

CELEBRATING

50

YEARS
1964 - 2014

Join the Festivities on April 19!

See pg. 8

This issue also includes Middlesex County College's 2013-2014 Annual Report

CAMPUS NEWS



Honoring Service; Connecting Generations

Students from the Middlesex County College Veterans and Servicemembers Association, along with Democracy House, visited residents at the Veterans Memorial Home – Menlo Park in Edison over the Thanksgiving break. They toured the facility, chatted with the residents, and served delicious apple pie. Kids in the MCC Child Care Center wrote letters of gratitude to the residents of the home, and the MCC veterans delivered them. Above, MCC’s Anthony Saloka, a Marine Corps veteran, speaks with Arthur Pataky, an Army vet. At right, Jim Peery (left), a veteran of both the Marine Corps and the Army, speaks with Middlesex student Steven Nicholson, an Air Force veteran.



MIDDLESEX *Now* COUNTY COLLEGE

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From left: Praful Raja, Robert Oras and Eileen Palumbo, members of the Board of Trustees; Brian Daugherty, chair of the MCC Foundation; Freeholder Blanquita Valenti; State Assemblywoman Nancy Pinkin '74; Carol Barrett Bellante, Freeholder deputy director; Susan Perkins, vice president for administration and finance; College President Joann La Perla-Morales; Ronald Goldfarb, special assistant to the president; Ronald Rios, Freeholder director; Thomas Tighe, vice chair of the Board of Trustees; Dorothy K. Power, chairman of the Board of Trustees; Brad Morton, executive director of information technology; Freeholder Charles Tomaro; Donald Drost, executive director of facilities management; and Freeholder Charles Kenny.

Ceremonial Groundbreaking: Work to Begin on South Hall

The College held its second ceremonial groundbreaking in 30 days as it celebrated the start of construction for South Hall, which will be a state-of-the-art science laboratory building.

“It’ll be fabulous,” said Parag Muley, chair of the Department of Natural Sciences. “It’ll be an excellent addition to our existing facility that will fill a much-needed niche. It will bring our resources on par with national and international standards as well as incorporate new pedagogies that have been evolving. Students can indulge in self-discovery and self-learn.”

South Hall, which will contain 14 labs for chemistry, biology and general sciences classes, is scheduled to open in the Fall of 2016.

“The laboratories in this new building will prepare our students for careers long into the 21st Century,” said College President Joann La Perla-Morales at the groundbreaking ceremony on Oct. 24. “This new building would not be possible without the support of County freeholders providing the matching funds necessary to receive the higher education bonding dollars that were approved by New Jersey residents two years ago. The timeline to submit a proposal for the bond funding was tight, but a team of faculty and administrators met the deadline with the expressed need for new science laboratories – a priority defined in the recently completed 10-year Master Plan. The wonderful support of the College Board of Trustees, the work of faculty, staff, students and administrators in planning with the

architectural team and engineers all resulted in the design of this new building which will be connected to Main Hall where offices and classrooms will keep students and faculty engaged in learning. I thank each of you for assuring that Middlesex County College is positioned to meet the educational needs of our community.”

Funding for the new building comes from the “Building Our Future” Bond, which New Jersey voters approved in 2012. It allocated \$750 million for construction projects at the state’s colleges and universities, including \$150 million for community colleges.

South Hall replaces two buildings that pre-date the College, from when the site was an Army Arsenal. South I and South II had been used as offices, classrooms and a machine shop. The two were in the news this spring because they were the temporary home for James Monroe Elementary School after its building was lost to fire. The children, teachers and staff called them home for three months. South I and II were demolished this fall.

MCC Board of Trustees Chairman Dorothy K. Power was thrilled to note the addition of another new building.

“Today, we are so excited to be adding a new academic science building with state-of-the-art laboratories to this fine campus,” she said. “Thanks to New Jersey residents for the bond funding, and many, many thanks to the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders for providing the matching contribution. With your assistance,

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Notables

Adriana Mamay, reference and instruction librarian, has been selected as a 2014-2015 New Jersey Library Association Emerging Leader, a program in which promising librarians learn management and leadership skills in five full-day sessions.

Professor **Iris Ramer**, of the ESL/Languages and Cultures Department, was the keynote speaker at the 41st Annual Puerto Rico TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) Convention in November in Ponce, Puerto Rico. Dr. Ramer's talk, "Addressing Language Competencies Using a Multicultural Approach," focused on strategies and class projects to get English language learners to engage in meaningful communication using balanced literacy and communicative language teaching. At the conference, Dr. Ramer was also recognized and thanked for her 30-plus years of support to the organization, teachers and students. Dr. Ramer's popular textbooks, "Read Now" and "Write Now," published by Kendall/Hunt, were part of the publisher's exhibit during the conference. As founder of the Read Now Project and co-founder of Literacy Solutions LLC, Dr. Ramer was also able to share ways to promote literacy skills for students at all levels.

Professor **Aimee Sukel Mitacchione** represented MCC at the 2014 National Dance Education Organization annual conference in Chicago.

Nancy Berger, nursing program director, was nominated for the New Jersey March of Dimes Nurse of the Year competition in the category of Nurse Administrator. This nomination is an exceptional honor and a testament to her abilities and commitment to the nursing education field. **Mary Huggins**, a new nursing adjunct professor, was also nominated in the Nursing Educator category.

Two haikus by English Professor **Mat Spano** that had previously been published in "The Heron's Nest," a quarterly journal of haiku, will be included in the publication's book collection. The book, which celebrates the journal's 15th anniversary, will include 225 to 250 haiku – less than 5 percent of those originally published.

