

# Tuition in Flux

## College Tuition Faces Uncertain Rising Rates

By Amanda Clark, Managing Editor

Middlesex College sets tuition and fees annually, so the rates do not change in the middle of an academic year. However, they will most likely rise for the Fall 2022-2023 academic year like they did for the Fall 2021-2022 academic year.

Middlesex College President, Mark McCormick, with assistance from Executive Dean Laureano, said, "The Mission of Middlesex College focuses on providing access to a quality, affordable education for the residents of Middlesex County."

McCormick said, the revenue generated from tuition and fees from students is the largest share of the College's annual revenues of around 60% of the total, which is also the largest variable, as it is dependent on enrollment.

"For a number of years, enrollment has declined at the College (as it has at nearly every community college), but over the last two years there has been a steep drop in enrollment, largely attributable to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the students who attend Middlesex College," said McCormick.

He said, "If enrollment does not reach the levels necessary for the College to balance our budget, then the College needs to increase the tuition and fee rate in the next year's budget to generate sufficient additional revenue for the College to continue to be able to provide instruction and support services to students."

Psychology student, Olivia Lopez said, "I'm attending Middlesex College since it is cheaper than other colleges, especially four-year colleges; however it's difficult to budget for

myself when I never know how much more the next year's tuition will be."

McCormick said as expenses increase, additional revenue is needed to meet that increase.

"The cost of utilities and health insurance, for example, continue to rise each year, and the College faces particular challenges negotiating salaries with annual increases for employees that allow the College to attract and retain talented employees while maintaining the promise in our Mission to provide a quality, affordable education," he said.

McCormick said the College is continually evaluating additional ways to reduce or contain expenses and generate revenue, with the goal of remaining among the most affordable options for students in New Jersey.

McCormick said some efforts to decrease costs for students include efforts by our faculty to increase our use of Open Educational Resources textbooks and other required course materials, significantly lowering a "hidden" cost for many students, and broadening options for online course offerings, which eliminates transportation costs for students who register for online courses.

Lopez said, "It's funny that this College is one of the cheapest ones for tuition but the book prices are insanely high. I can find certain College textbooks on a different website for less than half the price. I feel like I would pay double the tuition because of the price of books listed on our College site."

With regard to online course fees, McCormick said, the College incurs significant expenses related to sup-

porting online learning, including fees for the Canvas Learning Management System.

"For now, Zoom is an additional expense (for remote live courses) to address teaching and learning requirements during the pandemic. It appears that many students like the remote live format," he said.

McCormick said, "If the decision is made to continue to offer a number of courses in remote live format in the future, there will be a need to consider a course fee for remote live courses to help cover the costs of the Zoom license."

Criminal Justice student, Kate Gan, said she has noticed that in her second year here, the tuition has risen but she is still grateful for the overall low tuition price compared to other county colleges.

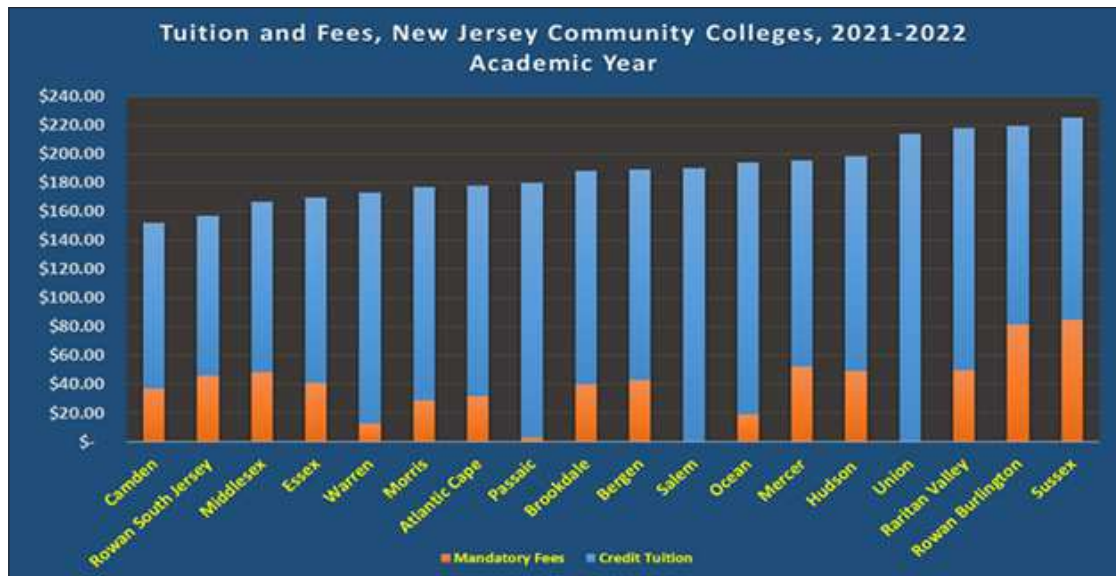
McCormick said, "The upshot of all of this is that due to declining enrollment, and increasing expenses, the tuition and fee rates will likely need to increase every year, as they did for this current academic year."

McCormick said as enrollment stabilizes and possibly increases, the need to increase those rates going forward might lessen.

He said as the budget is developed



Illustration by Amanda Clark



A photo of tuition and fees for the current academic year of community colleges

Photo Courtesy of Mark McCormick

### An illustration of tuition money saved up for graduation

each year, the same considerations will be used to determine our tuition and fee rates, maintaining a primary focus on offering students a quality, affordable education.

McCormick said the College depends on enrollment to reach a projected level for tuition and fee revenue to meet annual expenses and balance our budget.

McCormick said, if students want to maintain or decrease the tuition price then they need to help get the enrollment to rise in order to do so.

"I imagine many students are asking 'How can I help to grow enrollment at Middlesex College?' Word of mouth is one of the best forms of recruitment. Please tell everyone

you know – siblings, cousins, friends, former classmates, co-workers and neighbors – about the great experience you are having at Middlesex College," McCormick said.

