

# MCCC Athletics HALL OF FAME

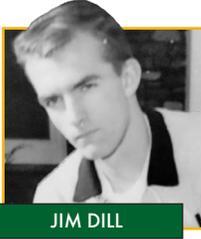
3RD ANNUAL INDUCTION CEREMONY



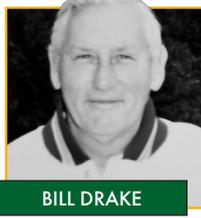
HYATT REGENCY  
PRINCETON, NJ  
JUNE 16, 2023



# MCCC ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2023



JIM DILL



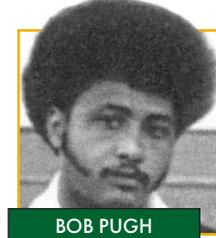
BILL DRAKE



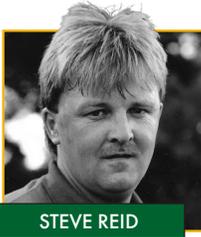
MAGGIE MUSCARELLA



MARC NICHOLS



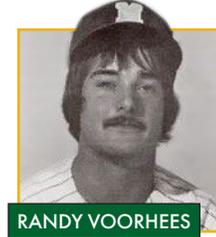
BOB PUGH



STEVE REID



ANGELIKA STEC



RANDY VORHEES



1981 BASEBALL



1982 MEN'S SOCCER



2002 WOMEN'S TENNIS

# PROGRAM

Welcome .....	<b>Daniel Klim</b> <i>MCCC Athletics Committee Co-Chair</i>
Class of 2021 & 2022 Processional .....	<b>Jennifer LoPresti-Such</b> <i>MCCC 2022 Athletics Hall of Famer</i>
Remarks .....	<b>Joseph Claffey</b> <i>VP for College Advancement</i>
	<b>Dr. Deborah E. Preston</b> <i>MCCC President</i>
	<b>Charlie Inverso</b> <i>MCCC Athletics Committee Co-Chair</i>
Induction of Administrator & Teams.....	<b>Daniel Klim</b> <i>MCCC Athletics Committee Co-Chair</i>

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## INTERMISSION

*Dinner Served*

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Induction of Athletes & Coaches.....	<b>Daniel Klim</b> <i>MCCC Athletics Committee Co-Chair</i>
Special Message from 2023 NJCAA DII All-American .....	<b>Bella Truelove</b> <i>MCCC Softball Player</i>
Closing Remarks .....	<b>Daniel Klim</b> <i>MCCC Athletics Committee Co-Chair</i>
	<b>Tatiana Dodge &amp; Ashley Greene</b> <i>Director of Development, Event Coordinator</i>
2023 Class Photograph .....	<b>Steve Schreiber</b> <i>Social Media and Communication Specialist</i>





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Al Collins

**Save the Date**

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2023**

THE MCCC FOUNDATION PRESENTS



**REGISTRATION OPENS JULY 1**

**Trenton Country Club • West Trenton, New Jersey**



# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we near the conclusion of this academic year, my first as President of Mercer County Community College, I am pleased to welcome you to our third annual Athletics Hall of Fame induction ceremony. We are here tonight to celebrate the many decades of success of student athletes. In all of your hearts and minds, Mercer has a special place. This is where many of you started your journey. This is where you met your favorite coaches and mentors and they remain your trusted friends and colleagues. This is where you discovered your incredible talent and built up your confidence in yourself. Tonight, we honor you and celebrate our Viking legends.

Please take a moment to read about these incredible coaches, athletes, and teams, who have brought the Vikings to the national spotlight. Their stories are truly inspiring.

I wish to extend my gratitude to our Foundation Board members for their dedication and commitment to the college and to our students. I would especially like to thank the MCCC Athletics Committee members, who have dedicated countless hours to establishing and growing the College's Athletics Hall of Fame. This endeavor has indeed been a labor of love.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank all of you for your support of higher education and of Mercer County Community College. Thank you for being here tonight to celebrate our third class of inductees and to inspire future generations of student athletes at Mercer County Community College. What we have accomplished so far is historic, and what we have the capability to achieve is even greater.

And, of course, I would like to send a special message of gratitude to our distinguished inductees. Thank you for putting Mercer on the map and making this the place to be!



Deborah E. Preston, Ph.D.  
President  
Mercer County Community College



# FOUNDATION BOARD

Daniel Klim, Chair

Bob Humes, 1st Vice Chair

Ty Robinson, 2nd Vice Chair

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Deborah Millar

Thomas Onder

Jeffrey Perlman

Michael Procaccini

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Allen Silk

Paula Taylor

Melissa Tenzer

Jamil (Jim) Faridy (deceased), Director Emeritus

James Floyd (deceased), Director Emeritus

Timothy Losch (deceased), Director Emeritus

Yong Sup Sim, Ed.D., Director Emeritus

# LETTER FROM THE EVENT CHAIRS

Good evening,

On behalf of the Mercer Athletics Committee, welcome to the Hyatt Regency Princeton for our third annual induction ceremony honoring the Mercer County Community College Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2023.

Our Hall of Fame recognizes sixty-plus years of “Viking Pride” from our first national championship in 1963 (as the Trenton Junior College Vikings) to individuals and athletes in the new millennium. Tonight, we honor nine individuals and three teams that have taken their place in Mercer’s storied athletic history.

From student-athletes to coaches to administrators and memorable championship teams, we remember their contributions to Mercer, reflect on their accomplishments, and welcome them into this distinguished Hall with a ceremonial gold blazer.

