



TRANSFORMATION

Joe Porter was a star at Rutgers and played in the NFL. But when his football days were over, he needed a new direction. MCC's Alternate Route Teaching Program helped him find his passion. He's now teaching and coaching at Franklin High School, and loving every minute. See page 8.

CAMPUS NEWS



Learning to Love Reading

Children from all over Middlesex County gathered at the College in October for Adventures with Amelia: MCC Reads, a project funded by Gannett/The Home News Tribune and organized by MCC's Democracy House. Kids heard from Herman Parish, the author of the fabled Amelia Bedelia books, and then participated in workshops run by Democracy House students. Each child received an Amelia Bedelia book auto-graphed by the author.

Book on College Achievements Earns 2 Awards

The book created by three alumni to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Middlesex County College garnered two awards: an Hermes Platinum award and a Medallion award from District 1 of the National Council of Marketing and Public Relations, which recognizes excellence in community, technical and junior college marketing and public relations activities.

Hermes is an international competition administered and judged by the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals.

The book was published by the College with valuable contributions of three 2014 alumni: Kim Silva-Martinez, author; Nicole Kazar, photo editor; and Damian Gonzalez, art director.



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Marketing Communications Department
Center 4
Middlesex County College
2600 Woodbridge Ave.
Edison, NJ 08837
email: alumni@middlesexcc.edu



Frank M. Deiner (center, foreground) at Deiner Drive, surrounded by family, friends and Middlesex County College officials.

Campus Street Named for a Founding Father

A street on the campus of Middlesex County College has been named in honor of Frank Deiner, who was a freeholder in 1964 and one of the founding fathers of MCC.

Mr. Deiner was a 33-year-old freeholder and the chairman of its Education Committee when the College was being created in 1964. He led the contingent of Middlesex County officials who traveled to Washington, DC to lobby for the land that would become MCC. He was also instrumental in selecting the College's first Board of Trustees.

He selected part of the Raritan Arsenal as the land he wanted for the College, and led the group from the county to Washington to lobby for it. In his pocket was a magic marker, and when Maurice Greenberg of the Government Services Administration took out a map and set it on his office floor, Mr. Deiner boldly circled the acreage he felt was needed for the College. They got it.

The newly named Deiner Drive runs parallel to Mill Road and by the Middlesex Academy High School, Billy Johnson Hall and Edison Hall.

"I was happy that the Board of Trustees unanimously adopted a resolution to recognize Frank Deiner's longtime support for this institution as a freeholder and county resident," said Dorothy K. Power, chairman of the MCC Board of Trustees, at a ceremony unveiling the sign in

November. "He was instrumental in creating this college, including negotiating with the federal government for this large parcel of land. It is appropriate that his name on this drive will honor his many contributions."

College President Joann La Perla-Morales noted the location of Deiner Drive is symbolic.

"The line of that magic marker was somewhere near that fence along Mill Road," she said. "That this campus road, which parallels that line will now be named for Frank M. Deiner brings honor to the man and all those who have followed him in support of higher education at Middlesex County College.

"Today, more than 52,000 alumni have earned a Middlesex County College degree or certificate and an additional 330,000 county residents have participated in our training and education programs in child care preschool, summer camps, high school scholars and adults in continuing education for job and career advancement."

After the unveiling ceremony, Mr. Deiner spoke at a reception in his honor.

He marveled at the growth and development of MCC, and praised Dr. La Perla-Morales for continuing MCC's success that was started over 50 years ago.

"I think a lot of the success of this college can be attributed to that first Board of Trustees," he said. "They got this place off to its start and it's never stopped."

A Lifetime of Learning, Caring, Teaching, Treating

By Chuck O'Donnell '91

Maybe it wasn't so much that Sharon Aronovitch decided to become a nurse as she heeded a calling to dedicate herself to caring for the sick and soothing the injured. It is one of the noblest of life's paths, and no less an authority than William Osler, the Father of Modern Medicine, said so when he decreed that nurses are "one of the greatest blessings of humanity."

Since earning her Associate of Applied Science Degree from Middlesex County College in 1975, Mrs. Aronovitch has stood shoulder to shoulder with these compassionate caregivers, whether they are serving in emergency rooms, neonatal intensive care units, cancer wards or somewhere else that someone needs a helping hand and a sympathetic soul.

For the past 38 years, she has served as a WOC nurse, as it is known in medical parlance. Having a specialty in wound, ostomy and continence care, she has treated thousands of patients who are not only fighting for their health, but also battling to retain their dignity in the face of terrible diseases and medical conditions.

Her nursing training has taught her how to dress an amputation or care for an artificial opening in an organ created by an operation, such as a colostomy or ileostomy. It has been experience, however, that has taught her how to treat the wounds that aren't visible.

"They sometimes have personal baggage as I sometimes call it," Mrs. Aronovitch said. Maybe they just lost a spouse or they just lost their job or something happened to a child.

Photo courtesy of Sharon Aronovitch

"When I'm with these patients I'm not only doing the care that I'm there for, whether it's wound care, ostomy care or continence care ... sometimes I'm just listening to the patient. Sometimes it seems most of what I do in a day is listen and provide that comforting ear. Sometimes people just have to talk."

Mrs. Aronovitch's introduction to WOC care came while she was training at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York. She decided she need to know more, so she found a WOC program at Harrisburg Hospital, gathered some grant money she had received and headed out to Pennsylvania.

