

QUOVADIS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2023

WEEKLY STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF MIDDLESEX COLLEGE

VOLUME 60 - ISSUE 15

College Hosts Graduation Fair *Bookstore Dispenses Caps and Gowns, Sells Gifts and Apparel*

"Two years went by so fast. I'm happy that I'm graduating with my associate's degree along with my other peers." — Carlos Azana

By Ryan Cardenas, Core Staff

Middlesex College will be hosting a Graduation Fair at the Middlesex College bookstore on May 9 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

According to the website, you can go pick up your cap and gown as well as purchase Middlesex College alumni apparel and gifts. You can also order your college ring and buy your diploma frame.

If you want your pictures taken, you can schedule an appointment

to get them taken the same day you pick up your cap and gown.

Sophomore Carlos Azana said, "I will be attending the graduation fair. I have to pick up my cap and gown

associate's degree along with my other peers," Azana said.

Sophomore Jamie Madrid said, "My brother and I will be attending the event. Everything went by so fast.

"Middlesex College gave me the education I need and I can not be more grateful for it." — Jamie Madrid

and probably buy apparel to remember my time at Middlesex College."

"Two years went by so fast. I'm happy that I'm graduating with my

I will definitely miss coming here."

"Middlesex College gave me the education I need and I can not be more grateful for it," Madrid said.



Items on display inside of Middlesex College's bookstore

Photo by Estefani Calderon

Professor Honored with Award of Excellence

By Patrickia Duncan, Managing Editor

The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) honored Professor Alexandra Fields with the Dale P. Parnell Distinguished Faculty Award for her outstanding work and passion for making a difference within the classroom setting.

The Dale P. Parnell Distinguished Faculty Award recognizes individuals who provide substance, hope and determination to the students and classroom; they illuminate a sense of willingness and passion to support students both inside an institutional setting and out.

Alexander Fields, English professor and co-coordinator of Community-Engaged Learning, initiated a partnership with the Middlesex County Juvenile Detention Center in 2017 to offer college resources to students of the Juvenile Detention Center (JDC).

This collaboration has become a success, and has since expanded to a center for justice-impacted students

mick said he praises Alexandra Fields for her collaborative efforts and holistic support for justice-impacted students.

"My colleague Dr. Linda Scherr, vice president for academic affairs, and I nominated Prof. Fields for her leadership in Community-Engaged Learning and serving students impacted by the justice system," said McCormick.

"We nominated Dr. Fields for the AACC award for her work in ensuring that individuals impacted by the justice system, whether currently in juvenile detention or incarcerated and upon reentry, have the opportunity to access a college education with much-needed supports. We are proud of her leadership in this space."

According to a press release issued by the college, Fields said, "I absolutely love my work as a professor at Middlesex College and as an advocate and ally for justice-impacted



Alexandra Fields (center) receiving her award

Photo Courtesy of Middlesex College website

the English department, said, "Prof. Fields winning the Parnell Distinguished Faculty Award shines a light on the innovative and life-changing

of the program, from a few service-learning sections of English Comp. 1 via a partnership with the Middlesex County JDC, to additional sections and courses, to the creation of the CJIS and the JJRC (Juvenile Justice Reform Club)," said Spano.

This transformation empowered Fields' passion and commitment. Despite the hardship and affliction of the pandemic, Spanos said she still had a compelling desire to ex-

field research that also responds to a social justice need, all leading to a meaningful writing experience — it redefines freshman composition," he said.

With this experience provided, he said students will have by the time, learned to write while making a difference.

"We are very lucky to have (Fields) as a full professor in the English department at Middlesex College, both

"I absolutely love my work as a professor ... and as an advocate and ally for justice-impacted college students, so being honored for the work I feel so passionately about is a wonderful honor. I am also incredibly grateful to work at a college where students, colleagues and administration recognize the importance of second chances." — Alexandra Fields

that provides college programs at JDC and the Juvenile Justice Commissions Facilities. JDC students engage with research, strong argumentative research-supported essays and final presentations to coincide with the elements of their papers.

Alexandra Fields was one of 42 faculty members from over 1,200 community colleges to be a recipient for the faculty distinction recognition.

College President Mark McCor-

college students, so being honored for the work I feel so passionately about is a wonderful honor. I am also incredibly grateful to work at a college where students, colleagues and administration recognize the importance of second chances and value the work our CJIS (Center for Justice-Impacted Students) does to ensure all students can access the benefits of higher education."

Mathew Spano, chairperson of

"We are very lucky to have (Fields) as a full professor in the English department at Middlesex College, both to work with her and learn from her. She is truly an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike." — Mathew Spano

work that she, her team and her students have done for several years now to change the lives of justice-impacted young people."

"It has been an amazing experience to witness the rapid growth

pand the program.

"Her work has given hope, purpose and meaning to the lives of so many — not only the Middlesex JDC residents and their families, but also the Middlesex College students. Primary

to work with her and learn from her," said Spano. "She is truly an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike."

"The award is very well deserved," he said.

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This semester Quo Vadis will release three print issues themed : Diversity, Seasonal And End of Year/Next Steps.

Visit
quovadisnewspaper.com
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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:

- West Hall: 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
- Library: 9 a.m - 9 p.m.
- Computer Center: 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
- Testing Center: 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
- Cafeteria: 9 a.m. - 9 a.m.
- Counseling Services: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Food Pantry: <https://www.middlesexcc.edu/student-life/food-pantry/>