The MCCC Athletics Hall of Fame honors the past while supporting the present, and your attendance helps us do just that. Not only do we pay tribute to our honorees for their performances on Mercer’s playing fields and courts, but this evening helps provide significant funds to the Athletic Department for the benefit of present and future Mercer student-athletes.

This event has become one of Mercer’s premier events. Honorees and guests come from all over the United States to take part, hear stories from the past, reconnect with old teammates and celebrate all that is good about Mercer County Community College. We are thrilled that you have joined us.

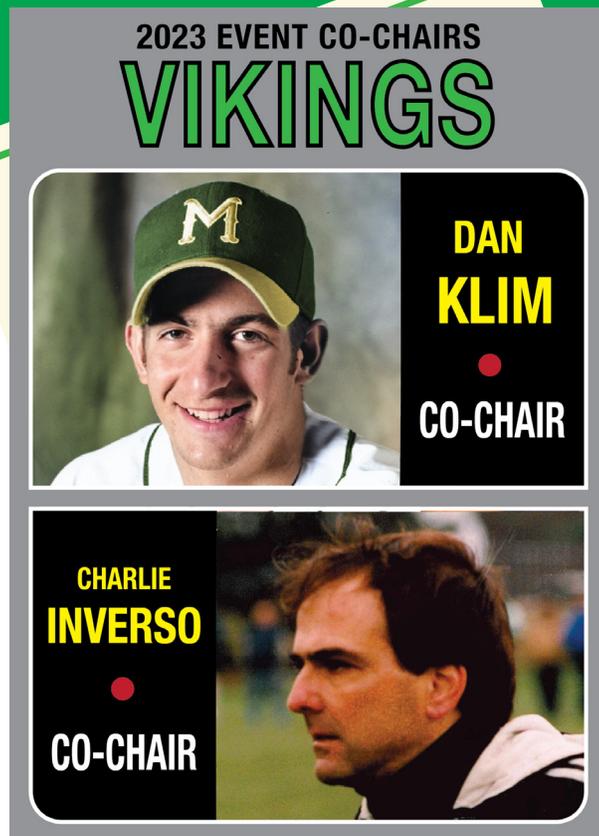
Thank you and enjoy the show!



Daniel Klim  
MCCC Foundation Chair  
Event Co-Chair



Charlie Inverso  
Event Co-Chair





Dear 1981 Vikings Baseball Team,

From the beginning, we've all dreamt of our place in baseball. We took in the sights, sounds and smells of our game. When we donned our uniforms for the first time, we stared at ourselves endlessly in the mirror. We took in the scent of fresh cut grass every spring. We buried our faces in our gloves and inhaled the distinct aroma of new leather. We've even slept with our bats. We had visions of becoming our heroes—Mays, Mantle, Gibson, Seaver...even Mark Belanger.

We achieved some special things together, and I would like to stress the fact that we did it as a team. Yes, our individuals were remarkable. Our lineup flirted with a .400 batting average. We threw two no-hitters and numerous one hitters. One of us virtually doubled the school's RBI record. However, none of those statistics on their own can tell the story of our team. It's always understood that the sum of parts equal a whole, but our whole far exceeded those individual components.

When the clock ticked down in our final game together in Colorado, I knew that we had left it all on that field. We also left with a tremendous amount of respect for each other, lasting memories, and life lessons that would shape our futures well after baseball.

Vikings, this is our day and an honor well-earned. Enjoy fully what we accomplished together and be extremely proud.

-Joe Ricciani

The advertisement features a dark blue background. On the left, a close-up photograph of a diamond ring is shown, with the ring resting on a dark, textured surface. The ring has a large central diamond and a pavé band. On the right, the logo for Dave's Jewelers is displayed, consisting of a gold-colored circular emblem with a diamond and the initials 'DJ'. Below the logo, the text 'DAVE'S JEWELERS' is written in a gold, serif font. Underneath that, the text 'Supports the MCCC Athletics Hall of Fame' is written in a white, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the advertisement, the contact information 'davesjewelers@icloud.com • 609-587-1066 • 3684 Nottingham Way, Hamilton, NJ' is written in a white, sans-serif font.



# 1981 BASEBALL

The 1981 MCCC baseball team became the first in school history to qualify for the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) World Series. Mercer finished third at the World Series tournament in Grand Junction, CO, including dominant victories over Louisburg, NC and Seminole Junior College, OK, the number one ranked team in the country. This is especially notable because at this time all junior colleges competed together at one level. The NJCAA was not divided into three divisions as it is today.

The 1981 team, guided by coach Preston "Butch" Miller, compiled a record of 39-7. Of its seven losses, two came against defending national champion Middle Georgia, one against number one ranked Seminole, and one against eventual national champion Miami Dade-South. Mercer dominated its competition, compiling a .350 team batting average and outscoring its opposition 433 to 209. Jim Filotei, Dennis Johnston, and co-captain Rich Soffel all batted above .400 for the season. Jody Adams drove in 72 runs in only 46 games. Seven players stole at least 10 bases, with four Vikings stealing more than 20. MCCC scored 10 or more runs in half its games.

The pitching was pretty good, too. The team's top three starters, Al Collins (2.45), Stu Foulks (2.70), and John Spiegel (2.16) all had an earned run average (ERA) below 3.00. The closer, Randy Sturm, had an ERA of

1.99. During a pivotal double-header against rival Morris, Mercer pitching allowed one hit. John Spiegel tossed a no-hitter and Al Collins spun a one-hitter. Stu Foulks recorded more than 100 strikeouts. MCCC allowed three or fewer runs during more than half its games. This is remarkable in the aluminum bat era.

Four players on the 1981 team (DePiano, Foulks, Sturm, White) were drafted by or played for professional baseball teams. Many others competed at four-year colleges, including five (DePiano, Filotei, Foulks, Johnston, Mercurio) in the powerful Sun Belt Conference.

