

Turning Theory into Action

Service learning enriches students' educational experience and benefits the community. See page 6.

Antonio Scanziani working with kids at an after school program run by the Salvation Army in New Brunswick.

CAMPUS NEWS

College President Joann La Perla-Morales Retires

Joann La Perla-Morales, president of Middlesex County College, retired June 30, capping a 50-year career in higher education.

“Dr. La Perla-Morales has been an integral part of our growth and we wish her well in her retirement,” said Dorothy K. Power, chairman of the College Board. “On behalf of the Board and our entire community, we thank her for her many years of service to Middlesex County and its residents.”

Dr. La Perla-Morales became the sixth president of MCC in January of 2005; she was the longest-serving president in MCC’s history.

Mark Finkelstein, vice chair of the Board, said, “Middlesex County College offers a quality, affordable education for students from our county and state. Building on Dr. La Perla-Morales’ work, we are confident that our college will be more equipped than ever to carry out its mission in the years ahead.”

Among many other achievements, Dr. La Perla-Morales oversaw creation of 55 new academic programs; led efforts for Middle States Self-Study and Reaccreditation; opened three new LEED-certified buildings; led the campus 10-year Master Plan effort that qualified for state bonding money for South Hall; successfully worked to establish strategic plans every three years with numerous accomplishments; wrote the grant to establish and main-

tain the Veterans Services Center; and responded to community needs by offering college facilities during Superstorm Sandy and the James Monroe school fire.

Most notably, she kept tuition increases to less than 2 percent for more than 10 years while increasing support for student success.

“My 13 years at Middlesex have been the most professionally rewarding of my life,” she said. “To the students, faculty, administration, employees, alumni and Board of this great institution, I offer my sincere gratitude for providing me with the opportunity to lead an institution that will only grow stronger.”

Dr. La Perla-Morales served on several boards, including New Brunswick Tomorrow, Raritan Bay Medical Center, United Way, the New Jersey Community College Consortium for Workforce Development, Making It Possible to End Homelessness and the Edison Arts Society.



Joann la Perla-Morales



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In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, 150 volunteers gathered at the Somerset Academy in Bridgewater to participate in various service projects including painting a mural in the school and assembling kits to be distributed to homeless individuals on their first night in a shelter. The project, coordinated by Jersey Cares, included several students from MCC's Democracy House. At left, Daniela Campos (right) and Ariana Simon, Democracy House coordinator, work together to make a blanket to be included in a kit. Below, Romone Reid (left) and Vibhen Mahida work on their blanket. Democracy House is a volunteer-service program at MCC.



College Develops New Program in Sustainability

MCC will offer a new program in Sustainability Sciences starting in the Fall of 2018. Parag Muley of the Natural Sciences Department says this field is a critical one for the planet.

“There are two questions of what, and one question of why,” he said. “The ‘What’ questions are ‘What are some of the unique characteristics of planet earth that make life possible?’ and ‘What impact are humans having on these characteristics?’ The ‘Why’ question is ‘Why would someone knowingly impact their own life support system?’ It’s analogous to someone on a tree branch cutting that branch off behind him. Each and every aspect of civilization intersects with this idea of sustainability.”

He suggests there’s a way to address this.

“The biggest component to all this is going to be education,” he said.

While the program won’t officially start until the fall, he already taught two sections of a new course, Introduction

to Sustainability, which will be paired with two existing environmental sciences courses. Dr. Muley taught two sections of the intro course this spring, which were both at capacity. And Professor Claire Condie taught

Climatology last semester. She has also been leading students on beach cleanups for years.

The curriculum is designed to seamlessly transfer to New Jersey colleges and universities that offer environmental sciences majors.

MCC is a member of the New Jersey Higher Education Partnership

for Sustainability, which promotes education and sustainable practices at the state’s colleges and universities.

Dr. Muley said sustainability has many applications in engineering, business, political science, psychology and education, and he expects the program will expand with options in those areas.

“It’s one of the most critical issues for our future,” he said.

**An emerging field
with many
applications**

MCC Honors Three Outstanding Faculty Members

Three outstanding professors at Middlesex County College were recently honored: Iris Ramer, professor of English as a Second Language, was selected as the 2018 Faculty Scholar; Melissa Luis, of the History and Social Sciences Department, received the Excellence in Teaching Award; and Laura De Cillis, of the History and Social Sciences Department, received the Excellence in Teaching Part Time Award.

Dr. Ramer has been both an excellent teacher and distinguished scholar at MCC for over 30 years.

“We were impressed with her ongoing research related to the teaching of English as a Second Language and its impact on her students,” said Susan Altman, executive board member of MCC’s Center for the Enrichment of Learning and Teaching (CELT) and chair of the selection committee.

“There is a direct connection from her scholarship to her teaching: providing students with the resources to transition to college-level work, and instilling in them a love of poetry and literature.”

Dr. Ramer has written two ESL textbooks and her new work, “Manny’s Journey,” is scheduled for publication next year. This book follows the journey of an ESL student as he faces the challenges of learning English and adapting to life in the United States. In addition to writing, Dr. Ramer has presented her research on teaching ESL with an integrated curriculum approach at numerous international conferences.

“Dr. Ramer’s scholarship connects the classroom and her own writing,” Professor Altman said. “Her students benefit from her ongoing research in her discipline.”

Dr. Luis, who teaches education courses, excels in the classroom.

“She is an example of a master teacher, working with her students to promote an understanding of course content in order to facilitate their ability to apply, evaluate and create knowledge,” Professor Altman said. “Her teaching pedagogy is applicable and accessible to all of

the students in her classes – those in her discipline of education, as well as the many other students who take her classes.”

Dr. Luis is the advisor to Kappa Delta Pi, the education honor society.

“The committee was impressed with the many different teaching techniques used in her classes and her noteworthy research-based teaching philosophy,” Professor Altman said. “Using innovative Power Points, group activities, active

assessment, and engaging class activities, Dr. Luis helps students build understanding as they learn.”

Professor De Cillis works to engage her students with meaningful course content. Her classroom is multi-experiential, using a wide variety of pedagogical techniques to engage students with course material and maintain their interest.

“Professor De Cillis is committed to teaching excellence and the success of her students,” Professor Altman said. “Her specific traits and professional skills make her extremely effective in her teachings and relationships. Her classes are a mix of pedagogical approaches: lecture, group work, films, assessment and other interactive activities to help students understand and analyze course content. All of these strategies benefit her students and create a learning-centered and dynamic interactive classroom.”



From left: College President Joann La Perla-Morales, who presented the scholar award to Iris Ramer; Mark McCormick, vice president for academic and student affairs, who presented the teaching award to Melissa Luis; and Linda Scherr, dean of arts and sciences, who presented the part-time teaching award to Laura De Cillis.



MCC hosted a riveting display of photographs of the Jewish community of Oświęcim, the Polish town more commonly known as Auschwitz. The town was taken over as the Nazis created the Auschwitz concentration camp. The designer and curator of the exhibit, Shiri Sandler (left), delivered a captivating lecture on the history of the town at a reception. Ms. Sandler is shown with Professor Terrence Corrigan, coordinator of MCC's Holocaust and Human Rights Center, which organized the exhibit, and Shirley Wachtel, English professor and author of books on the Holocaust.

Food Pantry Opens in College Center

Kathy Shay had just finished teaching one of her math classes, and was packing up to leave.

A student approached her.

"Can I borrow a dollar for the vending machines?" he asked.

The next class, that same student needed another dollar for food. They were his first meals of the day.

"As faculty, we see hungry students in class, and it is hard for them to pay attention," she said. "The need is clear."

That was in the back of her mind when Dr. Shay attended the Anti Poverty Network of New Jersey Summit.

"That's when I became aware of the prevalence of food insecurity among college students, and I learned about other New Jersey colleges that had opened food pantries for their students," she said. "I spoke with other members of the campus community who were concerned about hunger on campus, and we formed a committee to investigate what it would take to open and operate a food pantry at MCC."

The committee created a proposal and submitted it to Mark McCormick, vice president for academic and student affairs, who presented it to the College administration. It was approved and the MCC Cares Food Pantry opened in January.

The pantry is in College Center room 170 B and is open Mondays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Thursdays from 2-6 p.m. during the academic year, and Wednesdays from 12:30-4 p.m. in the summer. Anyone wishing to donate nutritional canned and non-perishable food or personal hygiene items should bring them to the Student Life

Office in College Center 213. The committee includes Professors Jennifer Altman, Alexandra Fields, Brian Lavey, Patricia Payne; and Charlotte Quigley and Arianna Illa of Career Services; Alumni President Dorothy Bitetto; Timothy Hack, chair of History and Social Sciences; and Dr. Shay. Mary Tutalo of Student Life coordinates the pantry and organizes volunteers.

"Dr. McCormick asked me to coordinate the pantry, and I was thrilled to get involved," she said. "First, I love working with students. My goal is to help them become successful and anything I can do to further that I embrace."

"I'm also thrilled to be part of a college initiative that is being proactive to help ensure all students have enough to eat and are then able to focus on academics. Our student clubs do food drives throughout the year, and that is great. But it is also wonderful to know that our donations will now stay close to home and help our own."



Food Pantry Coordinator Mary Tutalo (left) with Kathy Shay.

Turning Theory into Action

By Chuck O'Donnell '91

Antonio Scanziani's body shimmies to the left, his arms sway to the right and his head bobs with the beat of the music. *When it comes to Just Dance 4, you go hard or you go home.*

So even in the final seconds of "The Final Countdown," he's giving it everything he has.

When Europe's soaring 1980s metal tune ends, Mr. Scanziani gets a standing ovation from a bunch of third graders sitting nearby.

On this recent Friday afternoon, Mr. Scanziani and three of his fellow Middlesex County College students have been enlisted to play video games, build robots with

Legos, read books and draw butterflies with crayons. Schools are increasingly leaning toward homework-free weekends, so that explains why this brightly lit basement in New Brunswick has been transformed into a playground of sorts for these 50 or so elementary-schoolers enrolled in The Salvation Army's afterschool program.

Mr. Scanziani and the other MCC students come here every week for seven consecutive weeks as part of Middlesex's growing service learning program.

Whether it's doing homework with grade-schoolers in New Brunswick, serving a meal to the hungry at a church in Highland Park or visiting lonely souls at an Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facility in Elizabeth, the idea is to bring a service component into an academic classroom. The experiences and lessons learned outside the classroom are then folded back into the course curriculum.

There are many benefits to service learning. The non-profit organizations in the surrounding communities get a much-needed helping hand. The students' service reflects well on the school. And, for the students who elect to give their time to these groups and social justice issues in lieu of writing research papers, the abstract theories they learn in courses such as Contemporary Social Problems are made concrete.

"This week, we talked about gender inequality and I looked at this set up and I could see some of the minor socializations of gender I learned in the classroom," Kendall Devich said. "So, it was very nice to be able to



Sarah D'Esposito working at the Woodstock Farm Sanctuary.

learn about something and then instantly be able to have something to put with it. If it was reading it out of a book, it wouldn't have been as clear. This was vivid. You saw socialization of gender and then you saw how all kids react and that was actually impressive.”

