

# Fouettés & Fun!



**Melissa King '08 wants the young dancers at her studio to learn skills, gain confidence and have fun.**

**See page 8.**

**This issue includes a special Admissions section.**

# MCC Besieged!



The College Center was invaded by all sorts of costumed characters during Korgaracon in April. Several hundred cosplay students interacted, shopped, played video games, attended workshops, listened to music and had a great time. It was organized by the MCC student club Geek Index led by Jaren Haskins '17.



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From left: College President Joann La Perla-Morales; Shirley Wachtel, Faculty Scholar Award winner; Vice President Mark McCormick; Kathy Shay, Teaching Excellence Award winner; Linda Scherr, dean of Arts and Sciences; and Sara Blomquist, Excellence in Teaching Part-Time Award winner.

## Outstanding Professors Receive Awards for Teaching, Scholarship

Three outstanding professors at MCC were recently honored: Shirley Wachtel, professor of English, was selected as the 2017 Faculty Scholar; Kathy Shay, of the Mathematics Department, received the Excellence in Teaching Award; and Sara Blomquist, of the English Department, received the Excellence in Teaching Part-Time Award.

“Dr. Wachtel approaches her scholarship in two major directions: her longtime research in survival and Holocaust studies and her work on reading pedagogy,” said Susan Altman, chair of the selection committee. “Her writing about survival and the Holocaust has recently been presented at the Middlesex County Chapter of Brandeis Women and at Catawba Valley Community College in Hickory, North Carolina where she did a reading of her book ‘My Mother’s Shoes’ to more than 500 students who had been assigned the book as part of their coursework. This scholarship has been shared with her MCC students and used to advance writing in her courses at the College.”

Dr. Wachtel’s pedagogical research on reading and basic skills resulted in the 2012 publication of “Spotlight on Reading.” In addition to her research and writing in her discipline, Dr. Wachtel has also published extensively for adults and children, including works of fiction and poetry. Her poem, “A Summer’s Evening,” won second prize in the Dream Quest 2015 Contest.

“Her commitment to ongoing research in these important disciplines emphasizes Shirley’s unwavering commitment to lifelong learning and scholarship,” Professor Altman said.

Dr. Shay brings a variety of teaching methods into the classroom.

“She is truly a passionate master teacher,” Professor Altman said. “A lifelong learner, Kathy brings innovation and new technologies to the classroom, continually

working with students to instill a love of learning in addition to teaching them how to learn. As evidenced by her strong teaching philosophy and examples of her unique classroom resources, Kathy always seeks to improve her teaching. Committed to the success of her students, Kathy emphasizes the process of problem-solving and critical thinking. Student projects integrate not only mathematics, but also writing and communication and invite her students to embrace the discipline in innovative ways.”

Dr. Shay has also been involved in CELT, the Center for the Enrichment of Learning and Teaching, since its inception. CELT members serve as leaders in the College community by providing expertise, support and resources to enhance learning, teaching and scholarship.

“Through CELT, Kathy shares her love of teaching and learning with the wider MCC faculty community,” Professor Altman said. “She challenges us to think about how we approach pedagogy in the classroom and raises up all of our teaching.”

Professor Blomquist, an adjunct faculty member, emphasizes connectivity and multiple learning options as well as individual approaches to learning.

“She is one of the rare individuals blessed with both a compassionate heart and a flexible mind,” Professor Altman said. “Sara is a caring individual who stresses to her students the application of what they are learning in the classroom. Encouraging active learning, her project-based assignments create a strong sense of student engagement in her classroom. Using a variety of teaching resources, activities, rubrics and a unique first-day packet, Sara engages her students in innovative ways. She is committed to helping her students achieve success in their coursework and beyond.”



As part of Women's History Month, Ivy Charmatz, an Emmy-award-winning producer at News 12 New Jersey, spoke to students, including those in Professor Louis Dell'Omo's public relations class. She chatted with several before the program. From left: Rohan Khanna, Professor Dell'Omo, Stephanie Michael and Ms. Charmatz.

James Monroe Elementary School cut the ribbon to officially open its brand-new building in February. In 2014, fire destroyed the school, and for several months, the students used space in the old South 1 and 2 buildings at MCC. College President Joann La Perla-Morales was one of several people honored at the ceremony by Edison Superintendent Richard O'Malley. Photo by PM Studios.



Teresa Perez Ciccon, a master teacher in the Simonson Jazz Dance Method, was a visiting instructor at MCC Professor Aimee Mitacchione's Modern Dance class. "During my sabbatical I became certified in this jazz dance syllabus, and studied intensely with Teresa," Professor Mitacchione said. "I invited her to teach a master class here to begin to expose our dancers to this technique, as a way of celebrating what I learned. It is my intention to incorporate this methodology into my teaching here at the College."



West Hall, the College's new enrollment services center, recently received LEED Gold Status, signifying that it is environmentally friendly.

## West Hall Earns Gold LEED Status as Environmentally Sound

West Hall, the new enrollment services center, has earned a LEED® gold rating from the United States Green Building Council, signifying its environmental attributes. LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is an internationally recognized mark of excellence that provides building owners with a framework for identifying and implementing practical and measurable green building design, construction, operations and maintenance solutions.

“The LEED program encourages us to design buildings that have a low impact on the environment with optimal energy efficiency,” said Donald R. Drost, executive director of facilities maintenance at MCC. “It validates our efforts.”

The LEED report on the project looked at seven areas: sustainability sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, regional priority, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality, and innovation. Some of the building's features include water efficient plumbing fixtures, LED lights, and prominent windows to reduce excessive energy use. The building's paint, floor and furniture are non-toxic, 30 percent of the materials used in construction included recycled content, and construction waste was recycled.

This is MCC's second building to receive a LEED rating; Crabiell Hall, which opened in 2011, was awarded a silver rank.



The Visual Arts Student Exhibition, an annual showcase of the work of MCC students in art classes, kicked off with a reception. The exhibit included drawing, painting, sculpture and mixed media. Here, Karen Famiglietti shows her untitled artwork to fellow artist Nick Baldie.