One of the most noteworthy achievements of the 1981 MCCC baseball team was winning the Sportsmanship Award at the World Series. Coach Miller demanded that his teams play, and win, with class. And they did.

**ROSTER**

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Jody Adams      | Dave Pope      |
| Frank Blackley  | Joe Ricciani   |
| Al Collins      | Steve Simpson  |
| Jeff DePiano    | Rich Soffel    |
| Dave Dominici   | Randy Sturm    |
| Jim Filotei     | Ken Unverzagt  |
| Stu Foulks      | Randy Voorhees |
| Dennis Johnston | Steve White    |
| Jon Luse        | Bill Wieder    |
| Dave Mercurio   | Joe Yatsko     |

**COACHES**

- Butch Miller, Head Coach
- Don Davis, Assistant
- George Mattonelli, Assistant

*Athletic Trainer: Christine Angermeier  
Equipment Manager: Zinna Kusnirik*

~ Best Wishes ~

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# 1982 Men's **SOCCKER**

The Mercer Vikings' road to the national championship was not easy as the opening game against Rogers State proved to be a real challenge and was decided by a late goal by All-American midfielder Keith Mayer. It was a well-crafted play executed by Rich Maher in the final seconds of the game. The Vikings would go on to overcome Ulster Community College in the semifinals.

The national championship game against Lewis and Clark was played before a frigid crowd of 3,500 fans with home field advantage. There was equal play back and forth with forward Dave Pasquito coming close a couple times, but always thwarted by the stellar defending of Lewis and Clark. Then, in the blink of an eye, and a perfectly executed corner by Jorge Ferero, Bob "Tags" Tartaglia headed the ball into the net providing the only goal needed to seal the victory. It was a hard-fought victory with great defending led by goalie John Kolaski and defenders Harry Loughnane, Gary Maccaroni, Mike Wissing, and Anthony Verrelli. The midfield was the anchor of the team, led by Captain Keith Mayer, Rich Maher and Dan Fogler.

The 1982 men's soccer team was a close-knit group of players from all walks of life. A mixture of local talent and players from different countries around the world, they were all bonded by the camaraderie of the "beautiful game." The Vikings were coached by former En-

gland international star Derek Trevis who, in 1973, led the Philadelphia Atoms to the North American Soccer League title. He and assistant coach Joe "Sec" Secretario inspired the team to win the most memorable game of their lives.

## ROSTER

Patrick Callahan  
Eric Cruse  
Lester Davis  
Pascal Debenne  
Bert Diesel  
Jorge Ferero  
Dan Fogler  
Jack Gaudio  
Petro Hul  
Per Tansgaard Jensen  
John Kolaski  
Vince Lungari

Harry Loughnane  
Gary Maccaroni  
Richard Maher  
Keith Mayer  
Ben McMichael  
Patrick Murphy  
David Pasquito  
Jay Sullivan  
Robert Tartaglia  
Anthony Verrelli  
Franklin Williams  
Mike Wissing

## COACHES

Derek Trevis, Head Coach  
Joe Secretario, Assistant

# CONGRATULATIONS BOB PUGH

## From Your Pickleball Friends:

Gary Scholder, Eric Parets, Peggy Howell, Trish Hicks,  
John Kilgannon, Michael Stark, Gary Poedubicky, Neil Ferrick,  
Deb Amodie, Mike Migliori, Joe Manzo, Eileen Tuffy,  
Elyse Diamond, Dick and Liz Hammock, Mark Riccitello,  
Dave Levy, Dave Kramer, Cindy Cohen, Kevin Emig, Ron Hartman,  
Ken Mayberg, Deb Hutchinson, Sue Pandak, Marvin Rosenberg,  
John and Bonnie Filipowicz, and Rich Welker.





## 2002 Women's **TENNIS**

Starting in 1998, the MCCC women's tennis team established a dynasty that continued for more than a decade. The Vikings were national champions four times (1999, 2000, 2002, and 2005) and finished in second place four times (1998, 2001, 2006, and 2011). In 2002, during Head Coach Marc Vecchiolla's fifth year, the team went 8-0 and captured the Region 19 title (5th in a row) and won the NJCAA National Tournament (3rd time in 5 years).

The 2002 team was exceptionally experienced, with four returning players from the 2000-2001 National Runner-up squad (Barb Pal, Sarah Bucon, Janine Hicks and Jill Matasovsky). The team was hungry to win the National Title from the moment the prior season ended. The team was dominant in the 2001 fall season going undefeated and winning the Region 19 crown. When returning from a match against SUNY Orange in mid-September, the players witnessed the smoke still billowing from New York City a few days after the tragedy of 9/11. These were times and moments in history this special team endured together.

In the spring of 2002, Mercer lost the services of their outstanding #4 singles player and 1st doubles player, who accepted a full-time employment position and did not return to college for the spring semester. At the National Championships in College Station, Texas, Mercer employed a strategy of leaving everyone in their

regular flights and plugging in the vacant flights with #7 Melissa Eisenstein to 4th singles and #8 Mai Fajita joining team Captain, Barb Pal at 1st Doubles in lieu of moving everyone up one position. The strategy paid off as the Vikings edged the Fashion Institute of Technology (NY) by the slimmest of margins: just one point to earn the National title. Four players were named All-Americans (Sarah Bucon, Janine Hicks, Jill Matasovsky and Ya-ting Hsu).

There is a wonderful camaraderie amongst the players and coaches which has endured for decades. Congratulations to the 2002 Women's National Champions!