Dr. Shirley Wachtel, professor of English, conducted a presentation of her memoir, "My Mother's Shoes," at the U.S. State Department in Washington, DC on November 7. Her presentation, which included a reading, discussion, visual display and question-and-answer session,

was part of a series presented by The Ralph J. Bunche Library Speaker Series. Dr. Wachtel's novel details the story of her mother's experience during the Holocaust and later as an immigrant in the United States, as well as the impact of these experiences on her daughter and future generations. On November 6, Dr. Wachtel dropped in on the Etzim class of 2-year-olds at the Jewish Community Center in Washington, DC, where students, including her own granddaughter, Zoey, participated in a reading of Dr. Wachtel's "The Eight Days of Hanukkah." Dr. Wachtel contributed a copy of her book, "My Mother's Shoes," to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington and has been invited to conduct a book signing at the museum in the spring.

MCC President **Joann La Perla-Morales** received a SUNY Oneonta Alumni of Distinction award in September. The Oneonta Alumni Association presented these awards in recognition of the College's 125th anniversary. The Alumni Association honored alumni who "have distinguished themselves through their careers, their service to their communities and their commitment to our college." The award was presented by the president of SUNY Oneonta, Nancy Kleniewski. Dr. La Perla-Morales earned her Bachelor's Degree at SUNY Oneonta and her Master's and Doctorate at Columbia University.



Dr. Joann La Perla-Morales (left) with the president of SUNY Oneonta, Nancy Kleniewski.



Students from the Middlesex County College Veterans and Servicemembers Association, and Democracy House, the College's service-learning program, spent a day assisting Habitat for Humanity in building a home for a family in Perth Amboy. At left, Christopher Pellegrino, a Navy veteran and the president of the Veterans Association, drills a hole in the home's foundation. Below, from left, John Martin, Habitat's construction supervisor, Dwayla Carty and Leon Henry, both members of Democracy House.



Ground Broken for New South Hall Science Building

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the trustees and the administration will continue to offer top-notch educational opportunities for our residents.”

Middlesex County Freeholder Director Ronald Rios also addressed the crowd.

“We realize the incredible impact that Middlesex County College has on its students and on our residents who benefit from the quality education offered here,” he said. “That is why we have given \$3.4 million toward this project. Under the guidance of Freeholder Kenneth Armwood, we have used the competitive grants that we have acquired to give the College new lab and classroom space. Our aim is to help the College enhance its chemistry and biology courses, as well as its other health-related and biotech programs. We are especially happy to be here, because for the second time in a month we are celebrating the College's success and growth. This science building and the Center for Student Services demonstrate our continued commitment to meet the changing needs of

our students and offer them the best possible facilities.”

On September 24, MCC broke ground on West Hall, which will bring the services of several departments under one roof to meet the needs of students and their family members for enrollment services such as admission, financial aid, advising, registration, orientation, scholarships and student accounts.

Middlesex's most recent building, Crabiell Hall, received a LEED® silver 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.

Donald Drost Jr., executive director of facilities management, said the College is attempting to attain a gold rating for both West Hall and South Hall.

Keep 'Em Laughing: The Quirky, Hysterical Comedy of Jim Vallely '74

By Chuck O'Donnell '91

Jim Vallely arrived at the theater department at Middlesex County College with dreams of being a star of the stage and screen.

His first production – playing the second immigration officer/Christmas caroler in “A View From the Bridge” – wasn’t exactly the role of a lifetime.

And it only got worse when he was cast as Feste the fool in Shakespeare’s “Twelfth Night,” and his every joke landed with an emphatic thud.

“I wore a typical horrible jester costume, had acne and even though I couldn’t sing, they still made me sing an old-timey Shakespeare song and everybody hated it,” he said.

But a funny thing happened on the way to auteur ruin.

Mr. Vallely was cast as Hero in “A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum,” and it would become what he describes as his “defining role” during his time at MCC – and maybe the rest of his life.

If he could be funny in a role that required him to sing again, well, it was all the proof he needed that this could be his calling after all.

“I did get laughs – enough to encourage me to keep going on in the business,” he said.

And it’s kept him going in the business for some 40 years now, as he has hop-scotched from standup comedy to acting to writing to producing.

He has worked on several hit sitcoms, such as “Golden Girls” and “The John Larroquette Show” for NBC and “My Wife and Kids” for ABC. While shows such as the ABC’s “The Geena Davis Show” and Fox’s animated “Sit Down, Shut Up” didn’t quite have the same staying power, you could safely say you’ve made it in show business if you’ve written lingerie jokes for Bea Arthur and potty jokes for Damon Wayans.

But it was his work on Fox’s “Arrested Development” that seems to most closely reflect his wicked wit and darker sensibilities. The show lasted three seasons on Fox and one season on Netflix, becoming a cult phenomenon and a critical darling, and earning Mr. Vallely an Emmy.

Recently, he took a break from the set of CBS’s “Two and a Half Men,” where he is working as a consulting producer, to talk about the ways his time at MCC shaped him and informed his work. He said two dearly departed professors, Lynn Winik and Jim Morgan, were instrumental in setting him on his path to success.

Mr. Vallely remembers that Professor Winik ran the department “like a Marine Corps boot camp for theater” and that she taught him “about discipline, being on time, the importance of rehearsal.”

Professor Morgan, meanwhile, was generous in helping Mr. Vallely make business connections in New York.

“He always wore blue John Lennon glasses, he drove an MG, he lived in Manhattan, the Village (Greenwich Village), and was a theater pro who wrote lyrics for musicals,”

Mr. Vallely said. “He was like (reality star and fashionista) Tim Gunn, but 30 years before the idea of Tim Gunn existed.”

Mr. Vallely said he was transformed by the diverse group of people he met at MCC. He remembers studying Dick Meyers, a Vietnam veteran who wrote for “Quo Vadis.” Mr. Meyers, as Mr. Vallely puts it, “taught me how to tell a story.”

