number of initiatives intended to boost enrollment.

Con’t ENROLLMENT, P3

High-Level Admin Positions Filled

By Paul Plumeri
A&E Editor

Mercer County Community College has filled two top-level administrative positions while making progress in the search for a new president.

Jacob Eapen has been appointed vice president for administration and chief business officer. And Jose A. Fernandez will assume the position of director of policy development and compliance.

“I can’t wait to get started,” Eapen said. “I am very gratified that Mercer County Community College has extended me the opportunity to perform at my full ability.”

Eapen, who currently works for the New Jersey Department of Human Services and holds several degrees in both management and commerce, will work directly under the president. He will be responsible for the business operations of the college, as well as overseeing several departments within the college.

Eapen will start work April 3.

Fernandez, who has previously worked for the State of New Jersey’s Executive Commission on Ethical Standards as a legal specialist and investigator, said, “Working at an institution of higher education always attracted me.”

He added, “I have taken accounting classes at Mercer and was very impressed with the facilities.”

Fernandez will be responsible for ensuring that the college is compliant with laws and regulations, in addition to developing and maintaining internal polices at the college. Fernandez holds both law and business degrees and sits on the New Jersey and New York bar.

Fernandez will start work search 27.

Their appointments mark the conclusion of a search process that began last November when the college’s board of trustees created the positions. The administrative shakeup came when trustees fired former President Robert Rose for, among other things, lax accounting and alleged graft. Rose had earlier eliminated a similar position of business vice president.

According to Acting President Tim Wilfrid, both new hires had to compete against nearly 80 other applicants to obtain the final nomination and needed “excellent credentials.”

The appointments were announced at a March 16 meeting of the board of trustees.

At the same meeting, it was revealed that the college has chosen the Association of Community College Trustees to conduct a nationwide search for its new president.

Although ACCT will conduct the search, the eventual candidate will be chosen by a committee comprised of administration and faculty members of MCCC.

Con’t POSITIONS, P6
New Cafeteria Wall Aims To Control Traffic, Theft

By Najia Rizvi
Staff Writer

Mercer County Community College officials have built a new wall in the West Windsor campus cafeteria to control traffic as well as prevent food theft, college officials say.

The wall, which cost the college $300 and one day to build, was erected about one month ago and partially encompasses the registers.

Kenny Miller, supervisor of facilities, said the wall was mainly erected because students have been walking out without paying for food.

But Jackie Dunn, the cafeteria's manager, said it is meant to solve another problem.

"The wall has been put up to avoid chaos in the cafeteria and make an entrance and exit for the students," Dunn said. She refused to comment on the allegations that students were stealing food.

"When I’m the only cashier, the wall helps during rush because it creates one way in and one way out, so it stops people from stealing," said Sebastian Warren, a cafeteria cashier.

Security Officer Joe Pierleonardi, who has nicknamed the new addition the "wall of shame," said that he thinks it will function well as a preventive measure against theft.

"If people have the opportunity to steal, they are more compelled to do it than without the opportunity," Pierleonardi said.

The construction has caused minor complaints. Some faculty members have complained that it has led to crowded conditions while making it more difficult to enter and exit the cafeteria.

Warren said. Others have said they dislike having to circumnavigate the wall to reach the cafeteria entrance to the facility dining hall, Miller said.

In response, the cafeteria has added a third register closer to the entrance to the facility dining hall. The extra register caused minor complaints.

Wi-Fi Connections Ease Net Access for Mercer Students

By Christopher Cole
Staff Writer

The first floor of the Mercer County Community College West Windsor student center has added a wireless network in offering Internet access to which anyone can connect.

Wi-Fi technology uses radio signals to allow computers to connect wirelessly to a network. Unlike cell phone technology, users are limited in the distance at which they can maintain a connection, a signal in one building would not likely be available in another building.

According to Mark Meara, dean for information and technology services, adding Wi-Fi to the student center is only one step in the college’s deployment of the technology.

For example, teachers and students can get Net access on Wi-Fi equipped laptops in multiple AD classrooms, allowing the college to save money by not having to buy computers for each classroom, Meara said.

"If there were no Wi-Fi laptops, there would be 30 computers in all five classrooms," said Meara.

Carol Andrejic, information and technology services coordinator, said only a few courses, such as Professor Jim Franklin’s English 101 and 112 classes, are using laptops in these classrooms.

MCCC’s Student News Show Wins Award

By Nicole Stankowski
Staff Writer

Mercer County Community College’s student-produced television news show, MCN Live, has won honorable mention at an international competition for its coverage of the firing of former college President Robert Rose.

