

Scholarship Gala Honors Three: An Evening of Magic

“The Magic of Middlesex Scholarship Gala” will be held Saturday March 3, an evening that will include a performance by illusionist David Garrity, delicious food and drink, and tributes to a local corporation and two distinguished individuals.

“It’s going to be a wonderful evening and a fun event honoring advocates of the College, all to support the success of students at Middlesex County College,” said Patrick Madama, vice president for institutional advancement.

The program will be in the College Center and will run from 6 to 9 p.m. Tickets at \$295 are available by calling 732-906-2564.

The corporate honoree is Wells

Fargo, the alumna of the year is Joanne Fillweber and Professor Xenia Balabkins will receive the Spirit of Middlesex award.

Wells Fargo & Company is a diversified financial services corporation providing banking, insurance, investments, mortgage, and consumer and commercial finance.

“We’re very happy to have Wells Fargo as our corporate honoree,” Madama said. “They have been a true friend and very supportive of the College for years.”

A 1982 graduate of Middlesex County College, Joanne Fillweber is in the Corporate Contributions Department at Johnson & Johnson

where she is responsible for implementation and strategic direction of philanthropic leadership and management programs in the United States that contribute to building health care capacity globally.

“Johnson & Johnson has been a wonderful supporter of the College for a very long time,” Madama said. “Joanne takes a special interest in assuring that her alma mater helps students interested in health careers. We are very proud of Joanne’s success.”

Professor Xenia Balabkins has taught in the Accounting, Business and Legal Studies Department since 1985.

“Xenia has been an avid supporter of the Middlesex County College Foundation, serving on the Scholarship Golf Committee and helping to attract support from other organizations as well,” Madama said.

David Garrity will perform his fast-paced brand of magic that mixes comedy with illusion. He will also perform strolling magic during the cocktail and dining party.

In keeping with the theme of the evening, Middlesex alumnus Alex Perricone ’11 will also perform. Last spring, Perricone, who goes by the nickname “Cardman,” created Card City, a spectacular display of card stacking. He takes thousands of normal playing cards and stacks them, making 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.



An art exhibit, titled “Self: Scape,” will be displayed in the Studio Theatre Art Gallery until March 8. At a reception for the artists, from left, Sharyn Haney and Louise McCoy chat with the artist Ron Moultrie Saunders.

Camp Middlesex Means Summer Fun for Kids

Twenty new camp programs have been added to Camp Middlesex for the summer of 2012. The camp, located on the College campus, is for kids 6 to 18 years old. It runs from June 25-August 17.

An open house, at which prospective campers and their parents can meet staff, learn about all the programs and register, will be Sunday, March 4 from 1-4 p.m. in Billy Johnson Hall. A raffle will be held for a \$100 gift certificate toward camp.

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 many 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 Movie Maker, TV and Screen Acting, Forensics, Boys Rock, Comedy Camp, A Sample of 5 Languages in 5 Days, Tie Dye, Making Your First 3D Video, and Angels, Ghosts and Goblins, among others.

For a brochure that details all the camps, or for more information, call 732-906-2556 or visit www.middlesexcc.edu/camp.

English Prof Awarded Playwriting Grant

Middlesex Professor Benjamin Marshall was recently awarded a \$10,000 grant from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

At a public meeting, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts announced the award of 2012 Individual Artist Fellowship grants to 22 New Jersey artists selected from more than 300

applicants in the categories of crafts, sculpture, photography, playwriting and poetry. These highly competitive grants are based on independent reviews of



work samples submitted and the anonymous process is focused solely on artistic quality. The grants help artists to produce new work and advance their careers and their impact on society.

"I love to use language to tell stories and to hide stories," he says. "People reveal things when they talk and also when they are silent."

Professor Marshall says teaching is like being on stage.

"I always try to engage my students in some ways, so I'm always asking questions. Sometimes they don't like that – they'd rather be lectured to – but I find it helps them learn when they are challenged. Especially in my English composition classes, I bombard them with a lot of material and find that something is relevant for almost everyone. What I look for is the moment when everything clicks and the student 'gets it.' That is very satisfying."

THIS MONTH AT MIDDLESEX

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Remember the MCC Open House

Sunday, March 25
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.