They and others at MCC would leave a lasting imprint on his life, but none more so than a guest director at one of the productions. Her name was Myra Turley, and they



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A Glimpse of MCC History

In the spring of 2001, College officials prepared a capsule of items important at the time, with instructions to open it at MCC's 50th anniversary in 2014. Those items were photographed, and along with some new items, will be placed in another capsule to be opened at the College's 100th anniversary in 2064. Top left, from left: Jerry Slicner, Dan Fuchs and Robert Pawol remove the cap from the time capsule. Top right: Carole Kurtz, who was MCC's Board chair in 2001 and current Chairman Dorothy K. Power, examine a document; and at left, Frank Deiner, a Freeholder in 1964, MCC President Joann La Perla-Morales; Mrs. Power and Mrs. Kurtz.

Jim Vallely: Creative Storyteller, with Lots of Laughs

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would fall in love, get married and raise a daughter, Tannis.

Soon after graduating from MCC, Mr. Vallely traded in the manicured lawns of his native East Brunswick for the high-rolling hills of Hollywood in 1982. He formed the comedy team The Funnyboys with pal Jonathan Schmock, and they brought down the house with a skit imagining King Kong washing human-sized dishes on "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson."

Mr. Vallely, however, soon found his niche behind the camera, and in 2003, he helped breath life into "Arrested Development." It was a smart, layered look at the misguided misadventures of the Bluth family. Mr. Vallely had an all-star cast to write for: Jason Bateman, Jeffrey Tam-

bor, Wil Arnett, Jessica Walter and others.

In 2006, Mr. Vallely and show creator Mitchell Hurwitz won the Emmy for Outstanding Writing in a Comedy Series for the season two finale entitled "The Righteous Brothers."

A hue and cry went up when Fox canceled the show after three seasons, but a groundswell of support was there to greet it when "Arrested Development" reemerged in 2013 on Netflix. Mr. Vallely joked that if you want more episodes of the show, "write your congressman."

"As far as MCC's impact on 'Arrested Development,'" he said, "I would just ask anyone to watch George Michael's (Michael Cera's) first year at college in season four."

Celebrating MCC's 50th

Community Open House & Expo to Showcase Achievements

Middlesex County College is throwing open its doors to welcome everyone to its Community Open House & Expo on Sunday, April 19 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the Edison campus. In celebration of the College's 50th anniversary, this event will offer activities for people of all ages.

"It's a celebration of MCC and will be a lot of fun," said Lisa Gregory, associate director of admissions and co-chair of the organizing committee. "We're going to showcase our campus and programs for prospective students. We're going to have carnival games, a play, music, art, mini-golf, a classic car show, fun activities for children, open gym and swim, and refreshments at 1964 prices, the year of our founding. So whether you are considering enrolling at Middlesex or you would just like to see the campus and have a great time, this event is for you."

The Community Open House & Expo is family-friendly and will include activities aimed at children. Kids can decorate (and eat) their own cupcakes; the MCC Theater Camp will conduct a drama workshop; and parents and children can tour the College's Child Care Center. In addition, student employees of the Blue Colt Bookstore will read stories to young children. Other events are also being planned.

Music will be a big part of the day as the British Inva-

sion Tribute Band, featuring Robert Murdock, class of '79, will entertain. The group performed at MCC's alumni reunion in 2013 to rave reviews.

The Edison Light Cruisers will hold a car show from 12:30-4:30 p.m. featuring classic, modern muscle cars, exotic and specialty cars.

"This is going to be terrific," Ms. Gregory said. "We expect at least 100 cars."



One of the pieces in the Alumni Art Exhibit, "New York Skyline," by Nancy Swolensky '77.

"Fiddler on the Roof," which also made its debut in 1964, will be performed.

"This is a wonderful musical that is fun for the whole family," she said.

The pool and the gym will be open for recreational swim and play.

Alumni artists have created wonderful paintings, sculptures and mixed media pieces that will be displayed. One work from each artist will be auctioned off with the proceeds going to the Alumni Scholarship Fund. The program is being curated by Dorothy Bitetto '69, Alumni Association president, and Francine Neidle-Krimsky '86, who retired this past spring after 28 years as professor of graphic arts. Alumni artists include Ray Santoleri '88, Richmond S. Otolorin Garrick '95, Edward Wargo '82, Thomas Wood, Kristin Belger '90, Kristin Foye '01, Courtney Averett '10, Sue Espin '13, Nancy Swolensky '77, David Link '09, Michele A. Sutura '08, Ashley Hanania '05, Linda Stockman '86, Nicholas A. Tancredi '11 and Professor Neidle-Krimsky '86.

"We are very excited about this year's art exhibition and



The British Invasion Tribute Band features Robert Murdock '79.

auction,” Ms. Bitetto said. “On display will be beautiful and creative artwork by our MCC alumni who were chosen for their exceptional talents. We have 15 professional and extremely talented artists who graduated between the years 1977 and 2013. In addition to more than 60 pieces of artwork on display by the artists, we are including a silent auction component. You will have an opportunity to bid at this silent auction and bring home one of these exceptional pieces of art to commemorate this exciting year at the College. The money received for the silent auction will support the MCC Alumni Association’s Scholarship Fund. You also have an opportunity to buy a piece of artwork from some of the artists.”

MCC student groups are also involved in the day’s activities. The award-winning step dance team, “Exitium,” will perform, clubs will provide information on their mission and programs, and students and faculty members will hold a “poetry slam.”

The Blue Colt Bookstore will be open all day and will have sales of items, including candy popular from the 1960s, as well as the story time for children.

Democracy House, the College’s service learning program, will organize a blood drive for the community.

The MCC Foundation will sponsor miniature golf.