# Tassels Turned: MCC Celebrates Grads at 50th Commencement

A total of 1509 degrees and certificates were awarded to 1476 students by Middlesex County College Tuesday, May 23 at the 50th annual Commencement exercises witnessed by approximately 3500 guests in the Expo Center at the Raritan Center. Valedictorian Sara Rose Chirco delivered the class welcome, sharing her experiences and aspirations. Ms. Chirco is a Liberal Arts/Sociology major.

“We have all worked so hard to get here today,” she told the class. “I’ve met so many hardworking people here at Middlesex. Some were fresh out of high school, struggling to find their passion and learning to juggle their newfound sense of educational freedom. Some were moms who are raising three kids, working two jobs, taking six classes each semester and somehow managing to get straight A’s. It’s amazing what you’ve all accomplished – what we have all accomplished – here at MCC. It is a huge success.

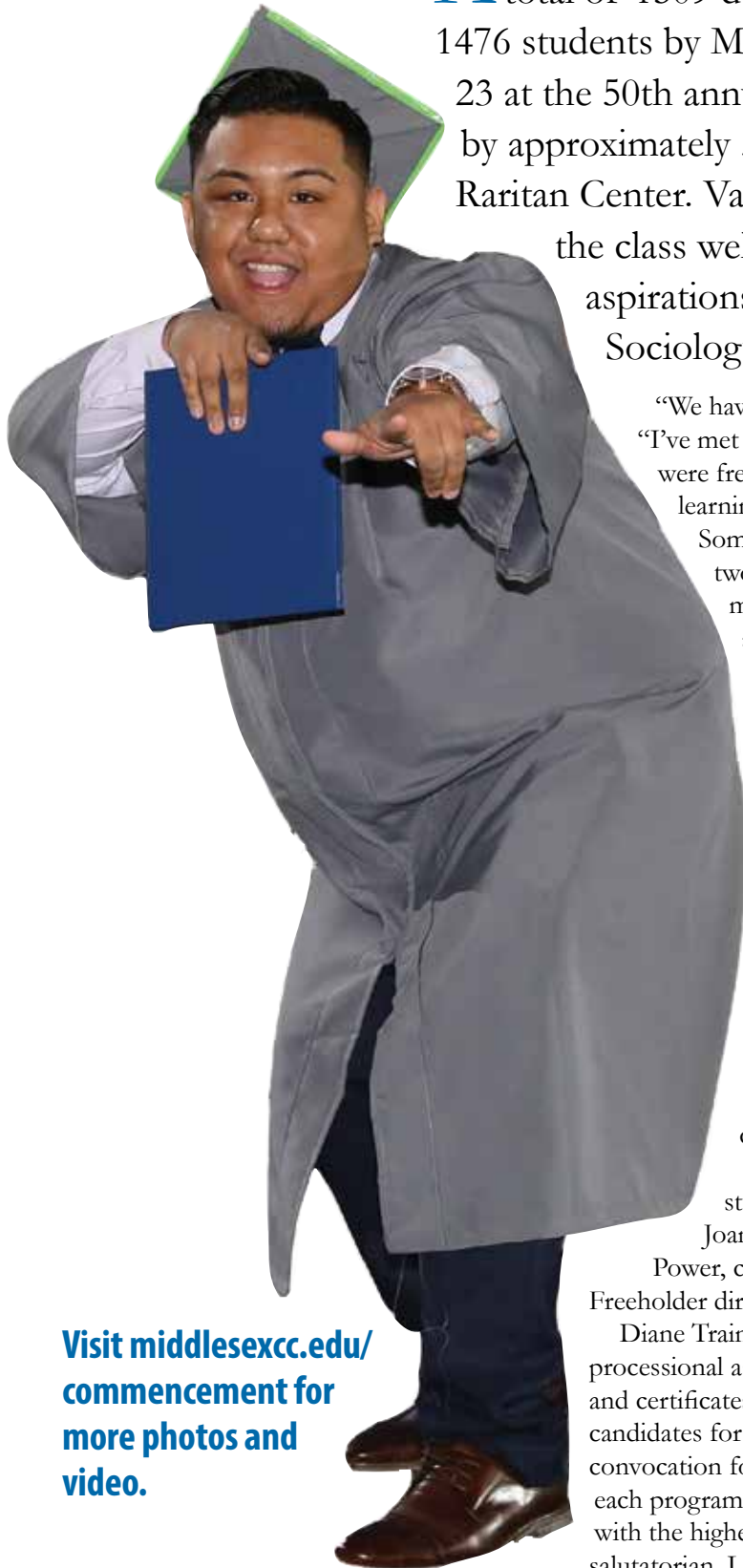
“Success has different meanings for different people. For students it’s making it to graduation or handing in a paper on time. For athletes it’s winning the big game or further developing their skills. For parents, it’s getting you out of the house. But seriously, don’t let other people measure your success. You define your own success. We should all be proud that we are here today, no longer as students of MCC, but as graduates.”

Approximately 650 members of the Class of 2017 participated in the exercises, representing the 385 graduates of August 2016, 373 of January 2017 and 718 of May 2017. 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.

Diane Trainor, of the Natural Sciences Department, led the academic procession as grand marshal. Dr. La Perla-Morales conferred degrees and certificates to the graduates. Dr. McCormick presented the candidates for graduation. 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. Chirco; the salutatorian, Laurence W. Giordano; and Christopher J. Klapper; Dorota Matracz, Chelsea McNulty and Yana Titova.



Visit [middlesexcc.edu/commencement](http://middlesexcc.edu/commencement) for more photos and video.

# Commencement 2017



**Happy Grads!**  
Top right: Sara Rose Chirco, the valedictorian, and Laurence Giordano, the salutatorian.

# Fouettés &

**Melissa King wanted to open her own dance studio ever since she choreographed her first piece at MCC. She now runs Evolution Dance Center, which is loud, friendly, high-energy and fun.**

# Fun!





*T*

*wo willowy figures cloaked in the late afternoon's shadows sprint the length of the rectangular room, launch themselves into the air, spin and land. Their arms are elegant, their feet precise. The mirrors along one wall are transfixed on their every move until the dance ends and the world stops.*

*Silence. Then giggling.*

*Jada Rudd and Alyssa Rogers even seem to laugh in unison.*



The routine, and the exuberant reactions of a couple of fourth graders, capture the essence of what happens here every afternoon.

