

The Technical Services Center was re-named Billy Johnson Hall, in a ceremony that included the presentation of the L'Hommedieu Award to Betty Wold Johnson. Before the ceremony, from left, Mrs. Johnson spoke with Thomas Tighe, vice chairman of the Middlesex County College Board of Trustees; College President Joann La Perla-Morales; and Hank Bauer, secretary of the Board.



## Dual Ceremony: Johnson Family Acknowledged

A building at Middlesex County College has been named for Billy Johnson, the late great-grandson of Robert Wood Johnson, and a benefactor of education. The building, formerly the Technical Services Center, houses the Department of Engineering Technologies, classrooms, engineering labs, faculty offices, and several administrative offices.

The honor is to recognize Betty Wold Johnson family's support for Middlesex County College. In 2009, the family donated \$1 million from the Willard T. C. Johnson Foundation; half of that was issued as a challenge. The MCC Foundation had to raise \$500,000 from other donors, which was matched by the Johnson Foundation – so the effect of the gift was \$1.5 million.

Mrs. Johnson's contributions to the College have included personal gifts as

well as funding through the foundation. This support has been instrumental in allowing thousands of students to attend Middlesex.

College President Joann La Perla-Morales thanked Mrs. Johnson for her longstanding support of the College.

"In these challenging economic times, philanthropic support is needed more than ever before," Dr. La Perla-Morales said. "It is not an exaggeration to say that the Willard T.C. Johnson Foundation, under the leadership of its chairman Mrs. Betty Wold Johnson, has been our single most generous donor. The Johnson Learning Center, the Johnson Commons, the newly funded Veterans Service Center, and now Billy Johnson Hall, attest to the support the College has received over the years.

Middlesex County College boasts more than 47,000 alumni and, Mrs. Johnson,

every one of those 47,000 alumni and their families have been touched in some way by your generosity."

In addition, during the September 23 ceremony, Mrs. Johnson was named the 2011 L'Hommedieu Award winner at MCC. The award was originally scheduled to be presented in August at the Fall Convocation, but that was canceled because of Hurricane Irene.

The L'Hommedieu Award is named for Paige D. L'Hommedieu, the founding chairman of the College's Board of Trustees, a humanitarian who worked tirelessly on behalf of his fellow citizens. It is presented annually by Middlesex County College to an individual who exemplifies those characteristics. The award was presented by Thomas Tighe, vice

# Gallery Art Exhibit on Gendered Visions and Caribbean Diaspora

An art exhibition, “Disillusions: Gendered Visions of the Caribbean and its Diasporas,” will be held at the Middlesex County College Studio Theatre Gallery from September 27

to November 8. The gallery is open weekdays from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The program is in cooperation with Rutgers University.

“This exhibition brings together

work of women artists from the Caribbean and its diasporas that addresses themes related to gender,” said Tatiana Flores, assistant professor of Art History and Latino & Hispanic Caribbean Studies at Rutgers, who is curating the exhibit. “It defines the Caribbean as an expansive space that is not limited by national borders or island geographies.”

Artists include: María Elena Alvarez (Venezuela), Nicole Awai (Trinidad), Firelei Báez (Dominican Republic), Holly Bynoe (St. Vincent and the Grenadines), Melissa A. Calderón (U.S.A./Puerto Rico), Vladimir Cybil Charlier (Haiti), Asha Ganpat (U.S.A./Trinidad), Jessica Lagunas (Guatemala), Rejin Leys (U.S.A./Haiti), Sofía Maldonado (Puerto Rico), Ana Patricia Palacios (Colombia) and Sandra Stephens (Jamaica).

Their work encompass a variety of media: painting, video, performance, photography, and mixed media.

“Grouping work by women from Anglophone, Francophone, and Spanish-speaking backgrounds, it shows how common themes emerge from the experience of gender despite regional differences,” Professor Flores said. “The exhibition title ‘Disillusions’ refers to the tendency of the work in the exhibition to shatter illusions – whether pictorial or otherwise – by engaging in formal fragmentation, embracing discontinuity, and obfuscating meaning. These artists refuse to present a world that is whole or coherent; instead they acknowledge that contemporary experience is fragmented, subjective, and often incomprehensible.”

The program is sponsored by Middlesex County College and several offices at Rutgers University.

An e-catalog will be produced that will include essays by Professor Flores and Michelle Stephens, Rutgers University associate professor of English and Latino & Hispanic Caribbean Studies, who is assisting Professor Flores with the exhibit.



