

The Last Lion



Bob Colburn has been teaching at MCC since it opened in 1966. He's still at it, over a half-century later, the last member of the original faculty and staff. See page 8.

CAMPUS NEWS

PTK Co-President Named National Leader of Promise

MCC student Katsiaryna Sikorskaya is one of 207 Phi Theta Kappa members named a 2017 National Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholar. She will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

The Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholarship Program helps new Phi Theta Kappa members defray educational expenses while enrolled in Associate Degree programs. Scholars are also encouraged to assume leadership roles by participating in Society programs and are selected based on scholastic achievement, community service and leadership potential. Nearly 1,000 applications were received.

“Kat has been an active member of our chapter, which shows her passion for contributing to the betterment of the College community and her fellow students beyond the classroom walls,” said Charlotte Quigley, MCC’s Phi Theta Kappa advisor. “For the 2017-2018 academic year, she has been elected co-president based on her service to the chapter over the past year. As president, Kat’s focus is on scholarly learning, which is shown in her creation of a community service project to pair two of her passions: a toy drive to benefit a local children’s hospital with a musical event that – as her research has discovered – could potentially reduce stress in fellow students who donate a toy. I am so happy she is receiving this

scholarship and I’m so proud of her.”

Ms. Quigley said Ms. Sikorskaya had also been active in Democracy House, the College’s service learning program, as well as the History and Philosophy Honor Society, in which she won first place in an essay contest.

The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation provides \$200,000 in funding for the scholarships, with \$25,000 set aside for members who are veterans or active members of the U.S. military. The remaining amount is supported by donations to the Phi Theta Kappa Foundation and provides Leaders of Promise Global Scholarships, earmarked for international students.

“The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation has a long history of providing financial assistance to outstanding students at community colleges,” said J. Mark Davis, president of the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation. “We are proud to partner with Phi Theta Kappa, make it possible for more deserving students to achieve their educational goals, and support tomorrow’s leaders of the global community.”



Katsiaryna Sikorskaya



Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders

Ronald G. Rios, <i>Freeholder Director</i>	Kenneth Armwood Charles Kenny
Charles E. Tomaro, <i>Deputy Director</i>	Leslie Koppel Shanti Narra Blanquita Valenti

Middlesex County College Board of Trustees

Dorothy K. Power, <i>Chairman</i>	Yasmin E. Hernandez-Manno
Mark J. Finkelstein, <i>Vice Chairman</i>	George J. Lisicki
Eileen Palumbo '78, <i>Treasurer</i>	Robert Oras
Robert P. Sica, <i>Secretary</i>	Praful Raja
Samantha Brannigan '17	Gary Taffet
Roger W. Daley	Joann La Perla-Morales, <i>President</i>

“Middlesex Now” is published for alumni and friends of Middlesex County College by the Marketing Communications Department. Correspondence should be sent to:

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



Army veteran John Durrenberger, an MCC student whose son is in the Child Care Center, brought his service dog Kilmer to share with the children in the center as part of a Veterans Day celebration. The kids heard about Mr. Durrenberger's experience and got to greet Kilmer, who is a very friendly 2-year-old dog. With them are Dior Garcia (center) and Ava Kaden.

New Buildings Honored with Gold LEED Status

Middlesex County College's two newest buildings, South Hall and West Hall, have earned gold LEED® ratings from the United States Green Building Council, signifying their environmental attributes. LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is an internationally recognized mark of excellence that provides building owners with a framework for identifying and implementing practical and measurable green building design, construction, operations and maintenance solutions.

The achievement was recognized at a ceremony in October in the atrium of South Hall. MCC is the only community college in New Jersey with two Gold buildings.

"The LEED program encourages us to design buildings that have a low impact on the environment with optimal energy efficiency," said Donald R. Drost, executive director of facilities management at MCC. "It validates our efforts. MCC was able to expand the facilities on campus for our students, while minimizing the impact on the environment."

The LEED report on the projects looked at seven areas: sustainability sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, regional priority, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality, and innovation.

Ronald G. Rios, Middlesex County freeholder director, said the buildings are the most recent examples of environmental efforts in the county, along with best-in-state recycling programs, two solar panel farms, the County's fleet of hybrid vehicles and its open



From left: Ronald G. Rios, Middlesex County Freeholder director; Dorothy K. Power, chairman of the College's Board of Trustees; College President Joann La Perla-Morales; and State Senator Samuel Thompson.

space preservation program, which now includes over 8,000 acres of pristine lands saved from commercial development.

"The College has done so much for our students, continually advancing the educational opportunities available while ensuring they have state-of-the-art facilities in which to learn," he said. "My freeholder colleagues and I are proud of the part we have had in this continual growth and success. It is no surprise that when

Continued on page 5



Celebrating Diwali

MCC celebrated Diwali in October with dance, music, food and a presentation on the holiday.

In Memoriam

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

Virginia S. Filardi, professor of chemistry, on March 28.

Irene Adele Buck, assistant in the Business Office and later Community Education, on April 8.

Sebastian J. Messina, photography professor, on April 25.

Martin Kitchen, custodian in the Facilities Department, on June 13.

Len Russikoff, professor of chemistry, on July 19.

Doris Mayner, professor in the Natural Sciences Department, on August 23.

Sergeant David H. Siegel, of the Campus Police, on October 10.

Notables

Andrew Dzurisin, assistant professor of sociology, was a contributor to an article in “The New York Times,” “Safest Bet in Sports: Men Complaining about a Female Announcer’s Voice,” written by Julie Dicaro published on September 18. Professor Dzurisin also served as a contributor to a previous article written by Ms. Dicaro titled “Why Twitter Can Be An Ugly Place For Women in Sports Media” published on “Sports Illustrated’s” website, SI.com in 2015.