Fouettés and fun – that's what draws some 120 students to Melissa King's studio in Piscataway. At Evolution Dance Center, preschoolers up to high schoolers hone their skills in ballet, modern dance and more several times a week. Then they go out and use what they've learned in showcases and competitions.

For Ms. King '08, it's all about doing a delicate tap dance between pushing serious students to be their best without pushing them so hard that they grow weary of this demanding art form. To that end, Miss Melissa – that's what everyone lovingly calls her – seems to know just when to use a dash of humor and a flash of her infectious smile. She knows she will get the most out of them when she connects with their hearts and minds.

"The vibe here, I would say it's inspiring," said Louise, Jada's mom. "Miss Melissa gives a lot. She pushes the kids. She challenges them to give all they can. There are no limits. Even if you're not a great dancer, she pushes you to believe that you can succeed in being a great dancer. It's all up in here and in here," as she pointed to her heart and her head.

When Evolution Dance Center opened in June 2016, there was food, music and, of course, dancing. Mayor

*Continued on page 10*



## DANCE

*Continued from page 9*

Brian Wahler cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the studio, which occupies most of the second floor of a small strip mall on Stelton Road.

For Ms. King, it was the realization of a dream that began at Middlesex County College. Just weeks into her studies, she was given a chance to choreograph a routine for the annual fall concert. It is virtually unprecedented to be thrust into such an esteemed role so quickly, but as she watched the dancers on stage perform the movements she had conjured up, Ms. King realized this was what she wanted to do with the rest of her life.

“Even if you go to a four-year school for dance, until your senior or junior years, you really don’t get a chance to choreograph and explore your creativity and things like that,” Ms. King said. “MCC gave me that kind of freedom to explore different options and different avenues in dance and I ended up finding that I had such a huge passion for choreographing.”

Armed with the lessons she learned from Professor Aimee Mitacchione, a B.A. in Dance from Rider and a business degree from DeVry, she eventually returned home to the studio space she grew up dancing in. It had been left vacant for years. There were so many memories, and maybe a few cobwebs, in every corner. This place had potential. Studios A and C needed a splash of color and a little love. She walked in with some lime green paint, some



brushes and the hope she could recreate the atmosphere she knew as a child.

“I wanted it to be a safe place for the kids,” Ms. King said. “I wanted it to be a place where, no matter what has happened during the day, the kids can come here and be themselves and look forward to coming here.”

Mrs. Rudd remembers the day Ms. King picked Jada to help lead the class. Jada had quickly grasped a new routine, and swelled with pride by being selected to instruct her peers.

“She came home, she was so excited,” Mrs. Rudd said. “She was like, ‘Mommy, guess what? I was the only one, and now I’m leading the Beyoncé dance!’”

Leandra Garcia, an 18-year-old who dreams of becoming a Rockette, compares the camaraderie inside Evolution Dance Center to a family in which everyone pulls for each other. She said Ms. King sometimes thinks outside the box to strengthen the bonds, like the time she had the students sit in a circle and pay each other compliments about their dancing and their personalities. Another time, the kids had to carry an egg on a spoon while blindfolded, aided only by the instructions from their teammates.

Trying to balance the egg on that spoon is about as hard as maintaining just the right balance of work and fun,

but it keeps Ms. King on point, if not en pointe.

“She meets you in the middle,” Ms. Garcia said. “She will say things like, ‘I know you can do it, so I don’t know why you’re not doing it,’ or ‘I know you have it, so I don’t know why you’re not working hard. You need to push yourself to work better.’”



The Veterans Services Center marched in two parades over the Memorial Day weekend – this one in Edison and another in New Brunswick.

# Alumna Receives Award from Advancing Opportunities

Carly Hewitt '16 was honored by Advancing Opportunities, Inc. at its annual Spring Hoedown in April. Ms. Hewitt received the Andrew J. Murphy Award, which recognizes an individual with a disability who demonstrates courage, determination, confidence and spirit.

Ms. Hewitt has spinal muscular atrophy, a neuromuscular disease that renders her unable to move any of her muscles or breathe independently. She relies on a wheelchair and a ventilator, but that did not stop her from graduating from Middlesex and pursuing a degree in psychology from Rutgers University.

In order to complete her schoolwork, Advancing Opportunities' Assistive Technology Center introduced her to eye gaze technology. Working with specialist Jeannette VanHouten, Ms. Hewitt learned to use the technology to communicate and operate her computer.

"I use an eye gaze computer system to do everything in life," she said. "It is my lifesaver! I don't know what I would do if I didn't have the opportunity to use it."

Advancing Opportunities CEO Jack Mudge said Ms. Hewitt is an inspiration.

"Carly is one shining example of the mission of Advancing Opportunities at work," he said. "Our team works every day to make things that were once impossible possible for people with disabilities, but our work would be nothing without the determination and courage of people like Carly."



MCC alumna Carly Hewitt received the Andrew J. Murphy Award from Advancing Opportunities during its second annual Spring Hoedown. Her mother Lori Hewitt (left) and sister Megan Hewitt joined Ms. Hewitt at the podium as she received the honor from Advancing Opportunities' CEO Jack Mudge and Board of Directors' President Jim Bartolomei.

Inspired by her first grade teacher, Ms. Hewitt plans to pursue a career in the field of education, ideally as a learning disabilities teacher consultant or a curriculum writer.

Assistive technology refers to a piece of equipment or environmental adaptation that helps a person with a disability achieve a goal. The Assistive Technology Center is a program of the Assistive Technology Department at Advancing Opportunities, a leader in the field of disability services throughout New Jersey.



Eleven MCC students were recently honored for their induction into Alpha Mu Gamma, the national honor society for foreign language study. Seated, from left: Alejandra Carbajal, Juana Cuarezma, Angela Spinetta, Imelda Stiles, Miluska Zimic. Standing: Professor Brenda Cavanaugh, Zachary Jellison, Stephan Jules, Ksenia Khlystova, Luz Mairy Llauger, Jinali Patel, Maria V. Solano de la Sala Torres, and Gary Abbott, chair of the English as a Second Language Department.