"I am really proud of them," Television Club Advisor Steve Vorhees said. "They all did a fantastic job covering such an important issue."

MCN Live submitted a segment on the Rose fir-}

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**Administration News**

**Facing $1.5 Mill Budget Deficit, College Cuts Costs**

Emelyne Smith  
News Editor

Mercer County Community College officials have announced cost-cutting measures to eliminate a $1.5 million deficit in the fiscal year ending in June, while offering employees early retirement packages in a bid to control long-term costs. The college’s fiscal picture is likely to darken given New Jersey’s $4 billion deficit, which will probably lead to cuts in the state’s payments to community colleges. As part of a plan to cut long-range costs and hold down expected tuition increases, MCCC has created a program to allow faculty serving 15 years or more to retire early and receive a lump portion of their salaries.

Acting President Thomas Wilfrid told the board of trustees in February that costs need to be cut in the current budget year because of unexpected expenses and an income shortfall. Expenses surged $746,479 beyond expectations, while revenue dipped $732,511 below projections, Wilfrid told trustees. Wilfrid blamed unexpected costs in part on increased utility prices in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Income from tuition and fees came up $160,000 short of expectations as enrollment rates fell flat, while income from non-credit courses, contracted training, use of the school’s conference center and the Camp College program also fell well short of projections, officials said.

To keep long-term costs down, trustees this month approved an employee voluntary separation program, which could save the college hundreds of thousands of dollars, officials said. The program is available to full-time MCCC employees of at least 15 years. Faculty and staff with more than 25 years will receive 100 percent of their salary this academic year, in a sum no greater than $45,000, while faculty with at least 15 years will receive 75 percent.

"We are thinking about community outreach to students who wouldn’t necessarily think of MCCC as an option," Campbell said. Her focus will remain on upgrading the public’s perception of the college in order to boost enrollment for next year, she added.

Brooks said the school is also considering the addition of a January credit session to increase both enrollment and revenue. Campbell said the college embarked on several projects last year to attract new students. These included revamping the college’s Web site, distributing new college catalogs at high school and community venues, and Campbell’s own involvement in local talk radio. A show on WIMG-AM with Beverly Richardson, vice president of college advancement and JKC provost, has featured Campbell and other college representatives discussing MCCC programs and courses.

**College Investigates Harrassment Charges**

Matt Witkowski  
Editor-In-Chief

Mercer County Community College has hired a special investigator to look into harassment complaints by former employees. To keep long-term costs down, trustees this month approved an employee voluntary separation program, which could save the college hundreds of thousands of dollars, officials said. The program is available to full-time MCCC employees of at least 15 years. Faculty and staff with more than 25 years will receive 100 percent of their salary this academic year, in a sum no greater than $45,000, while faculty with at least 15 years will receive 75 percent.

"Such complaints are normally investigated internally by a designated staff member, but these three complaints do not lend themselves to internal investigation," Wilfrid said.

Due to the confidential nature of the complaints, Wilfrid said he could not comment further. He said the issue would be handled within the coming weeks. Charges and hiring of the investigator were revealed in an impromptu agenda item at a March board of trustees meeting as a result of complaints from non-credit courses, which is a large reason for the college's $160,000 short of expectations, Wilfrid told trustees. Wilfrid are the only ones privy to the information.

The committee next narrows the list to three candidates, which it presents to the college president. Acting President Dr. Thomas Wilfrid will pick this year's winner from that list. Until the day before graduation, Callahan and Wilfrid are the only ones who can know the information. The winner is told a day in advance of the ceremony to prepare a speech.

The winners earn automatic positions on the selection committee and remain members until two years after retirement. According to a winter 2005 issue of MCCC's newsletter, the original welcome center plans were "in response to rapid growth in credit hour student population."
Retired Mercer Prof: “There is life after the Holocaust”

By Christine Busacca
Staff Writer

Still haunted by her childhood experiences, Holocaust survivor Vera Goodkin trembled while recounting her family history on March 2 at Mercer County Community College.

Goodkin, 75, spoke at MCCC’s West Windsor Campus as part of her effort to educate youth and to promote her new book on her life during World War II and the Holocaust.

A Hungarian immigrant and retired MCCC professor of French and English, Goodkin recently published “In Sunshine and Shadow We Remember Them,” an account of her childhood survival story and tale of her family’s struggles and successes.