Here are some resources you can share with others:

Virtual Enrollment Sessions  
<https://www.middlesexcc.edu/enrollment-services/virtual-enrollment-services/>

Tuition and Fees  
<https://www.middlesexcc.edu/student-account-services/tuition-and-fees/>

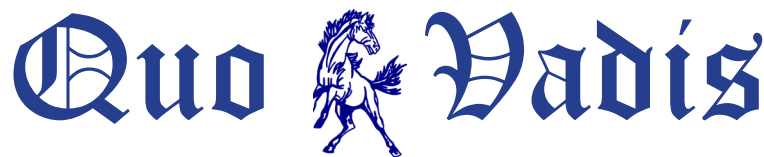
K-12 Partnerships  
<https://www.middlesexcc.edu/k-12-partnerships/>



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Be a Part of



*Your Paper. Your Voice.*

This semester Quo Vadis is going digital, with a few print issues.

Visit [quovadisnewspaper.com](http://quovadisnewspaper.com) to sign up

Students interested in reading our weekly newspaper can sign up for weekly emails to receive a copy of our newspaper and other online content.

### Campus Hours:

#### Library:

Monday-Thursday: 8 a.m. - 9 p.m., Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

#### Testing Center:

Monday-Wednesday, Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 8 p.m. \* 6 p.m. if no evening appointments

#### Cafeteria:

Monday - Thursday 7 a.m. - 6 p.m., Friday: 7 a.m. - 2 p.m.

#### Counseling Services:

operating remotely via [counseling@middlesexcc.edu](mailto:counseling@middlesexcc.edu)

#### Food Pantry:

<https://www.middlesexcc.edu/student-life/food-pantry/>

### Faculty Adviser

Melissa Edwards

[medwards@middlesexcc.edu](mailto:medwards@middlesexcc.edu)

### Corrections

Quo Vadis promptly addresses all errors the faculty advisor receives. If you have any comments, questions, concerns or notice any errors, contact Melissa Edwards at [medwards@middlesexcc.edu](mailto:medwards@middlesexcc.edu).

Edison Campus: 732-906-7755    New Brunswick: 732-745-8866    Perth Amboy: 732-906-7755

Click Map to view in web browser

Emergency Phone:  
732.906.2500

Non-Emergency Phone:  
732.548.6000 x3500

School Info Line:  
732.906.2555

Police/Fire:  
911

Suicide Prevention:  
800-273-8255

### Lost and Found:

All items lost on College property are processed through the Lost and Found division located in the Gateway Building and managed by the College Police Department. All items are held for 90 days prior to being re-classified, auctioned or discarded.

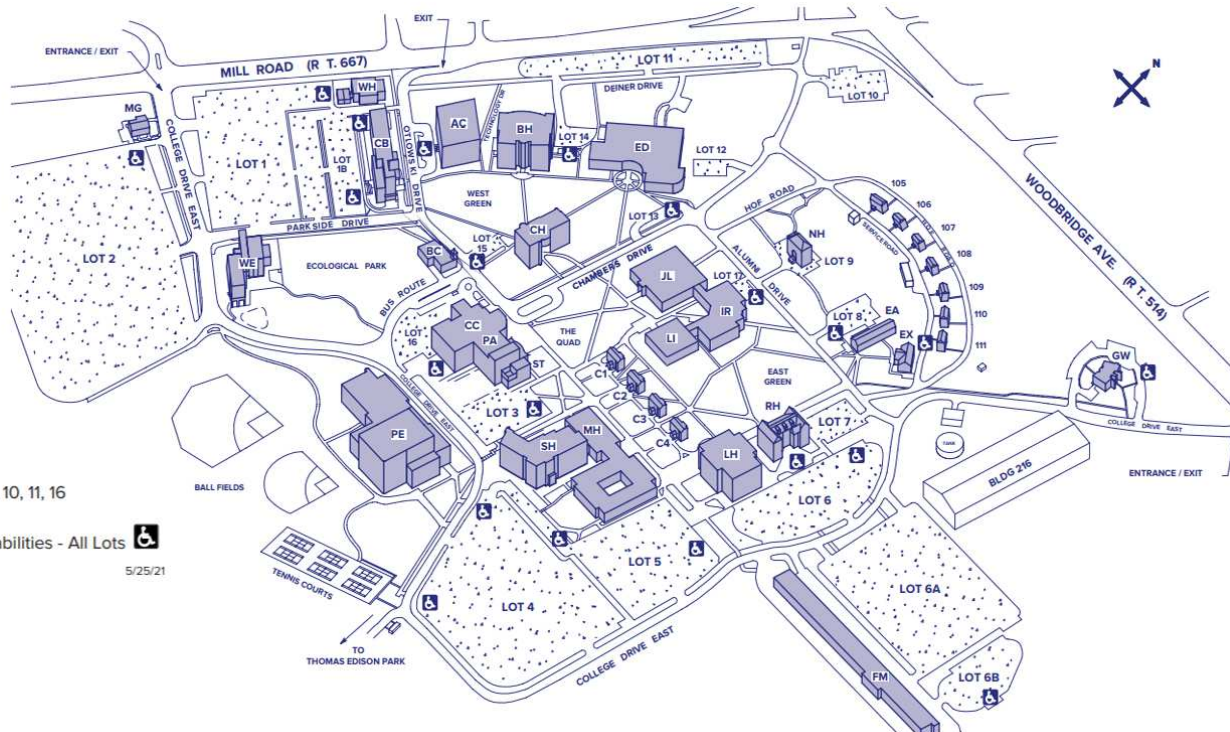
Missing property can be reported here: <https://www.middlesexcc.edu/campus-police/lost-found-division/>