Bringing concepts to life via civic engagement is the passion of Professors Jennifer Altman and Alexandra Fields, who organize the service learning program at MCC. Along with Arianna Illa, the coordinator of Civic Engagement and Experiential Learning, they are working toward expanding the number of classes with service learning tie-ins.

The school offered service learning opportunities in conjunction with seven classes in the spring. In the fall, that number will rise to 15 or so. In the short term, they would like to see one course in every department incorporate service learning. Then, they would like to see it expand to one course in every program. In time, they hope a culture of service spreads across the campus.

Although service learning has been a staple at many colleges and universities across the country and around the world for several years, and even at some high schools in the United States, word of the program is still spreading here. Dr. Altman, Professor Fields and Ms. Illa are constantly looking for ways to connect a potential community partner such as, say, Shilo, a nonprofit organization combatting homelessness in New Brunswick, with a faculty member's strengths and passions.

The good thing, Dr. Altman points out, is that the program is a versatile learning tool “that can be applied to an English composition class as easily as a calculus class.” And it doesn't have to take on typical forms of



For Alex Lewis, service has a personal component.



Linda Henry and a fellow volunteer prepare food at The Table, a program at the Reformed Church of Highland Park.

civic engagement, such as serving meals to homeless men and women around the New Brunswick train station. For example, students in a statistics class in the fall will be studying demographic data in hopes of helping the Highland Park Community Food Pantry optimize its resources.

Service learning is, first and foremost, a learning tool. Professor Fields, however, suggests that for a lot of MCC students, the chance to give back to their communities connects with their hearts.

“If you look at Rutgers students, for instance, they're often national, international,” she said. “They're from all over the place. They go out and do service work in New Brunswick, but that's not home. That's just where their college is located. Here,

Continued on page 8

what's so amazing for community colleges is students are going back to the places they grew up, where their families are located, sometimes to agencies where they themselves have received services and they're giving to that service."

Be that as it may, Professor Fields and the other faculty members often get quizzical looks during the first day of the semester when the concept of service learning is explained. For students such as Yash Patel, however, it quickly becomes clear that not all learning comes from a tedious tome or long lecture.

Mr. Patel visited a woman from Nigeria who was detained when she got off a plane at Newark Liberty International Airport. She had been sitting and waiting at the center in Elizabeth. The experience, he said, gave him a lot of material to draw on for his English composition class.

"It's something else reading about it and it's something else actually doing it," he said. "You need to get your hands dirty and then you realize how things work. It's easy, I can watch something from afar and say, 'Oh, this is bad.' But, what am I doing to make it better? Nothing."

Mr. Patel was also part of a group of MCC students who were helping prepare meals on Sunday evenings in the spring at the Reformed Church in Highland Park.

He was carefully flipping a batch of pot stickers in the



Felipe Rodriguez volunteered at Elijah's Promise, the soup kitchen in New Brunswick.



Kendall Devich tutors a child at the New Brunswick Salvation Army after-school program.

kitchen while guests began to arrive. The aroma from the food the students helped prepare – roasted chicken, honey carrot salad, mashed potatoes, brownies and more – filled the sanctuary-turned-dining room.

For many of the guests, this will be the only meal they have all day.

The MCC students didn't just help fill the bellies of the 40 or so people assembled for dinner that afternoon. They also helped nourish their souls.

"When I first started this, I let the students sit where they will," said Nate Brantingham, who is the graduate intern in charge of volunteers at the church. "I started challenging the students to sit with people they didn't know. They started to make connections with these people and the people started making connections with the students. And once that started to happen, then it wasn't just a sort of appreciation. It was an actual appreciation because then they learn, 'Oh you're a student and you're volunteering. That's wonderful. Thank you.'"

If there is one person who understands the impact the students' civic engagement can have, it's Alex Lewis.

Mr. Lewis, who was serving dinner as part of his service learning tie-in with his Contemporary Social

Problems class, was homeless for a few months about 12 years ago. He remembers sleeping in the 24-hour Dunkin' Donuts about half a mile from the church.

The way people would quickly shuffle past him on the street made him feel, as he puts it, abandoned and alone.

So, as Mr. Lewis leaned against a wall in the hallway outside the church's kitchen, he thought of what it would have been like to have had a place to go for a few hours to get some food and some human interaction.

"It would have definitely brightened my day knowing someone out there cared about my situation and wanted to make a difference, wanted to talk to me," he said. "A lot of my friends were younger than me and were still living with their parents, so I couldn't lean on them so I didn't really have anyone to talk to or anywhere to go."



Atif Khan, left, and Yash Patel cook at The Table at the Reformed Church of Highland Park.

MCC students in a public relations class were assigned to organize a campaign to raise awareness for a nonprofit organization. Three students, from left, Samantha Tercek, Claudia Tantillo and Adrian Maldonado, called their campaign "Protect Not Poach" to help raise awareness for the Ellen DeGeneres Wildlife Fund, which provides a secure environment for the endangered species of Mountain Gorillas. As they were promoting their cause in the College Center, one of the child care teachers asked them to present the concept to the children there. The three organized a "kid-friendly" slideshow for this bonus presentation.

"This was one of the best campaigns I've seen," said Professor Louis Dell'Omo. "Their enthusiasm for the project and passion for the cause is apparent in every detail of their project."



Tassels Turned: MCC Graduates 1480

A total of 1514 degrees and certificates were awarded to 1480 students by Middlesex County College Thursday, May 17 at the 51st annual Commencement exercises witnessed by approximately 3500 guests at the Rutgers Athletic Center.

Valedictorian Sindhu Murthy delivered the class welcome, sharing her experiences and aspirations. Ms. Murthy, who graduated in January and is now attending Rutgers University, was a physics major.

For more photos and video visit middlesexcc.edu/commencement

“This school has been a springboard for many of us; it has helped us launch ourselves toward the future in ways we never imagined,” she told the class. “We have achieved this milestone after bouts of uncertainty, toil and strain. I have shared classrooms with people struggling with multiple jobs, illness, and financial distress who still took the time and effort to work their way toward college graduation. This is a small yet momentous investment toward our dreams, so let us celebrate it. It is also important that we continue to maintain hope and ambition in the future. Some of us have dreams while many of us don’t know what we want to do, but what really matters is that we make the most out of this education.”

Approximately 725 members of the Class of 2018 participated in the exercises, representing the 333 graduates of August 2017, 422 of January 2018 and 725 of May 2018. Participants included several students who fulfilled the requirements for more than one degree or certificate during this academic year.

Mark McCormick, 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; and Ronald G. Rios, Freeholder director.

The ceremony was the end of an era: Professor Robert Colburn, the last remaining member of the College’s 1966 original faculty, led the academic processional as grand marshal. He retired this year.

Dr. McCormick presented the candidates for graduation and Dr. La Perla-Morales conferred the degrees and certificates. Earlier in May, the College held an honors convocation for students with the highest academic achievement in each program. MCC also presented the Chambers Awards to graduates with the highest grade point average. They include Ms. Murthy; the salutatorian, Jamie N. Donato; and Marvi Niaz Abbasi, Jeanna T. Alemany, Justine Burnett, Eunice S. Camerino,



Samantha Marie Casano, Vinnicius B. Coelho, Harpreet Kaur, Heather R. Kelleman, Rocio A. Mantilla, Kaelyn Patel and Anthony A. Pensak.



Joy & Pride



Clockwise from top left: MCC grads recognized their families, turned their tassels to the left signifying the moment of graduation, and beamed with joy. Meanwhile, faculty looked on with pride, and above, Robert Colburn, the last remaining member of the College's 1966 original faculty, led the academic processional as grand marshal. He retired this year.



A Stories

All MCC grads have their own story, filled with dreams and ambition. Here are four. They have one thing in common: each of them will make a difference in this world.

Bailey Ramsay always knew she wanted to do something in the health care field. As a junior in high school, she decided it was nursing. She got into several college nursing programs, but couldn't afford them. So Middlesex was the choice.

Frankly, she was not eager to go to MCC.

"Community colleges have a stigma that they are where you go if you didn't do well or can't afford a university," she said.

But her attitude changed once she started taking classes.

"I came here and found a bunch of wonderful people and professors," she said. "It was a great place to start. It's a slow transition into adulthood. At the same time, the classes were rigorous and I didn't do well my first year."

She took too many difficult courses too soon.

So she left the program, but wanted to stay in college. She changed her major to psychology and took a wide variety of classes just because they interested her: anthropology, child psychology, counseling and ethics.

Ms. Ramsay earned her Associate Degree in Psychology but then decided to give nursing another try.

"The professors welcomed me back and helped me realize nursing is what I was born to do," she said.

And this time, she excelled.

"I also enjoyed it so much more," she said. "Middlesex is wonderful. I loved my professors and I love the College. I'm proud to be a Middlesex alumna."

She is hoping to do a nursing residence at Raritan Bay Medical Center while at the same time earning her Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree at Felician University, which offers its classes on the Middlesex campus.

Right now, Ms. Ramsay is planning to go into maternity and newborn nursing, but she also has an interest in pediatrics and psychiatry. And then there's also a desire to become a medical missionary, spreading medical care and Christian values all over the world. But she also has designs on disaster relief, and volunteers with the Red Cross.

Ms. Ramsay was helped by several scholarships, and says she plans to contribute to student scholarships when she is able.

She was a member of Psi Beta, the psychology honor society; Phi Theta Kappa, the honor society for two-year colleges; and she sang with the MCC Gospel Choir.

"I love Middlesex," she said. "I recommend this school to all my friends."



Bailey Ramsay



Professor Erin Christensen looks on as Lois Twum-Barimah checks a water sample.

Lois Twum-Barimah grew up fast. She was 12 years old, living with her Godmother in her native country of Ghana. They were close. Her Godmother became ill and had to be taken to a far-away hospital.

“They made a misdiagnosis, and it cost her her life,” Ms. Twum-Barimah said. “That’s when I decided I wanted to become a doctor.”

It was a circuitous route to her dreams. Ms. Twum-Barimah said in Ghana, students are steered into business, health care or vocational school, with the majority of men being steered toward the plum jobs in health care. She was guided to economics and graduated with honors in 2013 from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology.

She liked the subject, but didn’t want to spend the next 40 years exploring supply and demand.

So, along with her mother, she immigrated to the U.S. and came to Middlesex County College because an alumna-friend had recommended it.

“I’m very happy I chose Middlesex,” she said. “I’ve had some amazing professors. They are very encouraging. It feels good to know you have someone who believes in you. I love the fact that professors don’t just teach and leave. Their doors are open.”

This May, she graduated magna cum laude and is planning to go to pharmacy school in Massachusetts and then

on to medical school. She hopes to become a cardiac surgeon.

This spring, under the guidance of Professor Erin Christensen, she partnered with another student, Anusha Gunti, in a research project.

They collected water samples from Perth Amboy, Edison and the Delaware River in Trenton, and then used what they had learned in genetics and microbiology classes to analyze DNA in bacteria and how it has become resistant to drugs.

“This is important because if you drink water or eat food that contains this bacteria and then need to be treated with a drug that the bacteria is resistant to, that drug’s effects would be minimized or non-existent,” she said.

For her work on this project, Ms. Twum-Barimah was awarded a \$3,000 scholarship by the New Jersey Water Environment Association at its annual conference in May.