“This is a free nine-hole mini-golf game for children and adults,” said Venetta Ellerbe, co-chair of the organizing committee.

The Foundation will also hold a Community Forum, in which the public can learn about Corporate Mission Partners and other organizations in partnership with MCC.

For those interested in local history, MCC has created a display of photos and memorabilia from its history. An alumna, Kim Silva-Martinez, has written a book about the College, which can be examined at the display or purchased at the Bookstore.

Refreshments will be sold at 1964 prices.



A 1965 Mustang, one of the cars that will be at the Classic Car Show.

For more information and to register, please visit www.MCCOpenHouse.com.

“I’m really excited about April 19,” said Ms. Ellerbe. “We have events planned for people of all ages and all tastes. It’s going to be wonderful and lots of fun.”



“Endless Possibilities: Middlesex County College 1964-2014” was written by Kim Silva-Martinez ’14; the photo editor is Nicole Kazar ’14, ’15, and the art director is Damian Gonzalez ’14.

Copies can be purchased at the Blue Colt Bookstore starting April 1.



Middlesex alum Travis Tidwell ’03 spoke to students in November about his career in engineering. Mr. Tidwell is a sales account manager with Rockwell Automation, the world’s largest company dedicated to industrial automation with over \$6 billion in global sales. He spoke on “Engineering is for You: How I Went from Remediation to Rockwell Automation.” It was sponsored by the MCC Office of Minority Student Affairs. From left: Mr. Tidwell; MCC student Pedro Hernandez; John Dunning, director of Minority Student Affairs; and MCC student Louis Pinchinat.

Providing Clothing and Nurishment During Holidays



Students from Democracy House, the College's service-learning program, collected warm winter coats to be donated to those in need by Jersey Cares, a nonprofit organization that addresses a variety of community issues. From left: Dwayla Carty, Jamira Riddick, Declon Friday, Modupe Bello, Karla Oliva, faculty advisor Pattiann McMahon, Hana Wachter, Halimat Oshun, Fizza Sulaiman, Yesenia Rivera, and Democracy House Coordinator Arianna Illa.

The annual holiday party included a food drive that collected hundreds of pounds of food, which was donated to M.C.F.O.O.D.S. (Middlesex County Food Organization and Outreach Distribution Services). Members of the College community dropped off food as they entered the party. From left: Erin Cychowski, student assistant in the Blue Colt Bookstore; Paul Lazaro, assistant in the Center for Veterans Services; Lynn Tobin, faculty member in Dental Auxiliaries; Flora Stowe, assistant director of the Educational Opportunity Fund; and Gary Noto, mechanic in the Facilities Department.





The College community had the opportunity to get to know its military veterans at a meet and greet event in November. From left: Navy veteran and MCC Natural Sciences Professor James Martiney; Paul Lazaro '11, assistant in the Center for Veterans Services and an Army veteran; Kayleigh Maklary '10, assistant in the MCC Foundation and an Army veteran; and Navy vet Christopher Pellegrino, MCC student and the president of the College's Veterans and Servicemembers Association.

Two Publications Laud MCC's Commitment to Veterans

MCC is one of the most veteran-friendly colleges in the United States, according to two publications: *Military Times*, and *Military Advanced Education (MAE)*.

Military Times surveyed services, success rates and other factors in making the determination. MCC is listed as the fifth best community college in the nation and the best in New Jersey.

Military Times publishes magazines for members in the branches of military service. It called its survey "Best for Vets."

"We factor in what is, to our knowledge, the most detailed school-by-school data on veteran students' academic success anywhere, including graduation, retention, persistence and course completion rates," says Amanda Miller, editor of *Bests for Vets*. Two years ago, only 11 percent of the hundreds of schools surveyed could provide that level of detail. This year, that figure is up to 45 percent.

"By recognizing only the schools that do the most, we believe we're helping to raise the bar in veteran student services," she said.

Military Advanced Education measured best practices in military and veteran education. The guide was released in the December issue of *MAE*, and is available online at www.mae-kmi.com.

The guide presents results of a questionnaire of the military-supportive policies enacted at more than 600 institutions including private, public, for-profit, not-for-profit, four-year, and two-year colleges. From community colleges to state universities, online universities and nationally known centers of higher learning, *MAE's* 2015 *Guide to Colleges & Universities* arms students with

information about institutions that go out of their way to give back to the men and women in uniform.

Three other New Jersey community colleges made the list, as well as six four-year schools.

Now in its eighth year of publishing the guide, *MAE* was the first publication to launch a reference tool of this type. This year, schools were evaluated on their military culture, financial aid, flexibility, on-campus support and online support services. Each school's performance rating by category is represented by an easy-to-recognize dashboard. This will enable prospective students to quickly target schools that follow best practices in military education, and then put these in context with other academic or career considerations.

"We believe the guide serves as an invaluable tool for both education services officers and transition officers when advising service members about their educational opportunities," said Kelly Fodel, *MAE's* editor. "We used strict criteria to individually evaluate the submissions of respondents, and we had a record number of schools participating this year."

MCC President Joann La Perla-Morales credited the Center for Veterans Services for the ranking. Established in 2011 with support from the Willard T.C. Johnson Foundation, the center's mission is to assist with quality education and comprehensive support services.

"The center has done a great job in assisting military veterans as they transition to civilian life," she said. "They make sure veterans receive all the entitlements for which they are eligible, coordinate services they need to be successful, and create an environment where they can socialize with other military veterans."

Shraddha Pant '10 takes Kean University classes on MCC's campus.



Bachelor's-Level Classes Taught on MCC's Campus

Shraddha Pant left her Kean University nursing class at 9 p.m., got in her car and was in her Edison home 10 minutes later. Kean is at least 40 minutes from Edison. Was she speeding? Should the police be informed?