### **ROSTER**

Barbara Pal  
Sarah Bucon-O'Grady  
Janine Hicks-Aziz  
Jill Matasovsky-Robinson  
Ya-ting Hsu  
Mai Fajita  
Melissa Eisenstein

### **COACHES**

Marc Vecchiolla, Head Coach  
Ralph Bencivengo, Assistant  
Barb Pleva, Assistant

# JIM DILL



Jim's journey began at Notre Dame High School, where he served as the co-captain of the Parochial A State Championship teams in both 1961 and 1962. Displaying an extraordinary talent on the field, Jim earned First Team All City and All County honors in 1961 and 1962, further establishing his reputation as an outstanding athlete.

Continuing his promising soccer career at Trenton Junior College, Jim led his team to victory as they clinched the National Junior College Championship in 1963. His remarkable contributions on the field earned him a spot on the First Team Junior College All American roster, cementing his status as a Mercer County soccer legend.

Jim's achievements did not go unnoticed by the renowned publication, *Sports Illustrated*, as he was featured in their esteemed "Faces in the Crowd" segment in December 1963. This recognition served as a testament to his extraordinary talent and helped further legitimize the college.

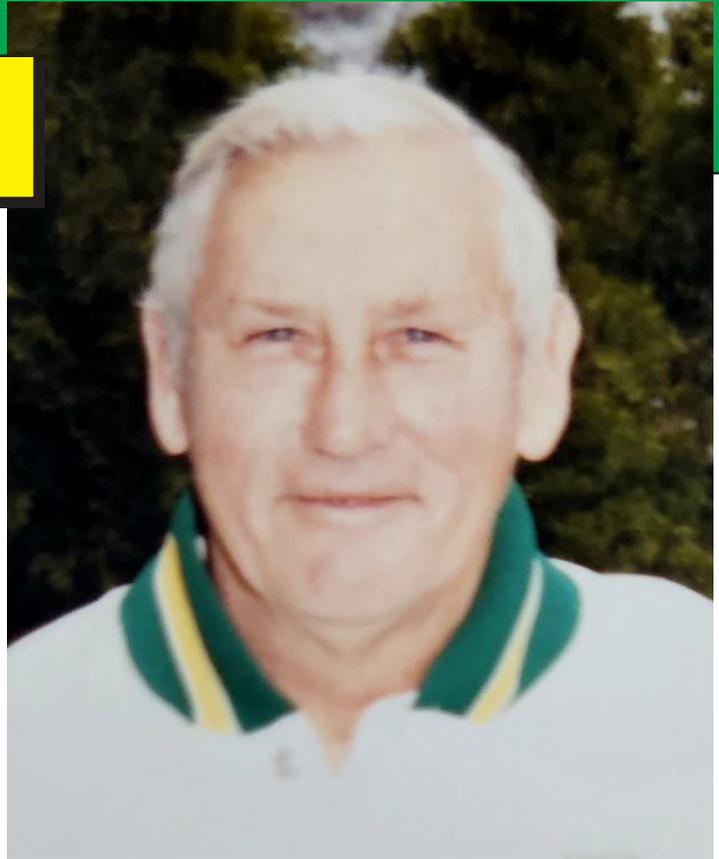
Taking his abilities to the University of Maryland, Jim became a vital component of the ACC Championship teams in 1964 and 1965. As a starter, he showcased his tenacious mentality and played an integral role in the team's success. Throughout his illustrious career, Jim has been honored with induction into several distinguished Hall of Fames, including the MCCC Soccer Hall of Fame, Notre Dame High School Hall of Fame, Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame, and Mercer County CYO Basketball Hall of Fame.

Recognized as the City of Trenton Police Supervisor of the Year in 1992, Jim's exceptional character and leadership extended to his professional endeavors.

From 1985 to 1991, Jim served as the Head Soccer Coach at St. Joseph's Prep in Princeton, NJ. His passion for the sport and his dedication to guiding young athletes served as an inspiration to many, leaving an indelible impact on the lives of those he mentored.

Jim's enduring MCCC legacy is that of leaving the game of soccer better than he found it.

# BILL DRAKE



Born and raised in Trenton, Bill was involved in sports his whole life. There was no ‘Little League’ in the “old days,” so he and the neighborhood kids spent hours at Hetzel Field playing their own version of baseball. From age 10 to 16, he played in Hetzel’s “Playground League” and on the Lithuanian Soccer (State Champs) and Baseball (All-City Champs) teams. Starting at age 17, Bill played soccer for the Kearny Scots and continued with the American Soccer League (later the Newark Portuguese), and the Kearny Irish.

Bill played several sports on teams sponsored by the New Brunswick Hungarians and the Olden Bar. In 1947, he launched his dream of playing professional baseball with the semi-pro team, “NY Giants”. From 1950 to 1960, he played baseball for Fred Scully, winning a total of five batting titles.

After Bill’s “playing days” were over, he stepped onto the fields as coach, manager, umpire and referee. He was one of St. Anthony High School’s first coaches in boys’ soccer and baseball. Bill also managed the Trenton Statesman professional men’s softball team and the Royal Ladies softball team. He spent over a decade at Mercer County Community College as a very successful head coach for the girls’ soccer and softball teams. He was also an instructor for MCCC summer athletic camps.

Bill’s special accomplishments over the years include inductions into the Kearny Soccer Hall Fame, Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame, USSSA Hall of Fame. He also earned JUCO Coach of the Year (Soccer). He was affiliated with several officiating organizations and was instrumental in their success - he was also one of the oldest members of the CJSRA (50 years). Bill spent several decades with the USSSA and ASA.