Dr. Christensen said Ms. Twum-Barimah is an excellent student. She is a double major – biology and chemistry – and a member of the Biology Society, Chemistry Society, and Psi Beta, the psychology honor society, and Phi Theta Kappa, the honor society for two-year colleges.

“I’m very grateful to Middlesex,” she said. “I feel like all the science I know is from here.”

4 Stories

L

uke Agojo has dedicated his life to service. First was in the United States Air Force, and now at Middlesex County College, where he has taken community service to new heights.

The Edison resident puts in between 400 and 500 hours of service a year.

“People have different agendas in life,” he said. “For me, I feel you should spend it helping those in need.”

Mr. Agojo was born in Jersey City but his family moved to Edison when he was in the third grade. He graduated from Edison High School and joined the Air Force, where he was a troubleshooter for the F-16 fighter jet. He was stationed in South Carolina and Texas for two years.

“I wanted to do something to make my parents proud and I wanted to do something honorable,” he said.

Mr. Agojo traces his interest in community service to his family.

“My family was poor,” he said. “My grandmother, who lived in the Philippines, worked five jobs and went to school at the same time. I’ve seen what it’s like to not have a lot. So it’s important for me to help others.”

He also feels that service helps those who serve as well.

“It’s one of the best ways to connect with someone,” he said. “It’s a connection you can’t fake. It provides a positive impact on people to work together to achieve a common goal.”

He participated in Habitat for Humanity builds while in the Air Force, and continued his service work at MCC. To name but a few, Mr. Agojo organized and led Democracy House’s annual beach sweep; volunteered with

the Mobile Family Success Center’s Eggstravaganza event; volunteered at the Edison Environmental Commission’s boat basin cleanup; facilitated Democracy House’s annual coat drive for Jersey Cares; and organized all Volunteers in Action club meetings and on-campus events. This April, he was presented the Patrick Donohue Outstanding Service and Civic Engagement Student Award, which is named for the late Middlesex County College professor who created Democracy House.

Mr. Agojo has held numerous leadership positions at MCC too.

He was the Democracy House president; Phi Theta Kappa vice president for service; member of the College Assembly; and Student Government Association president and community service chair. He was also the liaison for local organizations that needed College volunteers.

Arianna Illa, coordinator with the Career Services Department at MCC, which oversees Democracy House, said Mr. Agojo is a wonderful leader.

“We knew right away he’d make a great president,” she said. “He’s the perfect example of a leader. He doesn’t just tell people what to do; he’s right in there with them working, the first person to volunteer. He leads by example. And he’s a people person.”

Mr. Agojo graduated this May with a degree in liberal arts with highest honors and will attend Kean University, majoring in social work. He plans to go into higher education administration. But he’ll never stop focusing on service.

“It’s a huge part of my life,” he said.



Luke Agojo

Juana Catalina Cuarezma turned 70 years old on May 1. Sixteen days later, she graduated from Middlesex County College. She started taking courses in 2009, and took one class per semester.

“I was not in a hurry,” she said with a grin.

Ms. Cuarezma, who goes by her middle name, started working as a human resources associate for the United Nations in her native country of Nicaragua in 1979. She earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration from Central American University in 1982 and moved to the United States two years later.

But the United Nations Human Resources operation was transferred to Denmark in 2007. Ms. Cuarezma could have gone along, but she had a son in the United States, as well as a condo, and she wanted to stay. So she took an early retirement.

What to do now?

Her colleagues told her she needed to keep busy to avoid boredom. A gym and pool were five minutes from her home. She took spinning classes and swim lessons.

“But I realized the gym was not enough,” she said.

One day, she spied some literature from Middlesex County College. Her son had attended an open house in 2002, and she came across it seven years later. She took a couple of ESL classes to improve her English and then

started credit courses. At first, she took classes only on Saturdays, as she was working temp jobs during the week. But she moved into weekday evening classes, and then afternoon ones.

“Since I retired, my time is spent at the gym and at Middlesex,” she said. “The gym helped keep my body fit and Middlesex helped keep my mind sharp.”

Indeed. Ms. Cuarezma boasts a 3.7 grade point average and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the honor society for two-year colleges, and Alpha Mu Gamma, the national honor society for foreign languages. She studied French.

“I was very happy with the classes,” she said. “Middlesex was a really nice experience for me. I especially enjoyed French Professors Brenda Cavanaugh and Shannon Osborn-Jones.”

This is not the end of Ms. Cuarezma’s academic career. Even though she’s graduating, she plans to continue to take classes at MCC.

“My nephew graduated from MCC and said he was glad I was doing it,

but wanted me to realize I’ll be in class with a lot of teenagers,” she said. “But I was comfortable in class with them. A few times – at the beginning of the first class – they would see my gray hair and say, ‘Are you our professor?’ I said, ‘No, but I could be your mother. I have a son older than you.’”



Catalina Cuarezma

Professor of English Honored for Playwriting

MCC Professor and playwright Benjamin V. Marshall was recently honored twice: he received the Wagner College Stanley Award for Drama and a fellowship from the New Jersey Council on the Arts.

The Stanley Award was presented for his brilliant play, “Incident at Willow Creek,” about an African-American professor agonizing over the gun issue. She obsesses over an incident that resulted in the killing of an innocent black man but is torn between self-defense and complying with law enforcement. One of her students has a fixation on guns and offers to teach her how to shoot.

This is not a play with easy answers.

Felicia Ruff, chair of the Theater and Speech Department at Wagner College, presented the award.

“To call it a play about gun culture in American society is too simplistic, though it is about that,” she said. “Mr. Marshall has managed to do in ‘Incident at Willow Creek’ what great playwrights do, he has managed to make the recounting of events the central action. His play strikes me as doing what the great Greek dramas do – it shows characters debating not as a rhetorical exercise, but as an embodied action – from various complicated perspectives that are given voice in recognizable people. I know these

people and I know their deep longing to be heard.”

Professor Marshall said he began writing the play two years ago during a spate of incidents involving gun violence and African-Americans.

“I was trying to understand why such things happen,” he said. “Art can reflect its time and by holding up a mirror to our world, we try to comprehend it.”

Professor Marshall also received a \$12,000 fellowship from the New Jersey Council on the Arts. New Jersey Individual Artist Fellowships are competitive awards to New Jersey artists based on independent peer assessment of work samples. The awards may be used to help artists produce new work and advance their

careers. Professor Marshall was one of 18 artists to receive a fellowship.

“Whether it’s sculpture, poetry, or theater, New Jersey has long been a forerunner in the arts,” said Acting Secretary of State Tahesha Way. “Our arts history is incredibly rich and its pages are thick with distinguished emissaries like William Carlos Williams and Alice Barber Stephens. I have full faith and confidence that our newest generations of artists, like those supported through this excellent program, will not disappoint.”



Benjamin V. Marshall



Facing camera, from left, Angel Chang, Luke Agojo, Romone Reid and Kevin Wong presented their workshop, “Overcoming Obstacles: Personal Stories of Perseverance,” at the annual Young Men’s Conference held in New Brunswick. The four are part of Democracy House, MCC’s volunteer-service program. The Young Men’s Conference provides opportunities for attendees to engage with community leaders, educators and mentors through an array of workshops. After their presentation, the MCC leaders chatted with participants. The conference was attended by more than 200 young men from Middlesex County high schools.

Seventeen members of the Veterans and Servicemembers Association and their friends and family joined over 100 other Operation Shoebox volunteers as they packed boxes of food and personal hygiene items for troops overseas. The event was held at the Walter Kavanaugh Veterans of Foreign Wars building in February. It was the 13th anniversary of the first Operation Shoebox program; since its first packing event in 2005, tens of thousands of volunteers have helped assemble and ship 136,000 care packages overseas. Shown here is Eun Lee, Marine Corps veteran and the MCC Veterans Association president.



Two MCC Standouts Go From Internships to Jobs

Carlos Velazquez and Tara Jackson have different majors, different backgrounds and different goals. But they have one characteristic in common: Determination.

Mr. Velazquez started at MCC in the fall of 2013, leaving after two semesters to concentrate on a personal goal: losing weight. He was up to 310 pounds but through determination, diet and exercise, lost 100 of that. He came back in 2014 slimmer but no less determined.

The Liberal Arts/Communications major has always been a big New York sports fan – especially the Yankees – and he wants to become a broadcaster.

“New York sports has always been my passion,” he said. “I took Intro to Broadcasting with Professor Louis Dell’Omo and it lit a fire under me. I knew this is what I wanted to do for my entire life.”

So in the fall, Mr. Velazquez interned at Magic 98.3.

“It was fantastic,” he said. “I stepped into a world I was passionate about. It was a one-of-a-kind experience.”

He was on the “street team,” in the marketing and promotions department, and was hired part time this spring.

He graduated this May and plans to transfer to Montclair State University’s School of Communications as a Mass Media major, which will allow him to study both radio and TV.



Tara Jackson is equally determined.

A double major in Fashion Merchandizing and Business Administration, Ms. Jackson actually went through three majors before finding two she liked.

She had been an administrative assistant with Duck River Textile and then took an internship in the sales department in the fall of 2017. She was so successful they hired her in product development, close to what she wants to ultimately do, which is buyer.

“The internship was a great experience,” she said.

In January, just as she was starting her job, the company sent her to Germany for a week-and-half for a trade show to explore fashion trends in Europe, the precursor to what will be offered in the U.S.

She works there full time, two days a week in the Edison warehouse and three days a week in the New York City showroom.

She graduated in May and is planning to transfer to Rutgers University.

Arianna Illa, coordinator of Career and Transfer Services, said an internship can be a valuable experience.

“Co-op is the combination of real world, hands-on experience with skills students will need later on in life,” she said. “It also allows them to connect with people in their field before they graduate.”

Middlesex, Math and the Mouse Club in Disney Hall of Fame

Two representatives of the Middlesex, Math and the Mouse Club again traveled to Walt Disney World in January to gather data and test several algorithms. The duo also earned Hall of Fame status by completing 40 out of 46 attractions in less than 11 hours at Disney's Animal Kingdom Park. They also broke a Touring Plans Hall of Fame record for experiencing 30 core attractions in one day. The club holds second place for the overall tour and first place for core attractions experienced.



“On the day of the tour, Disney posted an average wait time of 54 minutes for each ride in the park, with a range of between five minutes and three hours,” said Patty Kiernan, the faculty advisor. “Using our data analysis, we waited an average of seven minutes for each ride.”

Veronica Liguori (left), the club president, and Professor Kiernan also examined Disney World transportation options; the actual time guests wait in line verses the posted wait times; and commonalities of workers at Epcot.

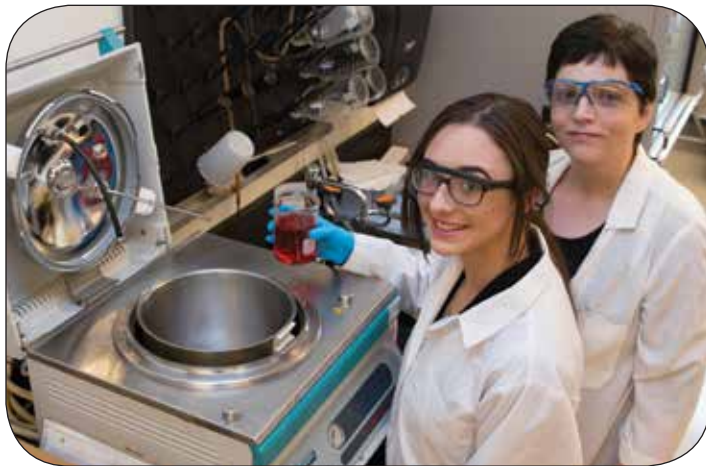
The club comprises non-STEM majors and meets regularly to discuss ways to apply statistics to avoid waiting in lines at Walt Disney World. It was created to provide students a nonthreatening, practical application of material taught in statistics courses at MCC by allowing them to analyze and gather real data at Walt Disney World.