Tracey Siegel, program coordinator of the Associate in Science Degree in Nursing Program offered in Association with Raritan Bay Medical Center, has been named a Fellow of the Academy of Associate Degree Nursing by the Organization for Associate Degree Nursing.

Charlotte Quigley, manager of career services, completed the training and passed the exam and is now a Certified Professional Résumé Writer (CPRW) as certified by the Professional Association of Résumé Writers and Career Coaches (PARWCC).



Christian Cuison '17 received the Edison Chamber of Commerce Annamae Baerenbach Scholarship and was honored at the chamber’s annual dinner meeting in October. Mr. Cuison, who transferred to Rutgers, is shown with Professor Steven Zale.

Service & Smiles



MCC was active in the community last semester. Fifty-eight students from the Earth Science Club as well as geology and meteorology classes taught by Professor Claire Condie cleaned the Laurence Harbor Waterfront Park. At left, Jordan Mandel and Justine Burnett load a bag of garbage. Above, MCC dental students cleaned the teeth of 20 kids from the Acelero Learning - South Amboy Center. Above, MCC student Meghan Cole shows a child the proper way to brush.

LEED Certification Shows College's Commitment to the Environment

Continued from page 3

constructing South and West Halls, the College embraced environmentally friendly building techniques and systems.”

College President Joann La Perla-Morales praised the County freeholders, the College Board of Trustees, and the State of New Jersey with supporting both projects, as well as the architects, DMR for West Hall and L.R. Kimball for South Hall.

“We are proud that as we provide state-of-the-art facilities for our students and faculty, that we have been recognized for doing so with regard and respect for our environment,” she said. “This year our faculty have developed a new degree in Sustainability Science and as soon as we receive state approval, faculty and students will be engaged in their scientific work here in this building. I thank each of you for assuring that Middlesex County College is positioned to meet the educational needs of our community. You are all partners in our success.”

Dorothy K. Power, chairman of the College's Board of Trustees, highlighted the work of the administration and facilities staff, led by Mr. Drost.

“Don Drost was persistent in demanding and acquiring the best environmentally sound facilities,” she said. “This is another example of a model building.”

These are MCC's second and third buildings to receive a LEED rating; Crabiel Hall, which opened in 2011, was awarded a Silver rank.

Mr. Drost said LEED designation is awarded on a point system. South Hall received points for a number of its features. The College sits on land that had been the Raritan Arsenal, and South Hall is where two Arsenal buildings stood: South I and South II, so construction did not require clearing any natural land. It is close to public transportation, shower facilities are nearby in the Physical Education Center for bicyclists, and the surrounding suburban environment provided retail services within walking distance.

Mr. Drost said West Hall received points for being close to public transportation and within walking distance of retail services.

A landscaped storm water basin was constructed to retain storm water from the parking lot. Points were also gathered for water and energy efficiency due to the building's plumbing and HVAC design.

Both buildings were completed under budget. South Hall was completed ahead of schedule and West Hall was on schedule.

MCC and Kean Sign Joint Admissions Agreement

Representatives from Kean University and Middlesex County College signed a Joint Admissions Agreement providing MCC students provisional admission to Kean. Upon successful completion of their Associate Degree, students may gain full admission to one of several approved degree programs at Kean University.

“Middlesex County College students make up 15 percent of Kean’s transfer admissions population,” said Dawood Farahi, Kean’s president. “This new Joint Admissions Program provides students with a seamless route toward earning a Bachelor’s Degree from Kean University – without wasting time or money taking credits that don’t transfer. This initiative also serves to extend the reach of Kean’s world-class programs, faculty, facilities and services to students who begin their studies at the community college.”

Students who are pursuing an Associate Degree at MCC through the Joint Admissions Program will have

immediate access to Kean’s faculty and advisors as well as invitations to special programs and campus events. The agreement provides clear and easy-to-follow advisement and transfer of credits, allowing students to enter Kean

University as a junior in Biology, Psychology, Accounting, Management - General Business, Management - Supply Chain, and Management - Entrepreneurship.

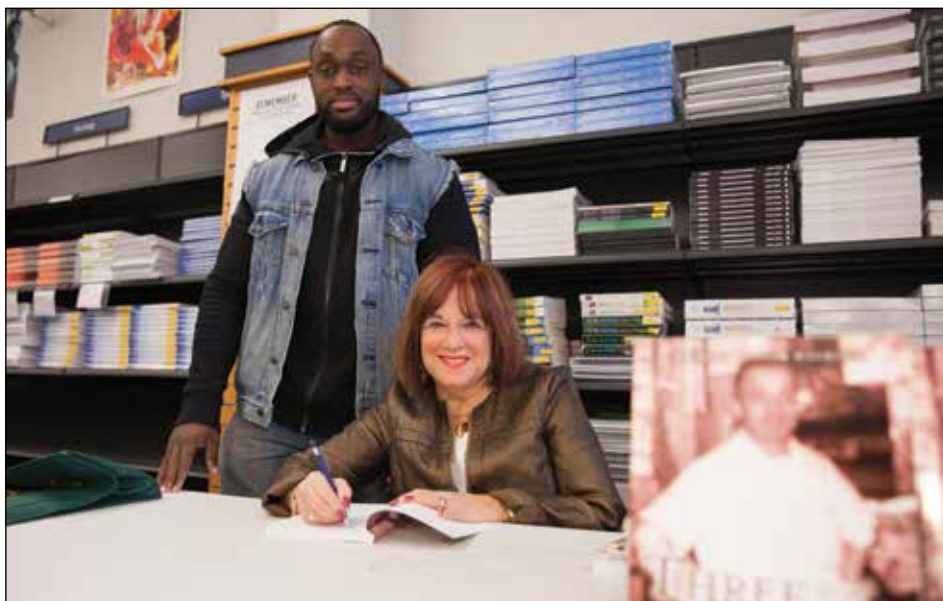
“Middlesex County College is already one of the biggest senders of students to Kean, because we know that Kean takes great care of our students,” Dr. La Perla-Morales said. “Now, students can come to Middlesex County College knowing exactly what classes they need to be able to go on and succeed at Kean – because their path is spelled out for

them. We are very pleased to continue our work with Kean.”