No. Ms. Pant didn't speed, and she hasn't figured out how to beam herself from place to place. The Kean class was actually taught on the Middlesex County College campus. She was in a familiar building, L'Hommedieu Hall.

"I got home and still had an hour to review what I did in class rather than driving home," she said. "It's so much more convenient."

Ms. Pant is a 2010 graduate of the MCC nursing program and works at JFK Hospital in oncology. She feels it is necessary to have a Bachelor's Degree to advance in her career.

"I wanted to take the next step," she said. "It makes you more prepared. Continuing education is part of nursing."

Middlesex hosts classes taught by faculty from Kean, Felician College and Jersey City University. The Kean and Felician programs offer Bachelor's Degrees in Nursing and Jersey City features a program in National Security Studies.

"Our students find this to be fabulous," said Marla

Brinson, dean of student affairs at Middlesex. "They don't have to leave campus and they can get a Bachelor's degree. They're not our students, but we treat them as if they were."

She said that most of the students are MCC graduates, but it is not a requirement.

Last semester, there were 58 students in the Felician RN to BSN program, 97 in the Kean program, and 98 at the New Jersey City University program.

Anthony Walker started this past fall in the National Security program at New Jersey City University.

"The professors are great," he said. "They have experience in law enforcement and security. They have a lot of knowledge and experience that comes from working in the field."

Mr. Walker, a 2014 MCC graduate in criminal justice, hopes to go into the U.S. Postal Inspection Service or another federal agency, and feels this program will help him do just that.

And a big plus for the South River resident is the convenience.

"It's a 20-minute commute to Edison, versus an hour-and-a-half to Jersey City," he said.

FOUNDATION REPORT



Scholarship Reception

MCC held a reception to thank those who donated to the Foundation and supported student scholarships, and to honor the scholarship recipients. It also allowed donors and students to chat. Here, Nicky and Paige L’Hommedieu talk with dental student Rachel Benko. The L’Hommedieus are longtime friends of the College and benefactors of the L’Hommedieu Family Scholars program, which assists health technology students. Diana Diaz-Tapia spoke on behalf of MCC students, and Suzanne Meyer of the Old Bridge-Sayreville Rotary Club spoke about the organization’s long and generous support of MCC.



Help MCC Students!
Please support the Annual Fund

Your donation to the Annual Fund helps the Foundation fulfill its mission of providing scholarships for MCC students. Gifts of all sizes make a difference! Please make your gift online at www.mcc-foundation.org or call 732-906-2564. Thank you!

Above, left: Fredrick Egenhoff, center, of Bristol-Meyers Squibb, with scholarship recipients JeeEun Uhm, left, and Adam Scalera.

Above: Suzanne Meyer and Joseph Juliano, back row center, of the Old Bridge-Sayreville Rotary Club with scholarship recipients.



Vegas Came to Middlesex!

A fun-filled and exciting 4th Annual Casino Night called “Las Vegas Comes to Middlesex” was held on campus in October as more than 150 guests enjoyed an evening of risk-free gambling. Sponsors of the event included Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, Summit Associates, Inc., Investors Bank, Middlesex County AFL-CIO Labor Council, New Brunswick Plating, The Provident Bank Foundation, Universal Mailing Service, Inc., J & R Telecommunications, Inc., John Mulkerin, Novita Bistro & Lounge, Stewart Business Systems, Sodexo, Middlesex County Building & Construction Trades Council, L.R. Kimball, and Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A. Mark Banyacski chaired the event, assisted by MCC Foundation trustees Diane Conboy and Genette Falk, together with several staff members. Restaurants, theatres, hotels, local businesses, yoga studios, and individuals donated raffle items. Special guest star “Elvis” (Craig Newell) dropped in to entertain the crowd! Here Biology Professor Donna-Marie Gardner ’00 celebrates a win with English Professor Mat Spano ’88.

Recent Gifts Support Student Scholarships

The Switzer Foundation understands the needs of nursing students and has provided a generous gift of \$10,500 to support the Switzer Foundation Scholarships for Nursing Students. Without private support, many nursing students must delay their career goals as the costs for completing their education is higher than in any other academic program.

The Delta Dental of New Jersey Foundation is at the forefront of advances in the dental hygiene profession and is a true partner with Middlesex County College in supporting students who are accepted into the Dental Hygiene program but lack the financial means to achieve their goals. Delta Dental of New Jersey Foundation’s scholarship support of \$10,000 helps make a substantial impact in the lives of deserving dental hygiene students.

The Jimi Mikusi, Jr. & Fellow Innovators Fund was established in October 2014 with a commitment of \$5,000 from alumnus **Saurav Banerjee**. The scholarship is a tribute in memory of **James Mikusi, Jr.** of the Class of 2000. The objective of the Jimi Mikusi, Jr. & Fellow Innovators Fund is to make it possible for full-time students in the engineering technologies and computer science fields to focus on their studies and be relieved of excessive financial concerns. Recipients of this scholarship will demonstrate notable vision and passion in pursuing their chosen field of study and provide evidence of steps they are taking to accomplish their goals.

Arthur D. Goodman ’68 has generously provided a gift of \$25,000 to establish **The Arthur Goodman ’68 and Alison Arnold Goodman ’68 Endowed Schol-**

arship in memory of his late wife, Alison. Arthur and Alison met as students at MCC, marrying soon after graduating in 1968. Several years later the couple moved to Florida and fondly recalled their time at MCC, crediting it as the origin of their long marriage and their professional success. Alison passed away in February 2012 and the scholarship is a testament to Arthur’s generosity and his desire to honor his wife by supporting MCC students in perpetuity.