Bill was an avid Trenton Thunder fan and “coached” from his seat in the front row along the visitor’s dugout. He was also a long-time Phillies fan and enjoyed spending spring training with his family in Florida each year. After retiring, Bill kept active in sports by teaching his grandsons “the mechanics” of baseball; he then enjoyed watching them play at the high school, legion and college levels from his quad chair in the outfield, or in his car pulled up onto the nearby grass. He especially enjoyed watching his great-grandson participated in the sports he loved best.

Bill passed on March 5, 2013, just one day after his 85th birthday. He has undoubtedly left his mark in the athletic arena as a player, referee, mentor, and coach. Bill “Drakie” is truly missed.

A portrait of Carol Kokotajlo, a young woman with voluminous, wavy blonde hair, smiling. She is wearing a white and yellow athletic uniform. The background is dark and out of focus.

## CAROL KOKOTAJLO

Carol's athletic career began while she was living in Pennsylvania, where she played soccer and softball for Queen of the Universe and Middletown Athletic Association. She enjoyed summer travel softball, and advanced to nationals in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1981 with the 13-15 year-olds team from Northampton, PA.

As a student at Neshaminy Maple Point, Carol played JV soccer on the all-boys' team during her freshman and sophomore years. She also played Varsity softball her freshman and sophomore years. Carol transferred to Neshaminy High School after Neshaminy Maple Point closed. It was at this point that she made the decision to switch from soccer to field hockey. Her first year accolades as goalie included earning All League 2nd Team, All Area, Most Improved player, and Rookie of the year.

The following year, Neshaminy High School won the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association Class AAA Championship. Shortly after this, Carol's family moved to Hamilton, NJ, and she enrolled at Steinert High School.

Carol continued her successful athletic career in field hockey, basketball and softball at Steinert, earning 5 Varsity letters in 1 ½ years. She helped the Spartans capture back-to-back Mercer County Championships in softball. During her junior year, Carol was named to All CVC and Mercer First Team as a pitcher, in addition to being named Co-Player of the Year in the Trenton area daily newspapers. As a senior, she made All-County and All-CVC teams, and was named Steinert Athlete of Year and Spring Softball MVP.

After high school, Carol went on to play field hockey and softball at Rutgers from 1985-1986. Ultimately, she made the decision to leave Rutgers to pursue a career in broadcasting at the Center for Media Arts in New York, but she remained adamant about earning a college degree. Carol transferred to MCCC with the intention of focusing solely on her education and future career. Bill Drake, however, had other things in mind. Before she knew it, Carol was on the mound practicing with the team who would eventually head to Kansas for the JUCO World Series.

Since Carol used her first year of eligibility at Rutgers, she was only able to play at Mercer for one season, where she pitched and played center field. During that season, the team went 34-6 and made District H Champions, Region XIX Champions (top seeded team) and went to the JUCO World Series in Hutchinson, Kansas. Mercer was the 1st Region XIX team to win a game at Nationals.

Carol's personal accomplishments include a pitching record of 22-6 and throwing back-to-back no hitters while striking out 11 batters in Regionals. In 1987, she was named First Team All Region XIX, Region XIX MVP, and NJCAA All-American team. In 2022, Carol was inducted into the Steinert Athletic Hall of Fame for playing three sports: field hockey, basketball, and softball.

# MAGGIE MUSCARELLA



Maggie discovered her love for the game of soccer during her teen years, when she competed on Edison high school's soccer, basketball and track teams. During her junior and senior years, she served as the Captain of Edison's female soccer team, made First Team All State, earned Team MVP, and received the Coach's Award. She was also selected to All Conference and All County Teams.

Maggie started her college career at Middlesex County College, where she was a member of the Women's volleyball and track teams, and became the 1982 New Jersey College Pentathlon Champion.

After transferring to Mercer County Community College, Maggie became Co-Captain of the MCCC Women's Soccer Team from 1982-83. The 1982 team placed 4th at the National Junior College Championship. In 1983, the team placed 5th. As an MCCC athlete, Maggie was named to the All-Tournament team in both 1982 and 1983. She also earned the distinction of honorable mention All American.

After graduating from Mercer, Maggie went on to play soccer at Rutgers for 2 years where she made Captain and MVP of the university's first women's soccer team. She was named to the New Jersey College Soccer Association All Star Team both years.

After graduating from Rutgers University with a Bachelor's degree in Sociology, Maggie became the assistant coach for Rutgers' women's soccer team for four years. Later, under the Jersey Knights club, she coached the Lady Crimson Knights team for eight years.

Maggie's soccer career spanned 25 years in the Garden State Soccer League. She was also a player for the New Jersey State Select Team for ten years. Additionally, Maggie was selected twice to the East Regional Team, and played for the New Jersey Splash in the W League in 1998.

In 2006, Maggie was inducted into the Inaugural class of Edison's Athletic Hall of Fame as a trail-blazing female soccer star.