Some 10 years down the road, she felt the tug to share her knowledge with others. The idea seemed implausible in the days before Skype and the Internet.

Undaunted, she became a pioneer in distance-based education and created an accredited program for registered nurses who wanted to be WOC

nurses. She wrote the curriculum, devised the tests, picked the textbooks and made it possible for nurses from the rolling hills of Scranton to the palm tree-lined streets of San Diego to learn to become WOC nurses. They would work closely with a preceptor and come away ready to treat WOC patients.

"To this day when I go to a conference, there will always be at least one student who discovers I'm at a conference and approach me and say, 'Thank you very much for having that program,'" she said. "It feels wonderful. Some of the students are doing fantastic. One of my students is now program director of the WOC education program at Rutgers-Camden.



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Sharon Aronovitch '75

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“I am very proud of that accomplishment. I did something that others thought could not be done – in a sense doing something people didn’t think was going to work, but going ahead and trying it. To then be able to practice as a WOC nurse does create a really good feeling for me. I guess it is my legacy.”

Mrs. Aronovitch has relocated to Tallahassee, Fla., with her husband, Chuck. She is, however, as busy as ever. Not only is she the program director for graduate nursing at Excelsior College, a distanced-based college in Albany, N.Y., she maintains two clinical positions.

“I work one evening a week at Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare Center, which is a level 2 trauma center,” she said. “And I do consults there as a WOC nurse. I do consults as needed at Capital Regional Medical Center for just ostomy patients. So I could have a long, busy day. When my full-time day job starts, I can be seeing one or two patients at Capital Regional, work my day from 8:30 to 5, then be at the (Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare Center) trauma center from 5:30 till 9:30, 10 o’clock at night.”

Today, she is Dr. Aronovitch. After earning her BSN at the University of the State of New York in 1984 and her Master’s from Russell Sage College in 1987, she earned her Ph.D. in Nursing from Adelphi University in Garden City, N.Y.

It was the realization of a dream that dated to her time at MCC.

“Probably the thing that perpetuated on is a need to know more,” she said. “A lifelong love of learning came out. I can recall very vividly at the end of the program, there was some sort of survey to fill out. One of the questions was what do you want to do in however many years. I do recall writing, ‘I want my Ph.D. in nursing.’ I can just recall instructors instilling in me curiosity, poking me so that curiosity was there to want to know more.”

Project Connections Funding Renewed

Project Connections, the MCC program that supports college-able students with learning disabilities, has received confirmation that it will again be funded by the federal government for a five-year cycle.

The grant, a TRIO Student Support Services award, allows Project Connections to provide academic and counseling services to meet the priorities of retention, graduation and transfer.



The Earth Science Club created a community garden as well as this herb display in the College Center. From left: Jennifer Mora, Tim Shamus and Glenn Ferguson.

Earth Science Club Develops Partnership with Sodexo

The Earth Science Club and Sodexo, the College’s food service vendor, have created a partnership that will provide fresh food to MCC students, and a wonderful experience for the Club members.

“The Earth Science Club has been designing and maintaining MCC’s community garden and is excited to have a tangible result from their hard work,” said Professor Claire Condie, advisor to the Earth Science Club. “As soon as Ellen Horowitz, the food service manager, saw the garden, she jumped right into action and an agreement was made designating produce from the community garden to be used for the Winner’s Circle’s entrée special menu. Ellen displays the menu and also stipulates which ingredients came from the Community Garden.

“In addition, Ellen contacted me to discuss developing an indoor herb garden for the Winner’s Circle that could be used for their menu. Tim Shamus, the Earth Science Club president, and I met with Ellen and plans were made to create the garden. The Earth Science Club contacted Donald Drost, executive director of Facilities Management, and asked for any wooden pallets that were going to be discarded that we could reuse to build the display. He put the Club in contact with Dave Parisen from the Vanas Construction Company. This company is building the new science building on campus. Dave collected pallets from the construction site and delivered them to us to use. One of the uses for the reclaimed wooden pallets is the herb garden. The students are proud of their work and enjoy stopping by the Winner’s Circle to see their work and know that it is being used.”

3 Media Outlets Cite MCC as a Top College for Veterans

Middlesex County College is one of the most veteran-friendly colleges in the United States, according to lists developed by three media companies: Military Times, Military Advanced Education, and Victory Media. This is the second year MCC has been named to the Military Times list, the third time for Military Advanced Education, and the fourth year for Victory Media.

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

for Vets.” More than 600 colleges took part in this year's detailed survey. Middlesex was ranked eighth in the nation among two-year colleges; it was the only community college in New Jersey to make the list.

“It's been amazing to witness how colleges all across higher education have embraced service members and their families,” said Amanda Miller, editor of Military Times' Best for Vets rankings and special editions. “Over the past six years of our surveys, we've seen so many schools first begin to foster – through new policies, services and dedicated facilities – and then nurture these wonderful communities.”

Military Times' annual Best for Vets survey asks colleges and universities to document an array of services, special rules, accommodations and financial incentives offered to students with military ties; and to describe aspects of veteran culture on a campus. Military Times also factors in data from the Veterans Affairs and Defense Departments, as well as the Education Department.

“We award the Best for Vets designation to the very best – the colleges that really are setting the example,” Ms. Miller said.