## **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.

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## 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.

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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 Activities Office** for a complete list of social, cultural and recreational activities offered at MCC.



# Paying for College

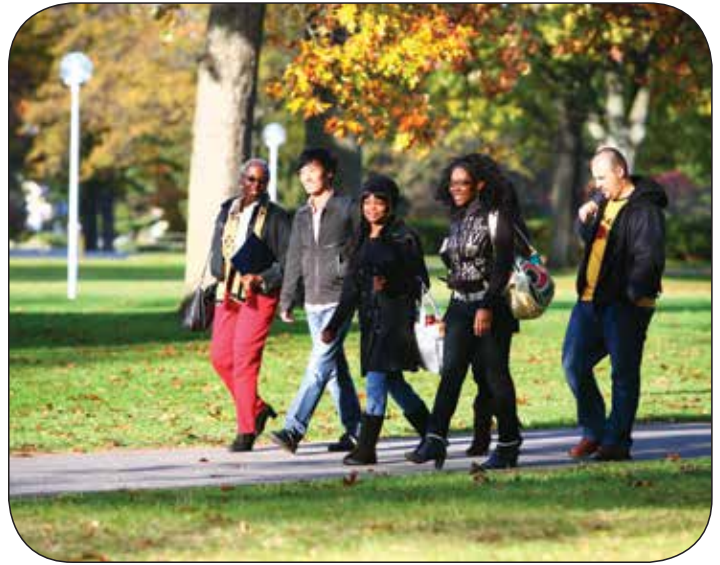
*You Can Afford Middlesex County College!*

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.

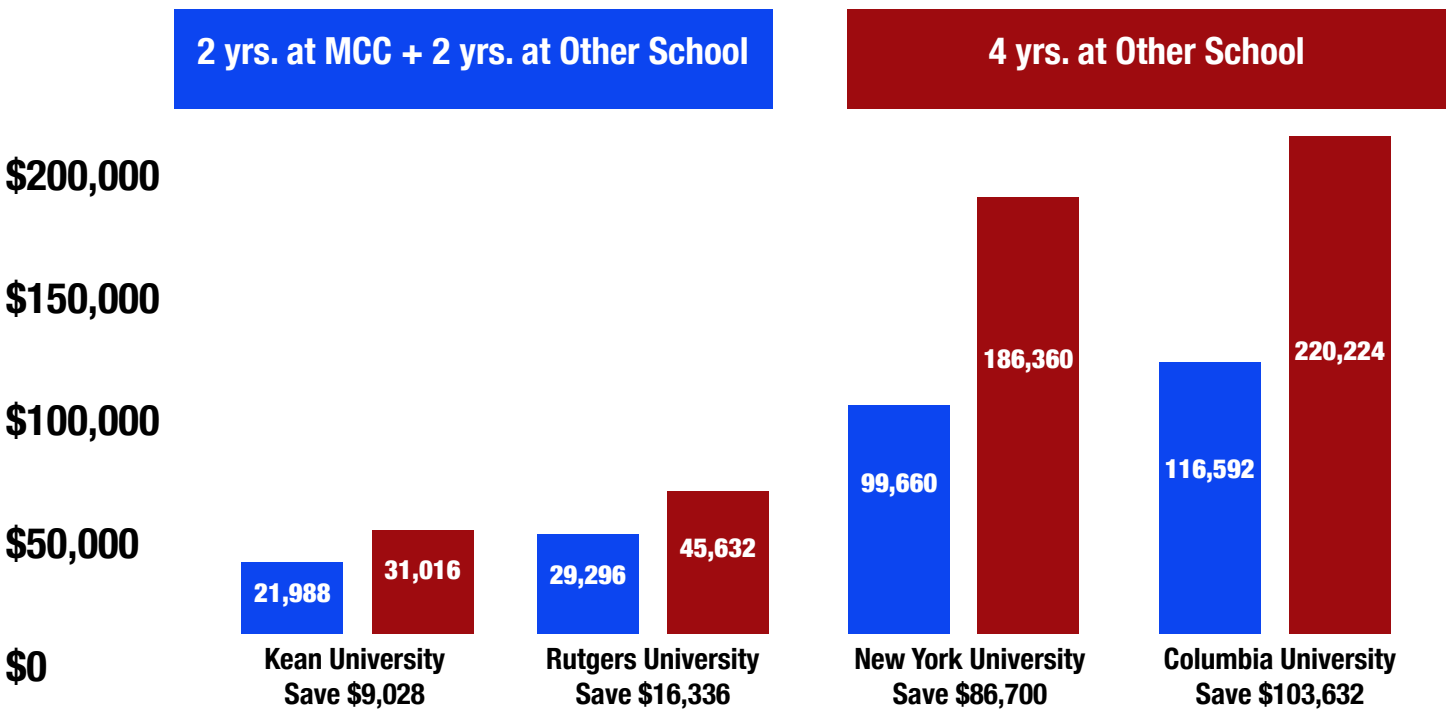
MCC also offers a four-installment payment plan to provide a convenient option. Each of the four payments represents 25 percent of your semester bill.



## 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 Fall 2016 school year. The rates shown above were collected from each school's website and may be subject to change.



For more information, contact our evening degree advisor, John Kruszewski, at 732.548.6000, x3130 or enroll@middlesexcc.edu.

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. More will be added soon.

## Admissions Process: Enroll in 5 Easy Steps

1

Apply  
Online

**Complete your application online with a \$25 application fee at [www.middlesexcc.edu/application](http://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](http://www.middlesexcc.edu/admissions).

2

File Your  
FAFSA!