Four students were inducted into the MCC Chapter of Alpha Mu Gamma, the honor society for foreign language study. From left: Caroline Fernández, Stephanie Rossel-Martínez, and Rafaela Báez. Not pictured: Adelainy Bourdier. In addition, Denise Crawford-Johnson, who is retiring as assistant in the English as a Second Language Department, received an honorary membership. The program included remarks from Chairperson Gary Abbott, Dean Linda Scherr, and Professors Virgil Blanco and Juan Saborido.



The dental clinic was the home of bright smiles in February as 22 children from all over the area visited for free dental care during “Give Kids a Smile Day,” a program to ensure that children have access to quality dental care. Local dentists, hygienists, and MCC dental students and alumnae volunteered their time and talents as they treated kids who received an exam, cleaning, fluoride treatments, sealants, as well as education on how to brush and floss. Here, Kristina Paramithis, otherwise known as the tooth fairy, shows Alexander and Alina Said the proper way to brush.



MAKE THE SMART CHOICE

Earn a Degree or Certificate

Admissions Information

SUCCESS STARTS HERE

88 Degree & Certificate Programs

More Job Opportunities & Higher Pay

Middlesex offers more than 700 courses in 88 degree and certificate programs. Associate Degrees can be earned in fields such as education, business, dental hygiene, criminal justice, paralegal studies, computer science, engineering, health programs, science and

mathematics, and more! We also offer noncredit certificate programs and courses to support career and professional development in fields such as allied health, web design, human resources and construction management.

57%

Very soon, 57% percent of U.S. job openings will require some college education.

24:1

A student-to-teacher ratio of 24:1 allows students to develop personal relationships with their professors.

\$7,900

is the annual amount an Associate Degree holder earns over those with only a high school diploma.

27%

Licenses and certificate holders earn 27% more than those with a Bachelor's Degree alone.

Support Services: *Everything You Need to Succeed!*

Academic Advising: Provides information about degree requirements, courses, and career/educational goals.

Career Services: Job search resources, co-op & internship help and more!

Counseling Services: Professional counselors are available to help students with career choices, majors, transfers, and personal concerns.

Disability Services: Provides classroom support, adapted testing, adaptive technology, sign language interpreters and more.

Educational Opportunity Fund: Offers financial assistance, counseling, tutoring and more for minority and disadvantaged students.

Health & Safety: Provides diagnostic screenings, immunizations, health counseling, first aid, and urgent care.

Transfer Services: Advises students on course requirements so they can transfer to a Bachelor's Degree program.

Tutoring Services: Offers free academic support for a variety of subjects including tutoring for developmental classes.

Veterans Services: Helps military veterans and current service members make a smooth transition to college.

MCC offers baseball, softball, volleyball and wrestling as well as men's and women's soccer, basketball and co-ed cross country, track and golf.

Campus Life

Fun Activities For Every Interest!

MCC offers so many fun clubs and organizations that it's easy to get involved. Our students say it feels like being at a 4-year school. Visit the **Student Life Office** for a complete list of social, cultural and recreational activities offered at MCC.



Paying for College

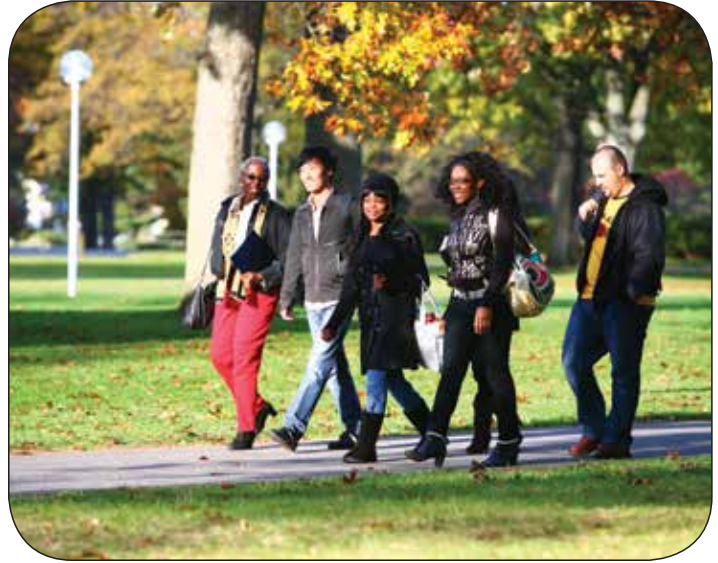
You Can Afford Middlesex County College!

You can afford MCC! Let us help you find scholarships, grants, loans, work study and other types of aid to help you offset the cost of school. Over half of our full-time students receive need-based financial aid.

Since 1967, more than 15,000 students have received scholarships in excess of \$12 million from the MCC Foundation. Students can visit the Scholarships website to search for MCC scholarships and find links to other resources.

Students who graduate in the top 15% of their high school class may qualify for the NJ STARS program. These students receive free tuition to Middlesex County College.

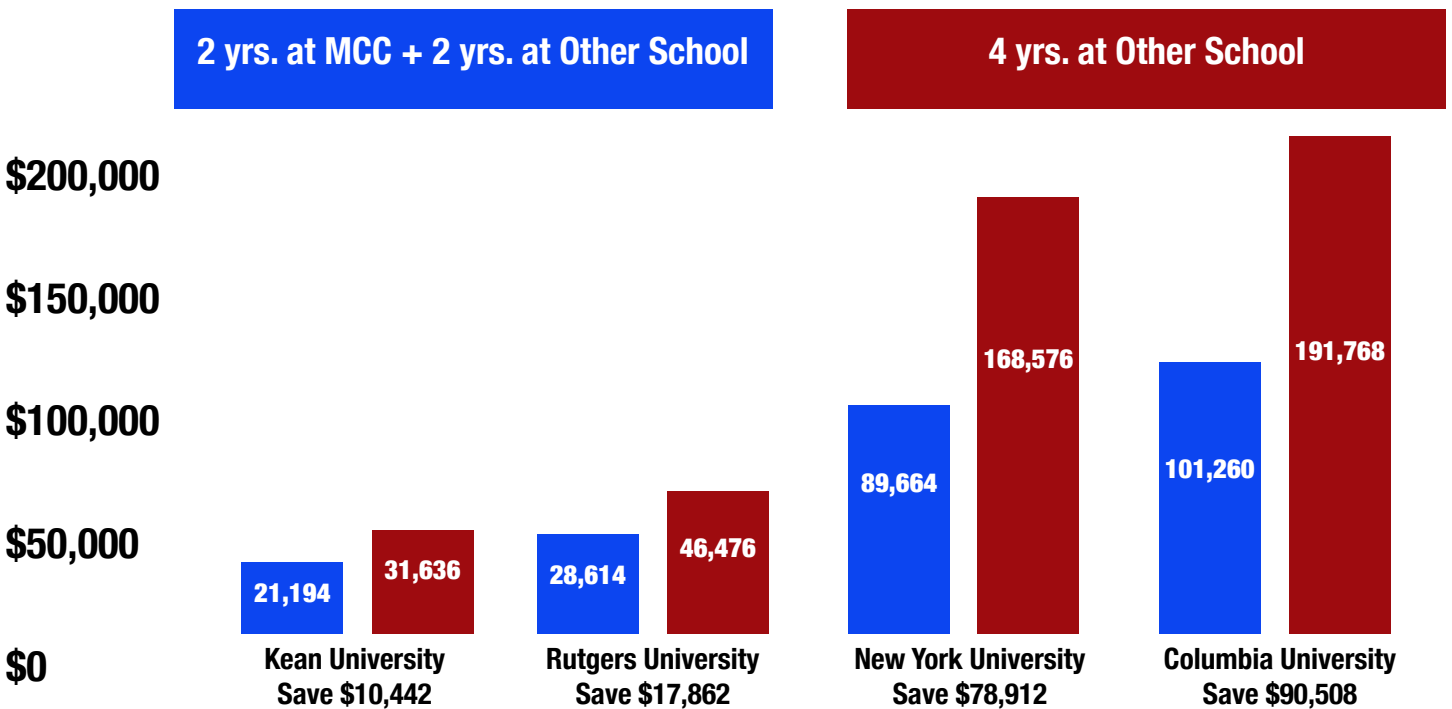
MCC also offers a four-installment payment plan to provide a convenient option. Each of the four payments represents 25 percent of your semester bill.



How Much Will You Save?

Our graduates start at Middlesex and transfer to prestigious colleges and universities such as Kean, Rutgers, NYU, Columbia and more. They get the same degree, but SAVE THOUSANDS off the cost of tuition! The blue

column shows the cost of tuition for four years of college if you attend MCC for two years and then transfer to another school for two years. The red column shows the cost of tuition if you spend all four years at another school. Look how much you can save!



Savings based on a 15-credit semester for a Middlesex County resident during the Spring 2018 school year. The rates shown above were collected from each school's website and may be subject to change.



Do you want a college education but need to work? Now you do not have to choose between work, family and advancing your education. MCC offers evening programs that begin after 5 p.m.

Taking classes while you work is challenging, but you can do it! MCC offers low tuition and an array of support services. Six of our programs can be completed in the evening: Business Administration, Police Science, Paralegal Studies, and Liberal Arts General, Business, and Social Sciences.

For more information, contact our evening degree advisor, John Kruszewski, at 732.906.2596 or enroll@middlesexcc.edu.

Admissions Process: Enroll in 5 Easy Steps

1

Apply Online

Complete your application online with a \$25 application fee at www.middlesexcc.edu/application. Submit your high school transcript and/or college transcript to receive credit for prerequisites and/or transfer credit, if applicable.

If you are an international student seeking an I-20 or you are applying to our selective programs, you must apply within application deadlines; see the MCC website for more information. For details visit www.middlesexcc.edu/admissions.

2

File Your FAFSA!

Priority deadline to file is June 1 for Fall; November 1 for Spring.

MCC Financial Aid Code is 002615

4

Register for Classes

NEW STUDENTS:

Sign up for group advising and orientation.

TRANSFER STUDENTS:

Meet with an academic advisor.

3

Take the College Placement Test

We offer free workshops and online study guides to help you prepare.

5

Pay Your Bill

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

- Pay Online
- Payment Plan
- Financial Aid/Scholarships



Ten students were recently inducted into Delta Omicron, the honor society for nursing students. The society is open to excellent second-year nursing students who design and implement a community service education or recruitment project. Seated, from left: Victoria Szabo, Gisselle Hernandez, Jamirah Turner. Standing: Eitan Fabia, Hannah Goodson-Foulk, Katsiaryna Sikorskaya, Jang Youp Lim, Lisnatiel Diaz, Katelyn Walczak and Zenaida Perez.