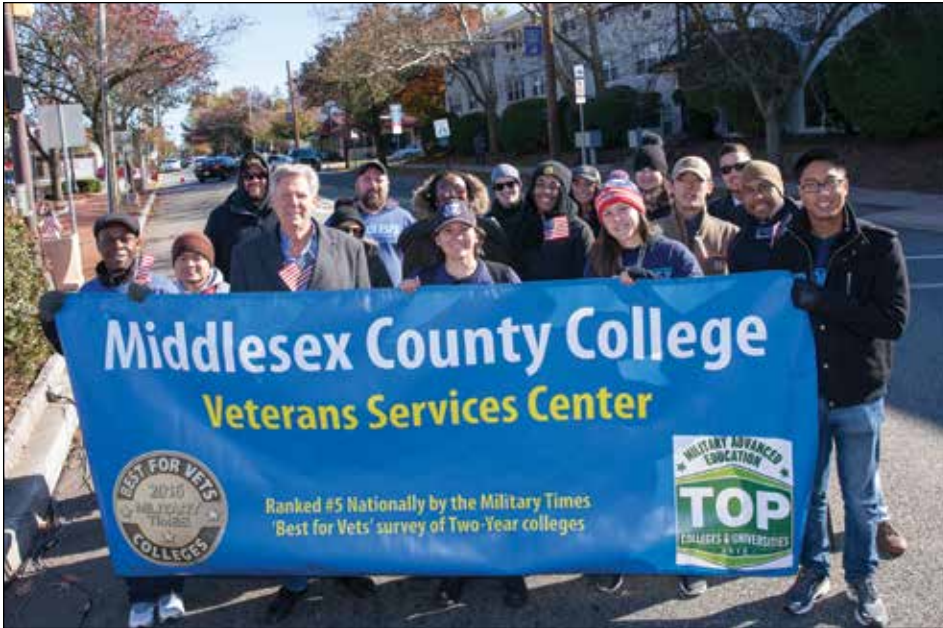
For two consecutive years, Kean University has been named to Phi Theta Kappa’s Excellence in Community College Transfer Honor Roll, which recognizes the nation’s top four-year colleges and universities for their dynamic community college transfer pathways.



Seated, from left: Mark McCormick, MCC’s vice president for academic and student affairs; MCC President Joann La Perla-Morales; Kean President Dawood Farahi; and Stephen Kubow, acting associate vice president of Kean Ocean. Standing: Jeffrey Herron, MCC dean of professional studies; Linda Scherr, MCC dean of arts and sciences; Patrick Madama, MCC vice president for institutional advancement; George Chang, dean of Kean’s College of Natural, Applied and Health Sciences; and Marsha McCarthy, associate vice president for enrollment management at Kean.



English Professor Shirley Wachtel signed copies of her new book, “Three for a Dollar and Other Stories,” at the College Bookstore in November. She also read from her work. Here, Dr. Wachtel signs a copy for MCC student Dwight Alexander.



MCC student-veterans marched in the Highland Park-New Brunswick Veterans Day Parade on November 11. The parade starts at the Doughboy Statue in Highland Park and goes down Raritan Avenue, concluding at the Monument at George Street and Livingston Avenue in New Brunswick. They were joined by Congressman Frank Pallone (front row, third from left).

Professor Receives Award from Mathematics Association

Agnes Azzolino, assistant professor of mathematics at the College, was recently presented the Max Sobel Award for Outstanding Service and Leadership in Mathematics Education from the Association of Mathematics Teachers of New Jersey (AMTNJ).

AMTNJ is a community of people interested in the learning and teaching of mathematics. It provides scholarships and grants, facilitates communication between members, and recognizes leaders in the field. It was founded in 1914 and has presented the Sobel award for 27 years.

Professor Azzolino received the award in recognition of her publications, her service in leadership capacities in professional organizations, and her years of teaching. She was president of AMTNJ from 2002-2003.

She started out as a high school teacher, and during that time, was introduced to the Mathematics Association of Two-Year Colleges of New Jersey (MATYCNJ), the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (AMATYC), the Mathematical Association of America (MAA), and its state affiliate, MAA-NJ. She has held leadership positions with these organizations and has written numerous papers and publications for them.

Her best-known contribution to mathematics education is the best-seller “Mathematics and Humor,” edited by her, Linda Silvey and Barnabas Hughes and published by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

Her books, “Exploring Functions through the Use of Manipulatives,” “Math Games for Adult and Child,” “Math Spoken Here!” “The Hundreds Board,” and “Term Tiles & Tokens,” are found free on her website,



Makoto Yoshida, president of the Association of the Mathematics Teachers of New Jersey, presenting the Max Sobel Award to Agnes Azzolino.

mccfaculty.com/AAzzolino/mcc.htm, under the MathNStuff link.

In 1997, Professor Azzolino was the recipient of the AMATYC Award for Teaching Excellence.

“I’m proud and honored to have received that award, as well as the Max Sobel Award, but I’m most proud of the growth of the thousands of students and teachers I’ve influenced,” she said.

The Last Lion

By Chuck O'Donnell '91

One of 118 faculty and staff on that first day in September of 1966, Bob Colburn is still teaching, the last member of that stalwart group.

