

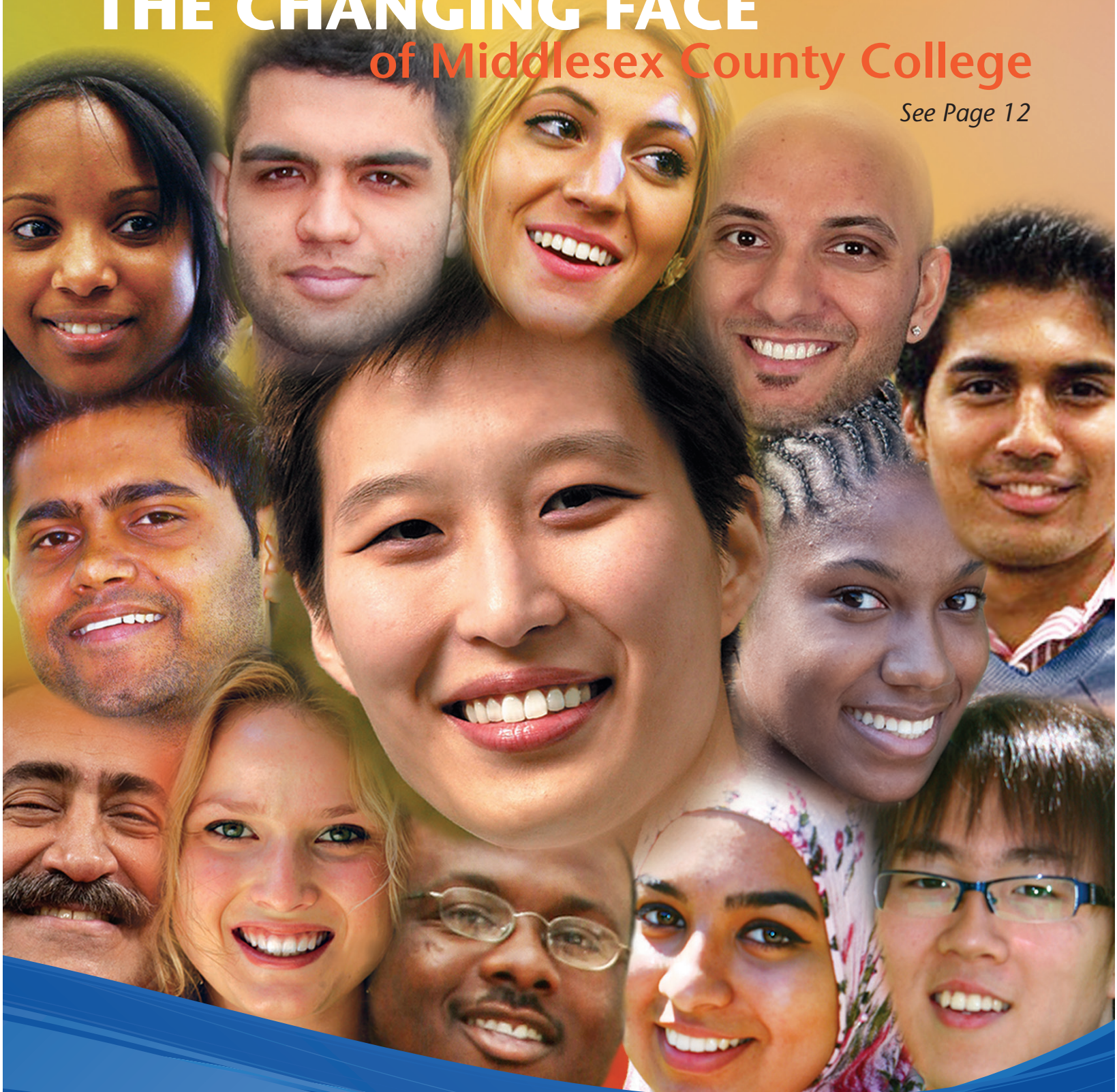
**MIDDLESEX**  
COUNTY COLLEGE

*Now*

Fall 2011

**THE CHANGING FACE**  
of Middlesex County College

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**SUCCESS STARTS HERE**

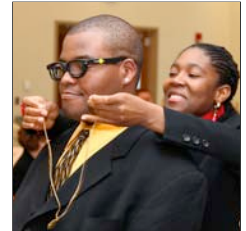


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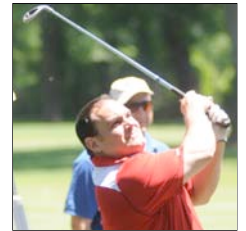


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# MIDDLESEX Now

COUNTY COLLEGE

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Office of Marketing and College Relations  
Middlesex County College  
2600 Woodbridge Ave.  
P.O. Box 3050  
Edison, NJ 08818-3050  
e-mail: [alumni@middlesexcc.edu](mailto:alumni@middlesexcc.edu)

# CAMPUS News

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## The Rise and Fall of Card City

His nickname is “Cardman,” and he created a spectacular display of card stacking in the College Center. Alex Perricone '11 is a card artist, and before he graduated in May, he decided to create “Card City.” He takes thousands of normal playing cards and stacks them, creating intricate designs, some that go seven feet high. He doesn't fold the cards or use glue or tape, just balances them on top of each other. On April 11, it all came tumbling down as he used a fan to raze Card City. His goal is to inspire people to realize “if you work hard enough, anything is possible.”

## State-of-the-Art Biotech Lab Opens

A new, state-of-the-art biotechnology lab was recently opened at Middlesex County College. The combined facility is a teaching lab that includes a preparation room, a “clean room” for tissue culture work, and a dedicated lab space for specialized equipment. The lab will allow students to become proficient in laboratory techniques used in the biosciences industry.

Representatives from the College and area businesses recently gathered to celebrate the achievement and to cut the ceremonial ribbon officially opening the lab.

“This is a great day for the College,” said Karen Hays, vice president for academic and student affairs. “It is the culmination of a perfect plan: the faculty in the department conceived and designed the new biotechnology program, developed the curriculum, completed transfer agreements with four-year colleges and universities providing seamless transfer for our graduates, and then designed the lab. Most importantly, it is a great day for our biotechnology students, who will benefit greatly from their experience in the facility.”

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# In the Pink



"Pink Day," a program in which the Middlesex and Ocean County College basketball teams supported Breast Cancer Awareness, was held at MCC in February. The men's and women's teams from both schools wore pink warmup t-shirts and wristbands and members of the Middlesex women's team and softball squad held a bake sale and collected donations for the American Cancer Society. The program was part of "Pink Zone," a national effort to raise awareness and funds, organized by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association. Before the women's game, Middlesex Vice President Karen Hays and Assistant Athletic Director Carey Monkowski officiated at a ceremonial tipoff. From left: Liz Lawler, from Ocean County College; Dr. Hays; Ms. Monkowski; and Fleur Martinez from Middlesex. At right, nurse educators from St. Peter's University Hospital also spoke with the teams about breast cancer awareness in a program sponsored by the Susan G. Komen Foundation. From left: Middlesex basketball player Cristina Jordan, softball player Morgan Widener and Ms. Monkowski talk with Ellen Strong of St. Peter's University Hospital. Ms. Strong is from the hospital's Community Mobile Health program and spoke to young women athletes in the area.