Notables

Mary-Pat Maciolek, Ed.D., MBA, RD, chair of Hospitality, Culinary Arts and Dietetics, was named a fellow of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the world's largest organization of food and nutrition professionals. This designation recognizes Dr. Maciolek's commitment to the field of dietetics and celebrates her professional accomplishments and pursuit of lifelong learning. It certifies that she has lived up to the Academy's values of customer focus, integrity, innovation and social responsibility.

Emanuel di Pasquale, who is MCC's and Long Branch, NJ's poet laureate, read several of his pieces at the Long Branch Public Library as part of Black History Month. Professor di Pasquale read a poem celebrating the brotherhood and sisterhood of mankind and another in praise of New Jersey, both poems of unity.

Long Branch Mayor Adam Schneider and Council member John Pallone attended the reading.

A novel written by English Professor **Shirley Wachtel**, "My Mother's Shoes," was presented by her son, Howie, to Nikki Haley, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, on January 29. The National Security Council paid a visit to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC to commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Claire Condie of the Natural Sciences Department was a contributing author on a paper published in "The Astrophysical Journal" on March 10.

The paper focused on Dr. Condie's research on some

types of meteorites which may consist of material (CBb chondrules) that formed during protoplanetary collisions over four billion years ago. Unique textures found in this material were able to be replicated in high temperature furnaces that indicated the temperature and conditions that formed this material. These thermal histories were used as parameters in 3D computer modeling with the adaptive mesh refinement code FLASH4.3. Results of the 3D modeling support the thermal histories obtained by experimentation and provide the first specific demonstration of The Giant Impact Origin of the CBb Chondrules. Further refinement of the model and additional parameter studies of initial conditions (e.g., different types of impacts: sizes and composition of colliding bodies, impact velocities, etc.) will be performed in future work.

In Memoriam

The College mourns the passing of several members of the MCC community.

Margaret "Peggy" Hilton, lab coordinator in Dental Hygiene, on January 28.

Winifred Collins, MA, RD, founding director of the Hotel, Restaurant, and Institution Management Department, on February 24.

Lucille Neumann, confidential support staff member in the President's Office, on May 15.



From left, Mark McCormick, MCC's vice president for academic and student affairs; MCC President Joann La Perla-Morales; Rider President Gregory G. Dell'Omo, and Rider's Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs DonnaJean A. Fredeen.

After the signing ceremony, Rider officials visited West Hall, MCC's new enrollment center, and South Hall, the science building. Exploring South Hall, from left, Danielle Jacobs, associate professor of chemistry and director of STEM Scholars at Rider, Dr. Dell'Omo, Professor Phalguni Ghosh, and MCC student Eujine Lim.



Rider and MCC Reaffirm Guaranteed Transfer Agreement

Rider University and MCC signed a guaranteed transfer agreement to reaffirm their original 1999 agreement and expand students' abilities to earn Bachelor's Degrees.

Additionally, 32 program-to-program agreements, ranging from education to science to business, were also signed. Symbolically, the transfer agreement for Rider's new Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a major in Business Analytics was signed during the ceremony held at the Corral in the College Center.

"We are always pleased to provide prospective students with alternative means to achieve their educational goals," said Rider President Gregory G. Dell'Omo. "These transfer agreements represent clear pathways for MCC students who wish to pursue their Bachelor's Degrees at Rider."

Dr. Dell'Omo was joined by Rider's Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs DonnaJean A. Fredeen; MCC President Joann La Perla-Morales; and MCC Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Mark McCormick.

"We are pleased to be signing this agreement with Rider University," said Dr. La Perla-Morales. "This collaboration will provide Middlesex County College graduates with the opportunity to transfer seamlessly to more than 30 programs at Rider University. We thank Rider University for its vision to provide opportunity for our graduates."

For more information about transferring credits to Rider, visit www.rider.edu/admissions/transfer/transfer-your-credits.



The Annual Engineering Employer Panel and Networking Event featured employers who discussed career paths for Engineering majors including typical entry-level positions within their company, skills and experiences sought in candidates, an overview of the type of work performed by the company and the speaker's own career path. Most employers have internships or job opportunities for which they are recruiting. After the panelists spoke, students could ask questions and then networked. From left, Brian Grant, PE Grant Engineering and Construction Group; John Lynch, Control Point Associates, Inc.; Jack Goldstein, CME Associates; Travis Tidwell (an MCC alumnus), Rockwell Automation; and Colin Quigley, CeramSource.



Literacy Lives!

Members of the education honor society held a literacy workshop for area children and their parents in March. About 80 kids enjoyed hearing stories and making crafts, led by MCC students, and listening to a reading by children's author Josh Funk. The program was called Literacy Alive!

Nicole Gonzalez said her daughter came home feeling confident, enthused, and eager for next year's program.

"The kindness of the honors students and their level of engagement with the children – a perfect balance of instructional and warm – really set her at ease and gave her the encouragement to raise her hand, engage and participate," Ms. Gonzalez said. "The warmth and engagement modeled by your students truly gave [my daughter] permission to feel comfortable to actively learn and that is, of course, a testament to the potential of these students as future educators." At left, Juliana Alusik helps Massimo Pugliese with his crafts project while below, Holly Elliott offers encouragement to a student.



MCC Students Win Awards at Science Conference

Three students won awards at two recent science conferences.

Josh Alb was awarded second place at the William Paterson Undergraduate Research Symposium April 14 in the biochemistry category for his poster "Identifying Cannabinoid Interaction with the CB1 Receptor." In this project, he uses computer modeling to explain how drugs interact with the body.

Mr. Alb also spoke on the same subject at the STEM C2 Research Summit at Bergen Community College the day before. At this event, two MCC students, Lois Twumb-Barimah and Anusha Gunti, also won second place for their poster looking at disease-causing bacteria in water samples. Eleven students from chemistry and biology classes, along with several members of the STEM Club (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), presented posters at the summit. Another student, Eujin

Lim, also spoke at the summit on Designing Molecules to Inhibit Mycobacterium Tuberculosis, in which he used computer modeling to show how drugs can be used to stop tuberculosis.



From left: Anusha Gunti, Josh Alb and Lois Twumb-Barimah.



The Coolest Course on Campus

Students in the Garde Manger class learned the fundamentals of ice carving behind the College Center in April. The class used chain saws to mold large blocks of ice and then chisels to create the details. Garde manger, which teaches students the art of cold food presentation, is taught by John Shirley, executive chef at Unidine, which provides dining services for corporations, hospitals and senior centers. Here, Chrystle Anne Bautista adds some details to her ice sculpture.

2 Named to Middlesex County College Board of Trustees

Two accomplished area residents have been appointed to the MCC Board of Trustees.

Roger W. Daley, retired Superior Court judge and former Middlesex County freeholder, is one of two state appointees on the 12-member board.

Appointed to the bench in 1996, Judge Daley spent virtually his entire career in the Family Part. He retired in 2012. His late wife Jamie was a professor of English at the College for a number of years.

Judge Daley grew up in Old Bridge and graduated from Rutgers University. He is also a Vietnam veteran, serving in the 25th Infantry of the U.S. Army.

“It’s a pleasure to join the Middlesex County College Board,” he said. “I know how important MCC is to the community and I hope to be able to help it grow.”

Christine Buteas is chief government affairs officer of the New Jersey Business & Industry Association, the nation’s largest statewide employer association, where she leads a team of experts advocating for legislation that benefits New Jersey businesses, while challenging legislation that negatively affects doing business in the state.

She is also president of the Women’s Political Caucus of New Jersey, a statewide nonprofit dedicated to advancing women in government.

“It’s a great honor to serve in this role for Middlesex County College,” she said. “I look forward to working with the board to build upon the school’s great strengths as the premier community college in central New Jersey

and to help find new opportunities for the betterment of MCC’s students, faculty and staff.”

Previously, Ms. Buteas served as president and CEO of the Home Care & Hospice Association of New Jersey, managing the operations of New Jersey’s leading trade association for Medicare-certified home health agencies, health care service firms and hospice agencies.

Ms. Buteas also served as vice president of the Capital Impact Group, a bipartisan public affairs and business development firm, for which she advocated on behalf of nonprofit organizations and Fortune 500 companies.

She is a former councilwoman of South Plainfield and most recently served as a member of Governor Phil Murphy’s Healthcare Transition Team. Ms. Buteas holds a B.A. in Law and Justice from Rowan University, where she played on the national champion field hockey team, and a Master of Public Administration from Rutgers University. She also served as a Raimondo Fellow at the Eagleton Institute of Politics.

Radiography Award

Members of the Student Association of Radiographers, along with advisor Kimberly Krapels, recently represented the College at the 2018 New Jersey Society of Radiologic Technologists Conference in Atlantic City. One MCC student, Brian Bernal, placed third in the X-ray Competition out of approximately 120 x-ray students from programs throughout the state.

Retired VP Honored for Volunteer Service

Warren Kelemen, professor emeritus and retired vice president, received the Volunteer of the Year Award from Advancing Opportunities, a leading provider of services for people with disabilities. He was honored at its Third Annual Spring Hoedown in May.

Mr. Kelemen has served on the board of Advancing Opportunities for the last 12 years. His leadership as a past president of the board has been critical to the agency during a time of significant growth. During his tenure, Advancing Opportunities' annual operating budget quadrupled, as did the number of people with disabilities the agency was able to serve.



The Acelero Head Start program in South Amboy visited the MCC Dental Clinic for a teeth cleaning and dental education. Here, Angela Manfredo works on a young child.



Logan Germano '16, a current student at Rutgers University, received the College Student Recognition Award presented by the New Jersey Council for the Social Studies. Mr. Germano was recognized for his scholarship in Christobal Espinoza-Wulach's History of the 20th Century course and also for his efforts in creating the Humanities Honor Society at MCC. "Logan has continued to work with Professor Espinoza researching primary historical sources to prepare an article for publication, is now continuing his education at Rutgers University, and he has expressed an interest in pursuing a graduate degree in history," said Arlene Gardner, executive director of the New Jersey Center for Civic Education at Rutgers University and a longtime member of the Council for the Social Studies. From left: Dr. Espinoza-Wulach, Mr. Germano and Dr. Gardner.



Celebrity judges were treated to a wonderful culinary experience as they sampled work from Professor Andrew Rubin's Quantity Food Production and Menu Design class. From left, Dorothy K. Power, chairman of the Board of Trustees; Mark McCormick, vice president for academic and student affairs; College President Joann La Perla-Morales; Joseph Egan, owner of the Jersey Mike's franchise in New Brunswick; Mary-Pat Maciolek, chair of the Hospitality, Culinary Arts and Dietetics Department; and Professor Rubin. The group toured the food lab and spoke with students. Mr. Egan was on campus to talk about developing food management internship opportunities with Jersey Mike's.

Advice from Chris Padovano: Never Grow Up!

By Chuck O'Donnell '91

The butterfly flitting across a clear spring sky.
The bunny with his overbite and oversized smile.
The beagle playing a raucous rat-tat-tat on his maracas.
The squirrels, sheep and seals that inhabit the pages of Chris Padovano's books scoot, skip and scamper to the same joyous beat.