**Priority deadline to file is May 1.**

**MCC Financial Aid Code is 002615**

3

Take the  
College  
Placement Test

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

4

Register  
for Classes

**NEW STUDENTS:**

**Sign up for group advising and orientation.**

**TRANSFER**

**STUDENTS: Meet with an academic advisor.**

5

Pay  
Your Bill

**PAYMENT OPTIONS:**

- Pay Online
- Payment Plan
- Financial Aid/Scholarships



# Library Welcomes Spring and Examines Homelessness



Two programs at the Library celebrated spring and looked at homelessness. Above left, a panel discussed homelessness in and around Middlesex County. Hank Kalet, an MCC adjunct professor and journalist, read from his book, "As an Alien in a Land of Promise," and MCC student Alexander Lewis (speaking) shared his story as a 20-year-old who found himself homeless during a cold New Jersey winter. Representatives from nonprofits also spoke on how students can help. In the other program, authors read from their spring-themed works. Above right, seated from left, Dan Zimmerman, Dan Weeks, Gregg Glory, Mat Spano; standing, Emanuel di Pasquale, Hank Kalet, with Library Director Marilyn Ochoa.



## Notables

**Patrick Madama**, vice president for institutional advancement, was recognized for 25 years of outstanding service to the advancement profession at the annual District II CASE Conference in Baltimore in February. Other achievement award winners included Barbara Capsouras of the County College of Morris and Donna Salmon of the University of Rochester.

**Steve Larkin**, chair of Medical Lab Technology, received the Outstanding Educator of the Year award from the American Society of Clinical Laboratory Science – New Jersey at its annual spring seminar.



The Indian Students Association and Hindu Student Council celebrated the festival of Holi and Vaisakhi in April. On the day of Holi, friends and families get together, hug and put colors on each other. Vaisakhi, a festival of music and dance, is celebrated by Sikhs in India to mark the birth of religion.



# Water Detectives



**R**achel Mahoney was used to getting nothing but “A”s in all her classes, so when she started in Microbiology in September, it was a rude awakening. A “B” was looming on the horizon.

But she was quiet and too shy to speak with her professor. She was also a little overwhelmed, balancing a full load of classes and working two jobs: one at a restaurant and another as a peer mentor at MCC.

But she was also determined. She quit the restaurant job and focused on her studies. She got that A.

Even better, she summoned the courage to talk with her professor, Erin Christensen. Dr. Christensen saw potential in her student and asked if she'd like to participate in a research study.

“I didn't know anything about microbiology or how it related to real life,” Ms. Mahoney said. “But I immediately said I was very interested in this opportunity.”

The project was examining water samples in the Elizabeth Marina to check bacteria levels and to see if they have become resistant to antibiotics.

So, along with her research partner, Ms. Mahoney gathered six water samples, brought them back to the lab,

and allowed them to grow. They then identified bacteria that grew from the water samples using biochemical tests.

“We're concerned that people toss old prescription drugs down the drain, or flush them down the toilet, which can get into the water system,” Dr. Christensen said. “These drugs may affect the bacteria and make it resistant to antibiotics. This is not a good thing.”

The project confirmed that indeed there were resistant bacteria in the water.

“The bacteria may have picked up a gene that gives it the ability to be resistant to antibiotics,” Ms. Mahoney said. “We need further study to determine why they are there and whether they can spread their resistance to other bacteria in the water.”

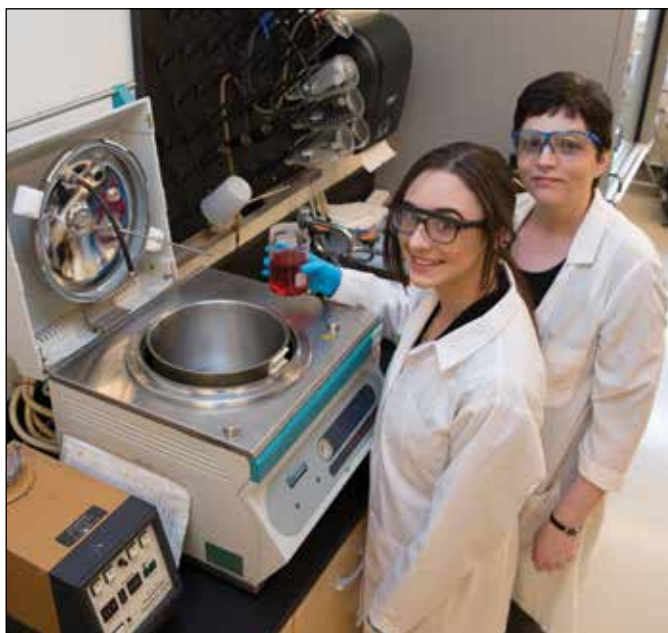
Ms. Mahoney, who graduated in May and is transferring to Rutgers University, was presented a \$3,000 scholarship from the New Jersey Water Environment Association at its annual conference in Atlantic City in May. The scholarship committee lauded her work on the project.

Dr. Christensen explained that while she oversees the research effort, she wants her students to work independently.

“I want them to take charge of the project and make their own decisions,” she said. “Rachel did a great job with it. Her passion stood out. I'm so proud of her.”

Ms. Mahoney, a biology major, said her research project has affected her career goals. She now wants to get an advanced degree and work as a research scientist in the environmental field.

“It makes me feel like I'm making a difference and doing something meaningful,” she said. “And that's important to me.”



Rachel Mahoney (center) with Dr. Erin Christensen.

# Of Campus & Commerce

By Nick DeMatteo



One of the largest manufacturers of vinyl windows and doors in the U.S., Silver Line Building Products, maintains extensive manufacturing operations in Middlesex County with approximately 1700 employees. Originally founded by Arthur Silverman in 1947, Andersen Windows and Doors owns Silver Line Building Products today. The Silver Line brand is marketed as part of the Andersen family of products.

To maintain a leadership position in the building products industry, Silver Line continuously makes significant investments in its facilities, upgrading the manufacturing capabilities to improve productivity and quality while managing costs. These improvements involve the introduction of advanced new technologies into its production facilities. Automation and robotic equipment are becoming more and more prevalent throughout the operations. This new technology is creating a need for new technical skills in the workforce at Silver Line. Working together with Dixita Soni, HR business partner at Silver Line, Middlesex County College is providing solutions.