## Camp Middlesex: *Fun for All Kids*

Twenty-three new camp programs have been added to Camp Middlesex for the summer of 2011. The camp, located on the Middlesex campus, is for kids 6 to 18 years old. It runs from June 27-August 19.

Camp Middlesex is actually many special interest camps. Campers can pick their activity from a list of dozens, including theater, robotics, chess, magic, karate, sports, video game creation, art, cooking, fashion, computers, and much more. Each session runs for one week, mornings or afternoons, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 1 to 5 p.m. Most kids pick two camps for a full-day experience. There is also a pre-camp option starting at 7:30 a.m. and an after-camp program that goes until 6 p.m.

The cost varies by program but most are \$175 per half-day camp.

"Parents love the variety of programs," said Elaine Berlin, the Camp Middlesex coordinator. "They tell me 'Who else offers theater, painting, sports, science and cooking, all in one place?' This is a great option for working parents who want their children to be doing something fun and fulfilling. It's affordable, and all our instructors are certified classroom teachers who care about each child. We have a full-time nurse should the need arise. Plus, the classrooms are air-conditioned and the campus is beautiful. It's a wonderful experience."

New programs include digital photography, making movies, how to be a deejay, the science behind special effects, baking cupcakes, and many, many more.

For a brochure that details all the camps, or for more information, call 732-906-2556 or visit [www.middlesexcc.edu](http://www.middlesexcc.edu).



# Nursing Programs at Kean and MCC Are Now Linked

Officials from Middlesex and Kean University recently signed an articulation agreement that provides seamless transfer for graduates of the Middlesex nursing program who transfer into the Bachelor's of Nursing program at Kean.

Students may take the Kean classes on the Middlesex campus.

"Actually, they can take classes at Middlesex, or on the Kean campus, or anywhere Kean is offering nursing courses, including Ocean County College, Bergen Community College or Raritan Valley Community College," said Michelle L. Foley, director of the nursing program at Middlesex. "This makes getting your Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree convenient. It can also be done full time or part time, as many of the students will be working at the time."

Professor Foley said Kean has excellent faculty, low tuition and scholarships.

"I think this program is something our nursing grads should consider," she said. "You can transfer in 88 credits of the 125 necessary for a bachelor's and still take classes close to home, right here on our campus. It is really becoming the standard for nurses to receive their associate's degree and then go on for a bachelor's. This is a very convenient way to do that."

The agreement with Kean is the second Middlesex has signed. The first was with Felician College.



## Nursing Agreement

Seated, from left: Karen Hays, vice president for academic and student affairs at Middlesex County College; Joann La Perla-Morales, president, Middlesex; Dawood Farahi, president, Kean University; Mark Lender, vice president for academic affairs, Kean. Standing (from Middlesex): Nancy Berger, nursing program coordinator; Marilyn Laskowski-Sachnoff, dean of professional studies; Michelle L. Foley, nursing director; (from Kean): Joan Braun '70, director, staff development at Raritan Bay Medical Center and adjunct professor at Kean; Minnie Campbell, executive director and professor of nursing; and Constance Patten, assistant professor of nursing.

## Student Takes 1st Place at Radiography Contest

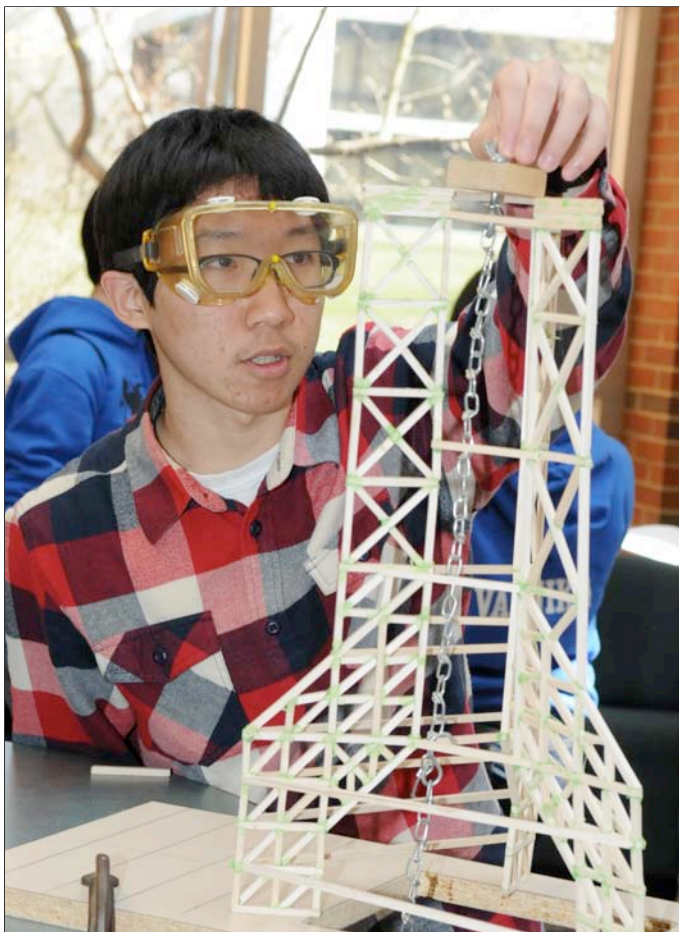
Christopher Quilban, a student in the Radiography program, recently won first place in a competition at the New Jersey Society of Radiologic Technologists Annual Meeting. He was awarded first place in the Emma Wolf Memorial X-ray Competition and won \$300.

This competition included more than 100 radiography education students from programs in New Jersey. Thirteen students from Middlesex, members of the Student Association of Radiographers, attended the conference.

"I am really proud of Chris and all of the students who participated in the competition," said Kimberly Krapels, radiology instructor. "I celebrated my birthday during this conference and Chris's winning was my favorite present."

The competition consisted of a series of radiography questions and used a single elimination format.

Professor Krapels is the advisor to the student organization and also presented a lecture at the conference.



Students from all over New Jersey participated in the 19th Annual Science Olympiad finals held at the College over spring break. Here, Paul Kim, a student at the Bergen County Academies, works on his creation for an event called the Tower. Students from 26 middle schools and 29 high schools participated in this competition designed to encourage students' interest in science and technology. The top teams from regional tournaments held earlier this year went to the state finals; the state winners – Community Middle School and West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South – traveled to the national championship at the University of Wisconsin in May. Community finished 14th out of 60 schools in the national competition; West Windsor-Plainsboro South finished third out of 60.