The rankings are published in full in the issues of “Army Times,”

“Navy Times,” “Air Force Times” and “Marine Corps Times.”

Military Advanced Education (MAE) named MCC a Top School in its 2016 MAE Guide to Colleges & Universities, measuring best practices in military and veteran education. It 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 2016 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.

“We believe the guide serves as an invaluable tool for both education services officers and transition officers



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.”

Richard Feldman, the coordinator of the Veterans Center, said he was also grateful for the support of the Willard T.C. Johnson Foundation.

“We are proud to give back to these Middlesex County vets who have given so much of themselves,” he said. “We are honored to be recognized by these prestigious organizations, because it is validation that we are giving our student-veterans every opportunity to succeed. I love watching these students prosper in their transition back into civilian life by doing well in the classroom and receiving their degrees from MCC.”

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

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Veterans Week at MCC, November 9-13, started with a flag raising by the Middlesex County Department of Corrections and a speech by New Jersey Deputy Commissioner of Veterans Affairs Raymond Zawacki; the next day, the MCC community boxed donated supplies going to service members overseas; the student-vets marched in the Highland Park-New Brunswick parade (opposite page photo); and then watched a documentary, "The Hornet's Nest," about a nine-day firefight in Afghanistan. At left, MCC student Barbara Roberts packs supplies for Operation Shoebox.

Middlesex Named Top College by Military Publications

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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."

Victory Media, the premier media entity for military personnel transitioning into civilian life, has named MCC to the coveted Military Friendly Schools® list. The

list honors the top 20 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace America's military service members, veterans and spouses and ensure their success on campus.

The Military Friendly Schools website, www.militaryfriendlyschools.com, also features interactive and search tools to help military students find the best school to suit their unique needs and preferences.



Health and Safety Day at MCC brought dozens of human service and safety agencies to campus to help students, faculty and staff learn how to make their lives healthier. The day included a visit by the children in the College Child Care Center, who learned about fire safety from the Edison Fire Department. From left: Edison Firefighter Brad Marciniak, Captain Anthony Landi, Firefighter Howard Tarlow with Sara Shaughnessy, Mia Izurieta and Isaiah Penny.



TRANSFORMATION

By Chuck O'Donnell '91

Joe Porter posed a hypothetical question to the 25 or so freshmen in his U.S. History 1 class: Who would you trust more to tell the truth about any given situation, him or the students' best friends?

Arms shot in the air and answers came flying toward him at the front of the classroom. His enthusiasm for the subject matter had rubbed off on the kids, and the smile on his face was a tell-tale sign he was enjoying the lively discussion steeped in critical thinking and analysis.

Mr. Porter tackled the day's assignment one recent afternoon at Franklin High School with the same kind of rigor as he used to haul down ballcarriers. He was a football star at Franklin High, a talented defensive back at Rutgers, and even suited up for the Green Bay Packers and Oakland Raiders.

But no matter how fast and fearless he was on the gridiron, NFL teams stopped calling him and he was out of football. The good life of autograph requests, endless adulation and large salaries were all gone. He was a free agent in life.

The only thing that Mr. Porter found to fill the void was teaching. He enrolled in the New Pathways to Education program offered at Middlesex County College and started teaching history at Franklin High in 2014. It's a good bet no one else who has passed through the program has ever shared a locker room with Brett Favre or had Al Davis sign their paychecks, but many who sign up for this program know exactly what it's like to find their lives at a crossroads and struggle to find which direction to go in next.

"Everybody in the NFL goes through that feeling of what the heck am I going to do," Mr. Porter said. "I said to myself, 'I'm only 26 years old. What's going to happen now?' I was lucky I found teaching."

It seems New Pathways to Education in New Jersey is tailor-made for someone like Mr. Porter who has earned a college degree (in his case, a B.A. in Sociology) and has now developed a passion to learn how to teach.

New Pathways Coordinator Bob Sullivan said MCC offers the teacher-training program at its Edison campus through a partnership with New Jersey City University. It's a 200-credit hour program broken into two phases. In the first phase, which is 60 credit hours, the students take classes and learn about everything from classroom management to working with special-needs students to learning motivation.

In Phase 2, they put down their books and get up in front of students. They get experience inside the classroom and bring their questions and concerns back to their instructors at MCC.

Mr. Sullivan said a big reason the program has produced hundreds of teachers over the past 11 years is because it puts students on the fast track to becoming teachers.

"The fact that once they complete their testing, their practice exams and they have the credits on their transcripts, they're certified and they are qualified to teach," he said.

Just as all the Xs and Os of a carefully constructed pass play can go awry once the ball is snapped, Mr. Porter



Joe Porter coaching the defensive backs at a late-season practice. He is also a track coach.

learned that some teaching theory can be thrown out the window when the school bell rings and Real Life 101 is in session. He said having Dennis Siddons, a longtime teacher and administrator in Carteret, as an instructor helped him find his footing in his first year of teaching.

“I think alternate route teachers are much better because traditional-route (teachers), they teach you philosophy – on paper how it should be,” Mr. Porter said. “But in real life, it’s not really like that. For instance, in Vietnam, officers who graduated from West Point were taking trails that were marked down in text books, stuff like that. People who had been there in the country were like, ‘Nooooo! Don’t do that because you’ll get blown up.’”

For instance, Mr. Siddons stressed that the teacher should establish a classroom routine right from the first day of the school year and that this routine will keep students focused and on point.