“As soon as the Nazis entered (Hungary), Jews became non-citizens, non-humans,” Goodkin said. “We lost the protection of the laws.”

During her presentation, she showed pictures of family members affected during World War II. She gave brief descriptions of their experiences and fates.

Goodkin’s parents were sent to labor camps but managed to escape, while members of her extended family members were executed – the same fate suffered by six million other Jews at Nazi hands.

In her adolescence, Goodkin was a hidden child of the Holocaust. She moved around with Catholic families to keep her Jewish faith hidden. She lived with a few families in Hungary in order to secure her survival before she and her parents could be reunited after the war ended in 1945. The family moved to America in 1947.

“There is life after the Holocaust, although it wasn’t and would never be the same as before,” Goodkin said to sum up her lecture, her hands still shaking.

Goodkin frequently stops at New Jersey colleges to give presentations on the Holocaust, “to teach young people that we are human beings first, despite our differences,” she said.

MCCC will offer a new course covering genocide beginning this fall, said Joanne Maisto, an MCCC history professor. The course will be titled “The Legacy of Hate.”

“This course will go in-depth on acts of hatred and genocide, including the Holocaust,” Maisto said.

Goodkin’s book is available in the school’s bookstore and library, or at bookstores by request.

MCCC students display science skills

By Zohair Zaidi
Staff Writer

Students from throughout Mercer County showed off their science skills at the annual Mercer Science and Engineering Fair on March 14.

Sponsored by the Mercer Science and Engineering Club, this year’s event hosted 460 participants, from elementary to high school students.

Awards were divided into three categories: an elementary division for elementary school students, a junior division for grades six through eight, and a senior division for grades nine through 10.

Rohit Chandrasekar of Princeton High won grand prize for his project entitled, “Design of an Aerodynamically Enhanced Plasma for Synthesis of Nanoparticles.”

Chandrasekar will represent Mercer County at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair this May in Indianapolis, Ind.

“I wanted to develop a simple and low cost way to develop nanoparticles,” Chandrasekar said. “I definitely want to pursue nanotechnology and do some research.”

First runner-up was Denise Xu, also of Princeton High, for her project entitled, “Developing Microporous Organic Frameworks as Hydrogen Storage Material.”

Although Princeton High walked away with the grand prize and first runner-up, Hamilton High East came away with the most senior division awards, while Villa Victoria Academy won the most in the junior division and University Heights Elementary won the most in the elementary division.

Science and Engineering Club President William Wong said he wanted to give Mercer County students a challenge by giving them a chance to participate in the county’s 53rd annual fair.

“The goals of the club are to foster interest in science and engineering,” Wong said.

The Mercer Science and Engineering Club was founded after the Trenton Engineer’s Club ended its 50-year existence three years ago.

Gay-Straight Alliance to Hold “Pride Prom”

By Scott Schendlinger
Staff Writer

Mercer County Community College’s Gay-Straight Alliance will hold a “Pride Prom” at MCCC’s Conference Center on April 22.

Jody Person, the GSA faculty advisor and coordinator of Mercer’s theater and dance programs, hopes the event will give gays and lesbians the prom they have always dreamed about by “turning their fantasy into reality.”

The prom will be black-tie and drag-optional, and will feature live music, a disc jockey, dancing and catered food. It will last from 6-10 p.m.

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and is open to all, with sponsors hoping to attract students from the College of New Jersey and Rutgers, Rider and Princeton universities.

Part of the event’s purpose is to support the Princeton-based nonprofit organization HiTOPS, which aims to help high school students understand their sexuality and to educate them on topics such as sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy and safe sex.

Liz Boyle, a GSA member, said she hopes the event will inspire more lesbian, bi-sexual, gay and transgender (LGBT) events, as well as LGBT organizations on local campuses to become aware of and interact with each other.

“We are a small but strong group, and I think this event will help show just that,” Boyle said, adding that she feels students need to expand the organization on the Mercer campus.

Person said he expects no backlash for renting the school’s conference center, adding that any individual or group can rent the space.

The event has received a $1,000 sponsorship from The Coliseum, an LBGT-friendly nightclub. The club will

Con’t PROM, P6
Family Plays Together in Kelsey’s “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory”

By Maria Koehler
Kelsey Theatre

Kristine Beckers and her children Hannah and Thomas Davidoff are preparing to perform together in “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory” at Mercer County Community College’s Kelsey Theatre. The family will appear in the Yardley Player’s stage rendition of the 1964 book by Roald Dahl, which will run at MCCC’s Kelsey Theatre from April 7-9.