In April of 2017, the first group of maintenance and operations personnel at Silver Line completed a training program in Electro-Mechanical Troubleshooting for Manufacturing Maintenance. This program was developed by the College's Corporate Education and Training Department specifically to address the needs of manufacturers. The objective is to reduce maintenance costs, eliminate downtime, and increase productivity. Additional advanced technical training programs for Silver Line personnel will take place later in the year. This on-going training program is funded by the New Jersey Talent Development Center for Advanced Manufacturing.

Larry Ottenberg, facilities manager at Silver Line, recognized the need for technical training for his staff. To support and improve operations, he implemented new

projects utilizing sophisticated predictive and preventative maintenance programs. These initiatives, combined with new technology in the plant, created a need for maintenance personnel with upgraded skills and knowledge who are capable of performing tasks that are more diverse and demanding.

Engineering Manager Zbigniew Szprengiel anticipates the transition to automated manufacturing will continue and even accelerate in the future. He points to a critical need for advanced technical training among the higher-



From left: Silver Line's Victor Sebastian and Janvier Raymundo, with the MCC instructor, Mario Santos.

level systems technicians and engineers in the plant as well. A workforce that has advanced training in various aspects of mechatronics is essential to keep the plant functioning efficiently.

Working with MCC, Silver Line Building Products developed the custom training plans necessary to meet the competitive demands of its industry. Using grant funding provided by the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development, MCC is delivering that training for Silver Line personnel in a timely and cost-effective format.

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*Of Campus & Commerce is a column written by MCC's director of Corporate Education and Training, Nick DeMatteo. It addresses training issues at New Jersey's businesses and organizations. His email is [NDeMatteo@middlesexcc.edu](mailto:NDeMatteo@middlesexcc.edu).*

# FOUNDATION REPORT

## The MCC Foundation Says Thank You

The Auxiliary of JFK Medical Center Foundation, Inc. made a generous gift of \$2,000 to support **The Auxiliary of JFK Medical Center Foundation Annual Scholarship**. The scholarship benefits two full-time students pursuing a degree in health technologies who reside in Edison, Metuchen or Woodbridge. It has benefited 60 students since 1990.

The P&G Company made a generous contribution of \$1,500 to the **Ann Goodwin Memorial Annual Scholarship**. The P&G Company has been a loyal supporter of the scholarship, which was established in 2015 in memory of Professor Goodwin, an esteemed member of the dental hygiene community and an expert in clinical dental hygiene, oral pathology and education.

**Rutgers Community Health Foundation** has renewed its commitment to the MCC New Brunswick

Center High School Summer Institute Program with a generous gift of \$28,235. The program provides academic support to area high school students, together with college preparation activities and life skills development.

Murray Stevens continued his loyal and generous support of the **Anne Stevens Memorial Annual Scholarship**, established in 2010 in memory of his wife. The scholarship is awarded to a nursing student who is raising a family while attending college, and it has benefited eight students to date.

Maud Urbanski made a generous contribution to the **Professor Robert Urbanski Annual Scholarship** in memory of her husband who was respected for his many achievements and contributions to society. The scholarship is awarded to a full-time student majoring in mathematics enrolled in the Honors Program.



Loyal donors Keith and Karen Mullane made a generous gift of \$20,000 to renew their support of the Mary Braun Endowed Scholarship and the Mary Braun Annual Scholarship, established in memory of Keith's grandmother. Mrs. Braun was a hard-working Hungarian immigrant who made her home in South Amboy. The scholarship provides a lasting tribute to Mrs. Braun and establishes a legacy of assisting students who endeavor to improve their lives through education. Established in 2010, the Mary Braun Memorial Scholarship has supported 73 students. Keith (far right) and Karen Mullane (back row, third from left) with Mary Braun Scholarship recipients at the Annual Scholarship Reception.



Janet and Russell Baker continued their generous support of the Baker Family Scholarship Fund with a gift of \$7,000. Established in 2009, the scholarship benefits single mothers with financial need who are taking a minimum of six credits. The scholarship has provided financial support to 18 students to date. Russell Baker and Janet Baker flank Baker Family Annual Scholarship recipients, Helia Fernandez and Jessica Gall at the October 2016 Annual Scholarship Reception.

Federal Business Centers renewed its commitment to the **Frank D. Visceglia Endowed Scholarship** with a pledge of \$30,000. The scholarship was established by family, friends and colleagues of Mr. Visceglia, a business leader who was dedicated to his community. It is awarded to a Health Technologies major.

Alan Frank of the Chimney Rock Inn, a community-minded independent restaurant corporation, has established the **Chimney Rock Inn Annual Scholarship** with a generous gift of \$1,000 for the 2017-18 academic year. The scholarship will be awarded to a student enrolled in the Hospitality, Culinary Arts and Dietetics program, currently employed in the restaurant industry with a minimum GPA of 3.0.

Restricted contributions from members and former members of the campus community include:

Robert Fishco to the Debbie and John Bakum Endowed Scholarship Fund; Mathew Spano, John Murray and Kathleen

Zupcic to the Ron Romano Academic Achievement Endowed Scholarship Fund; Eileen Coakley and Patricia Cardinale to the Mary Trickel Endowed Scholarship Fund; Jerome Shindelman established the Patrick Donohue Memorial Annual Scholarship; Mary Hricko, Marissa Noe and Irene Pearse contributed to the Dr. Margarete K. M. Driver Scholarship; Maryna Sidykh, Gary Abbott, Mary Lynch and Stephanie Serrano-Vera to the ESL-Dr. Eileen Hansen Fund; Gary Abbott, Hillary Hyman and Janet Peleg to the ESL-Languages and Cultures Award Fund; David Lipton to the Rosemary Esteves Memorial Scholarship; Claire Pean and C. Merry LeBlond to the Ann Goodwin Scholarship; and Kathleen Shay to the M<sup>3</sup>, Middlesex, Math and Mouse Club Award.

Yashmin Nagujja '15 made a gift to the **Damien Nuccio Nursing Award Fund**, established by Professor Susan McColley in memory of her grandson, Damien Nuccio. Ms. Nagujja was a recipient of the award in 2014.