# MARC NICHOLS



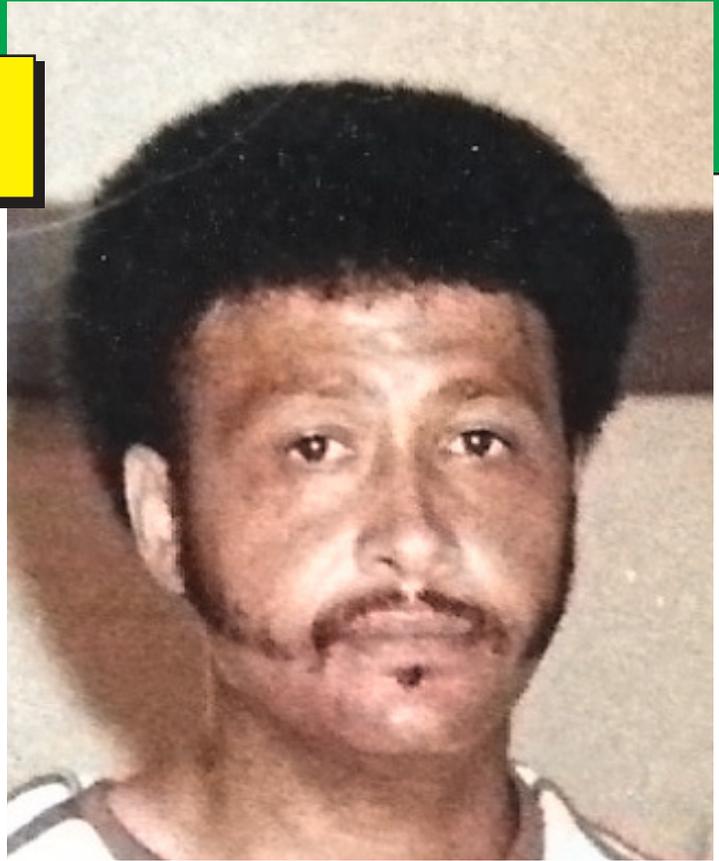
Marc was born in Santa Monica, California, along with his twin sister Monica Nichols, also a Mercer Alumnus. Marc moved to Mercer County the summer before his freshman year of high school and attended Lawrence High School for the first three years, finishing his senior year at Princeton High School. Marc started off as an athlete in other sports - basketball and baseball - before picking up tennis in 8th grade. During his high school years, he fell in love with the sport and excelled quickly, earning both individual and team recognitions at the state level for achievements. After high school, Marc had a non-traditional path to success at MCCC. It took a lot of failing before Marc was able to put it all together.

Legendary coach Stan Dlugosz is the one who initially approached Marc about the opportunities available at

MCCC; without him Marc would not be where he is today. During his first year at MCCC, Marc's studies and tennis playing did not go well. After some time away from college, where Marc focused on teaching tennis at Princeton Racquet Club, he came back to Mercer with a much stronger version of himself, mentally and physically. Coach Marc Vecchiola was newly at the helm, but he ultimately had just as much of an impact on Nichols as former coach, Stan Dlugosz. It was during this time that Marc was able to do well on and off the court, building great relationships along the way and creating indestructible memories. Marc ended up being the first male tennis player in MCCC history to win the #1 Singles Division 3 Junior College Championships and graduate from MCCC with a degree in Liberal Arts. A couple of years later, Marc graduated from The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) with a Business degree.

After graduating from TCNJ, Marc spent time playing and coaching tennis professionally, serving as an assistant coach at Princeton University and playing international tournaments throughout the US. After his tennis career, Marc transitioned to work in Financial Services. Marc learned the value of discipline, consistency, and being a lifelong student during his time at MCCC, and he continues to live by those values today.

# BOB PUGH



Bob was born in Bluefield, West Virginia and stayed in his home state to attend West Virginia State University (WVSU), where he received his Bachelor of Art's degree in Physical Education. While at WVSU, he participated in the ROTC Program and went on to receive a commission to the United States Army as 2nd Lieutenant upon graduation. A proud member of the Army Reserves, Bob completed basic training and Airborne School in Fort Benning, Georgia before being stationed in Seoul, Korea. It was in Korea that Bob was promoted to 1st Lieutenant and served as Company Commander. He was then stationed in Fort Dix, New Jersey where he was honorably discharged from the military in 1967.

Bob went on to earn his Master's degree in Education from The College of New Jersey and was subsequently hired by Al Leister in 1972 to serve as a Professor of Health & Science at Mercer County Community College (MCCC). Bob taught Health and Fitness at MCCC for 46 years and wore many hats throughout the years. He served as the Department Coordinator for Health and Fitness, coached the men's Cross Country team, and was the Faculty Association President for 15 years. Notably, he was the assistant Men's Basketball coach under Howie Landa when the team won back-to-back National Championships in 1973 and 1974.

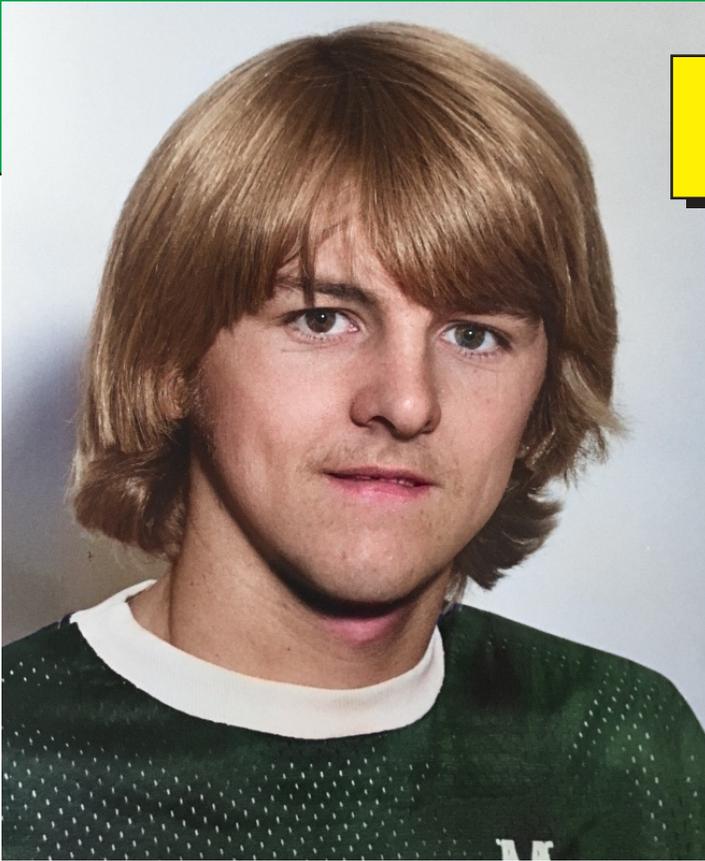
As a Professor Emeritus, Bob continues his commitment to MCCC students. He and his wife Brenda established an endowed scholarship which is awarded annually to a continuing, full-time student who is studying Exercise Science, Health Professions, or Education.

