Summer 2003

Debbie Kell Named Distinguished Teacher 2003

Mathematics and Information Technology faculty member, Debbie Kell, was awarded the 2003 Distinguished Teaching Award at Commencement ceremonies. Noted for her dynamic classroom performance and energy, Kell has been a faculty leader in the development of online courses. She also took the lead in developing programs for instructional and professional improvement on campus. "Her tremendous enthusiasm has enriched the college and the classroom," said MCCC Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs Thomas Wilfrid.

Business is Booming at The Conference Center at Mercer

Having hosted more than 230 conferences, meetings and training programs since its January opening, the new Conference Center at Mercer is in full swing. "The response to our services has been great," said General Manager Dee Rosebrock. "And it’s gratifying to see the number of clients who are booking their next event the same day they complete their current one."

With its beautiful three-story atrium, its high-tech capabilities, top-notch services and excellent food, the center has attracted businesses of all sizes, nonprofit organizations, and groups from area schools, hospitals and civic associations. "We have seen a wide variety of clients," Rosebrock said. "Large companies such as Johnson & Johnson, Lexen, and Yardville National Bank have booked multiple dates." Several organizations have held their installation dinners at the center, including

(continued on page 3)
MCCC President Robert Rose congratulates Kelli Muench, center, and Catherine Jablonski, who were elected to the 2003 Phi Theta Kappa “All State Academic Team.” Jablonski, a Communications major, earned a perfect 4.0 average and will transfer to Rider University in December. “Coming to Mercer was the best decision I ever made,” she said.

Muench is a Business Administration honors student who is also transferring to Rider University, pursuing a double major in Finance and Accounting. “Mercer has been great for me. I have been able to make my own schedule, fitting in work and school. I’ve had one good experience after another.”

Science students who decide to study at a community college don’t usually do honors research at major universities, but for two MCCC students, Dhaval Patel and Adam Getzel, that’s what happened last semester.

Patel’s research, at Princeton University, was titled “Synthesis of Free-Base Porphyrin.” The research focused on a drug that can remove toxic chemicals from people who suffer from Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s and other neurological diseases. Patel has been taking courses at Mercer this year and this has been a great experience, “said Getzel, who has completed 65 credits at Mercer and is nearing completion of a degree in Chemistry at Thomas Edison State College.

According to MCCC Chemistry faculty member Helen Tanzini, “Working in a lab with highly sophisticated instrumentation opens doors for jobs, and for transfer to four-year schools. It has made our students very competitive in the job market.”

Dhaval Patel, left, and Adam Getzel, right, with Chemistry faculty member Helen Tanzini after the two presented their honors research projects to faculty and staff.

Two Elected to Phi Theta Kappa “All State Academic Team”

MCCC Students Complete Research at Princeton and Rider Universities

Exploring the New Frontiers of Entertainment Technology

Experts in new and emerging technologies such as digital cinema, animation, high definition TV and webcasting will be part of New Jersey’s first Entertainment Technology Conference set for September 24-26 at the Conference Center at Mercer.

Keynote speakers will include Barry Rebo, co-founder of the first high definition video production company in the U.S., and Michael Uslan, executive producer of films that include the series of Batman films. Both are Emmy Award winners.

Co-sponsoring the event with MCCC are the New Jersey Motion Picture and Television Commission, the Sarnoff Corporation, and the Mercer County Office of Economic Development.

For information contact Dr. Michael Glass at 609-586-4800 ext. 3530 or email mglass@mccc.edu.
"Hidden Children: The Youngest Survivors of the Holocaust"

Of about 1.6 million Jewish children living in Europe at the start of World War II, an estimated 1.5 million were killed. Seventeen of those who survived told their fascinating stories as part of an exhibit at Mercer this spring, entitled "Hidden Children: The Youngest Survivors of the Holocaust." The true stories are told through first-person narratives and photos.

According to exhibit organizers, hiding was a way for Jewish parents to save their children—or for the children to save themselves. Some found refuge amid religious organizations. Others became maids, farm hands, or factory workers. Some stayed out of sight in cramped spaces underground, or hid in secret rooms.

The people featured in the traveling exhibit share their stories today not to be pitied, but to honor their rescuers, to remember those who persevered, and to educate people so such persecution may never happen again.

Conference Center (continued from page 1)

the Mercer Chapter of the New Jersey Society of CPAs. That group has already booked next year’s event. The center’s atrium was dedicated recently to Yardville National Bank in appreciation for their support.