# New A.A.S. Degree in Surveying Offered

A new degree program in Surveying Engineering Technology is being offered at Middlesex County College. The program, which was originally an option in the civil engineering program, was expanded because of the demand for land surveyors and their importance to the construction industry.

“If you want to practice land surveying in New Jersey, you must have a Professional Land Surveyor’s License (PLS),” said Thom Sabol, chairperson of the Department of Engineering Technologies. “In New Jersey, you will also need a bachelor’s degree. Students graduating from our program with their associate’s degree can transfer to schools such as NJIT to complete their education.”

The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics says the demand for surveyors is expected to grow faster than the average of all occupations; surveyors with bachelor’s degrees should have favorable job prospects. Median salaries for surveyors are in the mid-\$50,000 range.

“You need strong technical skills and you need to enjoy working outdoors in all kinds of weather, but if you do, this is a great field,” Professor Sabol said. Employment possibilities include working for a surveying company, owning your own business, or working for the government.

The program includes courses in mathematics, technical graphics, water resources technology, physics, business and boundary law, plus social science electives.

Gilberto Sousa is currently in the civil engineering program with the surveying option, but he is thinking about moving to the surveying program.

“I like being the first part of the construction process,” he said. “I’m the first shovel in the ground.” He plans to gradu-

ate and transfer to NJIT, Rutgers or Stevens.

The instructor, Belton Brevard, is a professional surveyor and owns Brevard Surveying & Mapping. He says that most of the graduates will go onto NJIT and earn their bachelor’s degree and professional license.

“I’d highly recommend this program for those with technical skills who want to work in the surveying industry,” he said. “It’s a field that is professionally fulfilling and enjoyable.”



From left: Instructor Belton Brevard, George Michael Pe and Craig Pfeifer.



Alice Gainer, News 12 New Jersey reporter, anchor and host of “Get Fit Friday,” talked about her career in broadcast journalism to a large group of students at the College in April. Ms. Gainer, an Emmy-nominated reporter, talked about the stories she has covered and gave career advice to the students, many of whom are communications majors and work on the College’s radio station, WMCC. Ms. Gainer chatted after the event with students and faculty. From left: Alex Hartelust, Professor Louis Dell’Omo, Ms. Gainer, and Irene Foster.



## Bright STARS

Graduating students who are enrolled in NJ STARS were honored at a reception before graduation. STARS is a program that covers tuition for those students who graduate in the top 15 percent of their high school class and go to their community college. Many of the students will be transferring to a four-year public college or university in New Jersey under STARS II, which provides a significant scholarship for those who graduate from STARS I with a high grade point average. Seated from left: Leslie Shider, Johanna Safranski, Amanda Lee Krin, Adrianna Gerena, Danielle Hoyte, Stacey Palmer. Standing: Dana Virgillo, Katherine Idrovo, Corey Webb, Ali Marie Heitner, Susan Chanese, Seanelle Royer, Christina Galarza, Katie Meyer.



# New Biotech Lab Provides Real-World Experience for Students

*Continued from page 3*

Dr. Hays also thanked the College president, Joann La Perla-Morales, for her support during the creation of the program and the lab.

Resources for the equipment and supplies came from funds provided through the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006, awarded by the New Jersey Department of Education, as well as a grant from BIO-1 WIRED, a consortium of regional industry and educational institutions that received money from the United States Department of Labor.

Uma Narayanan, director of the biotechnology program, said the lab is similar to what the students will find when they are working in the field.

“It provides hands-on experience for our students,” Dr. Narayanan said. “This lab will allow us to teach students how to use the equipment, most of which is state of the art. It is a wonderful addition to our program, but it would not have happened except for support from the president and vice president.”

The lab is wireless and handicapped accessible, and has numerous safety features. Instruments include high speed centrifuges; a multi-mode microplate reader, which can measure absorbance, fluorescence and luminescence; a high pressure liquid chromatographic system, which is widely used in teaching and research laboratories and in industries such as forensics, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology; gel electrophoresis equipment, a gel documentation system; blotting apparatus for separating DNA and proteins; and much more.

Classes that will make use of the lab include General Biology, Genetics, Cell Biology, and Intro to Biomolecules and Molecular Biology.

Dr. Narayanan also said she plans to use the lab for certificate programs, a summer institute for high school students, and workshops for high school science teachers and industry members.

Currently, 58 students are in the biotechnology program. Two of them, Alex Dionne and Josh Rhoden, spoke at the ribbon cutting.



Biotechnology student Lopa Chatterjee gives Patrick Madama, executive director of Marketing & College Relations, a tour of the lab.

Ms. Dionne thanked Bristol-Myers Squibb and Advanced Technologies Regenerative Medicine for generously providing funding for scholarships. Frederick J. Egenolf, director of community affairs for Bristol-Myers Squibb, was at the ribbon-cutting and later toured the lab.

Ms. Dionne also highlighted the work of Dr. Narayanan in developing the lab.

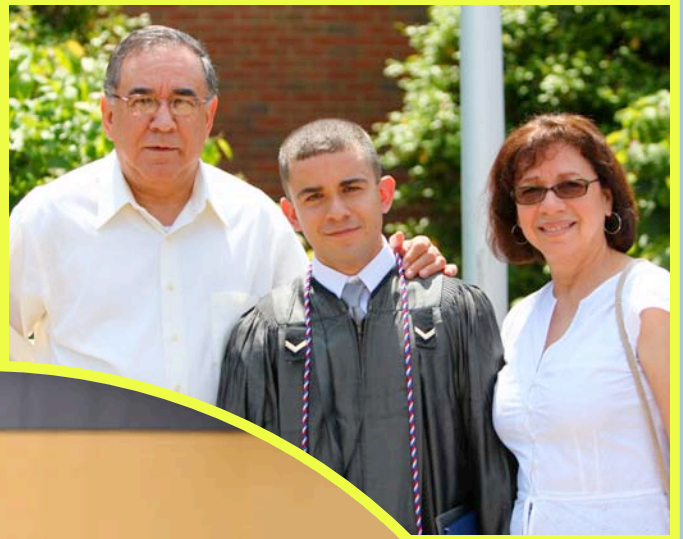
“We would like to thank supporting faculty members from both the biology and chemistry departments who have extended assistance to us, whether it is through advising, teaching new courses we need to help us prepare for four-year institutions, or in providing a general sense of support for all of our individual small moments of success,” Ms. Dionne said.

Mr. Rhoden agreed.

“Thank you to the dean and associate dean, vice president and president of the College who have continued to support this program from its initial formation, through all of the moments when it needed external support,” he said. “I can assure you that you will be proud to hear from the students of this program, and of their accomplishments in the years to come.”



Gabriela Garcia Medina, an international spoken word poet, electrified a crowd at the College as she read her poetry in March as part of Women's History Month. The author of two books, “Ink-Scribing Oshun” and “In the Wake of Oya,” the 28-year-old combined personal observations and reflections with political commentary, all laced with a great deal of humor. She is at left with Carlos Rivera, Breanna Franklin and Katyah Cisson.