*R*obert Colburn is rummaging through his top left desk drawer in his office in the back of L'Hommedieu Hall. There's a rustling of some papers being shifted about until he pulls out an oversized envelope.

There's a card inside that was given to him a few years ago by a student from his BIO 010 class.

The words inscribed on the card are forever etched in Professor Colburn's soul.

"Thank you for believing in me, with your encouragement and support," she writes. "I always walked out of the classroom thinking anything is possible."

To encourage, to inspire, to demand and extract just a little bit more – it's been Professor Colburn's dogged dogma over his 51 years at Middlesex County College. He is the only MCC employee still working from the group that founded the college in 1966.

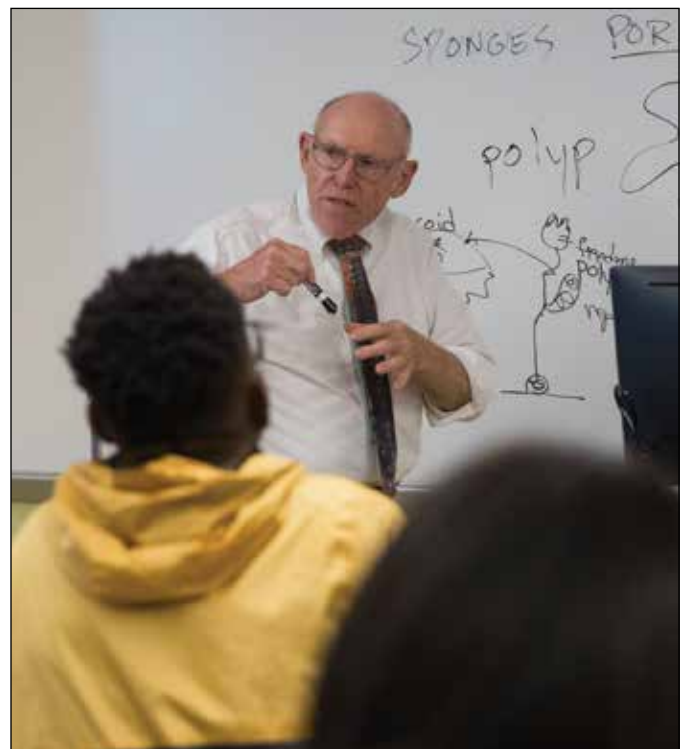
He has seen the school grow and transform from a quaint and quiet campus where he would wait on a loading dock to see if the UPS truck would bring the materials he needed to set up the lab that day. Even as enrollment swells and new buildings seem to spring up like so many dandelions on the quad, there's one thing that will never change. No, for when it comes to the thousands of students who have filtered into his classroom over the decades, Professor Colburn has never wavered in his belief that higher education should come with higher standards.

Although he wants you to walk away with a solid grasp of material covered in his natural science courses, he is even more concerned with teaching you how to think and solve problems – even if it admittedly doesn't always make him the most popular professor on campus.

"I always believed this," he said. "Students will say you're awfully harsh and hard on them initially, but a year or two from now, they'll say, 'Hey, you were the best

teacher I've ever had because you held my feet to the fire.'"

There's no way for him to ever know just how many of his students he's affected, but a few of them have invited him to their college graduations and weddings. One student from the late sixties, who happened to stumble upon the fact that Professor Colburn was still teaching at MCC decades later, picked up the phone, called him and thanked him. And at an alumni function, twin brothers and former



students bellowed his name across the room in excitement the moment he walked through the door.

Professor Colburn's early days still hold a nostalgic place in his heart. The campus was more Mayberry than Metropolis, especially when you consider that when they held faculty meetings, all the members could fit in one room.

And because it was a smaller, more intimate place back then, he got to know the students. He would often run into them around campus. They were especially dedicated to their studies, considering the specter of the Vietnam War and the draft lurking in the background.

"I remember in 1968, the first graduating class," he said. "I can remember the names of some of those kids better than I can remember the names of kids I have in class today."

Professor Colburn enjoyed a great rapport with Frank Chambers, the first president of the school. Dr. Chambers with his trademark flat-top haircut was seen all over campus early on. His door was, quite literally, always open.

One year, Professor Colburn arranged a canoeing trip down the Delaware River with the Bio Society – a group he helped launch. There was a problem procuring insurance for the trip, so it was canceled at the last minute. After seeing a photo of Dr. Chambers canoeing in the

pages of "Quo Vadis," Professor Colburn marched into his office and asked for help.

"Dr. Chambers called me three days later and said, 'We have insurance. Where do you want to go?'"