Companies that take advantage of Mercer’s customized training programs and individuals who sign up for noncredit computer courses are enjoying the center’s state-of-the-art computer labs. “We held 23 computer classes in May and another 49 in June,” Rosebrock said. Employees of large companies such as Firmenich are training at the center.

Rave reviews for food can be credited to catering from the Corner Café in Cranbury. “For special events we are partnering with MCCC’s culinary students,” Rosebrock said. “We want to showcase their work because it’s such a fantastic program.” Recently the students provided a beautiful buffet breakfast for the center’s open house.

Also contributing to success at the Conference Center are students from the college’s Horticulture program, who are working on landscape design. The artwork of faculty members Eric Kunsman, photographer, and Kyle Stevenson, painter, are now gracing the center’s walls. Future plans include the possibility of offering chair massages to guests spending many hours at meetings, courtesy of Mercer’s Radiography and Physical Therapist Assistant students.

“It has been great to see our vibrant campus community come together at our new center,” said MCCC Dean for College Advancement Bill Mate. “The need was definitely there, and we expect that community will become an even more integral part of campus and community life.”

Basketball Heroes (continued from page 1)

Jim Cornwall (represented by his brother Rich), a 1963-64 NJCAA All-American; Bobby Sands, 1968 National Player of the Year; Mel Weldon, 1973 National Player of the Year; Connie White, 1974 National Player of the Year; and Terry Dorner, a 1980 NJCAA All-American who led the Lady Vikes to their first NJCAA tournament. (As a Rutgers transfer, Dorner helped the Scarlet Knights win the AIAW women’s national title.) Members of the 1972-73 “Team of Distinction” are Weldon, White, Richie Freda, Marty Prendergast, Mike Richbow, Mike Leaphart, John Ford, Bill Kaufman, Steve Shearer, Larry Davis, Richie Pace and Jerome Young. Basketball honorees and a number of staffers received commemorative plaques.

Mercer’s winning ways began when Coach Landa came to the college in 1961. In 1963-64, the Vikings took their first trip to the nationals in Hutchinson, KS. In 1968 the Vikings returned to the nationals, this time going as far as the finals before losing by two points. The 1972-73 team finally brought home the trophy, beating host team Hutchinson in the title game and completing a record breaking 34-3 season. The streak continued with another national title in the 1973-74 season. Many of Mercer’s finest went on to play at four-year schools. With their two national championships, Mercer remains the only East Coast team to win the NJCAA title — before or since.

Observed Leister, “Coach Landa was an inspirational force at Mercer. He knew strategy, he knew how to motivate his players, and he knew how to draw talented kids. He did it all well.” Leister recalls that the college used to hear complaints from other schools about Mercer’s supposed recruiting budget. “We didn’t even have one,” he said. “After a while, it became clear that if you played basketball, Mercer was the place to do it.”
Mercer’s “nontraditional” students are usually differentiated from their classmates by being older and having delayed college for a variety of reasons. Then there is Marlene Kowal of Princeton Junction. While a student at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South, she earned 30 college credits – a full freshman course load – from Mercer. This fall she will attend Temple University, and will transfer all 30 credits, plus three from a course she is taking this summer.

Kowal says her unconventional road was actually a natural progression. A dancer since early childhood, she entered the very competitive performing Arts High School (located on the Mercer campus) in her junior year, spending her mornings taking honors classes at WW-P and her afternoons doing what she loves best – dancing. By the end of that year, she had earned a certificate of completion (usually accomplished in two years), plus a number of extra credits, and had only two high school classes remaining to fulfill graduation requirements.

“I proposed a plan at WW-P that I take the last two classes at Mercer, where I could also participate in the college’s Dance program, the next step for me,” recalled Kowal. “The schedule and the curriculum have worked out great. All the answers were here at Mercer.” Kowal has been inducted into Mercer’s Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society with a GPA of 3.75.

Kowal, whose strong foundation in ballet has evolved into a passion for modern dance and jazz, was also able to study dance at Terra Firma Dance Theater during its run at Kelsey Theatre in 1999. She is currently back on the MCCC campus, participating in Mercer’s program with the University of Delaware that will lead to a B.S. degree.

Marlene will take her 33 MCCC credits to Temple University this fall.