## Caring for the Environment

Students taking a summer geology course built the first rain garden on campus this summer. Rain gardens are designed to soak up rain water and melted snow from roofs, walkways and roads. During a rain, the garden fills with a few inches of water and allows it to slowly filter into the ground rather than running off into the storm drains. The garden reduces the amount of stormwater being discharged directly to the waterways surrounding the College. Students in Professor Claire Condie’s Introduction to Geology class, from left: Kofi Anim-Wiafe, Salvatore Carrano, Ayaz Mahmood, and Iris Torres.

## THIS MONTH AT MIDDLESEX

“This Month at Middlesex” is a publication of Middlesex County College  
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# Professor Writes “Harvest,” a New Book of Poetry

Emanuel di Pasquale, assistant professor of English and poet-in-residence at Middlesex, recently published a new work of poetry. Entitled “Harvest,” the work consists of 41 poems that look at nature, the connection between men and women, and basic human passions. It has both a New Jersey – and Jersey shore – focus, and includes themes of fate and mortality.

“It is powerful and intense poetry, clearly and directly expressed, in a language that is of great lyrical beauty,” Professor di Pasquale says. “It evokes the work of Neruda, the ancient Chinese poets, and Aeschylus.”

Professor di Pasquale’s work has been praised by noted poets.

He “writes out of strong experience, and by insisting on accuracy, he comes out both simple and surprising,” said Richard Wilbur, who twice won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry. “He’s never decorative: there is always something human happening, and his words are close to it.”

## Johnson Family . . .

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chairman of the College board.

“It is no exaggeration to say that her philanthropy has enriched the lives of hundreds of thousands – perhaps millions – of Americans,” Mr. Tighe said.

Mrs. Johnson, who lives in Hopewell, is the widow of Robert Wood Johnson III and mother of Robert Wood Johnson IV, known as Woody, who owns the New York Jets football team.

“We are honored to have you here today to receive the L’Hommedieu Award for service to the community,” Mr. Tighe said. “Thank you for all you have done to support Middlesex County College. Your gifts have enriched the lives of countless students, and of generations yet to come.”

To celebrate the publication of “Harvest,” the College Blue Colt Bookstore will hold a reception on Wednesday, October 5 from 2-4 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

Professor di Pasquale is the College’s poet-in-residence and has written numerous poems about the College. He is also editor in chief of “Middlesex: A Literary Journal.”

Born in Sicily in 1943, he came to the United States as a teenager. His published translations include Silvio Ramat’s “Sharing a Trip; Selected

Poems,” which was winner of the Raiziss/de Palchi Fellowship. In 1998 he won the Bordighera Poetry Prize for his translation of Joe Salerno’s “Song of the Tulip Tree.” In addition, Professor Di Pasquale has published 13 books of his own poetry, the four latest being “Cartwheel to the Moon” (2003), “Europa” (2006), “Writing Anew; New and Selected Poems” (2007) and “Siciliana” (2009).

He has a new work that will be released in October: a translation of Dante’s Vita Nuova, published by Xenos books.

## Twins Enroll at Columbia University, with a Boost from Middlesex County College

They look similar, though not identical. They are both outgoing and friendly, and obviously enjoy each other’s company. For most of their lives, they’ve been inseparable. And now the twins from North Brunswick, Eugene and Vincent Dinescu, will be continuing their education together at Columbia University. Eugene has been at Columbia for a year and Vincent joined him this fall.

It was an unusual route they took. Both wanted to become doctors since they were in elementary school, but their mother’s illness caused them to miss so many classes in high school that they actually never graduated; both eventually earned a GED. But they enrolled at Middlesex County College as biology majors.

MCC was the springboard to their success.

“Middlesex was the key,” says Eugene. “It is a great environment if you want to work hard. I had great professors. Middlesex was instrumental in my success. It was the catalyst for everything. It was where it started; we’ll see where it finishes.”

While neither Vincent nor Eugene graduated from Middlesex, they were able to transfer their credits to the Ivy League school. The duo plans to

graduate from Columbia and then attend medical school and become plastic surgeons.

Vincent says, “If you do well at Middlesex, you have the opportunity to go anywhere you like.”



*Eugene (left) and Vincent Dinescu.*



### End-of-Summer Fun!

The Middlesex County College Child Care Center ended the summer with a special day of fun in August. The children enjoyed face painting, crafts, ice cream, pony rides and a petting zoo. Here, Harry Liu makes friends with a goat.

### Art Spans Generations

Marckervin Janvier, an art major at the College, admires the work of Manny Bar, who won first place in the non-professional sculpture category of the Middlesex Senior Art Contest. The exhibit, presented by the Middlesex County Department of Senior Citizens, was held in the summer and included painting, sculpture and mixed media.



### Reminder: MCC Open House

**Sunday, November 6**

**11 a.m.-1 p.m.**