In 2019, in recognition of Bob's contributions to MCCC, the college renamed its fitness center in his honor. The Robert L. Pugh Fitness Center boasts 20 new pieces of equipment, along with shock resistant flooring and new lighting, thanks to a fundraising campaign spearheaded by Bob.

Bob has received numerous accolades and honors over the years, including Distinguished MCCC Teacher of the Year in 2016. He was also inducted into the WVSU ROTC Hall of Fame in 2018, and the Mercer County Basketball Hall of Fame in 2022.

In addition to Bob's commitments to MCCC, he has dedicated significant time and energy as a Division I Basketball Official. He has since moved on from officiating to becoming the Coordinator for men's basketball officials for the NJAC Conference.

# STEVE REID



A goal-scoring leader on championship teams at Notre Dame High School and Mercer County Community College, Steve Reid ranks as one of the county's premier soccer players.

An early star in the Hamilton Youth League for Trumpovich Roofers and Star Screen, Steve soon became one of the top players on the Scot Americans Junior squad of the Hamilton Junior League. At Notre Dame, Steve excelled on teams coached by Hall of Famers Bill 'Stu' Clarke and John Wagner. From Notre Dame it was on to Mercer County Community College, where Steve was a standout for two more Hall of Fame coaches – Stan Dlugosz and Joe 'Sec' Secretario. Steve won All-Region and All-American honors at MCCC, and was team MVP for the 1973 and 1974 seasons. He made the All-National tournament

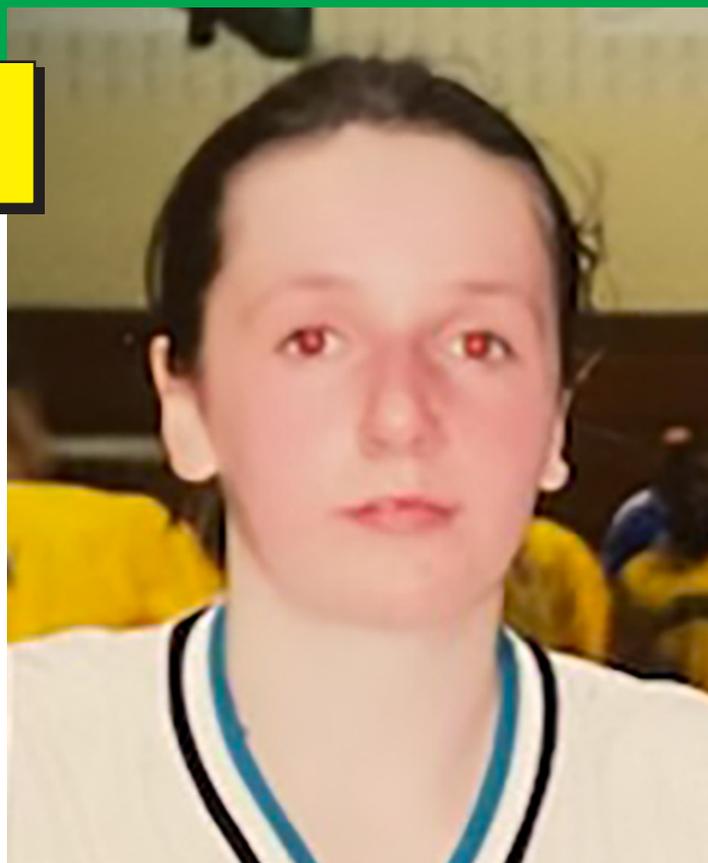
squad both years, and in '74 Steve set a Vikings scoring record with 31 goals. That season, Steve had nine multiple-goal games, and in the Vikings' last eight games of the year he scored at least two goals in every match.

Steve's goal-scoring prowess continued at Penn State University, where he played for one year before leaving in 1976 to play semi-pro soccer in Scotland with Balliston Juniors and Glen Cairn Juniors. Drafted No. 1 by the New Jersey Americans of the American Soccer League in 1977, Steve soon helped lead that team, coached by internationally-renowned Manfred Schellscheidt, to the ASL championship in 1978. The following fall, Steve returned to Scotland to play for Partick Thistle Reserves in the Scottish Premier League, and also trained with the Glasgow Celtics of the Scottish Premier League.

Returning to the United States for the 1979 season, Steve signed with the New England Tea Men of the North American Soccer League and later played with the New England Sharks of the ASL. He spent the 1980 season with the Philadelphia Fury of the North American Soccer League, scoring two goals in 14 games.

In 1982, Steve suffered a career-ending knee injury while playing with Major Indoor Soccer League team, the Philadelphia Fever. Steve began his coaching career by returning to Mercer as the assistant Men's Soccer coach, alongside fellow hall-of-famer Charlie Inverso, where together they led the 1988 squad to a National Championship victory.

# ANGELIKA STEC



Angelika co-captained the Mercer County Community College women's basketball teams that won the Region XIX Championships in 1999 and 2000. She was named Region XIX Player of the Year in 2000, as well as First Team All-Region XIX in 1999. As a 5-foot-9 guard, Angelika scored a whopping 442 points during the 1999-2000 season. While at Mercer, she averaged 14.3 points per game and 5.5 assists per game.