## MCC Foundation Mission Partners

MCC Foundation 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  
 Stewart Business Systems



Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies has provided \$213,000 to support the Johnson & Johnson Health Technologies Scholarships and the J&J Summer Scholars Program 2017-18. The scholarships help nursing and dental hygiene students to achieve their educational goals and become part of the regional workforce. The J&J Summer Scholars Program makes it possible for recent New Brunswick High School graduates to complete their remedial coursework, earn college credits and gain vital information on managing their college career. Above, the 2016-17 Johnson & Johnson Health Technologies Scholarship recipients.

Bristol-Myers Squibb renewed its support of the Research in Science Initiative with a contribution of \$20,000 for 2017-18. The grant will enable 20 second-year students to enroll in biology and chemistry research courses where they will gain valuable experience through independent studies, training on responsible conduct of research, laboratory safety, scientific documentation, as well as presentation of research findings at regional and national conferences and scientific gatherings. Below, the students who presented their research at the Science Symposium held in April.



Investors Foundation renewed its Mission Partner support for 2016-17 with a generous gift of \$10,000. For many years, Investors Bank has supported MCC and its programs and students. DeAngelina Inman (left), assistant vice president/branch manager, Investors Bank, Edison, presents a check to Veronica Clinton, executive director, MCC Foundation.

## Providing Unrestricted Possibilities for MCC Students

We thank the many loyal contributors to this year's Annual Fund. Donations to the 2016-2017 Annual fund totaled more than \$72,000 at the close of the fiscal year on June 30.

Contributions were provided by alumni and friends, as well as by members of the Board of Trustees of MCC, 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 for MCC students, and raising funds for select College programs.

We ask you to support the 2017-2018 Annual Fund and to help provide **UNRESTRICTED POSSIBILITIES** for our students!

You may make your gift online at [www.mcc-foundation.org](http://www.mcc-foundation.org) or call 732-906-2564 to pay by credit card. Checks made payable to the Middlesex County College Foundation may be mailed to 2600 Woodbridge Avenue, Edison, NJ 08837. **THANK YOU!**



## ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

### Robert Murdock '79 Named Alumnus of the Year

Robert Murdock, a 1979 graduate, was named MCC's Alumnus of the Year for Contributions to the College, its Alumni Association or its Foundation. The award was presented during Celebration Day, an annual event that honors College employees reaching milestone service anniversaries, two Outstanding Service to the College award winners, as well as the Alumnus of the Year.

Mr. Murdock graduated with a degree in Accounting and went on to Rider University where he earned his Bachelor's Degree. He is a founder of the band The British Invasion Years (formerly The British Invasion Tribute Band) and he sings and plays the bass guitar. He is also the business manager for the group and says the accounting skills he was taught at MCC and Rider made him the logical choice to manage the band's financial affairs.

"On February 9, 1964 when my parents sat me down in front of the TV to watch the historic first appearance by The Beatles on the Ed Sullivan Show, I knew I wanted to



From left: Veronica Clinton, executive director of the Middlesex County College Foundation, who presented the award; Robert Murdock; and College President Joann La Perla-Morales.

Save the Date

Alumni  
Day

Come back to campus!

Thursday, Sept. 28

5:30-7:30 p.m.

[www.middlesexcc.edu/alumni](http://www.middlesexcc.edu/alumni)

be a musician in a band," Mr. Murdock said as he accepted the award.

His parents hired a teacher, who taught Mr. Murdock to play the guitar, bass guitar and piano.

"As I got older, I discovered that music is more than just an art form, it is also a business," he said. He came to MCC in 1977.

"It was one of the wisest decisions I ever made," he said. "Because of the great business fundamentals and foundation I learned here, I am now able to wear two hats in my career, managing the business of The British Invasion Years and performing the music I love with a great bunch of musicians and friends. For that, I have to say thank you to MCC for helping me to get to this point. I owe a huge debt of gratitude for all I learned here in just two short years."

The British Invasion Years now performs throughout the nation. They also donate their talents for numerous charitable events each year.

Two Outstanding Service to the College awards were also presented. Joaquin Nieves, an information technology desk analyst, was presented the award for staff, and Susan Perkins, vice president for administration and finance, received the award for administrators.



# AlumNotes

**Charles Seeman '86** (Accounting) graduated from Delaware Valley University with a BA in Accounting. In addition, Charles passed the Certified Public Accountant examination and later earned a Master's in Accounting and a Master's in Business Administration. He is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Philosophy in Advanced Accounting while working as an assistant professor of Accounting. Charles previously held several chief financial officer and vice president positions in publicly traded companies. Outside of his busy schedule, Charles loves to spend time with his wife of over 30 years, Beverly Tesh. Beverly also attended Middlesex County College.

**LeDerick Horne '96**

(Mathematics) was honored on February 19 for his strong dedication and commitment to advancing the issues of adults with learning disabilities during the 54th Annual Learning Disabilities Association of America (LDA) Conference in Baltimore. He was presented with the LDA's Harry Sylvester Award, recognizing adults with learning disabilities.



**Megan Reed '08** (Office Administration) currently works in education in southern New Jersey.

**Robert Rivera '14/'15** (Criminal Justice and Education) received his BS in National Security Studies at New Jersey City University. He has completed his first year at Syracuse University College of Law and is currently enrolled at the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications pursuing a Master's in Public Relations, specializing in crisis management.

**A'jee Robinson '15** (Psychology) recently graduated cum laude from Kean University. She plans on attending graduate school in the fall where she will continue her studies in clinical psychology. In the meantime, she plans to travel

and enjoy her summer on the beach. A'jee said, "During my time at Kean I often came back to the MCC campus to use the library. It was like coming home. It was a safe and pleasant atmosphere. The faculty was always willing to help guide me in the right direction. Looking back, I know I made the right decision to attend MCC."

**Meg Sweetland Baker '16** (Accounting) is currently working as an accounting assistant for a small firm in St. Paul, MN. She plans to attend the University of Minnesota in the fall of 2017 pursuing an accounting certificate that will allow her to complete the coursework required for the CPA exam.