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

Edison Campus:
 732-548-6000

New Brunswick:
 732-745-8866

Perth Amboy:
 732-906-7755

Click Map to view in web browser

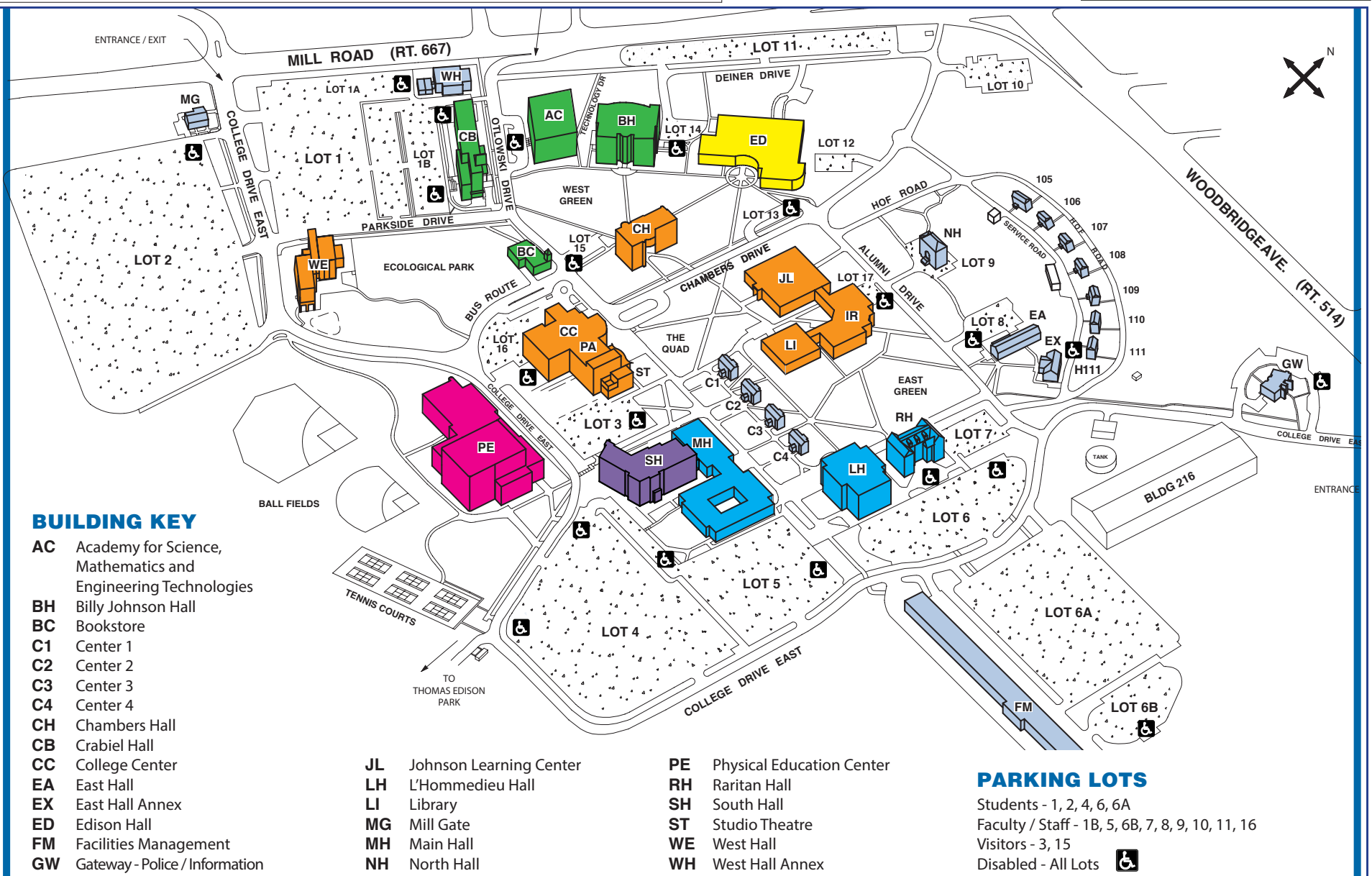
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Corrections

Quo Vadis promptly addresses any and all errors submitted to the faculty adviser. If you have comments or concerns about the accuracy of our reporting, send Melissa Edwards an email at medwards@middlesexcc.edu



Ceremony Celebrates Dental Hygiene Clinic

By Patrickia Duncan, Managing Editor

The Dental Hygiene Clinic had its first Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at L'Hommedieu Hall on April 27 from 2 to 4 p.m., to celebrate the efforts of the dental hygiene program and how far it's come.

The two point eight million dollar renovation of L'Hommedieu Hall is what sparked the foundation of the new and furnished dental clinic. The Dental Hygiene program in and of itself, however, is, since May of last year, 50 years strong. With teamwork and alliance, the dental clinic became very successful and has thrived throughout the several years of history. The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony serves as a way of highlighting the continuity, rewards, and support of the program from different perspectives.

Michelle Roman, chairperson of the Dental Hygiene department, said, "I graduated from this program in 1998, so to be able to see

from New York. We will also be having some dignitaries coming to the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, so it is a pretty big deal. It's very popular. We have a lot of students calling in, asking about the program. Right now, they are in need of a lot of dental hygienists out there, so it's great. This will be a great exposure for the program."

Despite the success of the program and its familiarity to many, numerous applicants want to apply to the program, but there is a limited selection of 30 students.

"The funding to run our program is a little bit more than some of the other programs. We are accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA), because we're accredited, we have to follow very specific standards. One of those standards is that when students are in the clinic, it's a 1:5 ratio, and when they're in the lab, it's a 1:10 ratio. So that's where a lot of the funding of our program – the budget goes to our personnel; paying people to teach our

"It's a tribute to the faculty, to the students who have graduated, to the college who helped fund it, and the Board of Trustees who approved of it. It's a way to say thank you and we want to celebrate this new space." - Michelle Roman

my faculty come back and be able to look at the fruits of their labor, is a tribute," Roman said. "It's a tribute to the faculty, to the students who have graduated, to the college who helped fund it, and the Board of Trustees who approved of it. It's a way to say thank you and we want to celebrate this new space."

Rose Morales, coordinator of the Dental Hygiene department, said, "I think it's [the dental hygiene program] is great for the county. We have students not only coming from this county but everywhere. We have students coming

students. I think funding to open up another cohort of students is a pressing challenge," said Roman.

Shaoki Li, the dental hygienist student, said, "The dental hygiene program is highly advantageous as it equips us [students] with comprehensive knowledge of oral health, enabling us to serve the community effectively upon graduation. Although the program is intense, it offers an exhilarating and challenging experience every day."

Contributor: David O MacAulay-Smith

Literary Journal Sparks Creativity for Faculty and Students

By Mary Schilp, Staff Writer

Middlesex: A Literary Journal will be published on the Middlesex College website near the end of the semester.

Mathew Spano, the English department chairperson, said, "The journal was founded by the English department faculty back in 2008 and it has published an issue every year since then, pretty much without interruption."

