

Vice President Hays Named Central Jersey Woman of the Year

Karen Hays, vice president for academic and student affairs at Middlesex County College, was named Woman of the Year at the Central Jersey Women in Business Dinner November 9.

The Women in Business Awards, sponsored by Magic 98.3/Greater Media, honored 10 central Jersey women in areas such as Mentor of the Year, Woman in the Workplace, New Business, Contribution to the Community, and Rising Star, in addition to the Woman of the Year honor.

Dr. Hays joined Middlesex County College in 2005 and has had a profound impact on the growth and success of the College. She oversees four divisions and 46 departments, and played a leadership role in developing

The program honored successful Central Jersey women who are making a difference in their community.

15 new degree and certificate programs, including the nursing program, which is in collaboration with Raritan Bay Medical Center. She was also integral in the creation of the Biotechnology program, which now includes a state-of-the-art biotechnology lab. She led efforts to examine and adjust the College's general education program to align it with statewide goals. She

initiated a reorganization of both the academic and student services areas.

Dr. Hays led the development of the College's Honors Program; the CARE Center, which assists adults returning to college; the Learning Center, which provides a centralized location for tutoring students and providing support services in developmental English, reading and math; and the new Student Government Association. She initiated and developed the First Year Experience office, which provides

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Dance Ensemble to Perform Dec. 2 & 3

The College Dance Ensemble will present its 11th annual fall dance concert entitled "Moving Canvas" on Friday and Saturday, December 2 and 3. Both performances will be held in the Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m. and are free.

"The College's dance company is modern-dance based, and each dance piece is inspired by a painting," said Professor Aimee Mitacchione, the ensemble director. "Our dancers range from advanced professionals in the dance field to absolute beginners. The MCC Dance Program prides itself on providing opportunities to a diverse group of people. We all work together to provide a professional concert that will be enjoyable and extremely enriching."



Phi Theta Kappa organized a walkathon on campus to support the Susan G. Komen Foundation, the world's largest network of breast cancer survivors and activists fighting to save lives, empower people, ensure quality care for all and energize science to find the cures. Phi Theta Kappa raised around \$1150 for the charity.

MCC Profs Deliver Address at Reading and Learning Conference

Dr. Shirley Wachtel and Professor Helena Swanicke of the English Department, and Dr. Iris Ramer of the English as a Second Language (ESL) Department, presented “The Reading/ESL Learning Community—Partners for Student Success,” a discussion of a proposed learning community which merges basic ESL strategies and expansive readings and methodology

using popular culture to promote achievement.

The presentation was at the 44th Annual CRLA (College Reading & Learning Association) Conference held in San Diego in November.

Using textbooks they had written, “Spotlight on Reading” (Dr. Wachtel/Professor Swanicke) and “Read Now” (Dr. Ramer), they reviewed a sample

syllabus that employs specific reading strategies and related topics in reading for ESL and reading classes. They also supplied data highlighting the success in reading classes using their approach, and stressed collaboration between participating professors.

The round table format was particularly conducive to the presentation since the audience, which was from New York, Texas, Minnesota, Iowa, and other states, showed a keen interest in the ideas, and participation remained high. This presentation also validated their approach in the classroom.

The theme of this year’s conference was “Hands Across the Curriculum: Partnerships for College Success,” and indeed the conference provided a forum for innovative and collaborative teaching methods from educators throughout the country.

The program included an address by the keynote speaker, Dr. Francisco Reveles of Cal State Sacramento. Dr. Reveles employed humor and photography in a dynamic and inspirational presentation detailing his rise from humble beginnings where he endured racial discrimination to a respected professional educator and role model. He described the unusual methods he used to motivate students. These methods included teaching from the back of the room, occupied by most students (“when you sit in the back of the room, your family, your culture sits there with you”), and even paying one student who had been taunted earlier for coming forward as a volunteer. Dr. Reveles stressed the idea that siblings who watch out for each other’s lives have an obligation to help each other with their studies.

According to Dr. Reveles, failure should never be an option.

The program concluded with a publishers’ exhibit. Dr. Wachtel and other authors participated in a book signing.



Dr. Shirley Wachtel participated in a book signing at the conference.

THIS MONTH AT MIDDLESEX

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The New Jersey Section of the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) presented "The Safety Professionals Handbook," a two volume set, to the College Library. The society also awards several scholarships to MCC students and sponsors their attendance at local dinner meetings, where the students can benefit from the presentations and also network with professionals. From left: Frank Gesualdo, area director of ASSE; Mark Thompson, Library director; Alex Ruiz, ASSE past president; Professor Gail Becker; Diane Trainor, chairperson of Natural Sciences; and Charles Dolan, librarian.

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a revamped and more personalized orientation process for new students. She also developed the Summer Bridge Program, which allows students whose test scores indicate they need to take remedial classes in the fall to take an intensive summer program, that, if passed, permits them to go directly into credit classes.

One major initiative that Dr. Hays spearheaded was the Assessment program. This requires academic and service areas to examine what they are doing and how it is benefiting students. She has presented workshops on assessment at professional conferences.

Prior to joining Middlesex, Dr. Hays worked as a faculty member and administrator at Miami Dade College in Florida.

She holds a doctorate from the University of Texas at Austin where she was a W.K. Kellogg Leadership Fellow. She also has an Associate's Degree from Miami Dade College, a Bachelor's from the University of Florida, and a Master's Degree from Florida Atlantic University.



Dr. Karen Hays with Dan Henrickson, general manager of Greater Media, which sponsored the Women in Business Program.

The MCC women's basketball team beat Passaic County Community College 93-71 and is now 3-2 (3-1 in the Garden State Conference). Here Amanda Thompson looks to shoot.



The College community celebrated the opening of “Reframe: New Compositions for Old and Found,” an art exhibition in which four internationally known artists incorporate items they have found into their work. The exhibit is open weekdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Studio Theatre Gallery through December 15. Here, artist Karen Guancione (right) talks about her work with MCC student Linnaea Serzan. Ms. Guancione created the books from discarded objects. She creates interdisciplinary works – often integrating mixed media constructions, handmade books, sculpture using household objects, printmaking, and dance elements to focus on women’s work and ethnicity, as well as issues of identity and class.