MCCC Alumna Wins “Employee of the Year” and Trip to Hawaii

Rita Marie Bohlumbohm, age 59, is in the midst of a satisfying second career as a pastry chef at the Hyatt Regency in Princeton. She is burst-ing with enthusiasm about her job, a fact that has been recognized and rewarded by the Hyatt management, which recently named her “Employee of the Year.” This award includes a week’s vacation – accounting, marketing, hospitality, and history at Temple. “You are not always guaranteed a job in dance. If I take both, I can stay involved in the arts, but can also pursue a career as a high school history teacher,” she said.

Bohlumbohm believes her sense of responsibility has contributed greatly to her success. “This is not a 9 to 5 business. You are done when the job is done. I put my heart and soul into this work.”

According to Hyatt General Manager Heinz Gartlgruber, Bohlumbohm is an exemplary employee, exhibiting all the attributes an employer looks for. “She is a solid professional – courageous, hard working, dedicated and loyal. She never seems to have a bad day. She remains calm and composed in any job situation. She’s a team player with a great attitude.”

Mr. G (as he is known at the Hyatt) is also impressed by Bohlumbohm’s educational drive. “She loves to learn and is always open to new things. Her desire for education is beautiful,” he said.

Bohlumbohm credits Mercer with preparing her well. “Mercer gave me the confidence and ability to succeed. Everything I took there – accounting, marketing, hospitality, and computers – it all helped. The HRI program has a great reputation.”

Through her work at the Hyatt and Mercer, she won the Junior Chef of the Year Award from the American Culinary Federation in 1999. Bohlumbohm still carries books everywhere – and regularly shares them with her co-workers. “There’s always a new trend in this field. You really have to stay on top of things.” She is continuing her formal education too. She is currently back on the MCCC campus, participating in Mercer’s program with the University of Delaware that will lead to a B.S. degree.

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"Writing Across Disciplines" is the Focus of Professor Fran Davidson’s Fellowship

Not only was Fran Davidson enriched by her decision to attend a mid-career fellowship at Princeton University this school year, but the entire Mercer community gained from her experience. Prof. Davidson, who has led Mercer’s Writing Across the Disciplines (WAD) Committee since 1997, used the research requirement of the program to survey her Mercer colleagues about WAD. Davidson’s final research paper incorporates the responses of more than 70 Mercer faculty members and has helped her frame new approaches for improving student writing campuswide.

The fellowship program, under the direction of Princeton professor Dr. Theodore Rabb, is designed specifically for faculty and administrators from community colleges. During the fall semester, participants (who are considered “visiting faculty” at Princeton) take a course related to their discipline. In Davidson’s case, it was Victorian Poetry, a graduate-level seminar with Prof. Ulrich Knoepflmacher. “I was truly enriched by a re-immersion in the field,” said Davidson. “After class, I would return to the Mercer campus enthused and wanting to give my students that same excitement about learning that brought me to teaching in the first place.”

Throughout the year, Davidson and eight faculty members from other community colleges met for a bi-weekly Fellows Seminar. “Early on, we discussed the similarities and differences in teaching and learning at our various institutions,” she said. “In the second semester, the focus shifted to our research papers. We would talk as a group, give each other feedback and present progress reports on our research.”

Davidson’s decision to focus her research on WAD, a movement that began in the 1970s, was a natural. The concept, explains Davidson, is that the ability to express oneself and create meaning through writing is important in every discipline and should be incorporated across the college curriculum. The function of a WAD Committee is to offer guidance to faculty in disciplines other than English to engage students in the writing process in their subject area. Mercer’s WAD Committee, which has met monthly for many years, had been on hiatus this year while Davidson pursued her fellowship. “It seemed like the perfect time to reassess the committee’s goals and direction,” said Davidson. “What better opportunity could I have had?”

Not sure at the outset if she would learn something new from her survey, Davidson found instead that she gleaned a wealth of information from a large number of respondents — “a real credit to the faculty at Mercer,” she said. She was also pleased that professors continue to see a strong need for WAD.

“No one suggested that writing issues should be confined to English class,” said Davidson. “All of the respondents were willing to play their part to insure that when Mercer students graduate with an associate degree they really know how to write.”

According to Davidson, faculty members are seeking support in a number of areas. Among the issues identified were: approaches to writing for special needs population, the development of clear writing assignments, grading systems that address both content and grammar, and writing for specific topic areas. Professional development workshops in these areas are all being considered for the coming year. Some respondents suggested a “buddy system” that pairs WAD members with other faculty, an online question and answer site, and the distribution of standardized editorial symbols to facilitate the editing of student work campuswide.