# Jubilation!



A total of 1445 students – the largest class in Middlesex County College history – graduated Thursday, May 19 at the 44th annual Commencement exercises witnessed by more than 3000 guests. The event was held in the Physical Education Center because of rainy weather.

Valedictorian Farah Manzoor delivered the class welcome, sharing her experiences and aspirations.

A native of Pakistan, Ms. Manzoor went back to school after a 10-year lapse in her education. She majored in accounting and has accepted a scholarship to the Rutgers Business School.

“After graduation, we will all be going in our different directions,” she told the class. “Some of us will be transferring to other colleges to earn our bachelor’s or master’s, while others may step right into the workforce. This may be the last time we are all here together, but our paths in life will one day somehow overlap. There is no way of telling right now what the people around you will become in the approaching years, or what you may pursue in life, but whatever you decide, go for it all the way. With the knowledge, skills and invaluable experiences that we gained here at MCC, we can overcome every obstacle.”

Approximately 600 members of the Class of 2011 participated in the exercises, representing the 349 graduates of August 2010, 388 of January 2011, and 708 of May 2011.

Participants included several students who fulfilled the requirements for more than one degree or certificate during this academic year.

The graduates included 91 in the New Jersey STARS program. STARS is a scholarship that covers tuition for students who graduate in the top 15 percent of their high school class and attend their community college.

Karen L. Hays, vice president for academic and student affairs, presided. Greetings were delivered by Joann La Perla-Morales, College president; Dorothy K. Power, chairman of the Board of Trustees; Christopher Rafano, Freeholder director; and Carol Barrett Bellante, Freeholder liaison to the College. William Egbert III ’04, the Alumni Association president, welcomed the graduates to their new status.

Professor John Gutowski of the Department of History and Social Science led the academic procession as grand marshal.

Dr. La Perla-Morales, sixth president of the College, conferred degrees and certificates to the graduates, who were introduced by Dean Marilyn Laskowski-Sachnoff and Dean David Edwards. Dr. Hays presented the candidates for graduation and conferred the Frank M. Chambers Award for Academic Excellence to 18 graduates, in recognition of their earning a 4.0 grade point average. Ms. Manzoor is a Chambers Award winner and she is joined by the Salutatorian, Elizabeth Vazquez, Sonya J. Bacon, Ann M. Pfister, Anita Abraham, Mary J. Fiorentino, Kimberly A. Ratai, Megan C. Witos, Laura M. Sarfati, Xianyi Gao, Irina Kuzmina, Larissa A. Kuhlken, Matt R. Madurski, Syed Jawad H. Shah, Gina K. Rutherford, Alyssa B. Klimek, Marius Sturzoiu and Yuliya Esipova.





The area in front of the College Center was transformed into an arctic laboratory as students in the Garde Manger class learned the fundamentals of ice carving. This course is taught by Walter Leffler, the executive chef at the Old Mill Inn in Basking Ridge, and for this activity, he was assisted by Evan Hublarde, executive chef at Baltusrol Country Club in Springfield, NJ. The 19 students used chain saws to mold blocks of ice and then chisels to create the details. The class is part of the Culinary Arts degree and certificate program. Above, Jonasz Witek works on his block of ice.

## Democracy House Wins National Award

Democracy House, the Center for Civic Engagement at the College, was named to the 2010 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. Among other missions, Democracy House performs thousands of hours of community service each year. The award was presented by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Launched in 2006, the Community Service Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service learning and civic engagement. Honorees for the award were chosen based on a series of selection factors including scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service, and the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning courses.

Democracy House began in 1995, and its direct service program brings together nearly 40 students per year who work to better the community. They serve food at area soup kitchens and community cafes, act as big brothers and sisters to children in after school programs, supervise entrepreneur programs for middle school students, and mentor Latino high school students in college preparation. The students each spend at least 300 hours per year working on community service projects.

They are not alone. On campuses across the country, millions of college students are engaged in innovative projects to meet local needs, often using the skills learned in classrooms. In 2009, 3.2 million college students dedicated more than 307 million hours of service to communities across the country, service valued at more than \$6.4 billion.

## Student Named to National Academic Team

Christina Freund, the co-president of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges, has been named a Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Silver Scholar. The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation sponsors the Community College Academic Team program by recognizing 50 Gold, 50 Silver and 50 Bronze scholars nationally, and providing nearly \$187,500 in stipends annually. The program is in partnership with Phi Theta Kappa. Silver Scholars each receive a \$1,250 stipend and a special medallion. All Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Scholars were included in the April 11 issue of "USA Today."



It takes lots of work to open a summer camp, and students from Democracy House at MCC were up to the challenge. On May 14, they traveled to Harriman State Park in New York State to help the YMCA of Greater Bergen County open a children's camp. The group swept cabins, moved beds, and pried boards from windows, among many other tasks. Democracy House is Middlesex County College's service learning program that promotes volunteer community service. Seated, from left: Shawn Zwonar, Millicent Bustria. Standing: David Guillaume, Roneil Balani, Kimberly Cockinos, Ariel Furlong, Tom Garcia and Karolina Mrowiec.





# Tasty Summer Cooking Classes

Richard Bottega, who will teach most of the summer cooking classes, in the demonstration kitchen.

He's cooked for President Obama, Henry Kissinger, and George Burns. This summer, in a series of courses offered at the College, Richard Bottega shows you how it is done. Chef Bottega, an experienced and decorated chef and a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, is teaching many of the courses offered in "Today's Table: Classes for Contemporary Cooks." All classes are held in the Crabiell Hall culinary lab and include

tastings of food prepared by the chef and a copy of the recipes.

"This program is for cooks and non-cooks, and it is both instructive and entertaining," said Lynn Lederer, director of Professional and Community Programs at the College. "You will develop techniques to optimize your recipes. For example, you'll learn how to slice a tomato for maximum flavor, and why one omelet tastes better than another even though they have the exact same ingredients. This is a comprehensive cooking program that is both fun and educational."

You may register a la carte at \$25 for each class or choose any three classes for \$48. The savings are available to anyone who registers with payment for the three classes at the same time. All classes meet from 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Classes include:

- Very Veggie Grilling**, Tuesday, July 12
- Sensational Summer Soups**, Thursday, July 14
- From The Sea**, Tuesday, July 19
- Ridiculously Easy Summer Desserts**, Thursday, July 21
- Planning a Party?**, Tuesday, July 26
- Appetizers Made Simple**, Thursday, July 28
- Kids Cakes**, Tuesday, August 9
- Jersey Fresh**, Thursday, August 11



**Transition:** The Student Government Association held a celebration/transition dinner as the new officers were sworn in for the 2011-2012 academic year. Here, President Linda Attuh places the presidential medal over the head of Jaren Haskins, the new president.

## The Changing Face of Middlesex County College

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The photo is probably from sometime in the 1970s. It's unlabeled, but is from a nursing ceremony; possibly a pinning, perhaps graduation. Of the 15 faces visible, all are white, all female, all probably 19-22 years old.