“He said over and over and over again,” Mr. Porter said. “That advice was really good because you get them used to how it’s going to be. He said something like make sure they work bell to bell.”

For more information about the New Pathways to Education program, log on to www.middlesexcc.edu/schoolrelations

Other things Mr. Porter has had to figure out on his own. What do you do when one of his students in what he describes as a “socioeconomically varied” district had become homeless and needs some money to buy lunch? What should you do when one of the boys in your class is walking six miles home every day after school?

Those are the times Mr. Porter has reached into his own pocket and his own heart to help. Other times, whether it’s in the classroom or on the practice field where he serves as an assistant coach at Franklin, he holds himself up as an example.

“You ask every one of these kids, ‘Do you want to be in the NFL’ and they all say yes,” said Paul Day, the Warriors’ line coach, looking out as the team ran through a recent practice. “Joe tells them, ‘You better have a backup plan.’”

“You hear it in the school – not so much with our kids, but in the hallways – ‘Why is he here now?’ People think because he was in the NFL, he was making millions of dollars and he doesn’t need to do this. But as he tells these kids, it’s real. It’s real. They call you up one day and tell you, ‘Sorry we don’t need you anymore.’ Luckily he had a degree to fall back on.”

And luckily he found teaching to fill the void in his life.



PTK Names Honorary Members

Phi Theta Kappa Co-Presidents Sharanya Sivakumar and David Turner flank new honorary members Donna-Marie Gardner '00 (center left) and Charlotte Quigley. At the ceremony, 145 MCC students were inducted into PTK, the international honor society for two-year colleges.

Notables

In Spring 2015, Psychology Professors **Christine Harrington** and **Crystal Quillen** conducted a research study entitled "Syllabus Length and Use of Images: An Empirical Investigation of Student Perceptions," which has been published in "The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Psychology," an APA journal. A total of 149 Middlesex County College students participated in this study. The majority of students (66 percent) preferred a longer syllabus that included assignment details versus a shorter syllabus. Medium and longer syllabi were also more likely to lead to more positive impressions of the professor and the course. This research has much practical value for faculty of all disciplines.

Nancy Berger, the Nursing Program director, received the 2015 Woman of Valor Award from the women's organization of her synagogue, the Congregation Sons of Israel in Manalapan. It was presented in November in recognition of many years of hard work and devotion to the synagogue. An active member of the Board of Trustees, Ms. Berger has served in multiple capacities at the synagogue. She was president of the Hebrew School Parent-Teacher Organization; a member of the Strategic Planning, Rabbi Search, Family Picnic, Fundraising, and Dinner-Dance Committees; and vice president of Membership, Programming, and Education. She was also the Sisterhood president on two separate occasions.



Professor Anna Sycamore DeMers, of the Visual, Performing and Media Arts Department, was featured at a prestigious dance festival in Hoboken in October. The program, called Your Move: New Jersey's Modern Dance Festival, included live dance as well as dance films. Her five-minute film, called "Alluvial Shore," was performed and choreographed by Professor DeMers with music composed by Eric T. Lawson.

Photo by Joseph H. Ritter



Commitment

Phi Theta Kappa is spearheading a drive to increase completion rates at New Jersey's community colleges. The New Jersey Community College Completion Challenge (NJCC4) features numerous programs to encourage students to complete their education. This year's theme is "Accomplishing Your Dreams." During the inaugural NJCC4 event in 2013, over 11,000 students signed pledges to commit to complete their degrees and certificates. Last year, over 15,000 students signed pledges. Above, from left, are MCC students Chyanne Pitchford, Rachel Martinez and Naman Singh.

FOUNDATION REPORT

Wells Fargo representatives Robert Goldzman, senior vice president, and Carolyn Chirico, vice president, joined Veronica Clinton, executive director of the MCC Foundation, Joann La Perla-Morales, College president, and Patrick Madama, vice president for institutional advancement, at a check presentation. **The Wells Fargo Foundation** has generously contributed \$10,000 for scholarships for in the 2015-2016 academic year. Wells Fargo has provided annual scholarship support for MCC students since 2005.

Gannett Company provided \$5,000 to MCC's Democracy House to participate in a national "Make a Difference Day" program. Democracy House is the Center for Civic Engagement and Community Service on campus and works exclusively with students interested in serving the local community. Student volunteers hosted a literacy event for children on the Edison campus.

Switzer Foundation has again 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 program of study is higher than in any other academic program. The Switzer Foundation gift is supporting 10 students this year.

Delta Dental of New Jersey Foundation is at the forefront of advances in the dental hygiene profession and is a true partner with MCC 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 who, in turn, will serve their communities. In addition, Delta Dental Foundation is providing support for the annual "Give Kids a Smile Day" event held on campus.

Middlesex County Federation of Democratic Women (MCFDW) has renewed its commitment to provide generous scholarship support to a female student majoring in Political Science who intends to further her studies after MCC. Josephine Okudoh '15, the first MCC recipient of the MCFDW scholarship, is now studying at the University of California at Berkeley.

The Shirley Zall Memorial Endowed Scholarship was established in 2011 by Jayne Zall as a tribute to her mother, Shirley, who raised three children as a single mother after her husband died in 1965. A few years later, Mrs. Zall returned to college at the age of 45 and graduated from MCC. She worked in the Edison school district for more than 25 years and touched the lives of many people. Mrs. Zall was a compassionate person who inspired others to live up to their potential. Preference is given to a student who is a single mother raising children while attending MCC full-time.