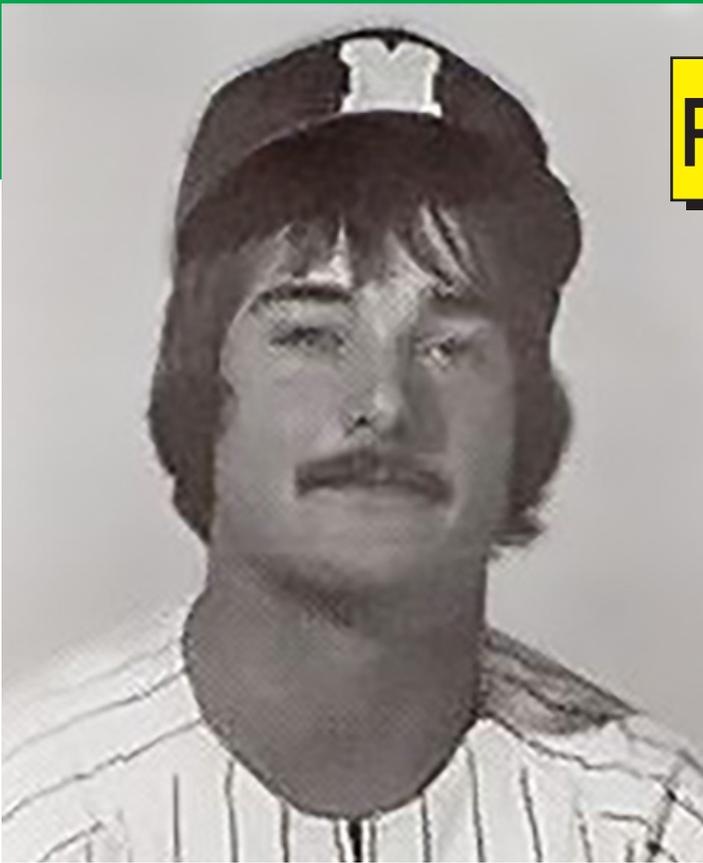
After she graduated from Mercer, Angelika became a two-sport athlete at Long Island University (LIU) Brooklyn, lettering in two seasons with the women's basketball team and also co-captaining the lacrosse team her senior year. She led the team in assists in both her seasons and made the NEC All-Tournament team both years, and her 229 career assists still ranks 12th in program history. Her 136 assists in her first season with the Blackbirds is the fifth-most in a single season for the program, and she helped the Blackbirds win the 2001 NEC title that year. The following year, she was the recipient of LIU Brooklyn's Scholar-Athlete of the Year award. Angelika graduated from LIU Brooklyn in 2003 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Sport Science with specialization in Adapted Physical Science.

Angelika's coaching career began at LIU Brooklyn, where she served as assistant coach of the women's basketball team from 2003- 2008. During those five years, she helped the team record their two winningest seasons in program history, going 22-9 and winning the NEC regular season title in 2006-07, also earning the program's first-ever berth to the WNIT that season. In 2008, LIU Brooklyn went 24-8, the most victories in a single season for the program.

After coaching for her alma mater, Anglika served as assistant head coach at Monmouth University (2009 – 2011), helping the team reach the NEC Championship game in 2010-2011. From 2011 to 2019, Angelika served as the associate head coach at Fordham University. In her tenure at Fordham, her teams won two Atlantic 10 Championships and also finished six seasons with 20-plus wins, including the 2018-2019 season when they finished 25-9 and won the A10 Tournament title.

In April 2019, Angelika was named the seventh head coach at Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU). In her last two years at FDU, she captured back-to-back Northeast Conference regular season championships and Coach of the Year honors. In April of 2023, Angelika accepted a position as head coach at Iona University.

Angelika's ultimate goal has always been and will continue to be to help student-athletes become leaders and champions in life.



# RANDY VOORHEES

Randy, a graduate of South Hunterdon Regional High School (Lambertville, NJ) played baseball at Mercer County Community College during the 1980 and 1981 seasons.

Randy pitched for the 1980 team, compiling a 4-2 record and the second most appearances (10) on the staff. MCCC's 1980 baseball team won 31 games and qualified for the regional tournament.

For the 1981 season, Randy was named a co-captain and was moved to the outfield. He hit .317 for the season, including four home runs and 21 stolen bases. The team swept through the regional and district tournaments undefeated, thereby becoming the first MCCC team to qualify for the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJ-

CAA) World Series in Grand Junction, CO. Mercer defeated Seminole Junior College (OK), the top-ranked team in the country on its way to a third place finish at the World Series. Their record for the year was 39-7.

After Mercer, Randy transferred to Penn State University where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History.

Almost 20 years later, Randy returned to MCCC to become a pitching coach for the 2000 team that qualified for the NJCAA Division II World Series in Millington, TN. After the conclusion of the 2002 season, he was named head coach. After the 2003 season, Randy's first and only as head coach, the MCCC team again qualified for the World Series. Randy thereby achieved the distinction of attending the World Series as a player, assistant coach, and head coach - a first in MCCC baseball history.

Randy has written or edited nine books, including *Coaching the Little League Pitcher*.



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# CONGRATULATIONS BOB PUGH!



Congratulations on your induction into the Mercer County Community College Athletic Hall of Fame! We are so proud of you!

Love,  
Brenda, Lisa, Thomas, Ella, Ava, Nicole,  
Kelly, Dan, Avery & Evan

Congratulations to all the other inductees!



*Class of 2023,  
Welcome to the club.*

*Sincerely,  
Al Leister*



Congratulations to the  
MCCC Athletics  
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Thanks for  
everything, John.



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