Diversity? Well, some are blond and some brunette.

And now a look at the class photo from the 2009 group. African-Americans, Hispanics, and Asians are all represented. Many look to be two years out of high school but some are older; there are even – gasp – men in the class.

These two photos represent the changing face of Middlesex County College.

Well, duh! you may be tempted to exclaim. Visit almost any town in New Jersey and you can see how diversity has been changing the way the state looks for some time now and MCC is no different. But what may be less obvious is how that diversity has changed the fabric of the College.

“What does this globalization, this diversity, mean to me as a teacher? It means a lot, quite frankly,” says Andrew Dzurisin, who teaches sociology at MCC. “Some of those in my class are from Eastern Europe, so for one thing, it means I have students who can pronounce my last name. But it also means I have to adjust my teaching style. For example, if I have an afternoon class and have scheduled a test during Ramadan, in which Muslims can't eat from sunup to sundown, I allow them to take it in the evening, after a meal. Hungry students don't do well.”

Professor Dzurisin says students' use of technology promotes an understanding of other cultures.

“Technology is a big driver because you can connect with people you have never met,” he said. He encourages his students to examine international media, particularly television news.

“They tell me, ‘It's different.’ I say, ‘that's the point.’”

“I used to illustrate a sociological theory using a football analogy – U.S. football – and the whole class would know what I meant. No more. Being able to understand and appreciate global culture is important because these students will soon be competing in a global marketplace. I really think if you are going to compete in a global business environment, you better understand diversity, because if you don't, somebody else will.”

Marla Brinson, dean of Enrollment and Student Support Services, has a unique perspective on diversity: She started her career at MCC in 1979 and worked as an admissions recruiter and in the Student Activities Department until 1991; she then left to work at other colleges and universities before returning in 2003.

“During my first stint with Middlesex, the vast majority of day students were traditional age,” she said. “The percentage of students of color was probably 2 percent or so, and I don't remember any students of Hispanic descent. Somewhere around the middle 1980s, that began to change. Now, I can walk through pockets of students on campus and hear three different languages. I think that's great.”

Why?

“Why wouldn't it be an advantage?” she asked. “This is the world we live in; we're all able to challenge one another.”

When Ms. Brinson was at MCC in the 80's, the College was divided into day and evening divisions. Chengbo Yin, director of Institutional Research, said the day students were largely of traditional age, coming right out of high school. Part-timers were concentrated in the evening, and they were mainly the first in their family to go to college, employed, and older.

“In that sense, we really did have two colleges,” he said.

And many of the majors were divided by gender as well, reflecting career opportunities at the time. In 1976, for example, liberal arts had a 50-50 split, but in education, 96 percent were women; in dental hygiene, it was 95 percent women; secretarial science, 100 percent; and nursing 99 percent (interestingly, the few male nurses tended to have been medics in the military). Conversely, engineering science and electrical engineering were 100 percent men; mechanical engineering was 95 percent men.

Now, while some majors are predominantly male or female, there is much more of a mix.

The racial makeup of the College has changed as well. Mr. Yin said in 1976, 80 to 85 percent of the students were non-



Hispanic white. Today, it is just over 40 percent. The remaining 60 percent are African-American, consistent for the past 20 years or so at about 10 percent of the total population; and Hispanic and Asian, both growing rapidly.

Dean Brinson cites studies that show that the Latino population is expected to skyrocket. The United States grew by about 9 percent from 2000 to 2010, but the number of Hispanics increased by 43 percent.

And locally, Professor Dzurisin said South Asian Indians started settling in Edison and the Iselin section of Woodbridge back in the 1960s, meaning there are residents who are third and even fourth generation. More recently, there has been an influx of Eastern Europeans who have immigrated to the area.

Of course, the makeup of the College reflects society at large. But minority populations have grown faster at MCC than in the community.

“To the College’s credit, we’ve made a conscious effort to expand our efforts to be diverse,” Mr. Yin said. “We’ve become more diverse, at a faster pace, than the state and nation.”

Warren Kelemen began his career in 1970 at MCC. He started as an admissions counselor and moved into administration, focusing on part-time students and the evening program. He retired in 2001 but recently returned to the staff on a part-time basis.

He credits programs such as the Equal Opportunity Fund and the Office of Minority Affairs, which ran a program called Minority Access to the Professions, with increasing diversity. The creation of two urban centers, one in Perth Amboy and one in New Brunswick, also increased minority representation. The population of Perth Amboy was, and is, heavily Hispanic. In New Brunswick, the population at that time was predominantly African-American, though today the Hispanic community is large and still expanding.

“The centers did broaden our profile in a county in which most of the minority population was centered in those two

cities,” he said. “These facilities also serve as entry points for students who eventually migrate to the Edison campus. This is a college of opportunity and we want to represent the entire community.”

So what do students think of this diversity? It’s not such a big deal.

Danielle Hobbs ’11 was the secretary of the Student Government Association. She took honors classes and was accepted into The College of New Jersey this fall.

An African-American,

Ms. Hobbs has friends of every ethnicity.

“I think students today are much less concerned about race than students of years ago,” she said. “We almost take diversity for granted. There are some cliques but they are few and far between. We don’t fear people who are different from us; we’re intrigued by them.”



Two views of Commencement: from the early days and 2011.

Let’s look at other uses of the word “diversity,” for example, in learning and teaching styles. Technology has changed both.

“The immediate access to the internet and the use of social media have changed how students prefer to learn,” said Steven Barnhart, chair of the Department of History and Social Science. “Look at the entertainment industry. If you watch a movie made in 1972, you look at it now and say ‘This is so slow’ even if you remember it as a great film. Now, the scenes are much shorter and the camera is always moving. Same with education. In the past, a student could listen to a compelling lecture and create strong memories. Now, you might have a film clip, followed by a short lecture, followed by something on the web. Every class is like a short story. It needs a compelling opening that gets your attention, a main character to

take you through the story, and then a satisfactory ending.”

Kathy Fedorko has been studying learning for 39 years. A professor of English, Dr. Fedorko is also the director of CELT, the Center for the Enrichment of Learning and Teaching, which creates opportunities for Middlesex professors to share best practices with their colleagues.

“We know so much more about learning than we used to,” she says. Dr. Fedorko credits the scientific study of the brain allowing for greater insight into how people learn. Perhaps even more important is that the scholarship of teaching and learning now shapes effective teaching.

“We have so many good studies about teaching and learning,” she said. “And most importantly, we can now back up good teaching ideas with data.”

While the internet has existed for years, it was around 1995 that it started to make inroads in the general population. This means that a traditional age student – 18-22 years old – won’t remember a time without the internet.

Brian Richards, director of instructional design and media services, says there are now well over 2000 computers on campus and 95 percent of the classrooms have internet access and video and audio capabilities.

“This enables professors to use resources from the web,” he said. “This enhances the learning process.”