#### BUILDING KEY

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| AC Academy for Science, Mathematics and Engineering Technologies | PA Performing Arts Center        |
| BH Billy Johnson Hall  | PE Physical Education Center     |
| BC Bookstore   | RH Raritan Hall                  |
| C1 Center 1  | SH South Hall                    |
| C2 Center 2  | ST Studio Theatre                |
| C3 Center 3  | WE West Hall                     |
| C4 Center 4  | WH West Hall Annex               |
| CH Chambers Hall   | 111 Middlesex College Foundation |
| CB Crabiel Hall  |                                  |
| CC College Center  |                                  |
| EA East Hall   |                                  |
| EX East Hall Annex   |                                  |
| ED Edison Hall   |                                  |
| FM Facilities Management   |                                  |
| GW Gateway - Police / Information                                |                                  |
| IR Instructional Resource Center                                 |                                  |
| JL Johnson Learning Center                                       |                                  |
| LH L'Hommedieu Hall  |                                  |
| LI Library   |                                  |
| MG Mill Gate   |                                  |
| MH Main Hall   |                                  |
| NH North Hall  |                                  |

#### PARKING LOTS

- Students - 1, 2, 4, 6, 6A
- Faculty / Staff - 1B, 5, 6B, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16
- Visitors - 3, 15
- Parking for Individuals With Disabilities - All Lots
- Child Care Center - 12





## Closure Causes Food Desert



ACME grocery store

Photo by Ankush Patel

By Ankush Patel, *Managing Editor*

The ACME Markets grocery store in Middlesex closed last week, leaving a food desert for local lower-income individuals.

Shannon Ogden, a Middlesex College alumnus, said, "People don't have an accessible option."

"It is a pretty low-income area; a lot of people don't have transportation to get to and from the store," said Ogden.

"Smaller supermarkets are available, but they are more expensive," said Ogden. "The closest

larger supermarket is almost three miles away."

Ogden is currently working towards her bachelor's degree in social work, so this is an important matter.

Michael Sulse, a Middlesex College student, said, "This is devastating to see, a staple of the community closing its doors to the people who depend on it."

Manar Attia, Middlesex County resident for 10 years, said, "I really felt bad, it was a nice place to shop at. The price was fair and they always had nice fresh vegetables and fruits. It always had everything you were looking for, from female products to medicine, everything. I also use the western union to send money back home to my family and friends in Egypt."

The ACME Markets is located at 125 Bound Brook Road.

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS

Illustrations by Alexander Lewis

**Discover Greatness:**  
An Illustrated History of Negro Leagues Baseball  
Feb 2 - May 1  
East Jersey Old Town Village  
1050 River Road, Piscataway

A traveling exhibit from the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, "Discover Greatness" features close to 90 framed photographs showcasing the history of African American baseball from the late 1800s to the 1960s.

[Link here](#)

**The Secret History of Slavery in New Jersey**  
Virtual  
Feb. 15, 2-3 p.m.

Many people are still not aware that only 150 years ago, African-American slaves still lived, worked and prayed in Central New Jersey. The development of slavery in New Jersey was marked by greed, conspiracy and racial inequality. However, slave men and women managed to marry, have children and do the best they could to maintain their families and community. This talk will explore the key moments in the development of slavery in New Jersey and discuss the "slaveries" that existed in the Garden State. Sponsored by: History and Social Sciences, Student Life Office

[Zoom link](#)

For more info email [Student\\_life@middlesexcc.edu](mailto:Student_life@middlesexcc.edu)

**Art and Story Time:**  
Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears  
Virtual  
Feb. 16, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Join the Civic League of Greater New Brunswick for a reading of *Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears*, a West African Tale retold by Verna Aardema and illustrated by the dynamic married and creative duo, Leo and Diane Dillon. After the reading, create your own wax resist painting with crayons and paint. All ages are welcome.

[Zoom link](#)

More info [here](#)

**Lost Souls Public Memorial Project Exhibit**  
2 Jean Walling, Civic Center Dr,  
East Brunswick

Monthlong at the East Brunswick Public Library  
Visit the library to view an important exhibit created by the Lost Souls Public Memorial Project  
<https://ilove.ebpl.org/blackhistorymonth>

**Black History Month Trivia**  
Virtual

Feb. 22, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Showcase your knowledge of Black history and culture for a chance to win a Stay Connected Prize Pack.

[Zoom info](#)

For more info email [Student\\_life@middlesexcc.edu](mailto:Student_life@middlesexcc.edu)

**Stories of Slavery in New Jersey**  
Virtual

Feb. 22, 7-8 p.m.

Celebrate Black History Month with author Rick Gefken as he virtually guides us through his new book *Stories of Slavery in New Jersey*. Rick's books include *The Story of Shrewsbury Revisited, 1965-2015; Lost Amusement Parks of the North Jersey Shore; Highland Beach, Gateway to the Jersey Shore, 1888-1962; Hidden History of Monmouth County; and To Preserve & Protect, profiles of people who recorded the history and heritage of Monmouth County, New Jersey.* He is currently heading up a project called the New Jersey Slavery Records Index under the auspices of Monmouth University of West Long Branch, NJ.

More info [here](#)

**Watch It Wednesdays:**  
Fighting for Respect:  
African-American Soldiers in World War I  
Virtual

Feb. 23, 2 - 3:30 p.m.

Join Library Services in collaboration with Student Government and Student Life as they present a screening of "Fighting For Respect: African American Soldiers in World War I".

Sponsored by: Library Services and Student Government

[Zoom link](#)

For more info email [Student\\_life@middlesexcc.edu](mailto:Student_life@middlesexcc.edu)

**Art and Story Time:**  
Dancing in the Wings  
Virtual

Feb. 23, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Join the Civic League of Greater New Brunswick for a reading of *Dancing in the Wings* written by Debbie Allen and illustrated by Kadir Nelson. This book is loosely based on actress and choreographer Debbie Allen's own experiences as a young dancer of color. After the reading, join us in a dance activity!. All ages welcome.