**Zachary Jellison '17** (History) is currently pursuing his BA in History at Rutgers University in Newark.

Zachary says, "I was the first one in my family to receive a degree. MCC provided me with the confidence and knowledge to carry on with my education. The professors



were phenomenal, always willing to bring the best out in me, despite their rigorous standards. I am thankful and grateful for my time at MCC. I hope to one day follow in my professor's footsteps becoming a history professor here at MCC. I want to make a difference by molding young minds."

**Jessica Adams '17** (Communications) will be attending Montclair State University in the fall majoring in communications. Jessica is an active member of MCC's Alumni Association and has shared valuable insight from a student perspective. Jessica recalls, "I was reluctant to attend community college, because it was often referred to as 13th grade. However, MCC gave me a newfound confidence in myself. Staying active on various social committees helped me develop strong leadership, communication and team building skills."



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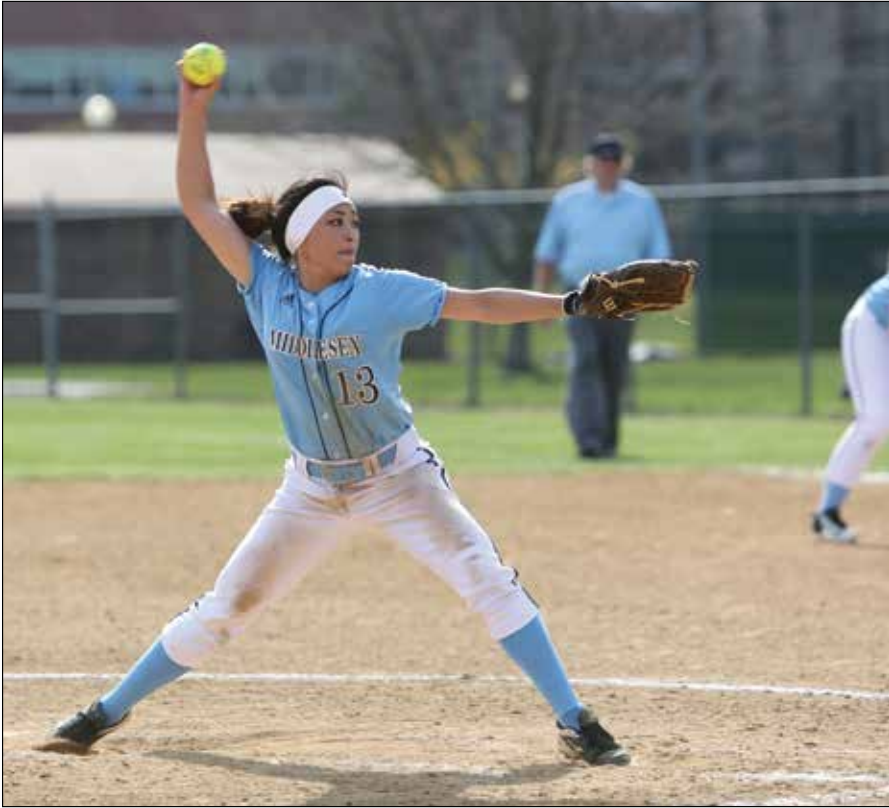
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Wondering what's happening on MCC's campus? Follow us on one or all of our social media platforms and you will be updated on the latest news and events.

Join the MCC Alumni Group on LinkedIn. Network with Alumni who have diverse professional and personal experiences and resources.



# SPORTS UPDATE



Ziykara Hicks, star MCC basketball player, was presented the Vincent DeSario award by Athletic Director Bob Wisniewski at the Athletic Banquet in May. The award, named for the late MCC golfer, is presented to a sophomore student-athlete each year for athletic and academic accomplishments.

The **baseball** team made the Region 19 tournament, but lost in the opening round. They finished fifth in the Garden State Athletic Conference and sixth in Region 19. The team looks for a great year next season with a lot of young talent.

Above left, Briana Manuel fires a pitch, while below, catcher Aniko Chapman fielded a bunt and is throwing out the runner.

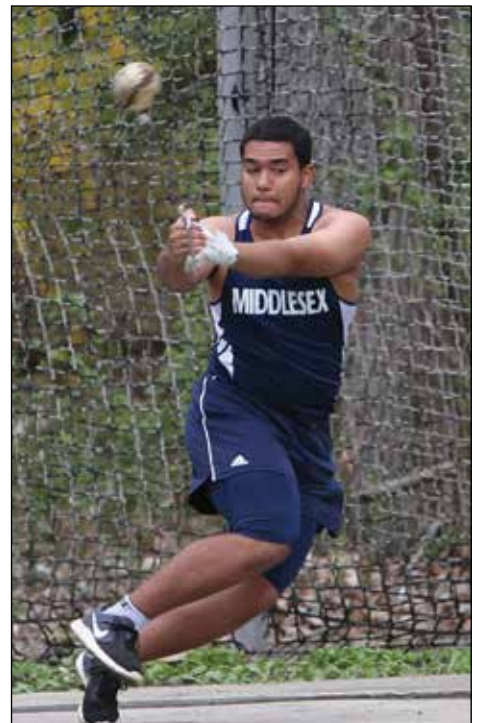
The **softball** team lost in the semifinals of the Region Tournament. Carly Kjersgaard made the All-Region and All-Garden State Athletic Conference teams and her batting average of .614 was second highest in the nation. Michelle Gebhardt led the squad in RBI's with 23; she was seventh in the nation with a batting average of .536. The team will have a lot of depth returning next year.

**Track and Field** had six athletes qualify for the National Tournament held at Howard Community College in Columbia, MD. Gina Conte finished second in the Javelin. Brielle Fennel broke the school record in the hammer at Nationals, finishing in sixth place. Michael Mazzei finished in sixth place for the 1500 Meters at Nationals.





Above, Thomas Sharfetz tosses a pitch, while at right James Green completes a double play. Below, Gina Conte throws the javelin at a meet at East Strousburg University, while Miguel Hernandez winds up to launch the hammer.



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Change Service Requested



College students weren't the only ones who graduated this spring. The MCC Child Care Center and Kindergarten also celebrated their graduates with music, dance, a slide show, and a display of class projects for admiring parents.