

Ode Hoppie teaching “Step to Lead,” step dancing and how it relates to leadership. This was the first of three leadership programs this semester.



Leadership Workshop Provides a Powerful Lesson – and Some Fun

Forget solar, gas or electric – the most powerful form of energy was on display in the MCC College Center in March as 50 students from all over the campus participated in a leadership workshop. They were excited, energetic and dynamic.

Called the Joint Leadership Collaborative, the program is designed to develop leadership skills among students, and to help them learn that no matter what level they are in an organization, they can be leaders.

“It started with discussions with Student Activities and the First Year Experience staff,” said Kasey Drennen, assistant director of Student Activities. “We realized that a lot of departments are training students. We thought ‘why not pool our resources?’ We applied for and got a Retail Services grant and collaboratively developed the program.”

Departments involved in the planning were Democracy House,

Counseling and Career Services, History and Social Science, Admissions, the Center for Veterans Services and the Blue Colt Bookstore. Students who work in those departments participated in the workshop, and their feedback will be used to refine the program.

The first session introduced the concept of leadership and included discussion, team-building exercises, and a workshop called Step to Lead, organized by Ode Hoppie, assistant director of Student Activities. He had all 50 students – and staff – step dancing as he related it to leadership.

“He takes the concepts of stepping – a bunch of individuals who are doing different things working together to create one voice,” Mr. Drennen said. “It illustrates the concept of leadership perfectly, plus it is a lot of fun.”

Student Chelsea Ramschaler enjoyed the program, and felt she learned a lot.

“We learned about leaders and what

qualities they exhibit,” she said. “It taught us about how to be a leader and to make things better.”

The next workshop, on April 5, will cover customer service and leaders as communicators, and the final one this semester, on April 26, covers knowledge of MCC and the role of leaders in the community.

“We are planning to continue these programs in the future,” Mr. Drennen said. “I think they are very valuable in developing students’ potential.”

Join Us!

Express Yourself: The Tri-State Writers’ Workshop will be held Saturday, April 27 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Crabiell Hall.

Learn the secrets of great writing from MCC professors and other published authors. Visit www.middlesexcc.edu/express for details.

An Evening of Great Taste to Benefit Scholarship Fund

Restaurants from all over the area will be offering samples of their best dishes at the Middlesex County College Alumni Association food tasting on Wednesday, April 10. The event, which will run from 6:30-8:30 p.m., is a fundraiser for the association's scholarship fund.

"We anticipate about 25 high-quality restaurants will set up tables in the College Center and offer small samples of their best items," said Doug Wilson, member of the Alumni Association's Board of Trustees. "The public is

invited to visit each and see what they have to offer. We expect to have diverse types of restaurants participating in this program, which is called "An Evening of Good Taste for the Educated Palate."

The cost is \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door, and Middlesex County College students are \$20. Children under 12 are free with the purchase of an adult ticket. The proceeds go toward the Alumni Association's scholarship fund.

Tickets may be purchased online

at www.middlesexcc.edu/taste or by calling 732-906-7732.

Restaurants that have registered for the event include Akbar, Ay Louie, Bahama Breeze, Blue Moon, Crescent Beverage, Crowne Plaza —Christie's Steakhouse, Culinary Classics/Ryan's Pub, Cutting Board Caterers, Dove Chocolate, Edible Arrangements, Edison Job Corps, La Tavola Cucina Ristorante, Little Spain, MCC Hotel, Culinary and Dietetics Department, Novita Bistro & Lounge, Pines Manor, Rainforest Café, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, Romano's Macaroni Grill, Sam's Club, Soul by the Pound, Soul Kitchen, Sunshine Subs & Grill, The Coffee House, The Rosewood, Thumbs Up Chinese Restaurant, Villa Borghese and Wegman's Food Markets.



Great area restaurants – plus great MCC culinary students – will offer their best dishes at the Alumni Association's fundraiser, "An Evening of Good Taste for the Educated Palate."

THIS MONTH AT MIDDLESEX

"This Month at Middlesex" is a publication of Middlesex County College
2600 Woodbridge Ave., Edison, NJ 08837

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Notables

Shirley Wachtel, professor of English, read from her book, "My Mother's Shoes," at Catawba Valley Community College in Hickory, North Carolina over spring break. Nearly 600 students in at Catawba are reading the book and she spoke to more than 500 during her presentations. She toured the school's Holocaust Center and viewed projects by students concerning the book and the Holocaust.

Published in 2011, "My Mother's Shoes" recounts the poignant story of the author's mother, a Holocaust survivor, and the challenges she had to face in her homeland and later as a wife and mother living in the United States.

Dr. Wachtel also authored the young adult novel "The Story of Blima: A Holocaust Survivor," a volume of poetry, a number of interactive mystery books for children, essays that have appeared in The New York Times and poems published in "Middlesex: A Literary Journal." Her literary works have received numerous awards from Writers Digest, The New Jersey Library Association, The Newark Public Library and Townsend Press.

Prof Translates Masterpiece; Meets a Fan of Italian Literature

Santi Buscemi, professor of English, has translated a second book by Luigi Capuana, “The Marquis of Roccaverdina” (1903).