[Zoom link](#)

More info [here](#)

## Calendar of Events

To be able to click the links, please download the PDF file.

To do so, click menu icon on the top left, click on Downloads and then click Full edition.

After the document opens click the download icon on the top right.

**Eviction Prevention & Rental Assistance:**  
Guidance from Garden State Home  
New Brunswick Center 140 New St.

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Garden State Home, a nonprofit organization providing housing and supportive services to New Jersey's most vulnerable residents, will be at the New Brunswick Center on Tuesday, Jan. 25 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. to share information about eviction prevention and rental assistance funding available to New Jersey residents.

More info [here](#)

**Stay Connected Fair**

Virtual

2-3 p.m.

The Stay Connected Fair is a great opportunity to interact with the many Middlesex College student organizations, athletic teams, and campus resources. Sponsored by Student Life. For more information email [Student\\_life@middlesexcc.edu](mailto:Student_life@middlesexcc.edu) For Zoom information go here [middlesexcc.edu/student-life/canvas](https://middlesexcc.edu/student-life/canvas)

**CELT: How to Hyflex**

South Hall Room 137 - Edison Campus  
and Virtual

2-3 p.m.

Learn how to engage students who are unable to attend your in-person class due to COVID-19. The session will include an interactive demo, open discussion, and Q&A. Attendees may join [in-person](#) or via [Zoom](#)

**CELT: Mastering the Boxlight**

Virtual

2-3 p.m.

Teaching on campus in the spring? Teaching in a room with a Boxlight? Come to campus for an in-person and interactive workshop on using this technology in your class. This workshop will cover the "how-to" of using the Boxlight and provide strategies to engage students and enhance instruction.

More info [here](#)

**Women's Basketball Game**

Physical Education Center

5-7 p.m.

Home Game, Middlesex College vs.

County College of Morris

More info [here](#)

**Men's Basketball Game**

Salem Community College

6-8 p.m.

Away Game, Middlesex College vs.

Salem Community College

More info [here](#)

**Wrestling Match**

Physical Education Center

7-8 p.m.

Home Game, Middlesex College vs.

Union County College & Sussex County College

More info [here](#)

**Women's Basketball Game**

Physical Education Center

12-2 p.m.

Home Game, Middlesex College vs.

Lehigh Carbon Community College

More info [here](#)

**Blind Date with a Book**

Library Lobby - Edison Campus

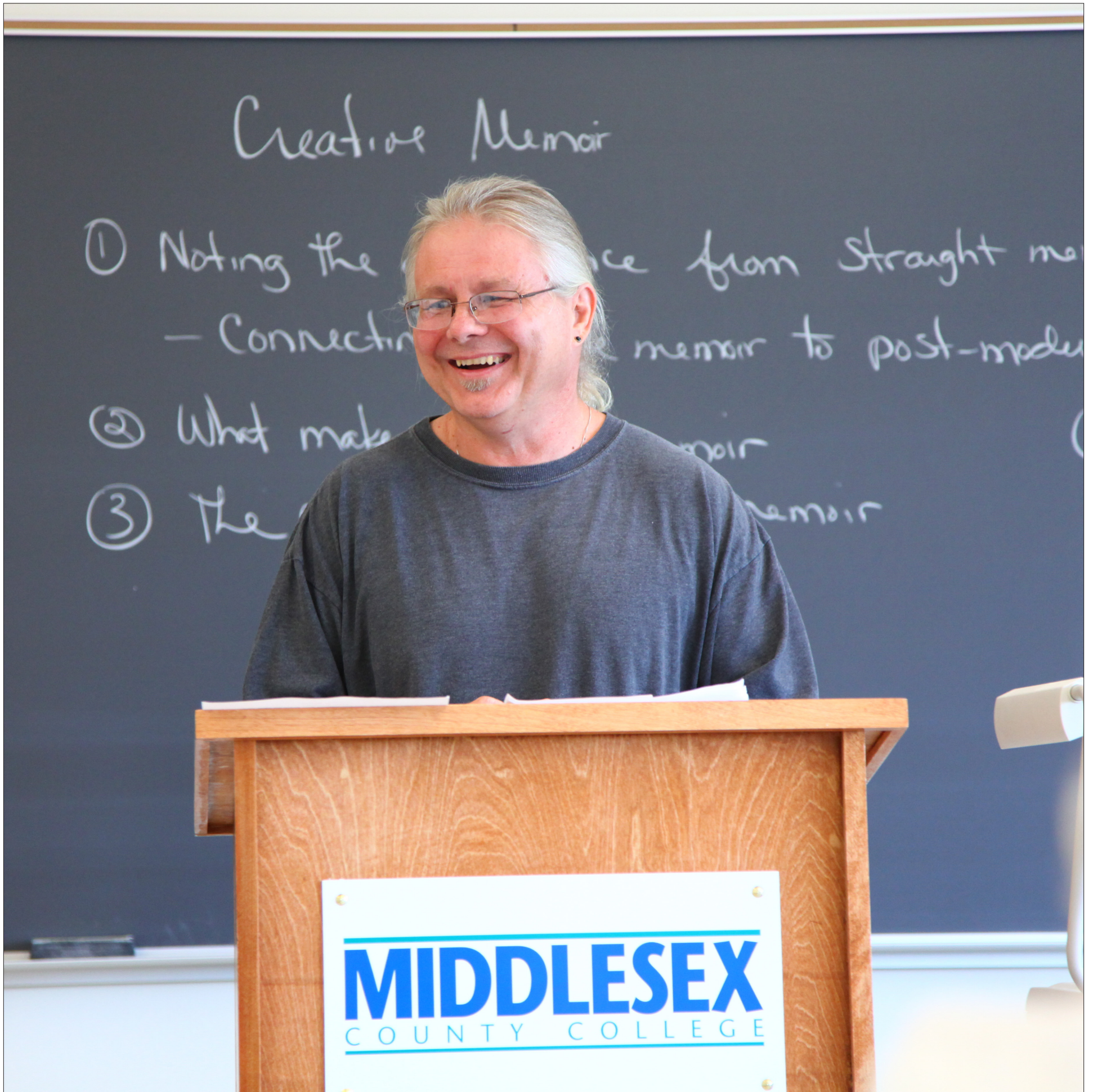
Pick up a gift-wrapped book in the Library's lobby. All books will have short reviews or summaries on them to help students choose which to go on a blind date with. Books will be out until they're gone. Email [library@middlesexcc.edu](mailto:library@middlesexcc.edu) for info