As a result of her survey and the volume of literature she read about the WAD movement, Davidson says she has a much better idea of what her colleagues need and how WAD can help them. Davidson’s final paper will be assembled by the Princeton Fellowship Program for distribution to community colleges throughout the United States.

Davidson’s fellowship served another purpose as well. So energized was she by her Victorian poetry class at Princeton that she plans to offer a special topics course at Mercer in the fall entitled “19th Century British Poetry; Romanticism to Victorians.”

“The fellowship has been a wonderful experience,” she said. Davidson follows in the footsteps of other Mercer professors who have benefited from the Princeton program: Peter Horne, Criminal Justice; Art Schwartz, Mathematics; Robin Schore, English; Pat Cry, Communications/Counseling; Marilyn Dietrich, Architecture; Angela McGlynn, Psychology; Garry Perryman, Architecture; Guy DeRosa, Sociology/Political Science; Saul Goldwasser, Philosophy; Noreen Dun can, English and Communications; and William Engler, English.
Kim Borges won the Student Community Service Award in recognition of her extensive volunteer work both on campus and in the community. She served as secretary of the James Kerney Campus Student Activities Board.

Cynthia Chianese was cheered by her husband and four sons as she earned the academic award in Nursing. Currently a technician at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Hamilton, she will begin work as a staff nurse.

Aneil Kovvali won the Computer Science Academic Award. He has earned an associate degree with highest honors while at the same time graduating from West Windsor-Plainsboro High School. He will attend Harvard University in the fall.

Heidi Berkey delivered the student keynote address at Commencement. The mother of two was a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and an elementary school volunteer. This fall she will pursue her bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education and American Studies at Rider University.

Jennifer Gladney received the academic award in Dance. She has danced with the American Repertory Ballet and Mercer Dance Ensemble. She is a member of the National Honor Society and selected for Who’s Who Among American Junior Colleges. She will attend Rider University in the fall to major in Dance and Elementary Education.

Edward Burek, a Criminal Justice major who won an “Outstanding Student” award, was vice president of the Student Activities Board and active in the Student Government Association and Criminal Justice Club. He will continue his studies in Forensic Science at Stockton State College in the fall.

Mercer graduates numbered 814 this year, bringing to 26,664 the total number of students who have graduated from MCCC over the past 36 years.

This year’s featured speaker was Bart Luedeke, the recently retired president of Rider University. He encouraged the graduates to be responsible for “making good use of your education – not only for your benefit but for the benefit of those around you. Get involved in your community, do good work, respect one another’s differences, be an example for others, and commit to integrity in all that you do. In these ways, you will discover wonderful new opportunities and experience the stimulation and understanding that lead to satisfying and fulfilling lives.”

At an Honors Convocation preceding Commencement ceremonies, more than 150 distinguished students received scholarships and awards for academic excellence, community service and service to their academic program.
The Viking

Sharon Diane Wright, poet and writer, served as editor of “Drumbeat,” a Mercer literary journal. She was president of the James Kerney Campus Student Activities Board, a member of the JKC Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, and a volunteer for many charities. She will pursue a bachelor’s degree in Psychology.

John Beck received the Fine Arts Academic Award for his mastery of several approaches to painting. He plans to continue his education at the Maryland Institute College of Art.

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Erica Bouman is the first recipient of the Lou Draper Memorial Scholarship, named for the MCCC photography professor who died in 2002. She plans to attend the Rhode Island School of Design to seek a bachelor’s degree in Photography.

All-American Yating Hsu was a key member of the women’s tennis team for two years, earning All-Region honors and playing in the national tournament both years. Yating graduates with an AS in Chemistry and plans to continue studying Bio-Chemistry at her transfer school.

Michelle MacInnes played soccer and basketball for two years. During that time the teams combined for over 60 wins, including three Region 19 titles. She graduates with an AS in Advertising Design and will transfer to Monmouth University.

Scholar Athlete Awards

Mark Tobie was selected for the academic award in Funeral Service, graduating with highest honors. Currently he is a full-time intern at Colonial Funeral Home in Brick, NJ, and will be a funeral director upon receiving his license.

Chris Freihaut was a two-year member of the baseball team and captain of this year’s squad, which went to the NJCAA World Series. He will transfer to Richard Stockton College, where he will major in Criminal Justice and continue to play baseball.