“We decided to make it a family affair,” said the play’s director, Howard Matter. “It’s a good match,” he added, saying the family fit the roles well and that he knew Beckers would help their children learn their lines.

Thomas, 7, and Hannah, 9, who are playing two of the play’s 15 Oompa-Loompas, do not have previous acting experience. Their mother has performed in stage versions “The Hobbit” and “Oliver.”

“It’s weird and unusual to be in a play with my mom and sister,” Thomas said.

Hannah described the play as “entertaining” and “hilarious.”

“This play will be great entertainment for the whole family,” said Beckers, who’s playing Mrs. Beauregarde, the mother of Violet. “It’s appealing for everybody.”

Beckers, who moved to the United States in 2001, said she first read the Dahl book in Dutch at some point and that she knew she wanted her children to learn about the story. Winters and Flo Larkin.

review: The Fabulous Entourage

By Christopher Cole
Kelsey Theatre


Located on the museum’s bottom floor, the show was packed with the band’s fans and friends. “Fractured Identity” was the show’s theme. Several photos of people were taped to a wall, while disfigured faces were projected onto the main display in back of the band as it performed.

The Fabulous Entourage combines several different styles of music, from 80s synth-pop and punk to progressive rock and power ballads, so it’s not surprising that the night’s music fits perfectly with the suggested theme.

In addition to its music, the band is known for flamboyant costumes: animal print jackets, pink wigs and fishnet stockings worn as gloves.

The show’s program described the Entourage’s female singers as “Supremes-style.”

“The hand movements and 1960’s wigs are reminiscent of the Supremes, but our style is just having fun,” said Libby Winters, one of the singers. “From the outfits to the music, it’s all about fun.”

The band consists of its founding members, bass player/vocalist Travis Chamberlain, keyboardist/vocalist Kyle Jarrow and drummer Perry Silver, plus vocalists Winters and Flo Larkin. The women in the band constantly shift.

“At different shows that we play, there are comedians and guest artists who play with us,” said Winters. Like David Bowie and the B-52’s, The Fabulous Entourage is engagingly theatrical. Their flashy costumes and energetic performances cement this characteristic.

CON’T REVIEW, P6

Local Music Scene

By William Carr
Kelsey Theatre

Mercer County’s music scene is struggling from a lack of attention, according to those familiar with the county’s music venues.

Shows that feature local bands often have mediocre attendance. A recent show featuring four local bands at Finnigan’s bar in Hightstown, entitled “Metal Mayhem,” attracted a crowd of around 25 people, most of them band members.

A guitarist for the local jam/indy/classic-rock band Southbound, MCCC student Jarrett McCarthy has experienced this draught firsthand. McCarthy suggested that promotion may be a problem at some local clubs, adding that bands often need to promote themselves to garner crowds of moderate size.

Many students who

Local Concerts

Friday, March 31
The 449 Room • 21+
9:00pm $6 door
Preformances by: The Cleanest River in America

Saturday, April 1st
Finnigan’s • ALL AGES
5:00pm $7 door
Preformances by: Scream! Hello, Roman Numerals 10, Chasing Monroe, Euclid

Finnigan’s • ALL AGES
5:00pm $8 advance/$10 door
Preformances by: The Lady Is Not For Burning, Make Me

CON’T REVIEW, P6

Contact College Voice A&E Editor Paul Plumeri at mcccvoice@gmail.com with Arts and Entertainment events, tips or news.
It is vital that everyone involved from the faculty to the administration gets input into who will become the new president," said Narcisa Polonio, vice president of ACCT.

Polonio added that the search process will last "about six months," with the president expected to come on board by year's end.

The college will pay ACCT, an estimated $35,000, Wilfrid said. Wilfrid said using a consulting firm to search for a president is normal in academia.

"A presidential search is a unique process with very high stakes for any college, so virtually every presidential search uses an experienced consulting firm," he said.

### Semester Con't from P1

Many faculty members have expressed concerns about the change. Some credentialed programs, such as nursing, have a mandate to cover specified amounts of material. Teachers of some night classes, which meet once or twice a week, don't want to add time to already lengthy sessions.

Kate Booker-Taylor, a nursing science major, said, "If you can do anatomy and physiology or microbiology in five weeks over the summer, then you can do it in 14 weeks in a regular semester.

Students are encouraged to express their opinions by emailing them to arthur.iuri@ptk.org.

### Wall Con't from P2

ister will also serve high school students from the campus' Rubino Academy if the cafeteria experiences overcrowding.