Pink-clad princesses, bouncy ballerinas, funny farmers – they also live happily inside the pages of the 135 or so children's books he has illustrated throughout his prolific career.

Whether it's "Little Bee and the Honey Tree" or "Bow-Woo the Magic Doggie," each page of every book bursts with bright, bold colors.

There's a good reason he's able to infuse these child-like, child-friendly qualities into his artwork: That kid who loved Saturday morning cartoons and Sunday comic strips as a boy growing up in Sayreville never went away. Not when he graduated from Middlesex County College in 1978, not when he worked for Marvel comics and Disney in the 1980s, not when he became an art instructor in the 1990s and not when he began to devote himself to children's books about 15 years ago.

"He's still around," Mr. Padovano said. "I always say this: I will always be a kid at heart. I will never, ever grow up. That's the truth. I always felt that I am still a child. Little things make me happy. I love my candy. If I could still trick or treat, I would trick or treat. I'm still a kid at heart. I'm still the same kid I was growing up, who wants to make people happy."

Spreading happiness, one children's book at a time, is his sole and soul's purpose as he sits at his drawing table in his home in New Port Richey, Florida. He has collaborated with dozens of writers to bring their stories to life. There's a smile in his voice as he talks about the creative process, and he's prone to punctuate each sentence with a hearty laugh.

In some cases, he's working with emerging authors who want to mass produce their books and launch a career

via amazon.com or other platforms. Other times, these are more personal stories in which the authors' sons or daughters or grandkids are cast as the main characters. Word of his work seems to get around because he's constantly in demand to illustrate another book.

Mr. Padovano also has gone solo, writing and illustrating two children's books based on angels: "An Angel in the Backseat" and "An Angel on Cloud Nine."

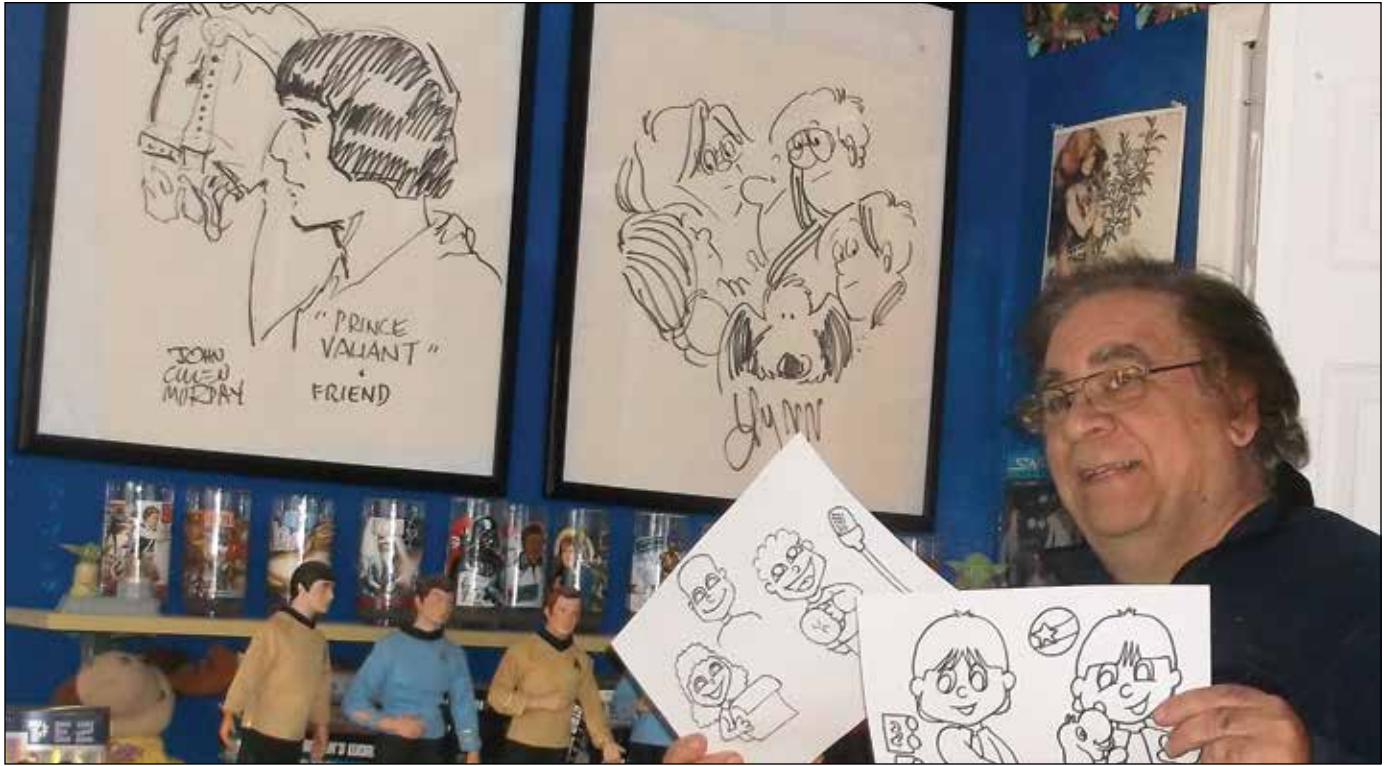
He approaches each book with the lessons learned at MCC. In fact, he had heard such glowing reviews of the school's ability to mold raw artists as if they were slabs of sculpting clay that this was the only school he applied to after graduating from Sayreville High School. He soaked up all the sage wisdom imparted by his instructors in the Marketing Art and Design program, Frank Schultz, Peter Rosenblum and Anita Sagarese.

"The technical stuff I learned there was beyond measure," Mr. Padovano said. "If I didn't go to Middlesex County College, I would never be able to do what I do now. (I learned) how to do mechanicals, how to do paste-ups, how to prepare stuff for publication, how to look at things, should you turn your picture around a little bit or go a little lower or higher, all those little, little details. I had three teachers and all three were the best at what they did."

He was also inspired by some of the greatest children's artists of all time, so he began writing letters to them. He corresponded with "Peanuts" creator Charles Schultz, who eventually sent him a drawing. "Calvin and Hobbes" cartoonist Bill Watterson wrote back to Mr. Padovano to explain that he doesn't respond to letters and he doesn't give out autographs, but then he proceeded to sign the letter.

He became pen pals with Dr. Seuss himself, Dr. Theodor Seuss Geisel.

"I invited Dr. Seuss to my wedding," Mr. Padovano said, laughing. "He didn't show up. He responded, but he didn't show up. He sent me a drawing."



Chris Padovano '78 with some of his work.

Everything he learned at MCC and all the child-like sensibilities he has gleaned from the masters flow through Mr. Padovano and onto the pages of his books – like the ones he creates with Chely Schwartz.

They have collaborated on a series about a teddy bear named Tandy who lives in a kindergarten classroom. Each Friday, a different student takes Tandy home, and each weekend, Tandy gets to go on an adventure. There's been "Tandy Goes to the Aquarium," "Tandy Loves Christmas" and others.

"Kids love his artwork and the bright colors," she said.

"He tends to use a lot of prime colors and when they print the book, it's just beautiful. The colors are very, very bright."

Lou Tharp is working with Mr. Padovano on their fourth book together. Mr. Tharp has come to rely on his insight into the young reader's mind. He jokes that Mr. Padovano talked him out of using the word existentialism in their upcoming book, "Larry the Only Lonely Shark."

"He's got a better understanding of children than I do," Mr. Tharp said. "He's written children's books. He loves children. I'm an adult, a professor. I don't talk kids' language, but he does. He just gets them."



MCC student Leslie Del Salto hangs a decorated t-shirt in the College Center as part of the Clothesline Project, which serves as a visual reminder of the impact of sexual violence. Participants were asked to decorate a t-shirt with stories, pictures and messages of support to add to the growing clothesline. The program was sponsored by MCC's Democracy House and the Middlesex County Center for Empowerment.

ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

AlumNotes

Paul Anderson '68 earned a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Memphis and an M.S. in Educational Research from Southern Connecticut State University. He had worked for Rutgers University as well as the State Department for many years before transitioning to the corporate world. He provided tech support for Procter & Gamble before retiring in 2010. Paul is married and has three sons. He currently resides in Wake Forest, NC.

Paul Jaffe '68, another graduate of MCC's first class, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business from Concord University and an MBA in Pharmaceutical Marketing. Paul is married to wife Laurie and works as vice president of sales for MediSolutions.

Jo-Ann Craig '69 earned a B.S. in Business Administration from Cameron University, Lawton, OK. She then earned an M.S. degree in Higher Education Administration from the University of Pennsylvania. After more than 35 years in the college student financial aid field serving schools in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and North Carolina, she retired from Cape Fear Community College in Wilmington, NC in 2015.

Linda Donato Kennedy '72 and **Carlotta Conte Miller '72** met up in New York City recently – the first time they had met since graduating from Montclair State University in 1974. Carlotta is retired principal of Bowne-Munro Elementary School, East Brunswick, currently serving as an adjunct at Kean University, supervising student teachers in elementary and English education. Linda lives

in Boston and is a retired hospitality executive recently elected to the MCC Foundation Board of Trustees. With her husband, Ned, Linda established The Alfredo & Antoinette Donato Endowed Scholarship honoring her parents.

Patrick Hetzel '97 studied Fire Science at MCC and feels that the Project Connections Program helped him succeed. He went on to complete his Bachelor's Degree at New Jersey City University in 2000 and now works for the New York State Office of Children and Family Services as a fire safety representative in the New York City Regional Office. He currently is in the graduate school at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, earning a Master's Degree in Public Administration. He plans to return to MCC to complete a statistics class.

For **Mattie McCarthy '68**, nursing was a calling. So at age 42, when the opportunity presented itself, she enrolled in the nascent MCC program.

Mattie had been began working in a hospital as a nurse's aide and loved it. At age 32, while at Perth Amboy General Hospital, now Raritan Bay Medical Center, she decided to become a Registered Nurse. She applied at the School of Nursing at Perth Amboy General Hospital but it was not taking married students. So she enrolled at the Vocational and Technical High School in its Practical Nursing Program. She started in 1958 and graduated in 1959.

Mattie worked as a Practical Nurse at Perth Amboy General Hospital for 9 ½ years. She then read that MCC was starting a nursing program and would accept 50 students to start. By that time, she was 42 years old and did not expect to be accepted. She interviewed with Rose Channing, the head of the program. Dr. Channing

asked if Mattie could keep up with the rigorous program because of her age, and she told her without a doubt she could! Several days later, Mattie heard she had been admitted.

"I thought I died and went to heaven," she said. She began in September of 1966 and completed the two-year program in 1968.

Mattie continued working at Perth Amboy General Hospital. In the evenings she took classes at MCC with the hopes of accumulating enough credits to get her Bachelor's Degree. She was able to transfer many of them to Jersey City State. It took her 3 ½ years to complete that program at night, but in 1981 she graduated. She went on to Wagner College in Staten Island for her Master's degree, which she completed in 1988.

"I had an excellent education at MCC with very knowledgeable instructors, but it was Rose Channing who was the most influential," Mattie said. "I loved every minute of it. I will never forget the excellent educa-

tion I received at MCC."

She then spent 32 years at Perth Amboy General in the Obstetrics Department and concentrated working in the nursery.

"I became a surrogate grandmother to many of those babies," she said.