Kelly Capers is the first recipient of the WZBN-TV Scholarship. She will attend William Paterson University, and plans to work in film and video production.

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Last year the college awarded 196 scholarships with funds raised by the MCCC Foundation Board. This year’s goal was to continue and even increase that funding. The board was more successful than ever, raising a record $150,000 (net) through the Scholarship Dinner Dance held March 8 at the Hyatt Regency, Princeton.

Honored at the event were Scott Kent of Wawa as “Alumnus of the Year,” and Public Service Electric & Gas Company (PSE&G) as the 2003 “Distinguished Corporate Friend.”

For many years PSE&G has generously supported MCCC students and programs, especially student scholarships. Company President and COO Alfred Koeppe has been a leader in educational outreach throughout the region. Recently PSE&G worked with the college to develop an Associate in Applied Science degree in Utility Technology. Beginning with the Spring 2003 semester, students studied math, science, electrical construction and utility installations. This summer they are receiving apprenticeship training and paid internships through PSE&G.

Mercer students dressed in the spirit of the 1950s.

Mercer alumnus Scott Kent exemplifies how education can change a person’s life. After many years in the workforce as a successful businessman with Wawa, Kent came to Mercer to earn a non-credit certificate. He moved into a credit program, graduated with honors in 1999, then continued at Immaculata College, where he earned a bachelor’s degree. He is now in a master’s program at St. Joseph’s University in Philadelphia. “I always believed in building a solid foundation, and that is what Mercer did for me,” Kent said. “Mercer also gave me the courage to move ahead.” Kent plans to continue his education after he earns his master’s degree. This November he was promoted to Director of Cash Management, Credit and Point of Sale for Wawa’s 550 stores.

The Fabulous Greaseband lived up to its name with music that sounded just like the original recordings. In keeping with the spirit of the 1950s, many guests came in poodle skirts and bobby socks, or black leather jackets and heavy boots. Some were dressed for the prom – circa 1958. Others stuck with black-tie attire.

The enthusiastic gala committee was chaired by Jamil Faridy of Faridy Veisz Fraytak, P.C. Bill Mate, dean for college advancement, spearheaded efforts for the administration with Elaine Stout, administrative assistant.

Corporate sponsors for the event were:

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Schrager, Lavine & Nagy
Thomas Edison State College
Trenton Thunder
Trenton Titans
Wegmans Food Markets
Westminster Wallpaper

FRIEND
Charles Schwab


The Viking

8

The Viking

Scott Kent, an executive with Wawa, was honored as “Alumnus of the Year.”

From left are MCCC President Robert Rose, Art Guida of Public Service Electric & Gas Company, who accepted the company’s “Distinguished Corporate Friend” award, MCCC’s Board Chair Bill Baroni, and Dinner Dance Chair Jamil Faridy.

PSE&G’s Don Tretola said a few words of thanks to the college for honoring his company this year.

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Mercer students dressed in the spirit of the 1950s.

Mercer alumnus Scott Kent exemplifies how education can change a person’s life. After many years in the workforce as a successful businessman with Wawa, Kent came to Mercer to earn a non-credit certificate. He moved into a credit program, graduated with honors in 1999, then continued at Immaculata College, where he earned a bachelor’s degree. He is now in a master’s program at St. Joseph’s University in Philadelphia. “I always believed in building a solid foundation, and that is what Mercer did for me,” Kent said. “Mercer also gave me the courage to move ahead.” Kent plans to continue his education after he earns his master’s degree. This November he was promoted to Director of Cash Management, Credit and Point of Sale for Wawa’s 550 stores.

The Fabulous Greaseband lived up to its name with music that sounded just like the original recordings. In keeping with the spirit of the 1950s, many guests came in poodle skirts and bobby socks, or black leather jackets and heavy boots. Some were dressed for the prom – circa 1958. Others stuck with black-tie attire.

The enthusiastic gala committee was chaired by Jamil Faridy of Faridy Veisz Fraytak, P.C. Bill Mate, dean for college advancement, spearheaded efforts for the administration with Elaine Stout, administrative assistant.

Corporate sponsors for the event were:

GOLD SPONSORS
First Union National Bank
JANSSEN Pharmaceutica
Merrill Lynch
Public Service Electric & Gas Company

SILVER SPONSORS
Faridy Veisz Fraytak, P.C.
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Professor Emeriti Association & The Sim Family
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PNC Bank
Princeton Management Development Institute
Schrager, Lavine & Nagy
Thomas Edison State College
Trenton Thunder
Trenton Titans
Wegmans Food Markets
Westminster Wallpaper

FRIEND
Charles Schwab

The Viking

Was Mercer the first step to your career success?