Feb.  
10

Feb.  
20



# Middlesex Remembers Keith Drumbore



**By Harsh Godhani, Managing Editor**

It's rare for one person to impact an entire community. On Jan. 28, the Middlesex community felt this colossal impact when they learned of Professor Keith Drumbore's passing.

Professor Drumbore didn't just leave a mark on his co-workers in the English department, but he was a pillar for the many young minds he impacted in and out of classes. He was an exemplar. He was a teacher who has made a difference.

At only age 65, Keith Drumbore's life was cut short due to an aggressive cancer, and he passed away at Saint Peter's

University Hospital. He was from East Windsor.

He was born on May 19, 1956, in Lehigh, Pa. He was the son of the late Blaine Drumbore and Eleanor (Neff) Drumbore. Blaine passed away in 2021.

He received his bachelor's degree from The University of Iowa, a master's degree from Rutgers University and a doctorate from Drew University. For the past 30 years, he worked as a professor of English at Middlesex College. During this time, he also served on the Division Council and on the Academic Standards Task Force of the Col-

lege Assembly. He volunteered for several creative writing workshops at the College's annual High School Writing Conference. He was the advisor to *Quo Vadis*, the college newspaper, from 1995-2003.

Professor Drumbore's dedication to his students was noticed by those who knew him on campus, but once you truly became friends with Professor Drumbore you learned what a down-to-earth personality he had. He loved to spend time with his family, travel, read, as well as watch Jeopardy and baseball. He was a huge baseball fan, and his favorite team was St. Louis Cardinals. He

was an avid reader and read over five thousand novels in his lifetime.

Professor Drumbore was a family man. He is survived by his wife Lisa Drumbore, his daughters Sierra of East Windsor and Kelsey of Woodbridge; mother Eleanor (Neff) Drumbore of Lehigh, Pa., brother and sister-in-law Kevin and Brooke Drumbore of Basking Ridge; father-in-law Denis A. LaValle of Clairton, Pa.; mother-in-law Allie LaValle of Irwin, Pa.; and brother-in-law and sister-in-law Chaz and Denise Bandini of Bethel Park, Pa.

Services for Keith will be held on Friday, Feb. 18 from

2-4 p.m. at the Gleason Funeral Home, 1360 Hamilton Street, Somerset. For those wishing to attend virtually via Zoom, can use the link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84358698788?pwd=Y2IzWXZwZDRxZjZmVzVCNjMyLzRWQT09> and enter Passcode 470953.

Donations on Professor Drumbore's behalf can be made to: Saint Peter's Foundation, Oncology Fund, at <https://www.saintpetershcs.com/Donate>.

While we grieve for Professor Drumbore, let's honor him by cherishing what he enjoyed the most, watching Jeopardy and reading a great book.



# Middlesex Remembers Keith Drumbore



Many of us are still in shock to learn of Professor Drumbore's untimely passing. He was a solid and steady presence in the English department. He was someone you could always count on to give sound advice and or listen carefully to one's problems. He's someone who will be missed.

Keith was an avid baseball fan. Often, I'd hear him with some other members of the department discussing the details of a recent game. His relaxed and conversational style always gave me the impression that he saw himself as part of a team, never the show off but always the solid player. And as such, I learned from him what honest teamwork is.

Our schedules often coincided with each other's during the week. He was always certain to greet you the first time he saw you during the day and he was sure to say good night to you on his way out.

Good Night, Keith.

Benjamin V. Marshall  
Professor, English Department



Words cannot express how broken-hearted I feel to learn of Keith's death. I've known him since he first was hired in the English Department, and we were dear friends for so many years. My husband and I were at his wedding when he married his precious Lisa. He was smart and funny and laid back and so kind, and his students adored him.

I last saw Keith in September on the first day back to campus since Covid. Professor Pat Payne and I had just moved into our new office, and Professor Jerry Olsen and Keith stopped by to chat, just like old times. We hung out for over an hour, laughing and reminiscing and talking about family and life, and he looked great and said he was feeling well. Now, I'm so thankful I got to spend that hour with him.

My heart breaks for Lisa and his family, and I hope they take solace knowing how dear he was to us and how much we'll miss him.

Jane Lasky-MacPherson  
Associate Professor of English



Keith Drumbore was among the very coolest of my colleagues. His good humor, passion for teaching, and collegial attitude will not soon be forgotten. I will always appreciate the ways he welcomed me to Middlesex College and treated me as a peer. - Professor Raymond Dademo



Keith was a gentle man and a gentleman. I don't remember ever seeing him without a smile, and we will miss his quiet charm. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Sallie DelVecchio  
Associate Professor  
Department of English



No one could ever say a bad thing about Keith. He was a scholar, an outstanding professor, and a devoted family man. I always enjoyed my conversations with Keith, whether it be about our teaching experiences, students, or our families. He would express his opinions honestly and readily offer advice to his colleagues. But mostly, Keith was a nice guy. He will be missed by us all.--Dr. Shirley Wachtel, English Department



Keith was a great teacher who loved what he did. I think the students could tell. I could tell. He loved words and books and writing, and he was a reader and a writer and a teacher. I remember seeing him a few years back in the summer, walking out of a book sale at the South Brunswick Public Library, carrying two giant, over-packed bags of books he just purchased, and his smile was even bigger. I was happy too because it gave me a chance to visit with an old friend for a while. It was always a pleasure to talk with Keith because he was good at it. He loved life, and you could tell that too.