The Stephen 'Pete' Dalina Memorial Endowed Scholarship Fund has received donations of \$25,000, the level required to activate an endowed fund. Scholarship awards will begin with the Fall 2016 semester. The scholarship is supported by family, friends and colleagues of the late Middlesex County Freeholder, Stephen 'Pete' Dalina. Freeholder Dalina dedicated his life to the people of Middlesex County, providing outstanding public service for over 50 years on the Woodbridge Township Council, the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and as chief of Fords Fire Company.

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Lyondellbasell representatives, from left, Joshua Seidner, human resources manager; David Schrutka, site manager; and Savita Babbar, operations manager, meet with Parag Muley, chair of the Natural Sciences Department, and Professors Diane Trainor and Gayle Cannon of Middlesex County College. Lyondellbasell has provided a generous donation of \$5,000 to purchase equipment for use in the education and training of students in the Process Technology Program.

Foundation Report

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Betty Whalen, MPA, '87 generously donated \$1,500 for the **Betty Whalen Health Technologies Annual Scholarship**. This scholarship supports a deserving Hispanic female student enrolled in Health Technologies, with financial need but who is ineligible for federal financial aid.

Phalguni Ghosh, associate chair of the Natural Sciences Department, has renewed his support of **The Anjali Ghosh Memorial Scholarship** which he established in memory of his mother. The Anjali Ghosh Memorial Scholarship is awarded to full- or part-time students majoring in the Natural Sciences.

Evelyn Rosa, director of the New Brunswick Center, has renewed her support of the scholarship she established in memory of her father – **The Joaquin Rosa, Sr. Memorial EMPOWER Scholarship**.

MCC Foundation Advisory Board member and former Trustee, Dr. Jean Battaglia and her husband, Frank, have renewed their support of the **Blaha Battaglia Family Scholarship**. The scholarship was established in 2006 to benefit students who show academic merit and have financial need.

The Josephine Zifchak Memorial Annual Scholarship has been established with donations received from family, friends and members of the College community. It is a tribute in memory of Josephine Zifchak who resided on campus for 29 years with her husband, Robert, the College's athletic director. The couple lived on campus, raising six children: Robert, Christopher, Janet, Lauren, Gerard and Joseph. Born and raised in Queens, NY, Josephine Zifchak taught elementary school in New York City, served as a substitute teacher in Edison, taught algebra at MCC and was employed in the College Bookstore. She passed away on June 11, 2015 and was predeceased by her son, Joseph. In addition to the scholarship, a portion of the donations will establish a commemorative bench.

5th Annual

Casino Night

EDUCATION WINS!

Friday, February 26, 2016 5:30 p.m.

\$75 ticket – starts you with \$50 in chips (Must be 21 years of age)

Visit mcc-foundation.org or call 732.906.2564

A Time to Say Thanks

MCC held its annual reception in November to thank scholarship donors and to provide the opportunity for them to meet the students they have helped. This year's reception was supported by The Provident Bank Foundation and was attended by 300 students, donors and guests. More than 650 students will receive over \$790,000 in scholarships this academic year.



1. PROVIDENT BANK: Jane Kurek (seated center) executive director, The Provident Bank Foundation, and Diane Conboy (seated right), senior vice president, Provident Bank and chair of the MCC Foundation Board of Trustees, with recipients of the Provident Bank Foundation Endowed Scholarship and the John P. Mulkerin Endowed Scholarship. Also shown are George Dailey (top right), treasurer, Provident Bank, Faisal Usman (top left), student speaker at the reception, and College and Foundation Trustee John Mulkerin.

2. DELTA DENTAL: James Suleski, CPA, '73, senior vice president and chief financial officer of Delta Dental of New Jersey and a member of the MCC Foundation Board of Trustees, is joined by recipients of the Delta Dental of NJ Foundation annual scholarships.

3. GMB: Emily Zaniewski (l) and Deborah Walden of GMB North America Inc. with Alan Skaev, recipient of the company's annual scholarship. GMB North America Inc. has provided annual scholarship support since 2009. Back row: Lizarely Galindo Celestino, Joaquin Rosa Sr. Memorial EMPOWER scholarship recipient, and Matthew Dumbrique, Telcordia Pioneers Chapter 99 Scholarship recipient.

4. MCC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION: From left: Alumni Board members Al Gomolka '71, Helen Trippe '76, Dorothy Bitetto '69, student scholarship recipients Faisal Usman and Edward Zubrowski, and Board members Brenda Cooney '98, Michele Sutera '08 and Jennifer Rosa.



ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

AlumNotes

Roberto E. Bahruth Ph.D. '70 earned a B.A. from Tusculum College in Tennessee, an M.A. from the University of Texas, San Antonio, and a Ph.D. from University of Texas, Austin. He has been a professor of literacy and bilingual education at Boise State University for 26 years, conducting cultural work throughout Latin America, Israel, China, Taiwan and South Korea. Roberto speaks fluent Spanish and French, and basic Chinese. He also taught at Austin Community College and edited a book on the value of community colleges published by The American Association of Community and Junior Colleges in Washington, DC. His most well-known book is *Literacy con Cariño* which tells the story of how a transformative pedagogy changed the educational experiences of Mexican children in a Texas school.