This fall the college will begin a new annual fundraising campaign to help today’s students achieve their goals. The Annual Appeal will ask our thousands of successful MCCC alumni and other friends for their support so that all of the college’s programs can continue to thrive, and college technology and facilities continue to meet student needs. Donors will be able to specify where they would like to apply their support, whether to a specific program or scholarship, capital accounts, campus facility upgrades, technology, etc. In these uncertain budgetary times, your help is greatly needed.

For more information contact William Mate at 609-586-4800, ext. 3601.

Student Athletes to Benefit from Successful MCCC Golf Tournament

More than 100 golfers rang in the summer season with a special day of golf for a good cause. Mercer’s Athletic Department hosted its Twelfth Annual MCCC Golf Classic on Monday, June 16 to benefit student athletes. The event was held at the Mercer Oaks Golf Course, an 18-hole championship course adjacent to Mercer County Park, and included lunch, an awards cocktail party and a full-course banquet dinner.

The winning foursome was from Borden Perlman and included Doug Borden, Sharon CapPELLA, Bill Kelly and Charlie Monroe. Winners of the longest drive were Art Napolitano for men and Sharon Cappella for women. Closest to the pin winners were Harrison Morson, Bill McDowell, Jay Peterson and Ed Eichert.

According to Bill Mate, MCCC dean for college advancement, the business community was particularly generous in its support this year, as proceeds topped expectations. Special thanks to Green and Gold Sponsor PNC Bank, and corporate sponsors AAA Mid-Atlantic, Borden Perlman, EMTEC Inc., First Union, Professional Medical Services, Sun National Bank, Waters & Bugbee, Inc., and Yardville National Bank. Other special contributors included Colonial Cadillac, which donated a Cadillac for a hole-in-one prize, Ritchie and Page Distributing, Wendy’s, Spiezle Architectural Group, and the Hyatt Regency Princeton. Hole Sponsors included: American Staffing, Honeywell, New Jersey Consumer Water Co., Nottingham Insurance, Scozzari Construction Company, and The Worek Company.

The tournament’s Green and Gold Sponsor was PNC Bank. Pictured (l. to r.) are: Mike Smedley, Art Valenti and Gus Esher of PNC, and Hack Rhett.

MCCC Alumni Association Hosts “5K Run and Fun Fest” on Sept. 12

The MCCC Alumni Association invites area runners to participate in its second annual “5K Run and Fun Fest” on Friday evening, September 12 at 6:30 p.m. Walkers are welcome too. The festive event will include a picnic dinner and music outside the Physical Education Center following the race. According to MCCC Athletic Director John Simone, proceeds will go to the Student Athlete Scholarship Fund.

Race day registration and check-in for pre-registered runners begins at 5:15 p.m. outside the Physical Education Center on Mercer’s West Windsor Campus, 1200 Old Trenton Road. The USATF certified course follows two loops around the Mercer campus. Gift certificates will be awarded to top male and female finishers. Prizes will also be given to first place male and female runners in the following age groups: 19 & under, 20–29; 30–39; 40–49; 50–59; and 60+. T-shirts will be distributed to all registered participants and to race day registrants while supplies last.

The pre-registration fee is $20 until Sept. 5; $25 after. Tickets for the picnic only are $10. To register or for sponsorship information call the MCCC Athletic Department at (609) 586-4800, ext. 3742, or email athlete@mccc.edu. The registration form can be printed from the Mercer website at www.mccc.edu.

The Annual Appeal

Savor the Seasons

Both new and old friends are invited to a special evening on Friday, October 3 at MCCC’s new Conference Center. “Savor the Seasons” will feature outstanding food, wine tasting and music. Acclaimed chef Annie Prizzi, a faculty member at MCCC, will lead the college’s Hospitality Club students in preparing and serving a sumptuous menu of seasonal specialties. Proceeds will benefit student scholarships.

“We see this as an opportunity to build friendships within the community and to showcase our culinary programs and our new conference center,” said Bill Mate, dean for college advancement. Tickets are $75. For more information call 609-586-4800 ext. 3607.
The ending to the men’s basketball season was the best that Coach Kelly Williams could have hoped for. “We played for the championship,” he said. In the early going of that final game against Lackawanna on March 2, a team that had beaten the Vikings twice during the regular season, it even looked like the Vikings might win the title. “We were up 20-12 in the first quarter,” said Williams. “But our guys got tired.”