Spano said, "The theme of the journal is a celebration of life, nature and the humanities among members of the campus community as well as the surrounding Middlesex County community."

Spano said, "The journal's contributors span students, faculty, staff, administrators, retirees, alumni and friends of the College. We also occasionally feature guest contributors, many of whom are accomplished writers and artists who live in and around Middlesex County."

Amal Ahmed, an English major, said, "I look forward to reading the work that is published in the journal this year since I enjoy seeing different kinds of writing styles. I think it's important for schools to give opportunities to their students to showcase their writing as it allows them to begin building a portfolio that they can use in the future when it comes to finding jobs."

Spano said, "In the past, we sometimes had a problem getting enough submissions. However, it has gotten much easier in recent years as the journal's reputation has grown. We are also very thankful for the professors of our creative writing and literature courses for working with students and encouraging them to send us their submissions."

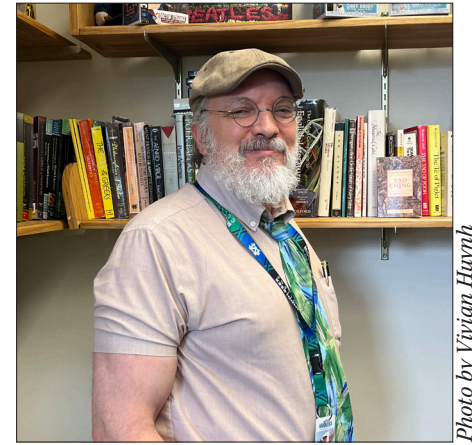
Spano said, "There have been a number of advantages to publishing the journal online regarding the photos included in the journal."

He said, "We have seen a big advantage in the resolution, color and overall quality of the images. As a result, photographs and scanned images appear much closer to the original submissions. Also, in the online edition, we can include links to videos and other resources. Excessive costs used to limit the number of color images we could print, but now we can include as many as we like. That fact has increased the number of photographs, which you will see reflected in the next issue."

Salomey Ayim, a second-year student, said, "It's important to showcase students' and faculty members' work because they deserve to be acknowledged for their hard work. I'm really looking forward to reading the journal this year and seeing the talents of our Middlesex College community."

Spano said, "The journal will be published online via the College's website and readers will simply need to click on the link to enjoy it."

Spano said that an announcement will be sent out when the journal is published as well.



Mathew Spano, in his office

Photo by Vivian Huynh

Person-on-the-Street:

What have the past semesters taught you?

By Enrique Medel, Core Staff

Photos by Enrique Medel



Aziz Diouf
Computer Science
First Year
Perth Amboy

"This year taught me how to be more comfortable and be able to manage myself wisely in regards to studying and enjoying life."



Eric Torres
History
Second Year
New Brunswick

"During the semesters, it taught me to work on time management with both school and work, as well as support my family the best I could."



Cierra Clarke
Business Administration
Third Year
Hometown: ??

"Throughout the semester, I would say this year taught me how to be more sociable, outgoing and ask more questions."

Zaim Ahmad
Computer Science
Second Year
South Brunswick

"I learned a great deal about patience. I learned that sometimes tears are shed and they're worthwhile because all the pain in the world is amounted to that experience and there's nothing to trade it for. I would not trade the greatest joy for these lessons that Middlesex provides."



Matt Carlson
Engineering science and physics
Second Year
South Brunswick

"For me it's all about accountability and management; not only time but priorities. There are a lot of times where things kind of take over school and you have to be able to balance out and recognize what things are a little too much. I think that's the biggest lesson this past year."

Person-on-the-Street:

How do you study for finals?

By Amal Ahmed, Staff Writer

Photos by Amal Ahmed



Imane Elalaloui
Second Year
Political Science
Highland Park

"I usually review the study guide that my professors give out the day before and day of."



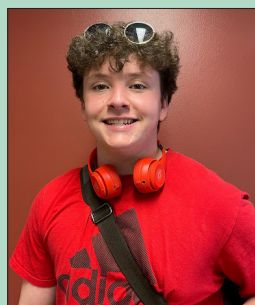
Rosa Rodriguez
Second Year
Fine Arts
South Amboy

"I don't usually have exams since I'm a fine arts major, but to prepare for my final project I start working on it a few days before."



Sky Bynum
First Year
Computer Science
North Brunswick

"I make flashcards and start studying two days beforehand since a lot of the material are easy to memorize."



Brandon Hsia
Second Year
Business
Perth Amboy

"I put all my focus onto the material a few days before the exam. Changing the setting I study in also helps."



Daniel Boslet
First Year
Liberal Arts General
Edison

"I usually depend on memorization for studying. It's what helps me the most and also works the best."

Piscataway Museum Showcases Traveling Exhibit



Books and peaches on display on a shelf

Photo by Patrickia Duncan

By Estejani Calderon, Managing Editor

The Cornelius Low House Museum is hosting a painting showcase of the artist Micah Williams from April 1 to June 30. The showcase will be open during museum hours on Wednesdays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 4 p.m. displaying numerous paintings created by Williams.

According to the flier provided by the Middlesex County website (<https://www.middlesexcountynj.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/5545/638162015767130000>) of events the Micah Williams painting showcase is a traveling exhibition that will be showcasing over 35 paintings by the artist.

Micah Williams was born in 1782 and died in 1837. He is known to have 272 existing paintings.

Genesis Vargas, third-year student said, "I visited some museums in New York but none here in Jersey maybe if the paintings are cool I can attend the showcase one of these days and see a few of his paintings."

Isabella Reyes, a resident in Perth Amboy said, "My older sister is into old paintings so I think I will tell her about this exhibition so that she can maybe have some fun going to see it."

According to the flier provided by the Middlesex County website, "Visitors will be able to try their hand working with pastels, and learn more about the making of materials used."

"Children will be encouraged to add their artwork to our Student Gallery and have it become part of the exhibit," said the flier.

Reyes said, "When I was little I liked playing with crayons and would make some cool artwork but I never actually tried painting anything with pastels so maybe attending myself too would be good so I can learn something new."