Corporate Partners Renew Support

Corporate Partners enhance the MCC Foundation’s potential to help meet the increasing challenge of providing educational opportunities for students. Through their support, the following corporate partners have renewed their commitment to date to help assist a growing number of students to create a brighter future:

Corporate Mission Partners (\$10,000)

Investors Bank
Johnson & Johnson
The Provident Bank Foundation

Mission Partner (\$5,000)

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital

Associate Mission Partner (\$2,500)

Stewart Business Systems, Inc.

Foundation Welcomes New Board Members

The Foundation recently appointed three area residents to its Board of Trustees, Jun Choi, James Suleski and Philip Rothman.

JAMES SULESKI '73, CPA, a resident of South Plainfield, has experience in both public accounting and private industry.

Mr. Suleski joined Delta Dental of New Jersey, Inc. in 2005 and serves as its senior vice president, finance and chief financial officer, responsible for the Accounting and Underwriting & Actuarial Departments. As trustee for the Delta Dental Foundation, he also serves as vice president and assistant treasurer.

The Foundation's mission is to promote and assist educational projects devoted to the enhancement of dental health, as well as access to dental care programs designed to increase public awareness of the general benefits of good oral health and to improve dental health through the science of dentistry.

Mr. Suleski started his career after graduating from MCC in 1973 with a Degree in Accounting. Through the College's career placement services he obtained his first full-time accounting position with a local Fortune 100 company while pursuing his Bachelor's Degree at night. In 1977, he graduated from Rutgers University with a B.S. in Accounting with a minor in Economics.

JUN CHOI is the former mayor of Edison and is a real estate investor, consultant and broker for Cushman & Wakefield, where he advises corporations on real estate strategies, focusing on large industrial clients. He has held senior government policy positions at the New Jersey Department of Education and the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (White House Budget Office), and began his career as a management consultant for Ernst & Young. Mr. Choi received his B.S. in Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Master's in Public Policy and Administration from Columbia University. He has supported numerous nonprofit groups, including serving as co-chair of a capital campaign for the YMCA of Metuchen,



James Suleski

Edison & Woodbridge. He currently serves as an executive committee member for NJ Policy Perspective and vice president of the New Jersey League of Municipalities Education Foundation.

PHILIP ROTHMAN is a life-long New Jersey resident, born and raised in Jersey City, and now lives in East Brunswick with Ilene, his wife of 33 years. They have two grown children, Adam Rothman, Ph.D. and Alexandra Rothman, Esq. He earned a B.S. in Political Science from Fairleigh Dickinson University and an M.B.A. in Finance from Rutgers Graduate School of Management. Mr. Rothman entered the investment business in 1986, joining his present firm, Oppenheimer & Co in 2010. Believing that education is a key to success, he furthered his skills as an investment advisor in 2007 and completed the requirements to become a Certified Financial Planner. He also believes it is important to give back to the community, serving on the board of the Men's Club of the East Brunswick Jewish Center beginning in 1998 and as president from 2002 to 2004. He also served as treasurer on the board of the Northern New Jersey Region of the Federation of Jewish Men's Club from 2004 to 2006.

Middlesex County College, MCC Foundation and MCC Alumni Association invite you to celebrate educational partnerships at Middlesex Gold: *A Community Salute*, the 50th Anniversary Gala. For details call 732-906-2564 or foundation@middlesexcc.edu.

A promotional poster for the Middlesex Gold: A Community Salute event. The background is a vibrant yellow with a bokeh effect of light spots. In the top left corner, there is a logo that says "CELEBRATING 50 YEARS" with "50" in a large, stylized font. To the right of this is the "MIDDLESEX COUNTY COLLEGE" logo in blue and white. In the center, the text "SAVE THE DATE!" is written in a bold, sans-serif font, followed by "Saturday Evening, March 28, 2015" in a smaller font. At the bottom, the event title "Middlesex Gold" is written in a large, elegant, cursive script, with "A Community Salute" in a smaller, sans-serif font underneath. A dark, wavy shape at the bottom of the poster suggests a stage or a decorative element.

ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

Mattie McCarthy '68 celebrated her 90th birthday in June 2014. Mattie lives in Victorville, CA and hopes to reunite with her fellow nursing graduates at the Community Expo & Open House on April 19, 2015.

Arthur D. Goodman '68 visited campus recently and generously provided a gift of \$25,000 to establish The Arthur Goodman '68 and Alison Arnold Goodman '68 Endowed Scholarship in memory of his late wife, Alison, who passed away in February 2012. Art also donated a bound volume of early issues of "Quo Vadis" to be housed in the Library's archives.

John Beca '69 and **Barbara Tearpock Beca '70** have been married for 42 years, live in Canandaigua, NY and have two sons. John is semi-retired, working as a writer and consultant after a successful career in corporate advertising. Barbara worked in research for several major pharmaceutical manufacturers.

Dorothy Bitetto '69 recently visited 14 towns and cities in Italy, including the town of Bitetto. As co-curator of the MCC Alumni Association Art Exhibit and Auction to be held in April, she is inviting 15 alumni artists to display stunning artwork for sale and for auction to support the MCC Alumni Association Scholarship Fund. Dorothy is also involved in designing a theatrical production of "AMADEUS" for Playhouse 22 in East Brunswick, opening in February.

Thomas M. Ploskonka '69 is a CPA and founder of Thomas M. Ploskonka & Company, PA based in Iselin, NJ. The firm provides a broad range of professional accounting and financial services.

Lynn Ferrante Miller '70 and **Conrad Winslow (Win) Miller '70** celebrate 40 years of marriage in February. Residents of Brielle, NJ, Lynn is retired as director of the Monmouth County Department of Human Services with a consulting practice in nonprofit management and serves as an adjunct professor at Rutgers. Win is a district sales manager for Fischer Paykel Appliance Co. They have two children: Jonathan, 33, a cloud computer manager for IBM, and Alexandra, 27, a special education teacher.