Going into the tournament with a 13-17 record overall and a 5-5 record in the region, playing in the final truly was an accomplishment for the Vikings. Several costly injuries hindered the team from meeting pre-season expectations. Sydney Frances, the only returning starter from last year’s squad, missed half the season. Freshmen forwards Clifford Powell and Adam Borota also missed critical games.

But in the tournament semi-final game against Del Tech on Feb. 28, the Vikings looked like champs with a 77-73 win. (Del Tech defeated the Vikings in two regular season match-ups.) They also gave fans a glimpse of what to expect next season. According to Coach Williams, freshman guard Dwayne Washington was a stand-out for the Vikings this season, leading the team in scoring. He was selected to the All-Region 19 First Team.

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According to Head Coach Mike Tenaglia, now in his 13th season at Mercer, the team was hurt by a lack of height, but was able to compensate for it in many games with impressive quickness. Relying on their guards to keep up the pace, the Lady Vikes employed aggressive defense and a full court run-and-gun offense.

Team captain for the Vikings was sophomore Ayeshia Fitchett, a guard who scored a team high 19 points in the region semifinal. Leading scorers for the season were freshman forward Vicki Jenkins, the Vikings’ leader in double doubles, and sophomore guard Kamika Harden.

Fitchett was selected to the All-Region First Team, while Jenkins was chosen for the All-Region Second Team. Other standouts included sophomore guard Michelle MacInnes, forward Katy McCormack, center Alison Werkman, the team’s tallest player at 5’10”, and guard Courtney Williams.

Tenaglia’s Lady Vikes have a solid nucleus of freshmen who should continue to deliver in the 2003-04 season. Tenaglia was assisted this season by Tameka Turner and manager Kim Webber.
The Vikings didn’t come home as national champions this year. But Mercer’s Women’s Tennis Team had a strong showing at the NJCAA Tournament in College Station, TX, sending two teams to the finals before placing sixth.

With a one-player deficit going into the tournament, the team was forced to give up matches in the No. 3 singles and the No. 2 doubles slots. But the five women who did play represented Mercer admirably. “Even with the depleted lineup, they were all determined to give their best showing. It didn’t really make a difference to them that they didn’t have a realistic chance to win the title,” said Head Coach Marc Vecchiolla.

Yating Hsu went to the final at second singles, while the team of Maureen Haggerty and Desiree Noel made it to the final in third doubles. Landry Shelley won her consolation final at first singles. The first doubles team of Shelley and Hsu lost in the consolation final. Jana Sulerova battled fiercely at fourth singles, falling in a tiebreaker in the third set of the semifinal round.

Three Mercer players — Hsu, Haggerty and Noel — earned All-American honors. Noting that four of his five players should be returning next season, Coach Vecchiolla is optimistic about the coming tennis season, which starts in September. “The tournament left them hungry,” said Vecchiolla. “As soon as it ended they were talking about next year. After watching the trophy ceremony, they said, ‘That’s the next step. I want to be there.'”

Assistant coaches for this year’s tennis team were Ralph Bencivengo and Barb Pleva.

Soccer Alumnus to Help With Fund-raising Effort

Winning a national soccer championship is an experience you never forget, says Mercer alumnus Dave Pasquito of Lawrence Township. His moment came before a hometown crowd in November, 1982, when the Vikings won their third national title by defeating Lewis and Clark College 1-0. “It was a great feeling – of joy and relief – and an experience I savored for months, even years after. It stays with me to this day,” said Pasquito. The Vikings have won a total of seven championships — in 1963, 1968, 1982, 1988, 1991, 1995, and 1996. They came in second in the nation in 2002.

Pasquito, a forward who led the Vikings in scoring during the 1982 season and scored two goals in the semifinal game against Ulster, NY, was awarded a soccer scholarship to the University of Maryland. He continued to play soccer while earning a bachelor’s degree in business. “I chose to attend Mercer over several other schools and it was a decision I never regretted,” said Pasquito. “Mercer prepared me academically for my transfer to Maryland and athletically for further challenges on the soccer field. My participation in Mercer soccer also taught me life lessons that have served me well — about playing hard but fairly, and about the importance of teamwork and sportsmanship.”