Quality Work from Quality Grads

Seven members of the Malouf Ford service team in North Brunswick are graduates of the Middlesex County College automotive technology program. Gerry Nucifora, the service director, says he knows MCC graduates will be qualified and do a good job. "I hire them because I trust Harry Parker, the instructor," Nucifora said. "He prepares them well, and he stays involved after they start working here to make sure they know the business. They are very qualified, have good attitudes and a passion for the work. They do a very good job." From left: Mr. Parker; John Sawyer; Adam Thompson; Mr. Nucifora; Matt Staffin, a current student interning at Malouf; Marlon Smith; Danny Sobreiro; and Thom Sabol, chair of Engineering Technologies at Middlesex County College. Not pictured: Dan Hatter and Jorge Castro.

Local Authors in Free Program of Baseball Literature

Spring training will have just started for Major League Baseball, but major league authors will be in mid-season form as Middlesex County College hosts "A Night of Baseball Readings & Writings" on March 6. The program will include four local authors discussing baseball and their books. The first pitch is at 6:30 p.m. in the Gallery, on the top floor of the College Center. Refreshments will be served and the public is invited to this free event.

Scholarship Gala

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"He's going to create a new Card City, and one of the items in the silent auction will be the privilege of knocking it down," Madama said. Perricone will also perform card magic during the function.

"There's a serious aspect of the Scholarship Gala because it allows us to honor a terrific corporation and two wonderful individuals, plus it helps in providing merit- and need-based scholarships," Madama said. "But it is also going to be a lot of fun."

"This is going to be a great evening for baseball fans and for those who are interested in history and sociology," said Mark Thompson, director of the College library. "We've lined up four very accomplished authors who will share their experiences and talk baseball. We will also have a panel discussion, which allows the audience to ask questions and interact with the authors."

Lawrence Hogan, senior professor of history at Union County College, is one of the nation's foremost experts on baseball's Negro Leagues. He is the principal author of "Shades of Glory: The Negro Leagues and the Story of African-American Baseball." Dr. Hogan's recent talks include the opening for the "History of Black Baseball at Yankee Stadium" and "Pride & Passion: The African-American Baseball Experience," a traveling exhibit organized by the National Baseball Hall of Fame and the American Library Association Public Programs Office. He will speak on "Pride & Passion: The African-American Baseball Experience."

Bill Morales, the author of "Farewell to the Last Golden Era: The Yankees, the Pirates and the 1960 Baseball Season," is a professor of history at Bergen Community College. He will speak on the founding of the New York Mets 50 years ago in "Inventing a Tradition: Casey Stengel, Gil Hodges, and the First Year of the New York Mets."

Gene Racz and Frank Russo have written "Bury My Heart at Cooperstown: Salacious, Sad, and Surreal Deaths in the History of Baseball," a volume of stories on the many unusual ways the early baseball players died. The two writers investigated and compiled this volume of stories on the bizarre, hard-to-believe, and fascinating ways that some of the early ball players met their end. Mr. Racz is a staff writer of the "Home News Tribune," and Mr. Russo publishes a website, www.thedeadballera.com.

"This is a very eclectic group of very interesting authors," Mr. Thompson said. "I think it is going to make for a fascinating night, and also a lot of fun."

PINK DAY

"Pink Day," a program in which the Middlesex County College and Ocean County College basketball teams supported Breast Cancer Awareness, was held at Middlesex on February 7. 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 cancer research. 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, Gabriela Jurick, a cancer survivor and the physical education coordinator at Middlesex, officiated at a ceremonial tipoff. From left: Liz Lawler, from Ocean County College; Carey Monkowski, assistant athletic director at Middlesex; Ms. Jurick; Middlesex County College President Joann La Perla-Morales; and Cristina Jordan from Middlesex. Before the game, players from the Middlesex softball and both Middlesex and Ocean women's basketball teams learned about breast cancer awareness. From left: Ellen Strong and Donna Makris, nurse educators from St. Peter's University Hospital, speak with basketball point guard Samantha Miranda and softball player Racheal Wernoch. The Ocean women won their game 74-59; the Middlesex men took their contest 68-59.