Mattie feels she owes everything to Middlesex County College. She was the first person from Perth Amboy General Hospital to graduate from MCC, and over the years she has encouraged many to follow. Mattie's career spanned 32 years in New Jersey and another 15 in California, where she is currently residing. In June of 2018, Mattie turned 94 years old, and will never forget what Middlesex County College did for her career.



Mattie McCarthy
in the 1968 yearbook.

Jody Orth, RM '04 After graduating from the MCC/UMDNJ Nursing Program, Jody started working as a Registered Nurse at Jersey Shore University Medical Center in Neptune, NJ. She is currently on the Maternal Child Services floor. Prior to completing her Associate Degree, Jody had earned a Bachelor's Degree in Communications at Rowan University in 1991. She recently completed a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from Chamberlain College of Nursing.

Rupinder Sandhu '08 graduated from Health Sciences under the name Rupinder Kaur. Before graduating MCC, she transferred to Rutgers to complete a B.A. in Psychology, graduating in 2010. She then moved to Chicago to work as a regional healthcare recruiter and went back to school in 2013 to obtain a Nursing degree. She graduated as a Registered Nurse from Muhlenberg Nursing School in Plainfield in 2016, and completed a Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree online with Chamberlain University. She is currently working on a Master's in Nursing – Nurse Executive (MSN) also at Chamberlain University. When Rupinder was a student at MCC, she was the president



Jonathan Rosario and Nicole Risoli, Alumni Association co-presidents.

of the Indian Students Association and Hindu Student Council, holding many events to raise money for various causes.

Christopher "CJ" Mooney '10 was an NJ STAR while at MCC. He graduated from Rutgers University with a degree in Criminal

Jonathan Rosario '07 and Nicole Risoli '15 were elected co-presidents of the MCC Alumni Association this spring. Mr. Rosario has worked at TD Bank for over 15 years and is currently vice president & senior relationship manager of commercial lending in Central New Jersey. Ms. Risoli was her class valedictorian and delivered the address at Commencement. She is a real estate agent and manages Section 8 properties as well as participates in community service activities.

Justice and Sociology and attended Concordia University-Irvine, and earned a Master's Degree in Coaching and Athletic Administration in 2016. He works in special education at Joyce Kilmer Middle School and is also MCC's baseball coach. He was Region XIX Coach of the Year in 2017.

Zobia Ahmed '14 is currently a student at Rutgers University and works as an R&D lab technician at Bentley Laboratories in Edison. She was inspired by her MCC microbiology professor, Erin Christensen.

Declon Friday '15 is working toward a Master's Degree at New Jersey City University majoring in National Security Studies with a specialization in Information Assurance and Cyber Security. He is also working full time for the federal government.

Katelynn Scarinci '17 was accepted at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York. Her favorite professor at MCC was James O'Brien, who inspired her to pursue a career in forensic science.



Lakhwinderpal "Paul" Singh, a 2011 graduate, was named the 2018 Alumnus of the Year during Celebration Day, an annual event to honor members of the College community. Mr. Singh received an Associate Degree in Business and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business from Thomas Edison State University, and he will earn a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies in January. He was also a scholarship coordinator at MCC for four years. "MCC transformed my life," he said. "Here I am today, with so much more than I could ever imagine. MCC was the catalyst to my success on many levels and I am forever grateful." He is flanked by Veronica Clinton, executive director of the Middlesex County College Foundation, left, and College President Joann La Perla-Morales. Two MCC employees received Outstanding Service to the College awards during Celebration Day. Amalia Claffey received the award for staff members and Daniel Fuchs for administrators.

In Memoriam

Eric Kandrashoff '69	Adelaida Garrido '86
Lucille Neumann '69	Gregory Bilinski '90
Gary Hoos '71	Michael Holup '90
Wayne Cuperwich '75	Samuel Rutch '94
Joseph Hogan '80	Norman Chadwick '99
Beatrice Scherer '80	Richard Lakhani
Diann Elecko '81	Thomas Mirdala
Marie Bodnar '86	

MCC FOUNDATION REPORT

The MCC Foundation Says Thank You!

All gifts make a difference!

Some of them are noted here:

Betty Whalen, MPA, '87 generously donated to the **Betty Whalen Health Technologies Annual Scholarship** in support of a deserving Hispanic female student enrolled in Health Technologies.

Colleen and Michael A. Maroney, Jr. '80 continued their support of the **Colleen and Michael A. Maroney, Jr. Endowed Scholarship**. Established in 2015, the scholarship is awarded to students 25 years of age or older who are pursuing a degree in liberal arts and/or humanities.

Robert and Elaine Ciatto provided additional funding for the **Robert J. and Elaine L. Ciatto Endowed Scholarship** for a business major, raised by a single parent, with a GPA of 2.5 or more and financial need.

Janet and Russell Baker generously provided new support for the **Baker Family Scholarship Fund** for single mothers with financial need.



Mitchell Danzis and Nicholas Danzis made a contribution to the **Dr. Sidney Danzis Memorial Scholarship**, established in 2006 in memory of their grandfather, a prominent member of the College community. Mitchell (left) and Nicholas flank students at the Annual Scholarship Reception.

Keith and Karen Mullane made a gift to the **Mary Braun Endowed and Annual Scholarships** established in memory of Keith's grandmother. The scholarships provide a lasting tribute to Mrs. Braun and established a legacy of assisting students who endeavor to improve their lives through education.

The Margaret and Peter Chang Foundation's contribution of \$12,000 to the **Margaret Chang Scholarship Fund** will continue to provide scholarship assistance to graduates of New Brunswick High School.

The P&G Company made a generous contribution to the **Ann Goodwin Memorial Annual Scholarship** established in 2015 in memory of Professor Goodwin, a member of the dental hygiene community and an expert in clinical dental hygiene, oral pathology and education.

The **Auxiliary of JFK Medical Center Foundation, Inc.** renewed its support of an annual scholarship to benefit two full-time students pursuing a degree in Health Technologies who reside in Edison, Metuchen or Woodbridge.

The New Brunswick Rotary Club Foundation made a gift of \$1,000 to the **Rotary Club of New Brunswick Scholarship Fund** to be awarded to U.S. military veterans discharged under honorable conditions, active service members or current members of the National Guard or reserves.

The Neuwiesinger Foundation Corporation provided a gift of \$9,600 for the **Neuwiesinger Foundation Annual Scholarship** for Biology or Biotechnology majors, with preference given to students wishing to pursue a career in medical research.

Barbra Siperstein has fulfilled her pledge to **The Barbra Siperstein Endowed Scholarship** for transgender students. Ms. Siperstein hopes the scholarship will serve to encourage further support of transgender students in higher education.



Investors Foundation continued its loyal support of MCC students with a Mission Partner donation for 2018. From left: Dee Abedraboh, vice president/retail district manager, Investors Bank; Joann La Perla-Morales, president, MCC; DeAngelina Inman, assistant vice president, Investors Bank; and Veronica Clinton, executive director, MCC Foundation.

The **Stanley Spikes Memorial Scholarship** has been established by Professor James Finne in tribute to his childhood friend, Stanley Spikes, who died in combat with the 25th Infantry, U.S. Army in Dau Tieng, Vietnam, in April 1968, one month before his 21st birthday. The scholarship is given in recognition of the contributions of African-Americans to this nation's history, and is intended to carry Mr. Spikes' memory into the life of the recipients and help ensure they receive the education, and live the abundant life, that Stanley was denied.

Efstathios Kanterakis '96, founder of ENK Solutions, an engineering and consulting firm based in Cranbury, NJ, and New York, generously established **The ENK Solutions Annual Scholarship**. The scholarship will benefit full-time students majoring in Engineering Technologies or Gaming and Animation. Recipients must be residents of Middlesex County, of direct Hellenic descent, child of a single-parent, with the student or head of household an immigrant or first-generation U.S. citizen.

The J. Craig Putnal Memorial Masonic Endowed Scholarship was established in October 2017 with a gift of \$50,000 from the Highland Park Masonic Lodge #240. The endowed fund follows upon the annual scholarship provided by the Highland Park Lodge since 2012 and will support first-year, full-time students in any major with high academic potential based on high school performance.

The **Elizabeth Chezmar Memorial Scholarship** has been established by Judith Chezmar and family and friends. Elizabeth Chezmar lived in Edison and served as director of nursing at Perth Amboy General Hospital and Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, and was a nursing instructor at Middlesex County College. Mrs. Chezmar passed away in April at the age of 92, and her family has generously chosen to honor her long life of service to others by establishing a scholarship for Nursing students who have satisfactorily completed their first year of study.

The **Robert Sydney Needham Foundation**, managed by Wells Fargo Wealth Management, has provided \$10,000 to support a highly-qualified Nursing student and allow the recipient to focus on his or her academic and career goals.

MCC Foundation Mission Partners

Our Mission Partners enhance the MCC Foundation's resources and help meet the challenge of providing financial opportunities for students to fulfill their educational and career goals.

Johnson & Johnson

Investors Foundation

The Provident Bank Foundation

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital

The Brunetti Foundation renewed its support of **The Brunetti Foundation Annual Scholarship** with a gift of \$2,500 to benefit Nursing students with financial need and a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Denise Krisza '05 renewed her commitment to the **Julia B. Krisza Memorial Scholarship** established in memory of her mother-in-law. The scholarship is awarded to second-year students majoring in Radiography with financial need.

The **Michael Hogan Memorial Scholarship** has been established by Annie Hogan, chair of Visual, Performing and Media Arts. The scholarship honors the memory of Ms. Hogan's brother, Michael, who passed away in Johannesburg, South Africa in 1976, and will benefit students from Africa, or African-American students, majoring in the Visual, Performing and Media Arts.

Infineum USA, L.P., Phillips 66 and LyonDellBasel each made a generous contribution of \$5,000 to the Process Technology program. The funds make it possible to purchase equipment to facilitate education, research and training for students enrolled in the Process Technology program.

Paige and Nicky L'Hommedieu once again extended their loyal support of MCC students, including sponsorship of Casino Night, operational support for the MCC Foundation, and underwriting for the 50th Commencement.

Bristol-Myers Squibb renewed its support of the Research in Science Initiative with a contribution of \$20,000 for 2018-19. With the assistance of Bristol-Myers Squibb, the Natural Sciences Department has expanded its laboratory facilities and added research topics in order to promote lifelong learning and improve students' analytical and independent thinking skills. The new grant will bring active and experiential learning opportunities to introductory-level students, particularly those taking Human Anatomy & Physiology courses. Every year, 1500 students take the Human A & P course sequence, with most majoring in Biology, Nursing, Dental Hygiene or Radiography.

Rutgers Community Health Foundation has renewed its commitment to the New Brunswick Center High School Summer Institute Program with a generous gift of \$29,991. The program provides academic support to area high school students, together with college preparation activities and life skills development.

Unrestricted Possibilities for MCC Students

We thank the many loyal donors to the 2017-2018 Annual Fund. Contributions are provided by alumni and friends, as well as by members of the MCC Board of Trustees, the Board of Trustees and Advisory Board of the MCC Foundation, and members of the faculty and staff.