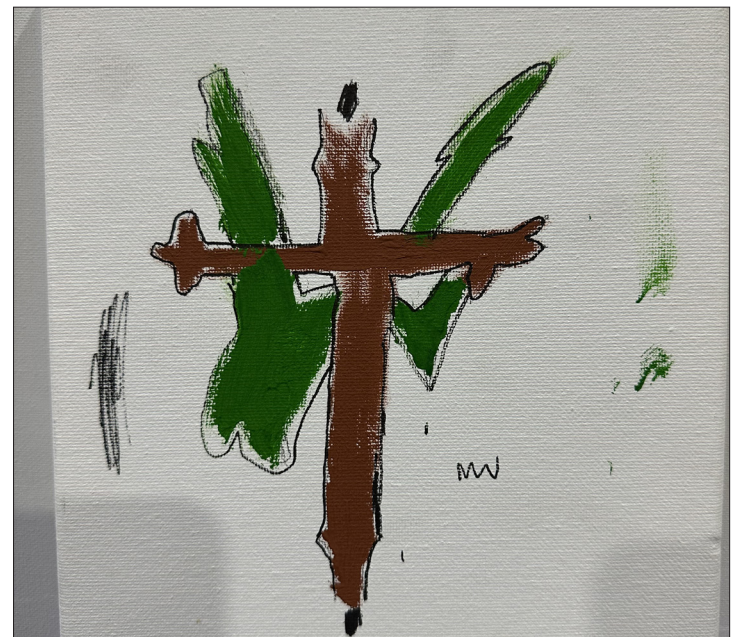
The museum is located at 1225 River Road Piscataway, NJ 08854. Parking is accessible to all attendees by going through River Road and going next to the low house. If there are any questions the museum can be reached at (732) 745- 4177.

"When I was little I liked playing with crayons and would make some cool artwork but I never actually tried painting anything with pastels so maybe attending myself too would be good so I can learn something new." - Isabella Reyes



Paintings hung up at the Cornelius Museum

Photo by Patrickia Duncan



Painting of a cross mixed with some green leaves by a nine year old

Photo by Estejani Calderon

Local Retail Company Focuses On Building Skills

By Estejani Calderon, Managing Editor

The Woodbridge Lowes will be hosting a Spring Popup Flower Box on May 20 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., for children to make flower boxes and learn basic building skills.

According to Lowe's website (<https://www.lowes.com/events/register/spring-popup-flower-box>) an employee at the Woodbridge Lowes will be helping the young children and parents/ guardians attending the workshop on how to create and build their own popup flower box.

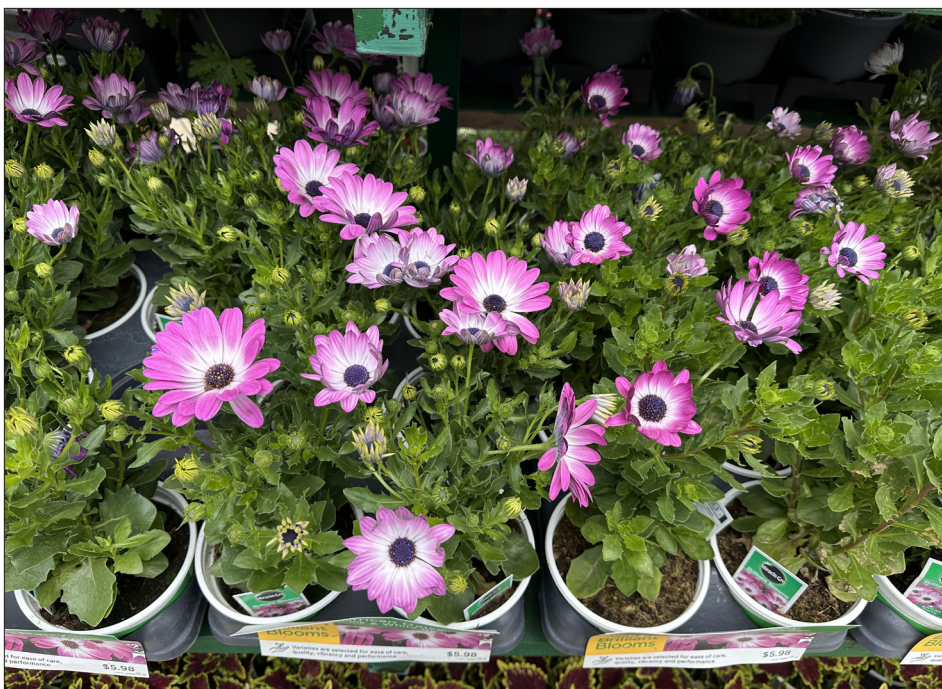
Third-year student, Ashok Gupta said, "Maybe I will tell my friends to take their grandkids to go because they live so close."

According to the Lowes website, "Kids will learn basic building skills while they create a gift that's sure to make your indoor garden smile."

Perth Amboy resident, Isabella Reyes said, "I have a little sister. She loves doing arts and crafts. Knowing that a place so close by will be hosting this type of crafty event makes me want to not only take her but also stay and learn how to build the box myself."

The workshop is done by registration; the last day to register is May 19. Anyone can register at <https://www.lowes.com/events/register/spring-popup-flower-box>. If anyone who registers for the workshop cannot attend for whatever reason then their spot will be given to anyone who decides to walk in at 1 p.m. the day of the workshop.

The Woodbridge Lowes is located at 51 Woodbridge Center Drive in Woodbridge. The store can be reached at (732) 734-2000 if anyone has any questions.



Pots of flowers at the Lowe's in Woodbridge



The outside of the Lowe's in Woodbridge

Photos by Estejani Calderon

Adjunct Thrives as International Photographer

By Enrique Mendel, Core Staff

Adam Nadel is an Adjunct for Visual, Performing and Media Arts, has been functioning as a photographer for the last 25 years and graduated from college in 1991. Mr. Nadel worked at a small newspaper in CT,

moved to NYC in 1994 and began working for AP.

"I took a staff job in 1997 but left in 1999," Nadel said. "I wanted to work internationally, and AP had turned me down for 2 international postings."

Until the late 2000s, Mr. Nadel worked in the United States and around the world - mostly for the Sunday Telegraph (UK), and after that the Sunday Times (UK), (UK), as well as Time and Newsweek.