Technology has also broadened the dimensions of the classroom. Now, courses are taught over the internet, so students can take a class at home, whenever they have time.

“Over the past 10 years, online learning has really taken off,” Mr. Richards said. “This is especially useful for those with hectic and unpredictable schedules or a lot of other commitments. They can do their school work whenever they have time.”



The Middlesex community rallied to support the people of Japan after their recent tragedies: earthquakes, a tsunami and nuclear fallout. Dozens of students, faculty and staff participated in a walkathon; the Korean Student Association and the Asian Student Association held a bake sale; Phi Theta Kappa, the honor society, created origami cranes and asked people to sponsor them; the Italian Club ran a bake sale; and the bookstore collected change from patrons. A total of \$1500 was raised. The program was organized by the Blue Colt Bookstore with help from Student Activities.

Have students’ goals and plans changed over the years? Not as much.

Betsy Pajauis, a transfer advisor in the Department of Counseling and Career Services, was a student here in 1968 and started working at the College in 1971.

“The transfer picture has held consistent for the past 35 plus years,” she says. “In any given graduating class, half will transfer to a four-year school immediately after graduation – 30 percent full time; 20 percent part time. About 75 percent of those transferring will stay in state and go to a public college or university while about 10 percent will go to a private school in New Jersey. The rest will be scattered throughout the nation. Some travel very far.” Receiving schools have included Stanford University, NYU and Columbia.

As for popular majors, she’s seen trends come and go.

In the 1970s, engineering and the technologies were the majors to be in. In the 1980s, business and social work were very popular majors; the mid 80s through the 1990s saw computer science take off. And more recently, education and the health professions, two fields with perceived economic stability, exploded in popularity, while business has held strong. Computer science, which fell after the dot.com bubble burst, is beginning to make a comeback.

Ms. Pajauis advises students to study what they enjoy because their choice of major matters less than how they do.

“No matter what your major is, employers care first about your grades,” she said. “They care less about what you studied; they just want to know you excelled.”

“There is very little time anymore for training or orientation. Today, whether seeking employment or transfer for a bachelor’s degree, the demonstrated ability to learn quickly and well is what will ultimately provide the next opportunity.”



Fifty-seven people were checked for oral cancer at a free screening held at the College dental clinic in April. Oral cancer is often curable if caught early, but it can be fatal if not diagnosed in time. Here, Minal Sampat is examined by Constantine Simos, an oral surgeon from New Brunswick.





Thirty-three students from the College joined dozens of other volunteers at Laurence Harbor Waterfront Park in April to clean the beach. The program was run by Clean Ocean Action, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of marine waters off the New Jersey and New York coasts. The students were in Professor Claire Condie's geology and oceanography classes. Aiding in the cleanup effort were, above from left, William Ricketts, Emily Zaniewski and Alex Hartelust. At right are Kimberly Soltys and Cassandra Murray.



## Alumnus Named Cooperative Education Student of the Year

Nick Tancredi, who graduated in May, was named the Outstanding Co-Op/Internship Student of the Year for a two-year school. The award was presented at the New Jersey Cooperative Education and Internships Association awards program in June at the New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark.

"Nick takes his job so seriously and has an incredible work ethic that it makes him an amazing employee," said Barbara Raido, the cooperative education coordinator at Middlesex. "He's always trying to learn something new."

Mr. Tancredi interned at Home Essentials & Beyond doing product photography, which is where he has been working since June of 2010; his co-op was from January to May of 2011.

"Nick is a great guy, a skilled worker, and overall a great addition to Home Essentials & Beyond," said David Mercado, the company's art director. "Though I have been at this job for seven years, he teaches me things on a daily basis that increase my skills and abilities in dealing with photos and editing programs."

Mr. Tancredi was in Project Connections, a program at the College that helps bring out the potential of college-able students with learning disabilities. He has been a student leader in Project Connections since the spring of 2008, and he was

president of Advocates for Students with Learning Differences, which, among other projects, organized fundraisers for veterans' groups and for other organizations.



Nick Tancredi '11 with Barbara Raido at the awards ceremony.

# ALUMNI Update



## Delicious!

The College's Alumni Association conquered appetites during its third food tasting. Called "An Evening of Good Taste for the Educated Palate," the event raised \$3700 for the association's scholarship fund. Above, Mike Noordzy (left) enjoys a sample of food from Akbar Restaurant, served by Shlok Bakhtrani. Above right, Russ Baker is served by Chef Ken Lawlor from McDonagh's Pub in Keyport.



## Express Yourself: College to Hold Writers' Workshop

A writers' workshop open to the public will be held at the College on Friday, August 5. The program mixes sessions on writing skills with practical tips on selling what you have written. There is also a spoken word/essay contest; the winner will receive \$100.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to spend the day with published writers and learn their secrets," said Professor Melissa Edwards, who is coordinating the program. "We'll have sessions on a host of subjects all designed to improve your writing. It promises to be an excellent program – and very valuable for writers and aspiring writers. This is the third workshop; the first two were very well received."

Public school teachers may earn five Professional Development Credits at the workshop.

The program will run from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Lunch is provided.

"Express Yourself" is being offered as a fundraiser to support the publication of the Middlesex County College literary journal. The registration fee is \$75 (same day registration is \$80); of that, \$60 is considered a contribution for tax purposes.

To enroll, please visit [www.middlesexcc.edu/express](http://www.middlesexcc.edu/express), e-mail [lfriedman@middlesexcc.edu](mailto:lfriedman@middlesexcc.edu) or call 732-906-4250.



Yuen Shan Yuen, left, and Heather Ramstedt flank Alumni President William Egbert III '04 as he presents the Alumni Association Scholarship awards. Ms. Yuen, a Liberal Arts/Business major, received a \$750 scholarship and Ms. Ramstedt, a Nursing student, was awarded a \$500 scholarship. This is the first time the Alumni Association presented two scholarships. They were awarded at the Association's annual dinner meeting in June.



# Artist Named Alumnus of the Year

Richmond Garrick, a graphic design teacher at Williamstown High School in Monroe Township, has been named Alumnus of the Year at the College.

Mr. Garrick, a member of the class of 1995, teaches his students the importance of visual arts. He has won several awards, including the Lajos Markos Art Foundation Scholarship for representational art, the Dean John I. Bettenbender Memorial Performance Award, which honors artists for outstanding graduate artistic achievement, and the Montclair State University School of the Arts Advisory Board Talent Award. Mr. Garrick has presented numerous art exhibits in the New York-New Jersey area and in the United Kingdom and has appeared in various publications including the “Star Ledger,” the “Philadelphia Tribune,” and the alumni magazines of Middlesex County College and Rutgers University.

Mr. Garrick has contributed to the Middlesex Alumni Art Exhibit and has been a member of the adjunct faculty in the Department of Visual, Performing and Media Arts. He graduated with high honors from Middlesex and received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Montclair State University and a Master of Fine Arts from the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University.