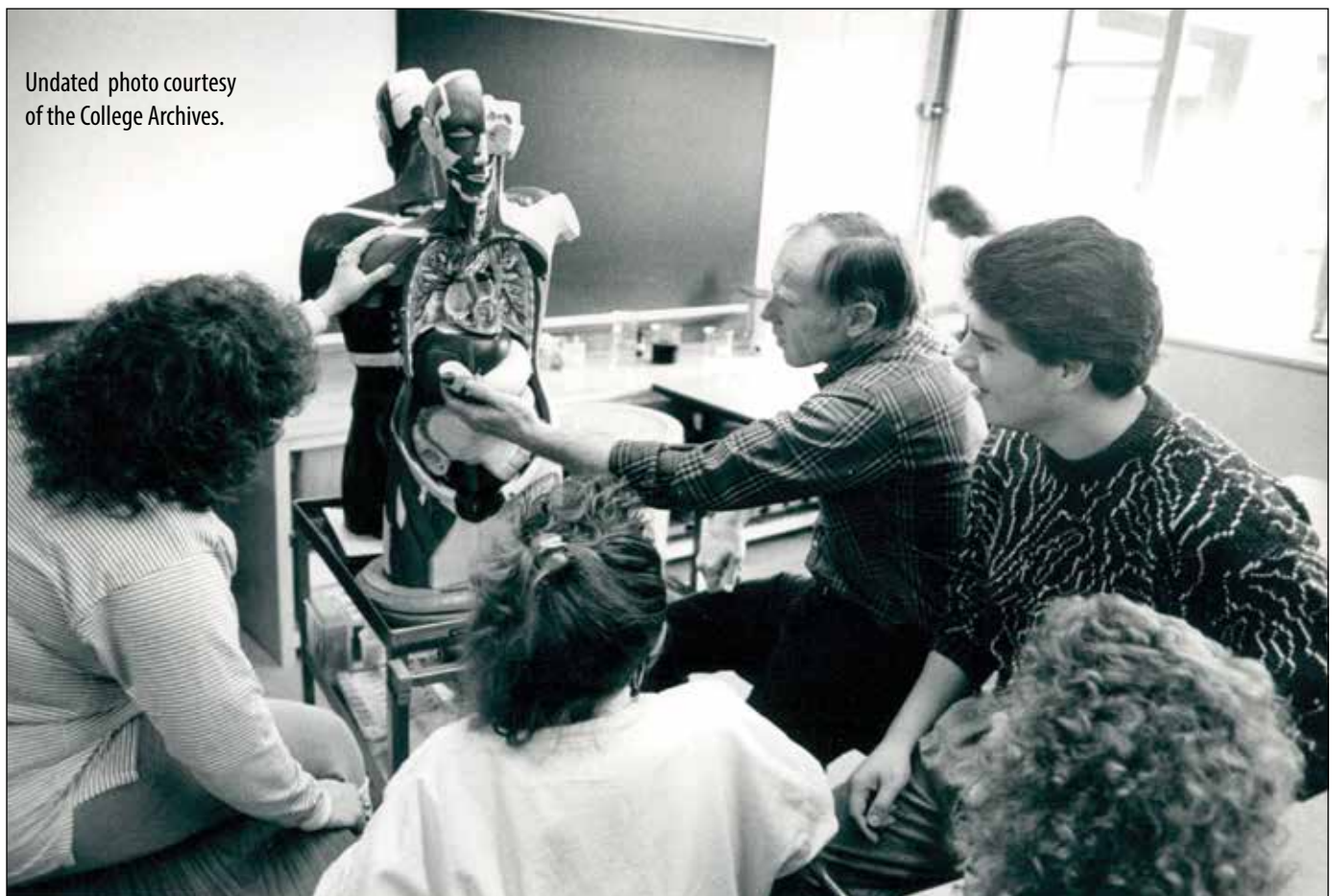
Over the years, the natural sciences became something he didn't just teach, they became a living, breathing part of his life. He was the secretary of the International Waterbird Society, co-chairman of the Raritan Watershed Group and he helped run fishing derbies for the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife. Between that and more, he still found time to serve as the school's assistant soccer coach from 1992 to 1994.

Although he may sometimes venture far afield, visiting wetlands and soccer fields, he always returns to the classroom. It was a refuge in his darkest days. He lost his son, Eric, in 1980. In 2012, he lost his wife, Marilyn.

"When my son passed away, they said, 'Well, are you going to take time off?'" Professor Colburn said. "I said, 'No, no. I have to keep my mind on something else.'"

Right now, he has his mind set on continuing to teach – and encourage and inspire. The man who is known for his vast collection of colorful, animal-themed ties has a rule of thumb when it comes to retirement.

"I'm having fun," he said. "When I stop having fun, I'm out of here."



Undated photo courtesy of the College Archives.



Dental Hygiene students attended the David Nasto Oral Cancer Screening/Walk/Run to Raise Awareness at Perona Farms in Andover, NJ. Lynn Tobin, MCC faculty and dental hygiene club advisor, attended with the students. The 23 participants raised \$695.

Buried Treasure: Hunt for Sea Glass Proves Relaxing and Fruitful

Chuck O'Donnell '91

Al Gomolka '71 was walking along a stretch of beach when a glint of red caught his eye. He's been collecting sea glass for most of his life, so he became excited because he's well aware that red is the rarest of sea glass colors.

When he got closer, however, Mr. Gomolka discovered it was the top part of a figurine of a little girl. When he dug her out of the sand, he found that she had been stuck there so long that one of her legs was encrusted with conglomerate, or a fusion of sand and pebbles.

It turned out to be the find of a lifetime.

This shard, as it is known in sea glass parlance, won the award for Most Unusual at the North American Sea Glass Festival in Wilmington, Del.

Experts estimate the figurine dates back to the 1940s, if not earlier. It was a plaything for some boy or girl, and somehow found itself washed up on Morgan Beach, a section of Sayreville.

Mr. Gomolka, who was introduced to sea glass collecting by his grandmother in the 1950s, says you may not find so much as a piece of common sea glass – let alone a figurine of a little girl – when you walk along the beach. However, it's the thrill of the hunt and the wonders of nature that keep him coming back.

"I get a kick out of just walking and meditating," he said. "I listen to the beautiful waves and I just take in all of

God's glory. It's a beautiful time no matter whether it's rain and whether it's cold windy or whatever. I just look. And when I find something, it's just the frosting on the cake."

Al Gomolka with his find of a lifetime.



MCC FOUNDATION REPORT

MCC Foundation Gives \$750,000 in Scholarships in 2017-2018

The MCC Foundation thanks its loyal donors for their continued support in helping provide financial opportunities to qualified students to attend Middlesex County College and fulfill their educational and career goals. The Foundation is providing \$750,000 in scholarship support to eligible students for the Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 semesters. This support has been made possible by generous contributions from alumni, faculty, staff, friends and the business community in Middlesex County.