"In 2009, I was commissioned by the Malaria Consortium (UK) to do a traveling exhibition on Malaria - my first significant museum exhibition," Nadel said. "It opened at the UN and traveled around the world to around a dozen venues on five continents."

In 2019, Nadel returned to school for an MFA so he could teach. After graduation, he worked a year teaching in Costa Rica and then returned to the U.S. When he was in college, Nadel wanted to be a photojournalist and work for AP.

"I sometimes tell students to be careful with what they wish for," Nadel said. "While I enjoyed my first year or 2 at AP, I soon realized that I did not want to work for a large corporation (well anyone really) but be self-employed - freelance."

During his school year, Nadel said

he was in college called A Mathematician's Apology, by GH Hardy. Nadel said Hardy authored the novel when he was young, so one should be ambitious.

"While how one defines ambition is open to debate, I took this concept seriously," Nadel said. "I worked rather hard in those early years - 12 to 15 hours a day, 6 or 7 days a week, was not uncommon."

Nadel said you learn a lot of unexpected things as a photographer - one of the most important, given his work internationally, is simple logistics.

"I would get a call in the morning saying they needed me in Havana in the evening and I would need to figure out how to do it (It was illegal for Americans to travel to Cuba at that time)," Nadel said. "You also need to be a good journalist, know what is needed and get it quickly. Sometimes you had only a minute, sometimes even less, to get the picture you were commissioned to shoot."

While working around the globe,

Nadel said by the time he did the exhibition on Malaria. He has been working internationally for about 15 years, so the travel had no issues.

"The challenge of the show was to figure out a clear visual narrative for the entire exhibition and then execute it while in the field. The key to this was doing a LOT of research and creating an outline for what was needed before I even got on an airplane," Nadel said.

Nadel said he had this idea that AP was a kind of utopian place - owned by member newspapers, not for profit, etc. - that he could join and then become a foreign correspondent for.

"Once I got hired, the reality of working full time with the same people, in the same office, shooting the same things over and over, made me realize that I was more suited for freelance life," Nadel said. "It also became clear that they were going to keep me in NYC for a long time and I was young and wanted to be a war photographer, ready to take risks, so I left."



Photo Courtesy of Adam Nadel

Adam Nadel photographing the cofounder of River Kids and her sister

Middlesex College Men's Soccer Coach Inspires Athletes

By Ryan Cardenas, Core Staff

Middlesex men's soccer team coach Javier Velasco lives and breathes soccer. His passion for the sport has turned into lifestyle and a very bright future for the soccer program here at Middlesex.

Coach Velasco started coaching when he was a junior in high school. He worked in the Rovers International Soccer Camps in Metuchen. He started coaching teams when he was a freshman in college. He coached the Jersey Knight Soccer Club and kept going from there. After a period of time, he coached top academies like Cedar Stars, Players Development Academy, Morris Elite and was the assistant coach at NJIT. He coached high school teams like Rowan, North Brunswick, Clark and Edison.

Javier Velasco said, "I've been coaching almost my whole life, and it's a lifestyle and a big passion of mine. I want to keep doing this until I can't walk anymore."

Javier Velasco's professional soccer career was superb, playing at the highest level in high school, college and at the professional level. At North Brunswick High School, he played all four years at the varsity level and received All Middlesex County First Team, All Area First Team and All State Player titles. Throughout his college career, he attended Mercer County Community College, and reached all the way to the National Finals, played at Centenary University and won Nationals, won MVP of the National Finals and was inducted as a Hall of Fame Athlete in 2010, and played one year at Kean University.

After his college career, he played in the United Soccer League with the New Jersey Stallions and reached all the way to the National Finals, and North Jersey Imperials who are also in the United Soccer League.

"My playing career was great. We even got to play against some Ma-

ior League Soccer teams in the U.S. Open Cup. We played against D.C United, and Miami Fusion and it was a great experience," Velasco said.

It's been two years since Javier Velasco has been the men's soccer coach.

"It's been a good experience and the fact that we have the support from the president of Middlesex College, the athletic directors and assistant athletic directors gives us a boost of confidence," Velasco said.

"My goal is to make Middlesex a powerhouse, and I will. That's the dream, to make Middlesex a national powerhouse, and we're going to make it happen. The future is bright for the soccer program that I'm glad to be a part of."

"My goal is to win the playoffs and qualify for nationals. We're bringing in a lot of quality players that will help us achieve that goal," Velasco said.



Photo Courtesy of Linkedin

Coach Javier Velasco

Former Professor Becomes Director of Safety and Security

By Enrique Mendel, Core Staff

Michael Beltranena, a Director of Safety and Security, used to work at Middlesex College. He said he was blessed and honored to have taught at Middlesex College from 1987 to 2013. He has gone through tons of

lessons based on learning to become a police officer. Mr. Beltranena said it was hard, but not difficult.

Beltranena said, "I enjoyed it and I learned how to be a police officer."

Michael said that his parents

taught him integrity and to have a strong work ethic, as his father had the greatest influence on him. Beltranena said he taught him how to be honest and to make sure "whatever I did, to do it right."

But over the years growing up, Beltranena said the hardest challenge he faced was improving by focusing on the task and not to be distracted. In doing so, he achieved his greatest achievement as a young adult, graduating from the Police Academy.

"When I was living in Brooklyn, NY I used to walk home from school and would stop at the local police precinct to talk to the Desk Sergeant. He would let me walk around the station," Beltranena said. "I believe that inspired me to be a police officer."

Beltranena took many police examinations before he was finally hired by the New Brunswick Police Department, as he described being "incredibly lucky" because he loved every day he worked.

After graduating from the NJ State Police Academy and working as a police officer at Rider University, Beltranena said he later joined the New Brunswick Police Department in 1973, going through the ranks until he was promoted to Police Director

in 1993.

"I retired in 2000 and in 2001, I was appointed Police Director of Montgomery Township Police where I worked until 2008. Beltranena said. "I was then hired by Mayor James Cahill to work in his office to coordinate special projects in the city."

Years later, Beltranena said he was offered the position to be the Director of Safety and Security for Coach USA/Suburban which he accepted and while still in that position.

"I also attended and graduated from Rider University with my associate degree, and Rutgers University with my bachelor's degree and John Jay College of Criminal Justice with my master's degree," Beltranena said. "In addition, I graduated from the United States Secret Service Dignitary Protection Seminar and the FBI National Academy."