Donations to the unrestricted Annual Fund help the MCC Foundation fulfill its mission of providing scholarships, and raising funds for select College programs. We ask you to support the 2018-2019 Annual Fund and to help provide UNRESTRICTED POSSIBILITIES for our students!

Please make your gift online at www.mcc-foundation.org or call 732-906-2564 to pay by credit card. Make checks payable to the Middlesex County College Foundation and mail them to 2600 Woodbridge Avenue, Edison, NJ 08837. THANK YOU!





Longtime Board Member Retires

Hank Bauer, who joined the MCC Foundation Board of Trustees in 1986 as a representative of Bristol-Myers Squibb, has retired. He served for a remarkable 32 years, including as chairman from 1992-1994. Mr. Bauer also served as a member of the Board of Trustees of Middlesex County College, and of the MCC Retail Services Corporation. The Foundation thanks Mr. Bauer for his long and dedicated service to the students of Middlesex County College.



Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies has provided \$239,000 to support the Johnson & Johnson Health Technologies Scholarships for Nursing, Dental Hygiene and Radiography majors, and the J&J Summer Scholars Program 2018-19 for recent New Brunswick High School graduates. Officials of J&J visited the campus in April to meet with College representatives and students. Seated, from left: students Bailey Ramsay, David Rosario, Carolyn Walker and Xavier Valentin. Standing: Mark McCormick, vice president for academic and student affairs; College President Joann La Perla-Morales, Frank Rodriguez and Kenneth Turner of Johnson & Johnson, Kimberlee Hooper, director of school relations; and Veronica Clinton, MCC Foundation executive director.

LUCKY 7's!

More than 230 guests enjoyed an evening of make-believe gambling, including roulette, craps, blackjack and poker, helping to raise net proceeds of over \$35,000 to support the mission of the MCC Foundation. The Foundation also thanks its Mission partners for their loyal commitment: Investors Foundation, Johnson & Johnson, The Provident Bank Foundation and Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital.



Generous sponsorship support was received from numerous individuals, corporations and foundations, including: **Casino Hosts:** Investors Foundation, Paige and Elizabeth L'Hommedieu, The Provident Bank Foundation and Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital; **Buffet Sponsor:** New Brunswick Plating Inc.; **Dessert Sponsors:** CulinArt, Inc., Summit Associates, Inc., Frank and Joan Deiner and Whispering Knoll Assisted Living; **Buffet Co-Sponsors:** Donald Drost '79, Joann La Perla-Morales, Maureen Lawrence, Mark McCormick and Bradley Morton; **Gaming Table Sponsors:** Roseanne Bucciarelli, Til and Kathy Dallavalle, Firstech Environmental, Markations, Inc., Middlesex and Somerset Counties Central Labor Council, Peter and Kate Mittnacht, Plumbers & Pipefitters Local Union No. 9, Starbrad Realty, LLC, Universal Mailing Service Inc./Colleen and Michael A. Maroney, Jr. '80, Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A. and Theresa Young; **Queen of Hearts Sponsors:** Delta Dental of NJ, Inc., Kenneth and Genette Falk, Joanne Fillweber '82, Charles and Ruth Larsson, Magyar Bank, Middlesex County Building & Construction Trades Council, Saker ShopRites, Inc. and Kim Silva-Martinez '14.



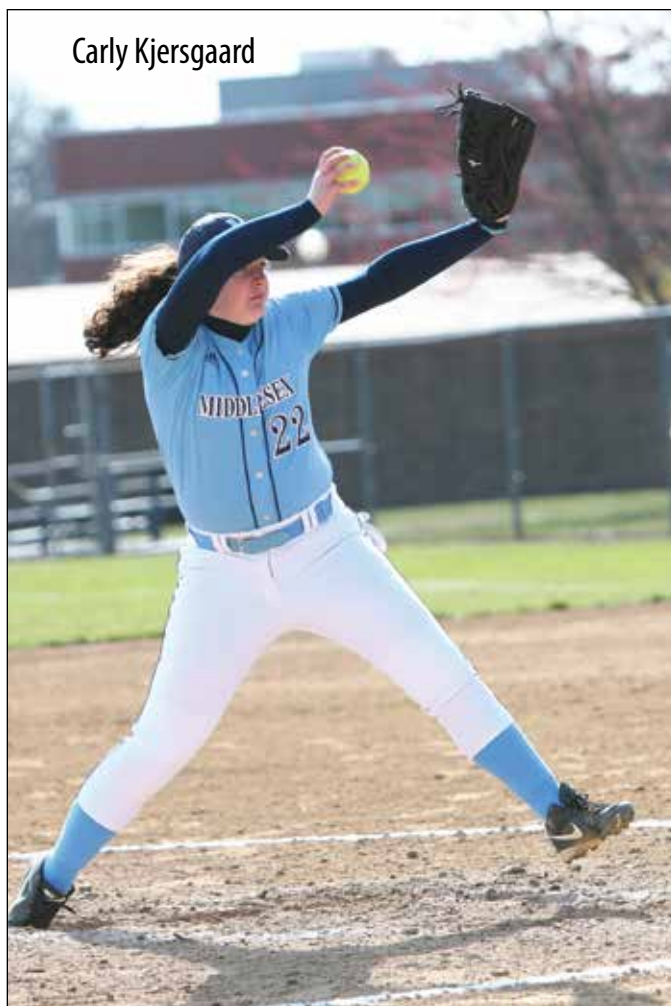
Mark Banyacski chaired the event, assisted by MCC Foundation Trustees Genette Falk, Joanne Fillweber '82 and DeAngelina Inman, together with several faculty and staff members, Donna-Marie Gardner-Beadling '00, Meghan Alai '02, Latoya Carroo, Donna Coyle '78, Kevin Dalina '09, Elaine Buscemi, Kimberlee Hooper, Veronia Clinton and Kayleigh Maklary '10. Restaurants, theaters, hotels, sports teams, and numerous businesses and individuals donated Tricky Tray items. Disc jockey Luis Rey entertained the guests throughout the evening.

SPORTS UPDATE

The **softball** team missed the play-offs by one game. Carly Kjersgaard made the All-Region and All-Garden State Athletic Conference teams, as well as second team All-America. Taylor Kelly made All-Garden State Athletic Conference. The following athletes were honored at the end of the season: Rachel Intravartola (Offensive MVP), Taylor Kelly (Defensive MVP), Alissa Bikowski (Hustle Award), Kelsie Whiteford (Most Improved), and Ms. Kjersgaard (MVP), who also received the Vincent DeSario Award, given to a sophomore student-athlete who has excelled in the classroom as well as on the field.



Alissa Bikowski
(catcher)



Carly Kjersgaard



Samantha Nunez throws to first
to complete a double play.

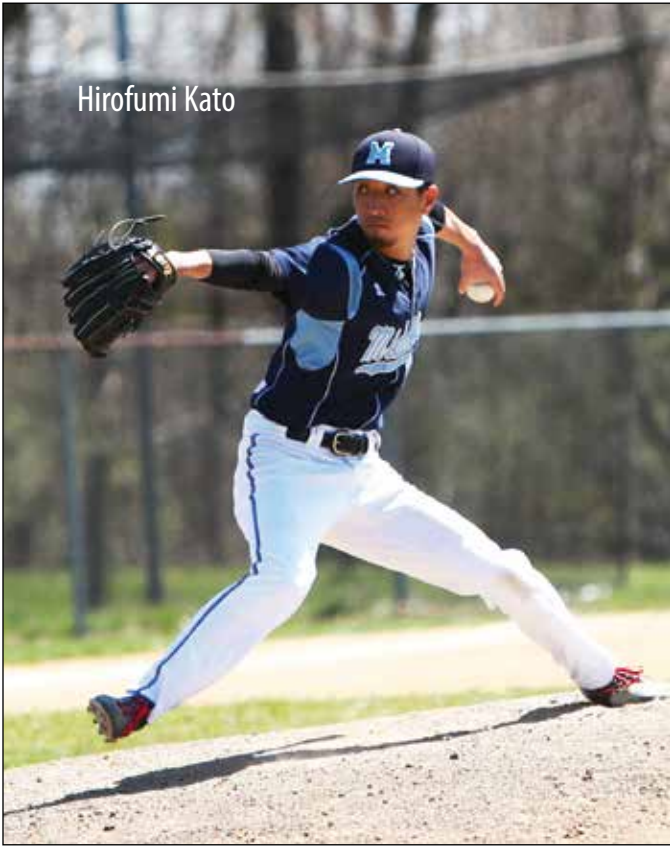


Kenny Zahn is safe at home.

The **baseball** team was very young this year, finishing eighth in the Garden State Athletic Conference. The following athletes were honored at the end of the season: Noah Brisach (Offensive MVP), Mike Russo (Defensive MVP), Kenny Zahn (Coaches Award), Sergei Swart (Coaches Award) and Hirofumi Kato (Perseverance Award). Coach C.J. Mooney is really looking forward to next season with the returning talent and new recruits.



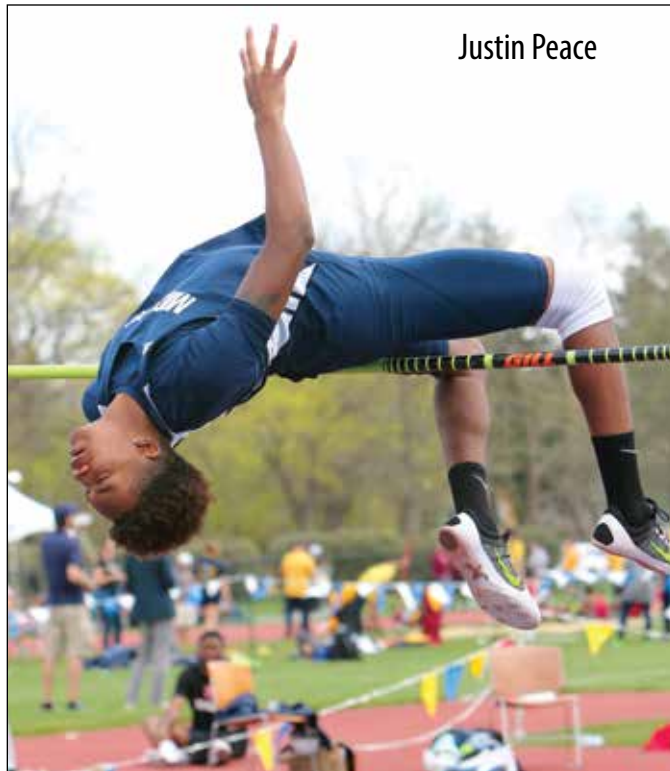
William Mitchell



Hirofumi Kato



Hannah Brown leads the race.



Justin Peace



Katy Pacheco



Damon Pleasant

Track and Field saw 11 athletes qualify for the National Tournament: Justin Peace, Austin Brooks, Mohamed Galal, Mike Mazzei, Imani Lue, Leeannah Hunter, Gina Conte, Isamary Ochoa, Katy Pacheco, Maleena Hernandez, and Hannah Brown. Ms. Pacheco was an All-American in the triple jump and pole vault.

2600 Woodbridge Ave.
Post Office Box 3050
Edison, NJ 08818-3050

Change Service Requested



The end-of-semester party allowed students to blow off some steam and have fun in the middle of finals. They enjoyed food, shot baskets, played board games, and got a break during a stress-filled week.