All gifts make a difference! Some of them are noted here:

Scholarship Support

The Amboy Foundation continued its commitment to **The Amboy Foundation Annual Scholarship** with a contribution of \$3,000 to assist second-year students majoring in Business with financial need. Recipient Guanjie Huang wrote: "Your generosity has inspired me to work hard in my studies."

Highland Park Masonic Lodge provided \$2,000 to renew the **J. Craig Putnal Memorial Masonic Scholarship**. This annual scholarship provides assistance for a student who has entered MCC directly from high school and has financial need. Recipient Emily Belizario wrote: "This award has been a blessing for me and my parents as it will tremendously ease the financial burden ... I will work hard and do my best to retain my scholarship."

An MCC Advisory Board member and former Trustee, Dr. Jean Battaglia, and her husband, Frank, contributed to the **Blaha Battaglia Family Endowed Scholarship**. Established in 2006, the scholarship benefits students who show academic merit and have financial need.

The late retired chemistry professor, **Virginia Filardi**, generously included the MCC Foundation in her estate plans with a bequest which was received by the MCC Foundation in September 2017.



Delta Dental of New Jersey Foundation renewed its commitment to the **Delta Dental of NJ Foundation Annual Scholarship** with a gift of \$10,000 to assist deserving Dental Hygiene students who, in turn, will serve the communities in which they live and work. MCC Foundation Trustee James Suleski, CPA with Dental Hygiene faculty and Delta Dental

of NJ Foundation scholarship recipients at the Annual Scholarship Reception in November. Recipient Stephanie Snover wrote: "As an older student, it is challenging to fulfill all responsibilities while being a student and this award helped to keep me focused on academic excellence and not worry about the finance portion."



Northfield Bank Foundation renewed its support of the **Northfield Bank Foundation Scholarship** with a gift of \$5,000. Established in 2009, the scholarship is awarded to students with financial need who live in East Brunswick, Milltown, Avenel, Monroe, Woodbridge, Linden or Rahway where Northfield Bank has locations. Since 2009 the scholarship has benefited 34 students. From left, Veronica Clinton, MCC Foundation executive director; Diane Senerchia, executive director, Northfield Bank Foundation; College President Joann La Perla-Morales and Angie Tsirkas, Northfield Bank.

Recipient Alivia Kirk wrote: "Your generosity has allowed me and other students to pursue our goals in our respective fields."

Professor James Finne established the **Florence and Gilbert Finne Scholarship for Women in Engineering and Technology** with a gift of \$10,000, in memory of his parents "for their fundamental belief in higher education and the fields of mathematics and engineering, and for the work ethic they instilled in their children, their students and their colleagues." The scholarship will be awarded to a female student majoring in Engineering Technologies or Engineering Science, with a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Dr. Rush Holt and Dr. Margaret Lancefield renewed their commitment to the **Congressman Rush Holt and Dr. Margaret Lancefield Annual Scholarship** with a gift of \$2,000. The scholarship benefits part-time students who work, have family obligations and reside in New Jersey's 12th Congressional District. Recipient Brittany Reen wrote: "I work part-time and it's always a struggle to balance work with classes. This award came when I needed it most."

David J. Lynch '06 renewed his commitment to the **David J. Lynch AXA Annual Scholarship**. The gift was matched with a contribution from the AXA Foundation. The scholarship benefits students majoring in Business with financial need and a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Mary Trickel '77, MCC Foundation trustee and MCC retiree, renewed her support of the **Mary E. Trickel Endowed Scholarship**. Established in 2000, the scholarship is awarded to a custodial parent who is returning to academia after a five-year lapse in formal education.

Maud Urbanski renewed her commitment to the **Professor Robert Urbanski Annual Scholarship**, with a gift of \$1,000. Established in 2013 in memory of Professor Urbanski who was respected for his many achievements and contributions to society, the scholarship is awarded to a full-time student majoring in Mathematics enrolled in the Honors Program. Recipient Alexis Huff wrote: "Thank you for helping me achieve my educational and career goals. It increases my confidence in my abilities as a student because someone else believes that I am worthy of an education."

Jayne Zall made a generous contribution to **The Shirley Zall Memorial Endowed Scholarship**, established in 2011 in memory of her mother Shirley Zall. The scholarship is awarded to a single mother raising children while attending MCC full-time with demonstrated financial need.



Switzer Foundation has again provided a generous gift of \$10,500 to support the **Switzer Foundation Annual Scholarship** for Nursing Students. Established in 2012, the scholarship has helped 49 students in achieving their academic and career goals. Back row, left to right, Francis Dougan, Joanne Franklin and John Franklin of Switzer Foundation with 2017-18 Switzer Foundation Annual Scholarship recipients at the Annual Scholarship Reception in November.

Recipient Samantha Valentin wrote: "You gave me an opportunity to advance my education, further my goals as a student and allowed me to support my own path."

Program Support

Friends of Middlesex County Charity Golf Corporation made a generous contribution of \$2,500 to the Center for Veteran Services.



The Veterans Club at Renaissance at Monroe continued its support of student-veterans by adding funds to the **Renaissance at Monroe Veterans Club – Center for Veteran Services / Bookstore Credit Grant**. The grant assists in providing MCC Bookstore vouchers to student-veterans for the purchase of books and other educational supplies. MCC Foundation Executive Director Veronica Clinton (far left), President Joann La Perla-Morales (center), and Vice President Patrick Madama (far right) with representatives of Renaissance at Monroe Veterans Association.



Women's Rehabilitation Group of New Jersey provided a donation of \$5,000 to support the **Women's Rehabilitation Group of New Jersey Annual Scholarship** in 2017-2018. The scholarship supports female students of Asian Indian origin with financial need. Kusum Ketkar (left center) and Rita Chaudhary (right center) of Women's Rehabilitation Group of NJ with their 2017-18 annual scholarship recipients. Recipient Anusha Gunti wrote: "This generous scholarship has made a remarkable difference and helped alleviate the financial stress."