Pasquito returned to New Jersey after college and began a successful career in sales. Currently he is an account manager with Enttec, a full-service information technology company with five locations on the East Coast. Continuing to play soccer in his spare time, he met up with Mercer Head Coach Charlie Inverso. “We talked about the strength of the Mercer soccer program and the things that could make it even better. I decided I wanted to help. I feel that Mercer gave me a great start and it was time to give something back.”

Pasquito has initiated a fund-raising campaign in conjunction with the MCC Foundation to support the Mercer soccer program. Some of the funds generated will be used to provide important financing touches to the college’s new state-of-the-art soccer field. Other monies will be donated to uniforms and travel expenses.

Notes Pasquito, “Mercer is known throughout the country as a soccer powerhouse. It’s a terrific resource for players from the region who want to play soccer in a top program and get a solid foundation academically. Mercer has made a difference for so many people. It deserves our support.”

The Mercer soccer team, under Head Coach Inverso since 1986, will begin its 41st season of collegiate competition this fall. In addition to their seven national championships, the Vikings have won 33 regional titles and a total of 692 games. Their record of accomplishment has made Mercer the most successful team in the history of community college soccer. In the past 15 years, more than 100 Mercer players have continued their education at four-year colleges, about half with athletic scholarships. Ninety percent of these players have either graduated or are on track to graduate. Others have gone on to semi-professional and professional playing careers.

To learn more about how you can support Mercer soccer, call MCCCC’s Dean of College Advancement Bill Mate at (609) 586-4800, ext. 3601.
The Viking
PO Box B
1200 Old Trenton Road
Trenton, NJ 08690

Full Length Productions
Joshua Kane presents H.G. Wells
– The Time Machine
Sept. 7, 2003

The Scarlet Pimpernel
Sept. 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21

Dracula
Oct. 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19

The Tamburitzans
Oct. 25, 26

The Crucible
Oct. 31, Nov. 1, 2, 7, 8, 9

Noises Off
Nov. 14, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23

MC³ Studio Theatre Production
The Laramie Project
Nov. 7, 8, 9, 14, 15

Meredith Willson's - Here's Love
It's Miracle on 34th Street - The Musical
Nov. 28, 29, 30; Dec. 5, 6, 7

Kelsey Kids Series
The Phantom Tollbooth
Sept. 26, 27, 28

Rumplestiltskin
Oct. 4

Thumbelina
Nov. 8

The Jungle Book
Nov. 22

'Twas The Night Before Christmas…
Dec. 12, 13, 14

Scrooge – A Ballet Theater Spectacular
Dec. 20, 21

Kelsey Kids Playshops – Saturday morning creative theater workshops for grades K through 5.
Sept. 13 - Nov. 22.

For Kelsey events call (609) 586-4800 ext. 3566 or visit our new website at www.kelseyatmccc.org.

Check out MCCC's redesigned website, (www.mccc.edu), with its easy online registration. Browse open sections in credit and noncredit courses. Previously registered students can look at their grades and course history.

2003

Mercer Arts Calendar
The Time Machine at Kelsey Theatre
Fall 2003 Schedule

Kelsey Kids Series
The Phantom Tollbooth
Sept. 26, 27, 28

Rumplestiltskin
Oct. 4

Thumbelina
Nov. 8

The Jungle Book
Nov. 22

'Twas The Night Before Christmas…
Dec. 12, 13, 14

Scrooge – A Ballet Theater Spectacular
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Sept. 13 - Nov. 22.

For Kelsey events call (609) 586-4800 ext. 3566 or visit our new website at www.kelseyatmccc.org.

The Gallery
A full slate of exhibits will be coming to the MCCC Gallery this fall. View the schedule soon at www.mccc.edu.

A painting by Don Eaton from the "Mercer County Artists" show.

Academic Calendar
Plan Your Fall Courses Now

AUGUST
26 Last day to register for fall semester before late fees apply.

SEPTEMBER
2 First day of classes for fall semester.

THE VIKING, a publication for alumni and other friends of Mercer County Community College, is published by IMPACT (Information, Marketing, Publications, Art Gallery, and College Relations Team). Editorial offices are located in room 250 of the Administration building on the West Windsor Campus. THE VIKING welcomes suggestions for feature stories and articles. Mail to Public Information, MCCC, PO Box B, Trenton, NJ 08690, or email: saveria@mccc.edu.