"I enjoy my life and the ability to help others to be the best they can be," Beltranena said.



Photo Courtesy of Pixaby

Police cars

Exxon Plays Down Dangers of Fossil Fuels

By Trevor Clarke, *Managing Editor*

In 2015, journalists uncovered internal documents revealing multinational oil-and-gas. Exxon knew about the dangers of climate change as early as 1977 — more than a decade before it became a topic of urgent debate. The documents also show that, rather than share this information, the company chose to bury it.

Over the following forty years, Exxon gave tens of millions of dollars to think tanks that strive to legitimize denial of the harmful consequences of burning fossil fuels, according to Greenpeace. All the while, the company hired top scientists to conduct cutting-edge climate research — research which rigorously confirms both the reality of climate change and the responsibility of human beings in bringing it about.

Executives at Exxon have therefore been acutely aware that the company profits in a manner that threatens the future of life on Earth for almost half a century. What's more, they have sought to hide this fact from the consumers who enrich them and the agencies that regulate them — potentially at the peril of all of humanity (to say nothing of other lifeforms).

Today the company is as big as it has been in a century. In 1999, Exxon and Mobil merged, forming ExxonMobil — or rather, the two companies re-merged. Both had their origins in the break-up of Standard Oil

Company and Trust, which the U.S. Supreme Court undertook in 1911 in a historic anti-monopoly suit. Of the 34 firms to emerge from the break-up, Standard Oil of New Jersey — which later became Exxon — was the largest.

By the time the trust was dissolved, for all intents and purposes the New Jersey subsidiary stood for Standard Oil writ large. In 1899, the latter made the former its holding company, reincorporating itself in the Garden State and transferring all its assets and interests to the newly christened Standard Oil Company (New Jersey). The state thus not only gave its name to, but played a critical role in the making of, one of the guiltiest culprits in the unfolding of the climate crisis.

Standard Oil didn't have its origins in Jersey, however. It was attracted to the state by lax incorporation policies. The late 19th century saw the passage of a wave of laws designed to attract corporate capital to the hard-strapped state. In contrast to most other states (including Ohio, where the company was founded), the new laws allowed corporations to merge with their competitors, form monopolies, set prices and make massive profits — leaving consumers to pick up the tab. By the turn of the century, most American trusts — not least Standard Oil — had found a hands-off home for their corporate charters in the Garden State. In re-

turn, the state saw enough revenues from taxes to put its budget back in the black.

The monopolistic oil trust was split up in 1911, but a mere two decades later its nearly three-dozen fragments had already begun to piece themselves back together. Standard Oil of New York merged with fellow Standard Oil alumnus Vacuum Oil Company in 1931, becoming, in 1966, the Mobil Oil Corporation. Standard Oil Company (New Jersey) became Exxon in 1972, later joining with Mobil to form ExxonMobil — the largest oil company in the world not owned by a national government.

Meanwhile, the oil giant commit-

ted a spate of environmental blunders. Most notorious among them was the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill, then the largest contamination of American waters — but it was not the only such disaster. All the while, the company vigorously resisted regulations designed to avoid catastrophe and protect the integrity of the natural environment.

A new study shows that in the late 1970s and early '80s, ExxonMobil "predicted global warming correctly and skillfully." In fact, it "understood as much about climate change as did academic and government scientists." Yet publicly the company sought to disavow climate science

and disparage the concerns of environmental activists. In other words, Exxon knew about the historic threat of climate change — and lied about it.

The spitting image of its granddaddy Standard Oil, ExxonMobil is still incorporated in New Jersey. It is therefore in part up to the people of the Garden State to demand it be held accountable for denying what it knew all along to be the truth, however inconvenient for its executives and shareholders. Standard Oil was once chastened by the law. It is now a matter of humankind's survival that ExxonMobil be brought to justice once and for all.



Exxon gas station

Photo by Ryan Cardenas

Summer Break Spurs Fun Plans

By Ryan Cardenas, *Core Staff*

With the semester coming to an end, I have been planning what I'm going to do this summer. I want to do more this summer because last summer I couldn't do everything that I wanted to do. I plan on doing big things since I have three months to actually enjoy the time I have.

The first thing I'm doing is catching up on sleep. This semester was probably the busiest for me in terms of school. Throughout the beginning of the spring semester, I was also working long hours at Macy's. It was so bad, it got to the point where my

another job to pay my bills. I ended up working at the YMCA afterschool program in Perth Amboy. On top of that, I also coach recreational soccer. I have four teams that I coach throughout the week. After all of that activity, my social battery becomes low and I sleep it off.

The beach and I didn't get along very well until last summer. The very few times that I went, I enjoyed every second of it. The very few times that I went, I was also with my girlfriend. This year, I want to go every chance I get. I also planned on going to the beach with my friends this summer. The one thing I am also looking for-

rise at the beach. When she returns from her family vacation, I plan to surprise and take her to watch the sunrise.

Every time I think of summer, soccer comes to my mind. At the moment, I am in the middle of tryouts for a team in the summer. I also want to play at different soccer locations throughout the summer. I looked at locations in New York City and I already know that I'm going to make these plans official in the summer. There's also a field by the pier in NYC that I have been dying to go to. There's a team called Manhattan FC based in Manhattan that hosts



A soccer field

Photo by Ryan Cardenas

sleep schedule wasn't the same and I would go to class tired. When I got laid off from Macy's, I had time to reorganize my life. I was able to catch up on work from my classes but at the same time, I had to get

ward to is taking my girlfriend to the beach in Long Branch and watching the sunrise together. Before we started dating, we would watch the sunrise at her house. She mentioned that she would love to watch the sun-

pickup games throughout the area. I have a friend that goes to the pickup games and tells me that it's fun and competitive. I will be looking forward to that as well.

Diversity Shown in Star Wars Film

By Hina Naqvi, *Staff Writer*

It hasn't even been a year since I wrote about the success of "Ms. Marvel," which was co-directed by Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy. It seems the Academy and Emmy Award-winning director and journalist is climbing up the ladder of her achievements and surprising her audience with each new endeavor. She is moving from one challenging project to the next, each with a big-name cast.