Providing Unrestricted Possibilities for MCC Students

We thank the many loyal contributors to this year's Annual Fund. Contributions are being provided by alumni and friends, as well as by members of the Board of Trustees of MCC, the Board of Trustees and Advisory Board of the MCC Foundation, and members of the faculty and staff.

Donations to the unrestricted Annual Fund help the MCC Foundation fulfill its mission of providing scholarships for students, and raising funds for select College programs.

Please support the 2017-2018 Annual Fund and to help provide UNRESTRICTED POSSIBILITIES for students!

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



MCC Foundation Board Update

Linda Donato Kennedy '72 was elected to the MCC Foundation Board of Trustees at its November 2017 Annual Meeting. Ms. Donato Kennedy is a retired hospitality executive who earned a BA in Fine Arts Education from Montclair State College (now Montclair University) and an MA in American History from Southern New Hampshire University. She is the founder of orangestreetbabies.com, an infant clothing company, named after the street in Edison on which she grew up. Recently, Ms. Donato Kennedy and her husband, Edward Kennedy, established **The Alfredo and Antoinette Donato Endowed Scholarship** in honor of her parents. They live in the Boston area and frequently return to New Jersey to visit family and friends.

Mary Trickel '77 recently retired from the MCC Foundation Board of Trustees after 35 years of service. Dr. Trickel began as a student at MCC and became an adjunct professor of Accounting. Dr. Trickel went on to become controller and vice president for finance and operations. She was assistant treasurer of the Foundation Board of Trustees from 1992 to 1999, and second vice chair from 2000 to 2003. In 1984, Dr. Trickel was asked to establish, also in a volunteer capacity, an alumni organization and became the founding president of the MCC Alumni Association. The Foundation thanks Dr. Trickel for her loyal and exceptional service and will miss her, although it is wonderful to note that her presence on campus will continue through the Mary E. Trickel Endowed Scholarship.



Linda Donato Kennedy '72 flanked by College President Joann La Perla-Morales (left) and Veronica Clinton, MCC Foundation executive director.



Mary Trickel, right, with a scholarship recipient at the annual reception.

7th Annual
Casino Night
BUFFET, BEER & WINE WIN PRIZES!
Friday, February 23, 2018 5:30 p.m.
\$77 ticket – starts you with \$50 in chips (Must be 21 years of age)
WEST HALL ♦ EDISON CAMPUS
Visit mcc-foundation.org or call 732.906.2564

Scholarship Reception:

A Chance to Mix & Mingle and Say 'Thank You'

The Annual Scholarship Reception was held in November to thank scholarship donors and to provide the opportunity for supporters to meet scholarship recipients. The reception was supported by the Provident Bank Foundation and was attended by 300 students, donors and guests.



1. James Mikusi with Ekatrina Sanderson, recipient of the James Mikusi, Jr. Scholarship.
2. Friend of the College Elizabeth L'Hommedieu talks with College President Joann La Perla-Morales.
3. Paulette Wahler (left) and MCC Foundation Trustee DeAngelina Inman (right) with recipients of the Freeholder David B. Crabiell Endowed Scholarship.
4. Chair of the MCC Foundation Board of Trustees, Diane Conboy (left), with Curt Lang, vice president, M&T Bank, and M&T Annual Scholarship recipients.

ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

What's Your Story?

Michelle Roman

Graduation Year: 1998

What have you been up to since graduation?

Completed 23 years of military service and completed my Bachelor's and Master's degrees. I've been a practicing dental hygienist since 1998 and am currently completing a Doctorate in Educational Leadership.

What is one of your greatest achievements since graduating from MCC?

Coming full circle. In 2017, I was hired by my alma mater, Middlesex County College, to serve as the chairperson for the Dental Hygiene Department, the same program I graduated from 19 years ago. The experience and guidance I received here as a student helped shape me into the person I am today. I want to provide that same guidance to students as they are figuring out who they're going to be and what they're going to do.

What is your fondest memory of MCC?

The professors. They're here because they want to help us succeed, that was clear. They were tough, but they displayed a willingness to take time out to guide and instruct us.

What was your favorite place on campus, and why?

The Dental Hygiene Clinic – it is where I learned clinical skills and treated all my first patients.



Who was your favorite professor and why?

This is hard...I had a few: Professor Dorothy Defoe and Professor Cathy Reilly. They were nurturing and pushed me to follow my dreams to continue my education and serve my country.

If you could offer a current MCC student advice, what would it be?

Set your goal to achieve, ask for help when you need it, be persistent and learn for the sake of learning.



@middlesexcountycollege



@middlesexCounCo



Find and Like
Middlesex County College

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

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



Olga Leticia Maya

Graduation Year: 2017

What have you been up to since graduation?

I married the love of my life and my biggest supporter! Together, we run Dim the Lights Film Podcast and work as digital marketing consultants for businesses in New Jersey.

What is one of your greatest achievements since graduating?

I had several job offers shortly after graduation – a position I had never imagined I'd be in so soon after finishing school. I am proud to say that I am now a part of Kislak Realty's marketing team. I'm working in my field and love that I am utilizing both of my degrees.

What is your fondest memory of MCC?

My fondest memory of MCC would have to be a conversation I had with Professor Alane Poirier. I was two semesters into my Graphic Design degree and realized I fell in love with photography more than I had expected. I decided to double major and remain at MCC for an extra semester. It was a defining moment in my career and one that could not have been possible without the advice from a professor who genuinely cared about my future after MCC.

"What's Your Story" is a new feature in "Middlesex Now" and the web. View other alumni success stories at middlesexcc.edu/alumni and submit your own. Email alumni@middlesexcc.edu for details.