Joseph P. Adornetto '72 is married with three children and five grandchildren. He is retired from Florida Power & Light Co. His hobbies are Corvette restoration and playing keyboards.

Assemblywoman Nancy Pinkin '74 won re-election to New Jersey's 18th District, serving a two-year term.

Elizabeth Ingelhofer '80 is retired and lives in Cary, North Carolina.

Daniel Weiss '80 is president of his own investigation firm since 1985, Initial Investigations, Inc., located in Jackson, NJ. He enjoys his work because he helps people.

William Gregory Terrell '84 graduated with an A.A.S. in Business Marketing. He played basketball for Middlesex from 1981- 1983 and then received scholarships to Shaw University, Saint Thomas Aquanis College, and Delaware State University. In August of 1984, William received a call from Shaw University in Raleigh, NC where his grandmother lived. He visited often and was familiar with the area. Once

there, he competed on the Southern Division co-championship team as the sixth man. In his senior year, he averaged 18 points per game, was voted team MVP, and made the All Star Team. He was also blessed to meet his wife of now 24 years and alumni of then rival school, Saint Augustine University. He graduated with honors with a degree in Business Management and after returning to New York to work with at-risk youth in Erasmus High School in Brooklyn, he relocated to Raleigh, NC. He and his wife have a 23-year-old son who is an Engineering graduate of Wright State University and is an engineer for a health care manufacturer. William has worked for 24 years for local government as a human services senior practitioner. "Thank you Middlesex for allowing me the time to find myself."

Cory (Eustice) Schaefer '86 enjoyed 20 years of practicing dental hygiene. She stayed at home for 10 years to raise her daughter and is now going back to school in order to reenter the workforce. She attends Harrisburg Community College in Pennsylvania.

Gregory Zanko '87 was recently hired as a probation officer in the Union County Vicinage.

Stephanie D'Angelo '90 is an innovative mindfulness meditation and Yoga teacher, using traditional and neuroscientific research-based principles to empower people to decrease stress and increase overall well-being. Her mission is bridging the gap between ancient practices and modern people. She has been influenced by, and has had the privilege of practicing meditation with amazing modern master teachers such as Kabat-Zinn, Saki Santorelli, Deepak Chopra, Marc Lesser and Mark Coleman. Stephanie has pioneered and created a Stress Reduction and Mindfulness Program for a major financial institution that received 96 percent positive results, after which the program was approved to continue weekly.

Jennifer Johnson '03 is married with four children and is working toward becoming a physician's assistant. She is currently working for a large multi-specialty medical practice, Wake Internal Medicine Consultants, Inc., in Raleigh, NC. She serves as the radiology

The MCC Alumni Association Presents

An Evening of Good Taste for the Educated Palate

A Restaurant Food Tasting

**Wednesday, April 13
5:30-7:30 p.m. College Center**

\$30 in advance • \$35 at the door • \$20 students
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alumni@middlesexcc.edu

Please join us at this seventh annual culinary event and sample signature dishes from local restaurants.



manager as well as a CT technologist, radiologic technologist and, on occasion, assists physicians with patients and procedures. Jennifer is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree and hopes to be accepted to the Physician Assistant program at the University of North Carolina.

Carolina Amador '05 graduated from MCC's Nursing program in 2005 and enjoys a very successful nursing career. She has worked in telemetry, critical care, PACU, CATH lab and now is an interventional radiology nurse at JFK Medical Center. Carolina has one 10-year-old son. "The best thing I ever did for my life was to graduate from MCC." She owns her own home in Milltown and is currently enrolled in an online BSN/MSN program. Her job covers \$4000 a year for tuition reimbursement. "Thank you MCC for everything!"

Elizabeth Santana '06 was featured in a two-page article covering her B.F.A. thesis exhibition in the catalog of Rutgers University's Mason Gross School of the Arts. After Elizabeth graduated from MCC with an AFA in Visual Arts, she went on to Rutgers and graduated in 2009.

Karen Kutcher '08 graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education/English with high honors from Kean University. She is currently a third grade teacher and was named Teacher of the Year for the 2014-2015 academic year. "I absolutely love teaching and I am an advocate of what an amazing education a community college is able to provide. Thank you MCC!"

Heather Hernandez '08 graduated with an Education Practitioner Associate Degree and went on to Kean University to complete a dual Bachelor's Degree in Special Education/Early Childhood. She lives in Perth Amboy and has been working for the Perth Amboy Board of Education for 17 years. Heather loves to work with pre-school special needs students at the 3-year-old level. Heather's daughter, Breeana, will be starting MCC in the spring 2016 semester.

Andrew J. Pinto Jr. '08 is the new head lacrosse coach at his alma mater, St. Joseph High School in Metuchen. He had been an assistant coach there. He also helps run his family's business, Pinto Brothers Disposal.



Charles Hahn and Elizabeth Vazquez

Raquel Landero '10 graduated from Rutgers with a B.A. in Sociology and will start an M.S.W. online program at Rutgers in the spring. Raquel is a social services coordinator helping seniors and people with disabilities improve their quality of life and regain their independence. "I love what I do, and I consider my time at Middlesex one of the best times of my life. When I left I had the confidence I needed to pursue my education even further. MCC will always be in my heart!"