Then, in October 2022, it was announced that Obaid-Chinoy will be the first person of color and the first woman to direct a Star Wars film.

This film's story is set 15 years after the events of "The Rise of Skywalker." It will focus on Jedi Master Rey (Daisy Ridley), following her as she builds a new Jedi Order.

Obaid-Chinoy, who is Pakistani Canadian, shared her views about her involvement with the film on Instagram. She said, "I've spent my life meeting real-life heroes who have overcome the most oppressive empires and battled impossible odds, and that to me is the heart of Star Wars ... which is why I was attracted to the promise of a new Jedi Order ... And why I'm particularly excited about being immersed inside a Jedi Academy with a powerful Jedi Mas-

ter."

If we dig deeper, we can see misogyny throughout the Star Wars franchise. In 1977, when the first Star Wars film was released, it changed the world. Yet it is obvious what the roles of the male and female leads are throughout the three trilogies. The attire of the main characters depicts the differences.

Another issue is the lack of diversity, but this has gotten better over time. With the choice of Obaid-Chinoy as the first woman of color to direct, it feels that we are watching a more diverse universe unfold within the Star Wars franchise.

Rey's character has always been written and directed by men such as J. J. Abrams, Lawrence Kasdan and Rian Johnson. If she is directed by a woman instead, it might give her a fairer characterization and strength to her becoming a galactic savior.

In 2019, the announcement that Colin Trevorrow would not direct "The Rise of Skywalker" gave a hint that Disney wanted to make some changes. In the end, it opened the door for a woman to direct. Finally, we see Chinoy taking on this role. Will she be able to bring some new magic to the big screen?

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The editor reserves the right to edit any article to fit the format of this publication without altering the motive, intent or direction of an article.

Alterations may include, but are not limited to, alterations in style, grammar, spelling and length. No article will be published with demeaning or insulting content.

Anonymous or content with pseudonyms will not be published.

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QUO VADIS

Big Wally's Serves Great Quality Sandwiches

By Nolan MacFadyen, Staff Writer

I was feeling hungry the other day, so I stopped by a local sub shop called Big Wally's. Big Wally's is well-known in Sayreville. Everyone in Sayreville has probably been to Big Wally's at least once in their lifetime. It's located on Washington Road right down the street from Sayreville War Memorial High. I used to go to this shop all the time after school when I wanted to grab something to eat. Big Wally's is popular for its mouth-watering menu with a wide variety of subs, sandwiches, wraps and all-day breakfast. This place has a classic sandwich shop feel to it.

When you enter the shop, there is a small walkway that leads to the counter and cashier table. There used to be small style seating, but since COVID-19, they are no longer there. It's now just a walk-in establishment, but you can order in advance over the phone. There isn't

much empty space in Big Wally's. Chips, drinks and other supplies are stowed away on shelves and stacked up. Big Wally's is also a cash only establishment, so if you plan on giving this place a try, make sure to bring cash.

You can get almost any type of sandwich you imagine from a basic ham and cheese to over 20 specialty subs. There are even highly descriptive ingredients that show off the unique menu written on paper plates, hanging from the counter of the deli. Some of my favorite subs are the King; a cheddar cheeseburger sub with pork roll, bacon, fried onions, mayo, and ketchup. The Poore Boy is also great; it's a sub with grilled chicken, potatoes, bacon, pepper jack, cheese and honey mustard. Let's not forget the Thanksgiving special, a November special with turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing,



Photo by Nolan MacFadyen

Juicy Lucy, chicken cheesesteak with pork roll, mozzarella cheese, peppers, onions and sriracha mayo

gravy and cranberry sauce. Many people also love their brownies, personally I've never been a big fan.

I called ahead and placed my order before I left my house so I wouldn't have to wait. I ordered a Juicy Lucy. The Juicy Lucy is a chicken cheesesteak with pork roll, mozzarella

cheese, peppers, onions and sriracha mayo. It costs about \$9 for a half sub and \$17 for a full sub. I decided to get half because with all those toppings, it would most definitely fill me up. I was told my food would be ready in 15 minutes and it was. I told them my name, paid and got my food; the

process was in and out. The distinctive flavor combination in the Juicy Lucy is incredible. The chicken, cheese, pork roll peppers, onions and sriracha mayo combine to make one of the tastiest sandwiches ever. As always, the food at Big Wally's is five stars.

Greed Hurts in 'The Brass Teapot'

By David Macaulay-Smith, Managing Editor

After spending the last few weeks searching for new movies to watch, I was assigned to watch one for one of my classes and it was one of the most interesting movies I have watched. The movie was called "The Brass Teapot". "The Brass Teapot" examines human greed and how it may drive people to engage in extreme actions in their quest for fortune and pleasure. The comedy-drama tells the tale of a young couple Alice (played by Juno Temple) and John (played by Michael Angarano), who are having financial difficulties. In an antique store, the couple finds a brass teapot that has a mysterious ability to make money anytime they endure pain.

At first, Alice and John use the teapot to settle their debts and elevate their standard of living. Nonetheless, as their greed grows, they begin to hurt themselves and one another in order to get more money. Their relationship becomes

unstable as they grow more and more obsessed with their newfound fortune, and their acts become more and more extreme. The movie offers an intriguing look at the darker side of the American Dream and how the compelling desire for prosperity can result in devastation and hopelessness.

The couple's obsession with riches begins to overwhelm them, which explores the negative effects of greed. As they pursue the elusive goal of obtaining more money, they grow apart from one another and behave in increasingly violent ways. The couple learns too late that they have given up their personal pleasure for money, illustrating how the pursuit of wealth can be a lonely and meaningless path. The film's photography and visual effects are

particularly important because they successfully portray the magical powers of the brass teapot. The movie creates an alternate universe that grabs the audience's attention and generates a unique setting that improves the plot.

The movie does a great job of fusing dark humor with serious social critique, and the creative efforts produce a very fascinating and impactful film. It successfully shows the harmful consequences of greed through dark comedy. The comedy is articulated to alarm the audience; the film demonstrates the willingness of the pair to harm themselves and each other in order to attain specific goals. The movie successfully establishes a balance between serious social critique and lighter fun in its tone, which is an excellent accomplishment.