Mr. Garrick’s artwork is inspirational. He lectures to various student and other groups, explaining the conditions in his homeland of Sierra Leone and the civil unrest that took place and how painting was a means to represent his dismay on canvas. He says he hopes to continue to use his art to bring awareness of his homeland to a wider audience.

He received the award during Celebration Day, which also honored MCC faculty and staff. Forty-four employees were recognized for achieving milestone anniversaries, and four received Outstanding Service to the College awards.

Professor Susan Shulman was presented the Outstanding Service to the College Award for faculty. She has been a very dedicated faculty member and has worked for nearly 30 years as coordinator of the Basic Math program. Professor Shulman helped develop the new Johnson Commons Learning Center, which serves thousands of students each semester. She also mentors adjunct faculty.

Patricia Palanker, senior laboratory coordinator in the Biology department, received the Outstanding Service to the College Award for staff. Ms. Palanker’s dedication is heralded by faculty members of the Biology department. Every semester she conducts workshops for new adjuncts in the department to aid them in understanding the protocols and acclimating them to the labs, and she helped establish the new Biotechnology lab.

Virgil Blanco, chairperson of the Department of ESL/Languages and Culture Department, was presented the Outstanding Service to the College Award for administrators. Professor Blanco was cited for his character, listening skills and sincerity in his work with faculty, staff and students. His



Richmond Garrick '95, center, is flanked by William Egbert III '04, president of the Alumni Association, and College President Joann La Perla-Morales.

interests cross the disciplines of the arts and sciences, languages and cultures, education and business.

Caroline Marchitto of the Accounting, Business and Legal Studies Department was unable to attend, but she was announced as the recipient of the Outstanding Service Award for adjunct faculty.

Professor Marchitto serves as the chair for the Council for Adjunct Faculty Development of which she has been active for 18 years. She participates in all of its activities to welcome, inform and provide professional development opportunities for part-time faculty members. She does this in addition to teaching her paralegal classes and managing her work as a lawyer.

## Alum Is Senior of the Year at Engineering College

Walter Vittitoe '09 was named Senior of the Year by the Newark College of Engineering, which is a division of NJIT.

He was also named Outstanding Senior in his major, Mechanical Engineering Technology.

Mr. Vittitoe, 28, worked as a machinist before starting NJIT.

“Walter was a hard working student, committed to completing all his assignments in an exceptional manner,” said Middlesex Professor Craig Stickler. “He had been out in the work world for several years and decided that he wanted to go further than his high school diploma was going to take him. He believes strongly in the traditional values of honesty and hard work.”

After graduation, Mr. Vittitoe hopes to work in the field of robotics.

He is the second Middlesex graduate in three years to earn Senior of the Year honors from NJIT. Owen Fitzgerald '06 won this award in 2008.

A L U M N I P R O F I L E

# FINDING HIS FOCUS





# The most amazing thing about David Brogan is not how far he's gotten, it's how far he's come.

Today, Mr. Brogan '93 is the first vice president of Economic Development and Taxation for the New Jersey Business and Industry Association, rubbing elbows with governors, state legislators, chief executive officers of major corporations and other community leaders. The NJBIA represents more than 21,000 businesses in New Jersey, "from the mom and pop store to Fortune 100 companies," he says. The 1.3 million employees under its umbrella make it the largest employer-representative association in the nation.

No doubt his classmates from Metuchen High School would be amazed if they could see him now. Back then, he was adrift, with no real plans, no real goals.

In fact, he dropped out of high school, and, seeking some direction, joined the Navy. There, he got a little more focused, getting his GED and serving as an anti-submarine warfare operator and a rescue swimmer. He served in the Persian Gulf for a while, which was not his favorite assignment: "I think the first day I got there the temperature was 120 degrees," he said. But all in all, things were looking up.

Mr. Brogan left the Navy in 1989, took a few classes at a community college in San Diego, and then returned to New Jersey. Still a little adrift, but better.

He started working at the Frog and the Peach and later Stage Left, two upscale restaurants in New Brunswick, and he took classes at Middlesex County College.

"I think Middlesex really helped me in several ways," he said. "It was an excellent education and it was affordable. It really gave me a good base and it had flexible scheduling so I could work and go to school at the same time. It worked out perfectly for me. I was able to transfer to Rutgers College, and when I got there, I was prepared."

While at Rutgers, Mr. Brogan took an internship with the New Jersey Senate Republican Office, and that's where the drifting stopped. This was what he was meant to do.

"I found my focus," he said.

Mr. Brogan graduated from Rutgers, worked in the brokerage industry for a time, but didn't find that fulfilling. He returned to the Senate Republican Office and staffed the Senate Environment Committee, Community and Urban Affairs Committee, Transportation Committee, and the State Government and Financial Institutions Committee. He is most proud of his work on the Brownfield Act of 1997,

which provided substantial incentives for the cleanup of abandoned and decaying contaminated properties in New Jersey.

But in 2003, with the Democrats controlling the Governor's Office and the Assembly, and a 20-20 split in the Senate, Mr. Brogan decided a return to the private sector was in order. He worked as a contract lobbyist for a couple of years before joining NJBIA in 2005.

The New Jersey Business and Industry Association provides information and services for its members, but it is also known as the premier lobbying association for business. "We take positions on bills and regulations that will have the greatest benefit for the largest number of our members," he said. "We advocate for the best interest of business."

He staffed Governor Chris Christie's transition team for the Department of Environmental Protection and, with the input of the 16-member group, co-authored the report that many believe has been used as a blueprint for change at the department by the commissioner, Bob Martin. Mr. Brogan says he always tries to strike a balance between environmental concerns and the needs of businesses.

"Look, no one is suggesting that there is no need for environmental regulation," he says. "Businesses understand the need for regulation, especially in New Jersey. But regulations should be clear, consistent and reasonable."

Changing the tax code is also a goal of the NJBIA; Mr. Brogan argues for "systemic tax reform." He says excessive taxation impairs the business climate, pointing to a survey by "Chief Executive" magazine that places New Jersey's business environment at 47th place in the nation.

"I think both Republicans and Democrats recognize that more needs to be done to help businesses in this state," he said.

And so does he. Mr. Brogan volunteers as executive director of NEW JOBS (New Jersey Organization for a Better State), a Political Action Committee that supports pro-business candidates of either party.

While Mr. Brogan is known as a Republican, he has cultivated relationships with people in both parties.

"The backbone of lobbying is relationships, and the more friends you can make, the more valuable you are," he said. "I strive to do that every day."

**From high school dropout to statewide vice president**

# FOUNDATION Message



## 29th Annual Scholarship Golf Classic

Fifty golfers enjoyed a beautiful day on the links at the Foundation's golf outing in June. Approximately \$33,000 was raised through this event; net proceeds will support the Foundation's mission to assist a growing number of MCC students to fulfill their educational and career dreams. Loyal friends of the Foundation, Elizabeth and Paige B.