Romeoryan B. Arbiol '11 is a program coordinator in the Division of HIV Prevention Community Planning Support and Development Initiative at Rutgers where she facilitates training for NJ Department of Health (DHSTS) grantees in basic skills training and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Effective Behavioral Intervention (EBIs) trainings. She also provides statewide community capacity building, which includes program development, program evaluation, quality assurance planning, needs assessment and EBI support, for grantees of the DHSTS.

Farah Manzoor '11 went to Rutgers University and earned a Bachelor's Degree in 2013. She is planning to become a CPA.

Hilda Segura '11 is attending Kean University. She plans to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Bilingual Education. Her baby girl is due in February.

Sabrina Madjeski '12 & '13 is currently in graduate school at Monmouth University working on a Master's in Anthropology. She is also working part time.

Charles Hahn '12 and **Elizabeth Vazquez '11**, who both were the salutatorian of their respective graduating classes, were married after having met at MCC.

Eman Tadros '12 is a second-year student at Seton Hall University in the Marriage and Family Therapy Master of Science program. Eman has earned a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Psychology from Northeastern University in Boston. She serves on the New Jersey Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Board as the student liaison for the Northern New Jersey chapter and is a member of the Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society. Eman is interested in promoting emotional health and wellness to minority couples and families and is currently working as a marriage and family therapist intern at Community Education Centers where she provides therapy to men and women of the incarcerated population. At CEC, Eman facilitates family night for the residents and their families and runs an educational motherhood and fatherhood group. Eman is very excited to obtain teaching and research experience and work within different spectrums of the field.

Orran Bierstein '14 is currently attending Texas A & M University at Galveston. Orran is finishing a Bachelor's Degree in Marine Biology and plans to start a Master's program next fall.

Traci Hauber '14 went on to Rider University as an English major with a Writing concentration and a History minor and is on track to earn a Bachelor's Degree. She then plans to attain a Master's Degree. Over the summer, she celebrated five years together with her boyfriend and went to Disney World. She plans to get engaged in the near future. Traci enjoys writing fiction short stories and loves to read and watch movies. Traci works for AMC Theaters and is also a scare actor for Great Adventure's Fright Fest.

Travis Spear '14 quickly landed a position as a cook at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City. "I graduated from MCC with a degree in Culinary Arts Management. Working at the Waldorf is a great experience as there is always something going on and never a dull moment. You are in the middle of Manhattan and in the heart of NYC. It is great to work for a place that has many culinary firsts such as Red Velvet Cake, Eggs Benedict and, of course, the famous Waldorf Salad and lots of really cool American history. There are seven kitchens in the Waldorf, and one of the kitchens almost occupies one city block. There are also six bee hives on the rooftop, along with a rooftop garden." Travis is very proud that he obtained a job at one of the most world renowned hotels. "I am happy to say that MCC helped me get where I am today!"

Rabab Khaled '15 is currently working as a Registered Nurse for DaVita Dialysis and also volunteers at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick every Monday night in the Emergency Department in order to explore different aspects of nursing. "I am attending Rutgers University and plan to earn a Bachelor's Degree soon. MCC has an amazing

Nursing Program. I miss my MCC faculty and the campus so much!"

Katrina Lease '15 has been attending Rider University since September and intends to earn a Bachelor's Degree and later a Master's Degree. She is enjoying her life and is very busy with home and school.

Josephine Okudoh '15 is attending the University of California at Berkeley as an Economics major. Josephine expects to graduate in 2016 and aspires to attend graduate school and work for the United Nations.

Diana Molina '15 is currently completing a Bachelor's Degree in Technical Management at DeVry University in East Brunswick. "I was offered a transfer scholarship which is helping cover a part of the cost." Diana is very happy and working hard to complete her degree; so far she has managed to get a 4.0 GPA and plans on keeping up the good work.

Mara Olivares '15 was awarded a \$5000 Fellowship from the New Jersey Space Grant Consortium (NJS GC) supported by the National

Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Mara graduated as a mathematics major and now attends Montclair State University. She collaborated with MCC faculty member Dr. Reginald Luke as a research intern on an investigation prompted by an interactive math puzzle called Cube Nets. They investigated the 11 non-isomorphic planar patterns created by the six faces of a cube. They conjectured that there are exactly 11 such patterns and hope to prove that there can be no more. The fellowship was made possible through a collaboration with Dr. Haim Baruh, director of the NJS GC at Rutgers University.

Milagros (Millie) Rodriguez '15 graduated from the Nursing Program with high honors and took the New Jersey Board of Nursing exam and passed the state boards. Millie is now a Registered Nurse in NJ and is currently in the process of obtaining a dual license for the state of NY after having applied for reciprocity in that state. She is currently working for Xerox as a clinical nurse specialist and is also enrolled in Penn State where she plans to earn both the RN and BSN degrees.

Christine Walters '15 was recently hired in her first nursing job on a Med/Surge floor at Raritan Bay Medical Center. She is continuing her education at Chamberlain School of Nursing. Exciting times!

Dennis C. Miller is a nationally recognized strategic leadership coach, working with nonprofit organizations. Based in Cedar Knolls, NJ, Dennis has advised hundreds of nonprofits across the country on board governance, leadership development, strategic planning and philanthropy. Dennis spent 25 years as a healthcare executive and is the author of three successful books.