In summary, "The Brass Teapot" is a brilliant movie that explores the darker side of the American Dream and the effects of materialism and greed. The movie is unique and intriguing because it combines humor with a social message. On a scale of 1-10, I would rate the movie an 8 out of 10. I recommend this movie to anyone interested; it is a really good watch.



Photo by David Macaulay-Smith

A teapot

iPhone 14 Pro Max Makes Big Upgrades

By Nathaniel Thompson, Managing Editor

The Apple iPhone 14 Pro Max is the 38th installation of the phone in the company's history. After being stuck with an iPhone eight for a good amount of years, I finally caved in because my old iPhone was useless. I placed the order for my phone that costed \$1400, and waited weeks for it to finally come in.

When I first got the phone, I realized that it did not even come with a charger. That was a big turn off for me. It was even more ridiculous that the head piece and the cord had to be ordered separate. I remember the days when you got headphones, the charger, the phone and a case all in one. It was fine though, I was just

watch videos with way more enjoyment. The phone runs at 120Hz, which is the same as these fast monitors nowadays. The phone is just so high tech and up to date I love it.

As far as the camera, this might be one of the best features on the new iPhone. There are two cameras on the phone with three different lenses. On my old phone, I never had the zoom out feature. On this phone I do and it is one of the best features. It lets me zoom out of my phone's perspective even more and I love taking pictures with that feature.

What stood out to me the most was the battery life and performance. I mentioned earlier how fast

"As far as the camera, this might be one of the best features on the new iPhone."

happy to get a new phone.

As for the actual phone, the first thing that stuck out to me was how fast the phone was. It probably is a regular speed for new iPhones, but I was dealing with a really slow phone before, so it was moving at electric speed for me. iOS 16 was the latest software update that came out, so all of the new features were very interesting to me. Since I got the iPhone Pro Max, it is the biggest possible size yet. This lets me play games and

the phone was, but the consistency with the battery was top tier. Before, I was unable to make it an hour without my phone battery draining out. Now a 100% battery charge lasts near an entire day. Overall, I can confidently say that the iPhone 14 Pro Max was a great investment and I would recommend it. \$1400 for this phone is expensive, but a phone is a necessity in this society, and that money invested in the phone goes a long way.



Photo by Enrique Medel

iPhone 14 Pro Max box

Attend the Quo Vadis

STUDENT NEWSPAPER

General

**Virtual Meeting every
Friday at 11 a.m.**

QV is hosting a fun, campus-wide meeting
for students, administrators, faculty and staff
to learn about how we can best serve our readership!

Come and have a great time with us!

Review the paper and play games!

**We want to learn more
about what you want to read!**

**Click the
Zoom Link:**

<https://middlesexcc-edu.zoom.us/j/93232297786?pwd=UkZzY3R6OGNoVWx0RisraFdiUDJZZz09>
Passcode: Newspaper

Correction: In issue 10 of Quo Vadis, Katherine Howard was identified as the coordinator of the nursing department, but she a faculty member of the nursing department.

Check out our website @
quovadisnewspaper.com

Person-on-the-Street:

How do you prepare for your final exams to guarantee success?

By Angelus Watkins, Managing Editor
Photos by Angelus Watkins



Mario Suriel
Community Justice
Second Year
Perth Amboy

“I go to the learning centers in order to study and review for the finals.”

Diego Damian
Computer Science
Second Year
Edison

“I do study groups, since it helps a lot to study with other people. I go over my notes, looking through all of the labs I’ve done to review and to use them in my study groups.”



Joshua Cesario
Culinary
Second Year
Edison

“I either cram the day before or a week in advance to cover all of the topics.”

Hailey Block
Culinary Arts
First Year
Sayreville

“I tend to procrastinate as well so I wait till the last second, but I can prepare for longer in certain subjects. I use study guides to prepare and try to wing it the day of.”



Jacqueline Shearin
Liberal Arts Theater
First Year
Metuchen

“I make sure I get a good sleep and I make sure to heavily review my notes repeatedly. I ask my peers from my other classes for their notes that I could use to review, such as index cards. My method is to repeat what I’ve learned to keep it in my head.”



Photo of the Week



Photo by Angelus Watkins

The photo shows a mass of small luminescent jellyfish under a dim light. Their environment within the tank was kept dark because these species lived in the darker depths of the ocean. The photo was taken in Jenkinson’s Aquarium.

A Dark Dream

By Angelus Watkins, Managing Editor

Standing in a dark corridor that was lined in sickly orange walls and dimly lit light that hung from old rusted posts, a lone man frantically glanced back and forth as he tried to find somewhere to go, anywhere. For some reason, every inch of his body screamed at him to move as if his life depended on it, and for once he wouldn’t doubt his instincts, for what he was facing at the end of the hall was an unsettling darkness that would only spread as each second passed by. Running in a full sprint down the opposite direction of the halls, he would look back to see the lights flickering out row after row as the darkness chased after him, with an itching cold feeling creeping up his back as if a hand was just moments away from grabbing him. Up ahead, he could see a couple of small desks and tables in which some other people were hiding under. It looked

like those people were in a similar situation, but instead of running they had chosen to hide. Deciding to follow their lead out of a guilty hope that one of them would be taken before him, the man would slow his running to a stop before crouching down under a black stool structure that was next to the table. After sitting in that position for a short while, the man would look up to see all of the dim sickly amber lights shutting off all at once, placing him and the rest of the people in complete darkness. Then, from the direction he was running from, he would see a random person appear running out from that direction, most likely a person who was far behind him without his knowledge that was also running from his life, in which he wasn’t so lucky. That person would end up falling flat on his face mid-dash, as if something had pulled his legs out from under

him, before disappearing from the man’s sight as he was pulled back. With his body completely petrified, the man could only squeeze his eyes shut as he prayed for the thing within the darkness to quickly pass. With thump after thump sounding off in his ears, he would hear cries of shock and horror as the thing would claim them all one by one. At that point he wouldn’t even dare open his eyes out of fear for what he would see, or rather, what would be staring back at him. Suddenly, all of the cries would be silenced at once as a painful silence quickly took over, something that gave an even more disturbing feeling. Finally, the man couldn’t take the painful suspense any longer, in which he would ball his hands into fists as his eyes shoot open, but what his gaze beheld would stain his mind for the remainder of his life.