L'Hommedieu, were the Dinner Underwriters, and Eagle Sponsors were Investors Savings Bank, Summit Associates and Universal Mailing Service, Inc., along with many other sponsors and underwriters. Foundation Board members and members of the College community participated on the Golf Committee, which was chaired by Foundation Board member James Sausmer.

## New Foundation Scholarships Offered

During the 2010-2011 academic year, named endowed and annual scholarships provided awards of more than \$310,000 to deserving MCC students. Because of the generosity of individuals and corporations, several new scholarships were offered this year:

The Dr. Diane Z. Wilhelm Memorial Annual Scholarship was established in 2010 by MCC professors in memory of their former coworker, Dr. Wilhelm, who taught at MCC from 1967 until her retirement in 2007. Her teaching and scholarly interests were diverse, specializing in anthropology and sociology. The award was given to a second-year student majoring in Liberal Arts/Sociology with a 3.5 grade point average or higher.

The Joaquin Rosa, Sr. Memorial Scholarship was established by Mr. Rosa's daughter, Evelyn Rosa, director of the College's New Brunswick Center. This scholarship honors the memory of Joaquin Rosa, who was beloved by his family and friends for his community service, his civic engagement, and

his positive attitude regardless of life's challenges. The scholarship recognizes Latino students who live in New Brunswick or Perth Amboy and volunteer in nonprofit organizations that encourage civic engagement and social justice for immigrant communities.

The Mary Braun Memorial Scholarship was established by Mary Braun's grandson, Keith Mullane, and her family and friends. Mrs. Braun was a hard working Hungarian immigrant who made her home in South Amboy. This scholarship provides a lasting tribute to Mrs. Braun and establishes a legacy of assisting students who strive to improve their lives through education.

The Robert Sydney Needham Memorial Scholarship is an exceptionally generous scholarship of \$5,000, which was awarded to one deserving MCC student who was a full-time, second-year student who qualified for financial aid, had a 3.0 grade point average and who was an active volunteer.





### Everyone's a Winner!

A fun-filled and spirited Casino Night was held in April as the Foundation welcomed 100 guests to a night of risk-free gambling fun. Guests played casino games and received tickets for winning that they placed in a raffle for great prizes at the end of the night. All the tables were packed, but the blackjack and craps tables were standing room only. Sponsors of this event included Investors Savings Bank, Summit Associates, Colleen and Michael A. Maroney, Jr., Linda and Micky Landis, Affinity Federal Credit Union, Northfield Bank, and Wells Fargo. The Foundation is thankful for the energetic committee, chaired by Board member Jean Battaglia, that included alumni, members of the campus community and the Foundation Board.



## Student Callers Assist with First In-House Phonathon

Thanks to dedicated MCC students who volunteered their time, the Foundation raised more than \$11,000 during the first phonathon handled by the MCC community. Student callers talked with friends, alumni, and current and past members of the campus community. The student callers were eager to hear about the experiences of alumni and retirees and the MCC Foundation supporters. Some great connections were made during this first phonathon.

For instance, student caller Darlene Gillett began a conversation with Frank Chambers, the first president of the College. She had a 20-minute conversation with Dr. Chambers about her transition back to college and being a recipient of the Foundation's Blaha Battaglia Family and NJ Association of Women Business Owners Scholarships and

what that meant to her. Ms. Gillett informed Dr. Chambers about all of her wonderful experiences at MCC and the Foundation. Dr. Chambers also spoke of his many great years at MCC and wished Ms. Gillett success in her nursing career.

Student caller Shanza Arooj raised the most pledges during a five-month period. She is a recipient of the Women's Rehabilitation Group of NJ Award through the Foundation.

"This has been a great experience speaking to the individuals who make it possible for students to receive scholarships and continue their education," Ms. Arooj said.

The Foundation is grateful to the donors who generously made pledges, and to the student volunteers who unselfishly gave of their valuable time to make this first phonathon a success.



# SPORTS *Report*

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Samantha Mundy



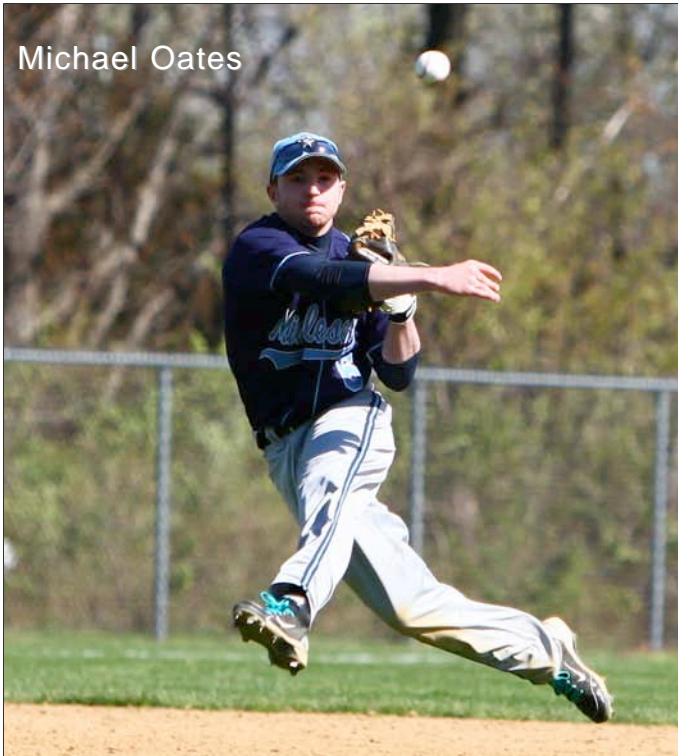
Amanda Sitren



Fleur de-liz Martinez



Michael Oates



### Spring Sports Wrap-up

**Baseball** had a great season, winning the first round of the playoffs and advancing to the final four, taking the first game against Bergen before dropping two. The team saw three players named to the All Region XIX team: Matt Horican, Matt Cesare and Bruce Monro.

**Softball** finished sixth in the region and qualified for the regional tournament. The team would eventually lose the deciding game of a best of three series to Sussex, 2-1. Three players were named All-Region: Melissa Weinstein, Morgan Widener and Kristen Mickley. The latter was also named to the All-America team.

The **Golf** Team started off slowly this season but improved as the year progressed. They had four players qualify for the regional tournament.

**Track and Field** had 13 athletes qualify for the national tournament.



Brandon Cuomo



Yoshinori Machida



### Coach Wins 300th Game

Baseball coach Mike Lepore coached his 300th collegiate win on March 19 as Middlesex swept a doubleheader against Cumberland. The second game, a 9-8 victory, was his 300th career collegiate win (all at Middlesex). The team won 7-2 in the first game. Before coaching at Middlesex, he was a high school coach and won around 300 games there as well.



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*Professor Susan Altman (left) admires the work of Leah Mosher at the Visual Arts Student Exhibition. The display consisted of work from those taking fine art classes at the College.*

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