James Keller, Professor, English Department



Professor Drumbore cared deeply for his students and their success. His dedication was undeniable, as I distinctly remember his ground-breaking participation in the New Brunswick Summer Scholars Program, a pre-cursor to the Accelerated Learning Program the English Department currently offers. He will be missed for his unique perspective and wisdom.

Professor Ellen Shur



Professor Drumbore was intelligent, easy-going, and genuine. In fact, I had the pleasure of his presence in one of my graduate classes at Drew University where he completed his doctorate for its intrinsic value. Moreover, he was an avid reader. If he wasn't seeing students, he was reading.

The English department will miss Professor Drumbore's scholarship and dedication as a teacher.  
Professor Helena Swanicke

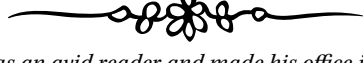


Keith often said to me: 'Life is too short to be unreal to yourself.'  
by Dr. Joe Roach Retired faculty member



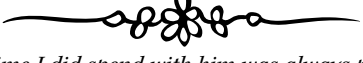
Keith was my student, my colleague, my office mate and, most importantly, my friend. I am very fortunate to have known him for a very long time. I will miss him.

Jerome Olson, Professor, English Department



Keith was a quiet man with a sense of humor tinged with a touch of irony. He was an avid reader and made his office into a retreat and a library which he gladly shared. He will be remembered by his colleagues with respect and sadness.

Professor Angela Lugo



Though Professor Drumbore and I often worked opposite schedules, the brief time I did spend with him was always pleasant. He was kind and understanding and always made it a point to ask how someone was doing. He will be sorely missed.

Professor Celia Winchester



Keith and I started teaching in the English Dept. in the early 90's and came up through the ranks together. We were part of the same "class" of English faculty to earn tenure in the mid-90's, and from the start, we hit it off. All of the members of that class had distinct personalities and strengths. Keith had many unique qualities as an instructor, and I think over the years we learned quite a bit from one another. I admired his ability to connect with his students as individuals and his talent for humanizing otherwise abstract concepts and making them relevant for students. In one of his English Comp lessons, I recall that he brought in an application packet for an entry-level job. Walking students through each part of that application, he demonstrated how the writing and thinking skills they were learning in his class related directly to their ability to complete the application successfully, not to mention also succeed in the job. Students never questioned why they had to do his assignments, and most really loved his classes, which almost always filled quickly, due in part to his quiet and approachable demeanor; his absolute commitment to maintaining college writing standards AND to helping his students reach them; and his understated and wicked sense of humor.

Keith was also a scholar and creative writer. When he asked me to write a letter of support for his sabbatical application, I was fascinated by the research he was doing on the cognitive connections between writing and memory, which he analyzed in the genre of the memoir. That research produced a publication of some of his own memories with his father, some wonderful lessons using memoir in his composition and creative writing courses, and some terrific writing workshops on memoir for our annual High School Writing Conference.

Keith quietly involved himself in a number of key initiatives for the department and the College, and he did it on his own terms. Not many people know that he was the advisor for Quo Vadis from 1995 to 2003, an active member of Division Council and the Academic Standards Task Force of the College Assembly, a featured presenter every year at the High School Writing Conference, the originator of one of the first Special Topic English Comp. courses (Writing About Sports), and much more. Quiet, steady, funny, a consummate humanist, a great colleague, diehard baseball fan, amazing teacher, and cherished friend. I really, really miss him.

By Professor Mathew Spano



## 'Legends: Arceus' Adapts Game Mechanics

By Jared Almanzor, Managing Editor  
Illustrations by Delaila Aguilar

"Pokémon Legends: Arceus" was released on Jan. 28 and brought some changes to the formula established within the franchise.

The game takes place before the events of "Pokémon Brilliant Diamond" and "Pokémon Shining Pearl," due to it being set 100 years in the past.

You get to choose three starter Pokémon called Rowlet, Cyndaquil and Oshawott. In the world, you can find the starter Pokémon from Brilliant Diamond and Shining Pearl called Turtwig, Chimchar and Piplup.

The game introduced new turn-based mechanics called Agile Style

and Strong Style. Agile Style means you can do a Pokémon move faster, while Strong Style means increasing the power of a Pokémon move.

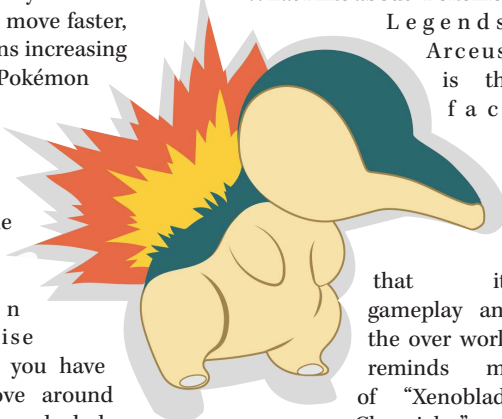
It also introduced action role playing game elements to the Pokémon franchise where you have to move around in battle and dodge attacks in the over world. This form of mechanic comes in the form of boss battles.

You're able to continue the action sequence boss battles with the hit point gauge you die at, if you're not good at action role playing games.

I know I'm not good at action role playing games since my reaction time is bad for dodging attacks

or hitting music notes in rhythm games.