### Construct Con't from P3

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### Budget Con't from P3

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The college offered a similar buyout in 2003 as part of a plan to add faculty members in newly popular programs. That year, Mercer hired three people at lower salaries for every two who retired, Wilfrid said. This time, one-to-one replacements will not be immediate, and instead the college will shift faculty and use adjuncts to cover retirees' duties, he said.

Forty-three employees took advantage of the 2003 program, which also had more options than the current plan. Under the current program, Wilfrid estimates that between 12 and 18 employees will voluntarily separate from the school by June.

Additional cost-cutting strategies are under development.

### Award Con't from P3

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"The best part is how the faculty shares in the joy of one another's success," Colnaghi said. "It's a miraculous phenomenon, and being on the committee gives me the opportunity to be part of a process that allows all of us to have a ton of respect and admiration for one another.

The award was established in 1980. Of the 25 award winners, 15 – Carlo Allegre, Laura Blinderman, Colnaghi, Franko, Krugler, Marilyn Dietrich, Noreen Dunne, Diane Hiler, Deborah Kell, Framarz Khoushak, Melvin Leipzig, Angela McClynn, Miriamanne Reynolds, Arthur Schwartz, Michael Shea and Carol Weber – still teach at the college. A plaque containing the names of all recipients is on the first floor of the Science and Allied Health Building, which houses all of the West Windsor campus.

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"a pqgth fafs'w dgh qiiph-wkzy a dgaf"
-Yogi Berra

DROW SCAMBLER
Too hard? Don't get a complex. It's not really that big a name.
LOPENNOA
TEBROPEAN

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SUDOKU

Answers to all puzzles in next issue.
Answers to previous issue's puzzles: none.
Mercer Basketball Falls in Semifinals

By Esther Mills
Managing Editor

In a disappointing end to a terrific season, the Mercer men’s basketball team was eliminated by Orange County Community College 84-79 in the March 11 semifinals of the National Junior College Athletic Association District 9 tournament.

“It was disappointing that we lost because we really didn’t feel the team was much better than us and we could have won the game,” said MCCC sophomore and point guard Mantas Armonas.

Although Mercer held its own throughout the game, Orange County pulled away in the last two minutes, executing plays and ending the game with a 7-0 run.

In addition, Orange County was nearly flawless at the free throw line, shooting 22-24.

“We did not bring our ‘A’ game,” Armonas said. “Our defense and offense were not sharp at all. We missed too many lay-ups and free throws.”

“We are a young team and did not know what to expect,” Head Coach Kelly Williams said of the tournament atmosphere. “We’ll have seven players returning next year who will know what to expect from the coach, as well as from themselves.”

Mercer’s season was a success on many fronts. The team finished its regular season ranked ninth in the nation, collecting 22 wins. “Without question, our players are very proud and worked extremely hard this year both athletically and academically,” Williams said.

Armonas and Jones Dongo, the team’s freshman center from Gabon, were also rewarded individually. Both were named to the first team of the All Region 19 squad as well as All Garden State Athletic Conference.

Lady Vikings Step Up to the Plate

By Esther Mills
Managing Editor

After a disappointing loss in the regional play-offs last year, the Lady Vikings softball team is eager for a stellar season in 2006 but has scuffled to a 7-10 start.

The team had strong pitching and defense last season but the girls lacked offense, said team right fielder Danielle Zaletski.

This year the team offense has improved, with batters scoring almost 6 runs a game. But the team is giving up 6.3 runs a game, on average.

Head Coach Ryan Zegarski said, “The key to winning is hard-nose softball – fundamentals, pitching, defense and timely hitting.”

Zegarski described his club as “good all around, defensively and offense-wise. We are communicating better as well as hitting better.”

The team was in Myrtle Beach, S.C., over spring break and warmed up for the regular season schedule by splitting eight games against teams from outside New Jersey.

After last weekend, Mercer was 2-5 in league play after splitting a doubleheader Saturday against Delaware Technical and Community College (losing 15-1 before taking the nightcap, 8-5) and dropping both ends of a doubleheader Sunday against Gloucester Community College (5-4 and 5-1).

A game Wednesday against Stevens Technical College came too late for the The College Voice deadline.

April will be a busy month for the Lady Vikings, as they kick off a span of 12 games in eight days by playing doubleheaders on Saturday against Sussex and on Sunday against Lackawanna.

The Mercer County Community College Men’s basketball team.

Covering the Vikings of Mercer County Community College

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