"MCC offered us such a solid two year college education. We will be forever grateful!"

Charles F. Bader '71 graduated from Monmouth University in 1973 and worked for Seagram Corporation in marketing and sales, retiring in 2003 after 30 years in the beverage business. He then changed his career to wholesale and has been directing Spirit Sales for the last 10 years in Nashville, where he relocated in 1987. Charles was married to Betty in 1978 and has two children, Jill, 31, who works in politics in Washington, DC, and Eric, 27, who is employed by Gallo Wine Co. in Annapolis. Betty is the director of Admissions at St Cecelia Academy, the oldest school in Nashville. Charles is an avid hunter, and he and Betty travel on their time off.

Randi Lamatino Bilinski '73 majored in Social and Rehabilitation Services and earned a Bachelor's Degree and a Master's in Social Work. She is director of day programs for the NJ Institute for Disabilities, and remembers faculty members Dr. Karoly Nagy, and Professors James Gronquist and Doris Holmes.

Barry Constantine '74 returned from Vietnam in 1971, worked in construction and enrolled in the BioTech program in 1972. After his first year he considered dropping out and returning to the construction industry. "Professor Eunice Lieberman pulled me aside and gave me a good talking to and convinced me to continue, which I did." Barry now has over 30 years of successful experience in the biotechnology and medical fields.

Tim Brasko '78 is a stand-up comic and proud father of two daughters.

Jonathan Sabin '88 is director, Office on Autism & Office for the Prevention of Developmental Disabilities in the NJ Department of Human Services, based in Hamilton. "I was not a strong student in high school. MCC gave me the chance to live up to my potential with another chance at school. After two years at MCC, I transferred to Rutgers and eventually got my Master's Degree in Social Work at Columbia University."

Alumni Networking Event

Wednesday, February 25
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Edison Campus

RSVP by February 19 to
Joann O'Hara
732.906.7732
alumni@middlesexcc.edu

Elissa Davis '89 earned a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and Communications from Rutgers. She is a project manager for the global sales transformation team at a major IT firm in Central New Jersey. "I've been fortunate to have traveled the world... my favorites were Hawaii and Greece." Elissa bought a home a few years ago and enjoys updating something new each year. She loves animals and has three rescue cats and a crazy puppy.

David H. Brogan '93 has been appointed executive director of the NJ Apartment Association (NJAA), a trade association representing New Jersey's multi-family housing industry, based in Monroe Township. In this role, he will elevate NJAA's government affairs activities on local and state levels, enhance member benefits and education, and raise the stature of the NJAA and the NJAA Political Action Committee.

Eric A. Waldorf, DC '94 was named Chiropractor of the Year by the Somerset County Sheriff's Department. He earned a Master's of Public Health with a concentration in Epidemiology from Kaplan University. He is president of the Logan College of Chiropractic Alumni Association, and a past president of the MCC Alumni Association.

Rebecca Cohen '10 was a Liberal Arts/English major, and has since gone on to earn a Master's Degree in Library Science. She is working as a law librarian at a top international law firm.

Christina Marie Sauer '10 graduated with a Bachelor's in Social Work from Marywood University in January 2015.

Lakwinderpal (Paul) Singh '11 is the MCC Scholarship Department coordinator and is studying for a Bachelor's Degree at Thomas Edison State College, which he anticipates completing in July 2015. Paul enjoys weightlifting and travel.

Christine E. Csaky '12 graduated with an A.A.S. in Paralegal Studies and is employed at the Law Offices of Miriam R. Rubin in East Brunswick. She is a part-time communications/public relations major at Kean University, maintains a 3.9 GPA and was inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society in July. She expects to graduate from Kean in 2016.

James Richard Collins '12 graduated with a 3.5 GPA and was president of the Class of 2012 Radiography Program. Nicknamed "Rick" or "El Presidente," he serves as a member of the Advisory Committee for the Radiography Program. Rick has worked at Hillsborough Urgent Care and Somerset Medical Center and is now employed full time at RWJ Physicians Enterprise – Flemington Urgent Care, as well as working per diem at Princeton Orthopedics and RWJUH Somerset. "Life is good! Thank you so much."

Jacey Fraser '13 graduated with an A.A. in education, is currently completing a B.A. in English, Creative Writing at Louisiana State University, and plans to earn a graduate degree either in Louisiana or overseas with a goal of becoming a professor of English. "I still have in mind the wonderful professors at MCC who helped me get to where I am."

Juliana Pettit '13 expects to graduate with a B.S. in Business Management from The College of New Jersey in Fall 2015. "I currently hold a 3.7 GPA, and feel as though it is thanks to MCC! Middlesex has done a great job preparing me for my four-year college." Through TCNJ, she has been offered a position conducting research on the ethics behind Johnson's & Johnson's hip replacements. "I had a great time attending and working at Middlesex and miss it very much. Thanks again MCC!"

Zobia Ahmed '14 majors in biology in the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences at Rutgers University.

Yana Burlachka '14 is currently a member of The National Society of Collegiate Scholars and Delta Epsilon Iota. She plans to take the LSATs and pursue a law career. Yana visited Bali in January.

Bryan Calero '14 is attending Rutgers University and preparing for medical school. "MCC prepared me for everything. I love MCC and Genetics!"

Kelli Anne Gomolka '14 is a junior studying biology for physical therapy at Arcadia University in Glenside, PA.

Alia Hasan '14 is currently in her first semester at Rutgers, "LOVED Middlesex!"