“In my view it is his masterpiece,” Professor Buscemi said. “It is the story of a wealthy marquis in Sicily in the late 19th century. He has an affair with a servant woman with whom he is madly in love, but he is convinced by his family that he cannot marry her because of their class differences. He comes up with an idea to have the foreman of his estate marry her, but they have to live together as brother and sister – not as husband and wife.

“This does not turn out well,” Professor Buscemi says with a smile.

Indeed. Marchese suspects that the foreman does not live up to the agreement, so he kills the man.

These events precede the novel, which exposes the Marquis’ jealousy and guilt.

“He now lives with remorse and pain,” Professor Buscemi said. “It is an incredible work, lyrical, involving and introspective.”

This is the second book of Capuana (1839-1915) that Professor Buscemi has translated. The first was “C’era una volta,” a collection of fairy tales under the English title “Sicilian Tales.” Both were published by Dante University Press.

“Capuana is the father of Italian naturalism, even though he disavowed

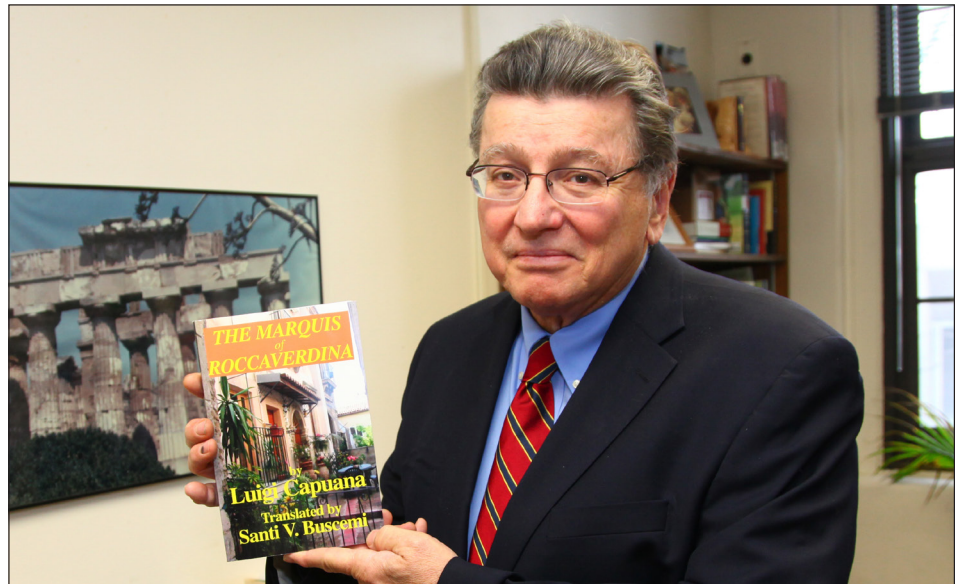
that title as he got older,” Buscemi said. “Naturalists believe we have little free will; that outside forces such as biology, heredity, economics, politics and social standing control our behavior.

“In some ways this book relates to that,” he said. “But it also reflects Capuana’s belief in human psychology as a motivating factor, and he does a masterful job of depicting the agony of a human soul.”

He sent his first book to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, who replied that his father had done significant research on Capuana, and he invited Professor Buscemi and his wife Elaine to visit him at the court. The trip was March 14.

“He was so gracious and so kind to us,” Professor Buscemi said. “He was unbelievably amiable. It was like sitting with your neighbor and having a cup of coffee. He had sent me a copy of his father’s dissertation and the first thing he asked was ‘Did it help?’ I told him it did, very much. His father had a dry sense of humor and poked fun at Capuana and other authors of his era. Justice Scalia told me ‘You’d have loved to meet my father.’

“At one point, he turned to Elaine and said, ‘What do you think about the new pope?’ and we talked a little bit about politics. It was a great visit. He was very friendly and warm.”



Santi Buscemi with his translation of Luigi Capuana’s “The Marquis of Roccaverdina.”



The College’s 43rd scholarship gala mixed formal with fun as “We Set the Trends,” the MCC fashion club, entertained. The event focused on the city of New Brunswick as it honored Mayor James Cahill, a 1972 graduate of MCC; Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital; and New Brunswick Tomorrow, a nonprofit that promotes self-sufficiency and economic upward mobility among low-income youth and families. More than \$100,000 was raised to support the Foundation’s mission to help students’ education.



Dance It Up!

The MCC Dance Ensemble will perform its Spring Concert Friday and Saturday, April 26 and 27 at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center. Free admission, but there is a requested donation of \$5.



The men's and women's basketball teams recently held a clinic for the New Jersey Hawks, an athletic program for young adults with developmental disabilities. The MCC teams taught dribbling, passing and shooting skills and then ran a scrimmage. Here, MCC's C.J. Gray, right, works with Ben Heitmeyer on his shooting skills.



As part of its celebration of Black History Month in February, MCC welcomed Larry Hogan, the nation's foremost expert on African-American baseball before Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier, as well as former player Pedro Sierra. Dr. Hogan spoke on a wide range of topics and showed a video of former players talking about Pop Lloyd, possibly the greatest baseball player in history, black or white. Mr. Sierra told stories from his playing days and they both answered questions about the game. From left: Mr. Sierra; Jay Ziznewski, former chair of the nominating committee of the New Jersey Sports Hall of Fame and a member of the Middlesex County College Foundation advisory board; MCC student Amery Thompson; and Dr. Hogan.