Marion G. Costanza, Esq. transferred to Rutgers University with 48 credits earned at MCC and later graduated from Seton Hall Law School. "The faculty at Middlesex County College gave me the support and the confidence to continue with my education and to fulfill my lifelong dream of becoming a lawyer. I will never forget my time at MCC." Marion is president of the Middlesex County Federation of Democratic Women (MCFDW), supporters of an annual scholarship at MCC.



This Makes Planning a Reunion a Snap

From left: Will Hessemer, Carlos Velez, Laura Hansen, and Professor Patricia Luck. The three 2015 graduates are – like many, many other grads – employed at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. The New Brunswick facility recently hired five new MCC Radiography Education program graduates. Not pictured were Charlotte Mackintosh and Yessenia Marquez. Of the 36 full-time, part-time, and per diem employees who work in general diagnostics, 28 are MCC Radiography alums.

Alumnae from 2014 Named Outstanding New Nurses

Two Middlesex County College alumnae from the nursing class of 2014 received new nurses awards from their respective hospitals in 2015. Frankie Bell was presented the New Nurse Award at Bayshore Community Hospital in Holmdel. She is on the medical-surgical unit.

“I love it there,” she said. “It’s because of my fellow nurses – it’s like a family, and every day is different. It’s never boring.”

Ms. Bell said her education at Middlesex prepared her well for the rigors of nursing.

“They gave us the skills to go right out on the floor and take care of patients,” she said.

She received an all-expense paid trip to Atlanta for the American Nurses Credentialing Center conference in October.

France Cabactulan received the First Year as a Nurse Award from St. Peter’s University Hospital in New Brunswick. She works in the Oncology Department.

She also loves her job there and feels the faculty at MCC prepared her well for her career. “The hands-on training was a key factor in my development,” she said.



France Cabactulan (left) and Frankie Bell.



Alumni Gather to Network & Celebrate



More than 30 alumni and MCC representatives attended an Alumni Association networking event held at Terrazza restaurant in Perth Amboy in October. It also served to welcome Jose Laureano, new director of the Perth Amboy Center. Make sure you receive your e-mail invitation to the next event. Please email alumni@middlesexcc.edu.

SPORTS UPDATE



Nazjae Imes



Ziykara Hicks



Zsade Byrd



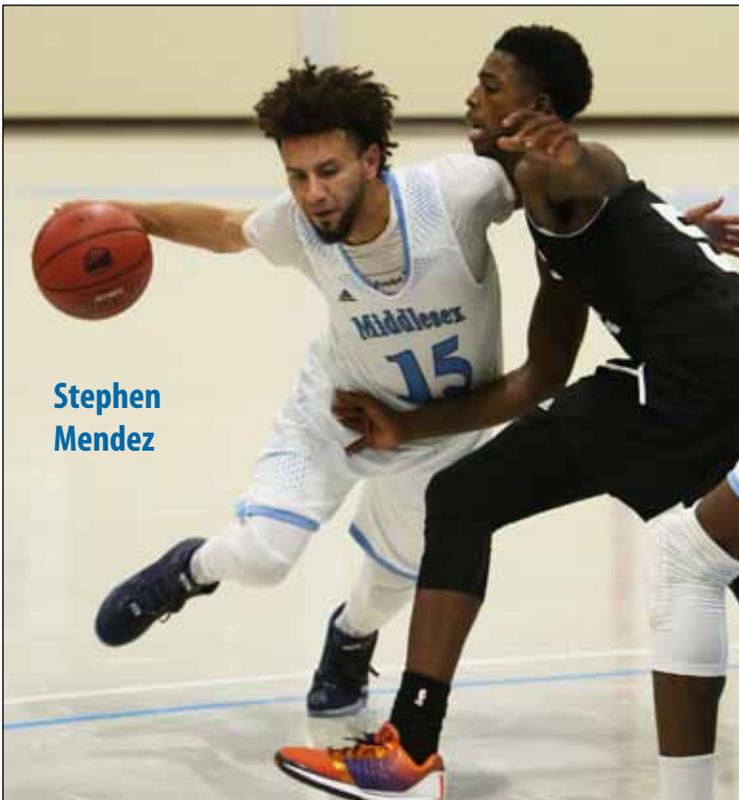
Brittany Clayton



Jonathan
Bracero



Berruche
Archille



Stephen
Mendez

The **Men's Basketball** team is currently in second place in Region XIX (10-3) and in the Garden State Athletic Conference (5-3). The team has an overall record of 10-5. Eugene Campbell and Berruche Archille are leading the way for the Colts on offense.

Women's Basketball is ranked seventh in the nation, with an overall record of 12-1. They are in first place in Region XIX (11-0) and in the Garden State Athletic Conference (7-0). The team has a nice balance of freshman and sophomore contributing to their success. Ziykara Hicks was named Garden State Athletic Conference player of the week for the period that ended December 5.

The 2015-2016 **Wrestling** season has been great so far. They have had place finishers at every tournament in which they have competed. Joe Guzzo was named Garden State Wrestler of the Week (for the week that ended December 14) after going 5-0 with 3 pins, 1 tech fall and a 11-7 win over the #6 ranked wrestler in the nation from Niagara.

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The Earth Science Club is creating quite an attractive lounge in a window well next to the Library. The Sustainability Lounge has furniture made from reclaimed wood palettes, inspirational sayings painted on the walls; it is a relaxing place to study or hang out. Here, Paige Bollman brings her artistic talents to the project.