Chris Nalwasky '14 was a sports writer/editor for "Quo Vadis," majored in Liberal Arts-Journalism and was a member of PTK. Chris is majoring in Journalism and Media Studies at Rutgers and hopes to become a sports writer. Since age 16, Chris has worked with children in the after school program and summer camp in Piscataway and loves to watch and play sports, spend time with friends, family and his girlfriend. Chris wants to thank MCC and sends good wishes to everybody at "Quo Vadis" and to remember that "Success Starts Here!"

Steven Palivoda '14 is pursuing a B.A. in history with teacher certification at Kean University. He says MCC and the Project Connections program prepared him to continue his education and as an active student leader he greatly enhanced his public speaking skills. He gives special thanks to Dr. Christine Harrington. "I took educational psychology and was given challenging coursework but she was very supportive when I ran into obstacles. Kean is challenging, but attending MCC first made my transition that much easier. I work part-time on transfers in the Undergraduate Admissions Office. The skills I mastered as a First Year Experience Student Ambassador at MCC have only helped me succeed further." Steven is also in the process of getting his first science fiction/fantasy novel published.

Christopher Witte '14 is at Rutgers majoring in Biotechnology and Cell Biology and Neuroscience with a minor in Biochemistry.

Krupa Khamar '15 is majoring in Biotechnology at Rutgers and plans to go to dental school at NYU. "MCC was awesome!"

Raj Khamar '15 is in his final year at Rutgers majoring in Biology.

Dr. Michael Carlucci is in practice in Jamesburg, NJ, and fondly remembers Professors Jerome Shindelman and John Frary. He also recalls foreign language Professor Edith Margolin and statistics Professor Kathy Shea.



Eugene (standing) and Vincent Dinescu.

Eugene and Vincent Dinescu studied at MCC prior to transferring to Columbia University where they graduated in 2013 with Bachelor's Degrees in Biology. This year they launched Dinescu & Dinescu Organics, a fitness and nutrition company based in NYC. D&D Organics teaches people how to achieve their fitness and nutrition goals and provides organic products. In addition, the twins founded World Biotechnology (WB), an early stage synthetic biology company that will lower the cost of production in chemicals, fuels, pharmaceuticals and agribusiness, and reduce the carbon footprint. WB has developed a proprietary method to enable microorganisms to be significantly more efficient in the production of products such as pharmaceuticals, glucose, oils, and biofuels.

In Memoriam

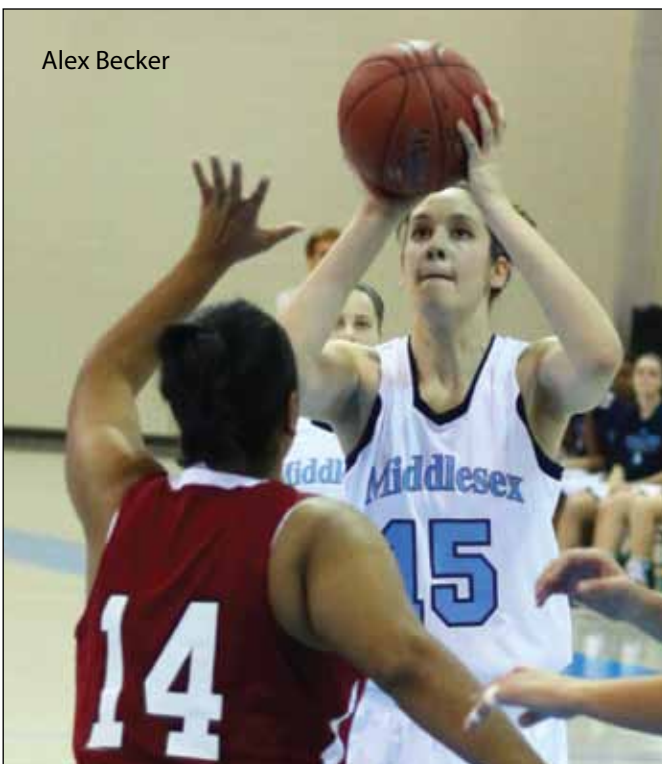
Elizabeth Boyton '68 passed away July 31, 2013.

SPORTS UPDATE

Record-Setting Shot



Left, Quorea Pearyer scored her 1000th point on this shot during a game against Northampton Community College in January. Ms. Pearyer scored 26 points in the contest, which Middlesex won 76-63. The game was stopped and she was presented a ceremonial basketball, as well as a banner signed by her teammates. She is the first female basketball player in MCC history to reach 1000 points. Ms. Pearyer is in the center, standing, and she is flanked by MCC President Joann La Perla-Morales, left, and Michel Powell, head coach, and Tracey Napoleon, assistant, and her teammates.



Alex Becker



Jen Sheryka



Bryant Webb



Stephen Mendez

The **Women's Basketball** team is ranked seventh in the nation, with an overall record of 13-3 and a Garden State Athletic Conference record of 6-2. The women have four talented sophomores – Quorea Pearyer, Jen Shereyka, Alex Becker and Gabrielle Cassiere – and a solid freshman lineup.

The **Men's Basketball** team is currently in fifth place in the Garden State Athletic Conference with a record of 5-5 and an overall record of 10-6. Bryant Webb and Beruche Archille are leading the way for the Colts on offense.

The 2014-2015 **Wrestling** season has been great so far. They have had place finishers at every tournament in which they have competed. The wrestlers won their match against Sullivan County College at Madison Square Garden 35-17. They now prepare for the Districts in Sewell, NJ and the national tournament in Des Moines, Iowa.



Bryan McCrystal



Mathew Oliva

Institutional Advancement

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Post Office Box 3050
Edison, NJ 08818-3050

Change Service Requested



MCC Board Chairman Dorothy K. Power hoped Lady Luck, otherwise known as Jessica Cortese '08, would help her at the tables during the fourth annual Casino Night in October. The Vegas-themed event included a performance by Elvis impersonator Craig Newell.