What I like about "Pokémon Legends: Arceus" is the fact



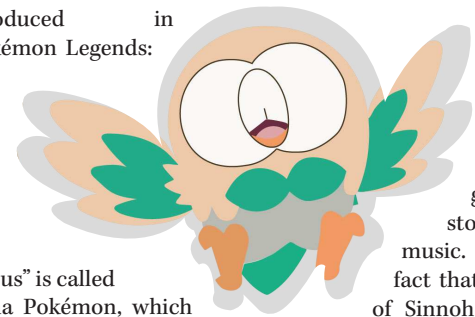
that its gameplay and the over world reminds me of "Xenoblade Chronicles" and

"The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild." With "Xenoblade Chronicles," you had random enemies across the world of the map with different level scaling. With "The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild," you get to climb walls, fly across the world in some form, swim across water and speed across the world on a mammal animal with a

stamina meter.

The difference "Pokémon Legends: Arceus" has from "Xenoblade Chronicles" and "The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild" is the fact that it doesn't rely on a stamina meter to move around the terrain and the levels the Pokémon are at.

Another new mechanic introduced in "Pokémon Legends:



Arceus" is called Alpha Pokémon, which are stronger-leveled Pokémon you can find in the wild. They take a while to catch or defeat if you want to do either option.

The game is mostly open world if you enjoy those kinds of games, which I can appreciate with how many Pokémon are out there

nowadays. You get to do anything you want in said world with some limits, but not to the text of "The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild."

What I love about the characters in "Pokémon Legends: Arceus" is the fact that it does callbacks to previous Pokémon games through the Pokémon of said teams, character designs of the characters and their personalities.

All in all, I love "Pokémon Legends: Arceus" for its gameplay, the world, story, characters and music. I especially like the fact that it is set in the region of Sinnoh, the main setting of "Pokémon: Brilliant Diamond" and "Pokémon: Shining Pearl." This game is difficult enough for newcomers and veterans, while still being enjoyable. If you haven't picked up "Pokémon Legends: Arceus," you should, as you will have a lot of fun with it.

## Switch Outperforms Against Older Nintendo Consoles



Photo of Nintendo Switch console

Photo by Enrique Medel

By Jared Almanzor, Managing Editor

The Nintendo Switch has been one of my favorite consoles of all time since its release date on March 3, 2017.

I got my first Nintendo Switch late April 2017, and I have been through a lot with this very console in terms of the experience.

The experience I'm talking about is taking the Nintendo Switch to the Philippines in 2017 and 2019, across the Atlantic Ocean to Italy in 2018, and along the east coast of the United States in 2021.

One of the main selling points I had with getting the Nintendo Switch was being able to take it with me anywhere I wanted, and not have to worry about getting a power converter for my handheld game console.

From 2006 to 2017, I went to the Philippines and Europe, two places with a higher voltage compared to the United States. In both of those countries, they had a 220-240 voltage charger when I wanted to play my Nintendo DS and Nintendo 3DS while abroad with ease.

The only problem was that I couldn't play due to my Nintendo DS and Nintendo 3DS charger being locked at 100-120 volts, which is what the United States used for its power outlets. I had to constantly ask for a voltage converter that went from 240 volts to a measly 100 volts to be able to play my Nintendo 3DS or Nintendo Switch while abroad.

This was before the USB versions of Nintendo DS and Nintendo 3DS chargers were available.

Going back to the Nintendo Switch, what I loved about it most was its versatility. Being able to have it in handheld and tabletop mode was mind blowing to me back then, but normal for me now.

I love being able to hook my Nintendo Switch to any TV around the world with the voltage of the universal charger being 100-240 volts. This eliminates the traveling problems I had with the Nintendo DS and Nintendo 3DS.

There are three major problems I

have with the Nintendo Switch that are prevalent today. Those three problems include the 'Joy-Con drift', the lack of customization options, and the Nintendo Switch Online service.

The Joy Cons are innovative game controls that attach and detach to your Nintendo Switch console, thus being able to use one of the consoles as a second controller that a family member or friend can use.

What makes the Joy Con controllers faulty is that the joystick drifts on its own if you're not touching it. The cause of this issue is any liquid or dust seeping through the control-

ler and joysticks. I had to go through maybe half a dozen sets from 2017 to 2019 alone.

I managed to rectify this problem with the Joy Con drift by getting a Nintendo Switch Pro Controller. The Pro Controller may be \$10 more than the Joy Cons, but the build quality is superior in every way. The controller itself is very comfortable for long gaming sessions in front of a TV with your Switch hooked up to it.

However, the customization options aren't there. You get no custom wallpaper themes, something you are able to have on the Nintendo 3DS and the Nintendo Wii U. I loved being able to buy custom wallpaper themes and have my 3DS be unlike anyone else's. What's even worse is that there are no folders for the Nintendo Switch, an option that was on the Nintendo Wii, Nintendo DSi, Nintendo 3DS and the Nintendo Wii U. Folders were used on Nintendo consoles to organize your games and streaming applications such as YouTube and Twitch.

The Nintendo Switch has a game subscription service called the Nintendo Switch Online service. There are a lot of problems with this game subscription service that have been talked about on YouTube already. But to break it all down, what's being offered for \$20 a year or for \$50 a year isn't worth it.

For \$20 a year, you're only getting NES and SNES games monthly. The \$50 a year subscription service is

called the Expansion Pack, and that doesn't really offer much in terms of quality either. All you get in that is NES games, SNES games, Nintendo 64 games and SEGA Genesis games. As a perk of having the Expansion Pack, you get the "Animal Crossing: New Horizons" DLC pack for free even though you can pay for that separately from the Nintendo Switch Online service. The Nintendo 64 games aren't even emulated well on the online service, mostly due to input lag from the controller to the screen and frame drops with the gameplay.

But in terms of games on the Nintendo Switch exclusive to the console, you get Splatoon 2, the Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild, Xenoblade Chronicles 2, Super Mario Odyssey, Animal Crossing: New Horizons, Pokémon: Legends Arceus and so much more. I enjoy these games and being able to play them in any format the way I'd prefer is why I love the Nintendo Switch so much.