What was your favorite place on campus, and why?

I spent most of my time at MCC in the lower level of the Johnson Learning Center. All of my design and photography classes took place there. There were days I'd go downstairs in the morning and wouldn't come back out until it was nighttime because I had classes and projects in between that needed to be completed. I hated it and yet I loved it. And it was my absolute favorite place on campus.

Who was your favorite professor and why?

I'd have to say my favorite professor was William Psolka. He was by far the most invested professor I ever had. He cared about each student's individual learning experience while still listening to the needs of the class as a whole. We visited museums in his classes, had guest speakers, and were able to leave the classroom to photograph events and gain hands-on experience. I also find myself saying, "Oh, I learned that in Bill's class!" quite a bit now. That's when you know that you were taught practical lessons that can be applied out in the real world.

In Memoriam

William Snyder '75
Francis Soloducha '77
William Murphy '93

If you could offer a current MCC student advice, what would it be?

Finish. Don't transfer out before finishing your Associate's Degree. It's tempting, but life happens and you may or may not get to finish your four-year degree.

Why was attending MCC the right decision for you?

Three years ago, I moved to New Jersey to jumpstart my career in design. I was not able to afford out-of-state tuition at a university, so I "settled" for MCC. Along with moving, it was one of the best decisions I made that year. I was able to land a great full-time job right out of MCC as well as work as a freelance portrait photographer.

AlumnNotes

Edward Maroon '73 (Liberal Arts) a retired high school business teacher with the North Brunswick Board of Education for over 36 years advises students, "Never give up! Hard work pays off; there is no substitute for hard work."

Tony Wei '86 (Criminal Justice) obtained his B.S. from NJIT and a Master's in Technology Management from Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken. He has rewardingly been employed with the Department of Defense at Picatinny Arsenal for over 28 years.

Sukhrob Makhkramov '13 (Biology) transferred to Rutgers Medical School where he earned a Master's in Biomedical Sciences. "WOO HOO- Professor Gardner is SO PROUD!"

Rana Abouseiman '15 (Biology) went on to Rutgers graduating in May, 2017 with a Nutrition Degree/Dietetics Option.

Danielle Caruso '17 "Going to MCC was the best choice I made. The education I received there was incredible and has taught me so much. MCC has offered me many opportunities in research and helped me figure out what career path to take."

SPORTS UPDATE

The **Men's Basketball** team is sitting in the middle of the pack with an overall record of 6-6 and a conference record of 5-5. Freshman Jamarr Joseph is leading the team in rebounding and sophomore Jaquan Robertson is averaging 22 points per game.

Women's Basketball is a young team this season with only two sophomores. They have an overall record of 9-5. They are in fourth place in Region XIX (7-3) and third place in the Garden State Athletic Conference (5-3). The team has a nice balance of freshmen and sophomores contributing to their success. Freshman Leeannah Hunter was named Garden State Athletic Conference Player of the week in November.

The 2017-2018 **wrestling** season has been great so far. They have had place finishers at every tournament in which they have competed. A few wrestlers to watch out for are Devin Farhan Khan, Nicholas Suk and Michael Okaro.

Keisha Collado



Laurina Archille

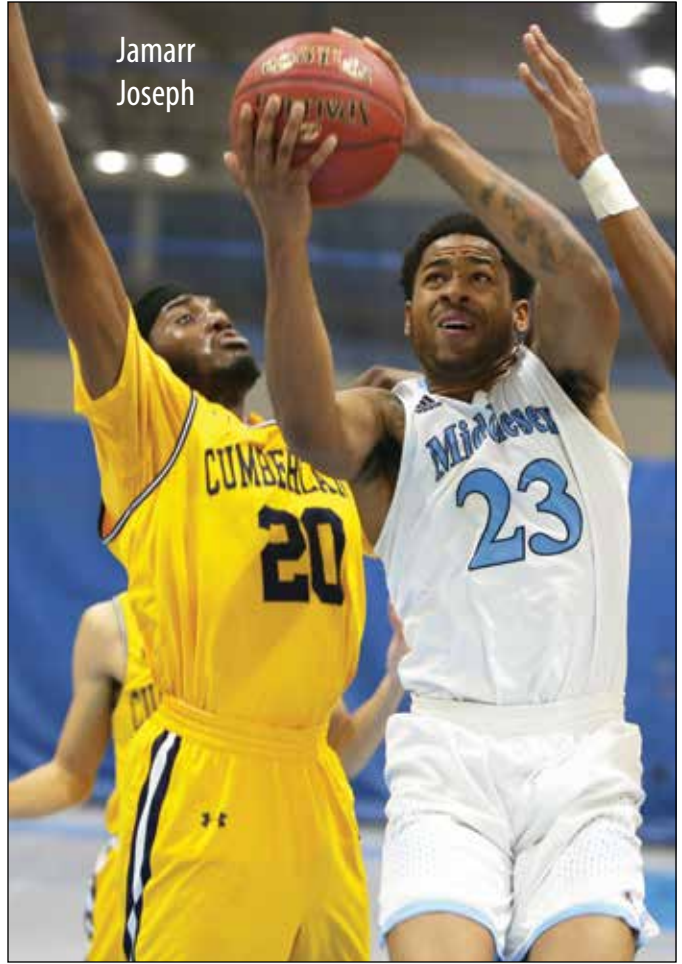


Nicole Baudendistel





Lloyd Middlebrooks



Jamarr Joseph



Victor Torres



Algenis Nunez (left)

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

Change Service Requested



Health and Safety Day brought dozens of human service and safety agencies to campus to help students, faculty and staff learn about 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. Here, Edison Firefighters Anthony Tumminelli and Dan Maurath show the kids and their teacher a piece of equipment.