All in all, if you haven't bought a Nintendo Switch yet and have been thinking about it, you should. The faults of the Nintendo Switch may be bad, but if we're considering the quality of the games, they are pretty good. I love my Nintendo Switch and it'll be my main gaming console for the next few, if not several, years at least. I hope I was able to sway you into a direction that may cause you to pick up this amazing gaming console.



Nintendo Switch game on TV

Photo by Jared Almanzor





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**Attend the  
Quo Vadis General  
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**QV is hosting a fun meeting to inform students  
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newspaper and participate in  
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**We also want to learn more about what you want to read!**

**Zoom Link:**

GENERAL CAMPUS MEETING FOR THE QUO VADIS STUDENT NEWSPAPER  
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## Weekly Photo Booth

This issue's Photo of the Week was provided by Hina Naqvi, a member of Core Staff at Quo Vadis. Here's what she said about her photo.



“During lockdown days, and even after that, I was scared to go to dine in. In summer 2020, I asked my husband to cook restaurant-style salmon. He cooked buttered salmon with orange sauce.”

### Interested in submitting photos?

This semester, Quo Vadis is planning to include themes that future submissions will follow. Email your photo to [MCquovadisnewspaper@gmail.com](mailto:MCquovadisnewspaper@gmail.com) and a caption.

The next issue's theme is Winter Warmth. Take photos of yourself wearing your favorite clothes that keep you warm against the bitter colds of winter.

## Poem

### *Delightful Sweets*

By Delaila Aguilar, *Managing Editor*

A rich warm color,  
 The aroma is strong but not heavy,  
 It's surprisingly versatile, perfect for  
 any occasion,  
 It's often present for holidays,  
 celebrations or grand achievements.  
 It's also there when you're sad and  
 need a pick-me-up.  
 Maybe you just want to treat yourself  
 and enjoy a little sweetness.  
 Even its shape can vary from a typical  
 rectangle to a small circle,  
 Although it has appeared as a  
 raindrop, frozen midway through  
 hitting the floor.  
 Can you guess what it is?  
 A treat derived from cocoa beans,  
 which can also be called cocoa,  
 Chocolate.

## Jokes of the Week:

*Question:*

Do you know what pastry the Earth is?

*Question:*

How do frogs always stay happy?

*Question:*

Do you know what device has been to prison before?

*Knock, knock*  
 "Who's there?"  
 "Kanga."  
 "Kanga who?"

*Knock, knock*  
 "Who's there?"  
 "Peak."  
 "Peak who?"

*Knock, knock*  
 "Who's there?"  
 "Silence."  
 "Silence who?"

***Find the answers on our website here!***



## Weekly Horoscopes

Be willing to open up about yourselves this week, Aries. Secrets are understandable, but too many can end up just being easy excuses to avoid discussing important matters.

Do you believe in tarot cards, Taurus? If you do, take a look at the meaning behind The Emperor tarot card. It's the fourth card of the Major Arcana cards and tends to predict that one will reach a position of power.

Someone may try to give you a gift this week, Gemini. If you have a feeling of who it might be, give them hints on what you may like. After all, the best gifts for you are ones which make you think, keep you organized or help you with your dreams.

This week is the perfect time to put your creativity to use, Cancer. Since your zodiac adores artistic activities, why not search for some cool craft projects, like a teddy bear made of roses?

Do you know what one of your strengths is, Leo? It's your fortitude, and nothing encourages a person to keep a strong mindset better than by getting rewarded for it. So, investigate some workout videos and push yourself to maintain your health goals.

It's time to work on your friendship skills this week, Virgo! Your sign is known to be friendly, but it takes a while for you to accept invitations to hang out with others. Instead, try taking the initiative to invite a friend out on your terms so your boundaries are met.

Want to hear an interesting fact about you, Libra? Your presence makes others feel comfortable, especially through how you always put others before yourself and how you're willing to listen to others to hear their side of a story.

Here's a fun mental exercise to try this week, Scorpio. Try to pick a positive trait of yourself for each letter of your zodiac sign. See how diverse your vocabulary is!

If you're bored this week, Sagittarius, try going on an adventure outside! Your zodiac tends to love travel and exploration, so you're bound to discover a new hiking path or biking trail you'll want to try.

Watch out for how much you push yourself this week, Capricorn. You often use your tenacity to get what you want accomplished, but too many late nights aren't good for your health.

Watch your spending habits this week, Aquarius, as there'll be plenty of tempting offers to capture your attention. Expenses that play with your emotions, like a teddy bear that would be sweet to give to a loved one, will be especially tempting to you.

Are you feeling broken-hearted this week, Pisces? Allow spiritual means to bring you peace, like chrysocolla, which is meant to help your sign sort through their emotions and thoughts. Maybe even get an amethyst as well to add an aura of tranquility into your home.

## Aspiring Authors Corner

### *Aspiring Authors Corner - A Brand-New Weekly Competition For Writers!*

We are proud to announce the start of a collaboration between Quo Vadis and the Aspiring Authors Club! Every week on Wednesdays, we will post prompts for the next two weeks with due dates. We want you to send in up to 1,000 words of your best writing—it can be prose, poetry or creative non-fiction (autobiographical or on a topic/event—no school essays allowed!). We at the Aspiring Authors Club will judge your work. If you win, you'll get a spotlight in the paper and a \$5 Starbucks gift card!

Submit your work to [juliats3779@my.middlesexcc.edu](mailto:juliats3779@my.middlesexcc.edu) with the following details:

- your full name
- your major/year
- a short (2-3 sentence) bio on why you decided to write this piece

Once you win, you will not be eligible to submit again for the next eight weeks, so choose your prompt wisely!

Now that that's all out of the way, here are our two prompts.

**Due Feb. 6, 11:59 p.m.: Best Funeral Ever**

**Due Feb. 13, 11:59 p.m.: Weather Emergency**

