

Quo Vadis MIDDLESEX County College



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Volume 46, Issue 5

NJLM Members Learn State's New Education Plan

Corina Lombardi-Adamousky
Managing Editor

Foundation and former mayor of Montgomery Township.

"This conference focuses

everyone with information on four key educational issues. School funding, which is a continuation

expansion, school construction and school consolidation," said Wilson.

NJLM Education Foundation and League President Mayor Robert Bowser, spoke briefly before introducing the special morning panel guests. Many of the structural changes needed to put the New Education Order into effect have now been made, said Commissioner Lucille Davy, from the New Jersey department of education. The new plan is also making sure that more of the money goes to students rather than the bureaucracy, said Davy.

On Sept. 19, Middlesex County College was host to the New Jersey State League of Municipalities Education Foundation Inc. statewide conference. NJLM presented 'The New Education Order: School Consolidation Construction, Funding and Preschool Expansion Plan' in conjunction with the New Jersey Department of Education.

Registration for the event began at 9 a.m. and the four breakout workshops that were held after the opening session came to a close at 1:30 p.m. Participants and guests were directed to the MCC Performing Arts Center for the opening panel session. Dr. Joann La Perla-Morales, president of MCC spoke first and welcomed the guests. La Perla-Morales then introduced Louise Wilson, president of NJLM Education



Photo by Paul Lazaro

Dr. Joann La Perla-Morales, president of MCC, welcomes guests to the college at the New Jersey State

"What's more important than the largest investments in our towns, which is essentially education," said Choi.

The Foundation's work began in 2007 with the Mayor's School Funding Committee revising the school funding formula. The committee's work was funded by The Fund for New Jersey. The initial event involved more than 50 mayors and education professionals that attended a two day retreat for educational purposes, said Choi.

Following Mayor Choi,

"It's important to remember that we all need to work together. Working together to better preschools through grade 12 is an investment into all of our futures," said Davy.

There needs to be a working model between school boards, municipalities, Mayor's, and the community. Educational matters have been handled a certain way for years. To change things for the better it needs to

con't NJLM, pg. 3

on the New Education Order plan. Today we will provide ev-

from the work done at the Mayor's Committee, preschool

Online Psych Course Fills Niche, Raises Awareness

Courtney Cerreta
C&C Editor

Yvonne-Singer, an adjunct professor at Middlesex County College who was born with a severe case of cerebral palsy, has used her own experience to come up with a unique course: Psychology of the Handicapped (PSY 227).

Singer was born with the condition, which affects her limbs and vocal cords. When she was born, she could not breathe for 40 minutes because her umbilical cord was wrapped around her neck three times very tightly. No oxygen could get to her brain and this caused brain cells to die.

These cells controlled motor functions. Her body is spastic and she has contractors on her knees, hips and ankles. Singer's upper body is athetoid, which means her arms move around frequently and involuntarily. She uses a wheel chair.

Even with this disability, Singer still went to school. She

graduated high school in 1988 and then got her associates degree in Liberal Arts from Brookdale Community College in 1994. In 1999, Singer earned her bachelor's in psychology from Monmouth University.

Before she attended Walden University, Singer took a course in C++ at MCC because she thought she wanted another associates degree in computer science, but decided that it was not for her.

To her surprise, she found out that you obtain a degree online. Singer got her master of science in psychology at Walden University.

This opened up many doors for Singer and other disabled people who wanted to learn and earn degrees without leaving their homes.

"I chose to earn a masters in psychology from Walden University because I wanted to teach courses online," said Singer.

Singer has designed general psychology classes online

at Sussex County Community College. She has also taught Introduction to Psychology at MCC.

"On February 17, 2007, I submitted a course proposal to teach Psychology of the Handicapped online for Middlesex County College.

I quickly taught myself how to search for college textbooks and software because I never received any assistance. It was disheartening to rediscover that there are not many college textbooks on developmental disabilities," said Singer. The course was approved April 4, 2007 but was did not start until recently.

During the 2008 Fall II session, Psychology of the Handicapped (PSY 227) will be offered online for the first time. Some of the topics the class will cover are pregnancy, cerebral palsy, autism, intellectual disabilities, epilepsy and learning disabilities. "This three credit

con't PSYCH, pg. 3

PHOTO OF THE WEEK!

Women's Soccer Shuts Out Del.

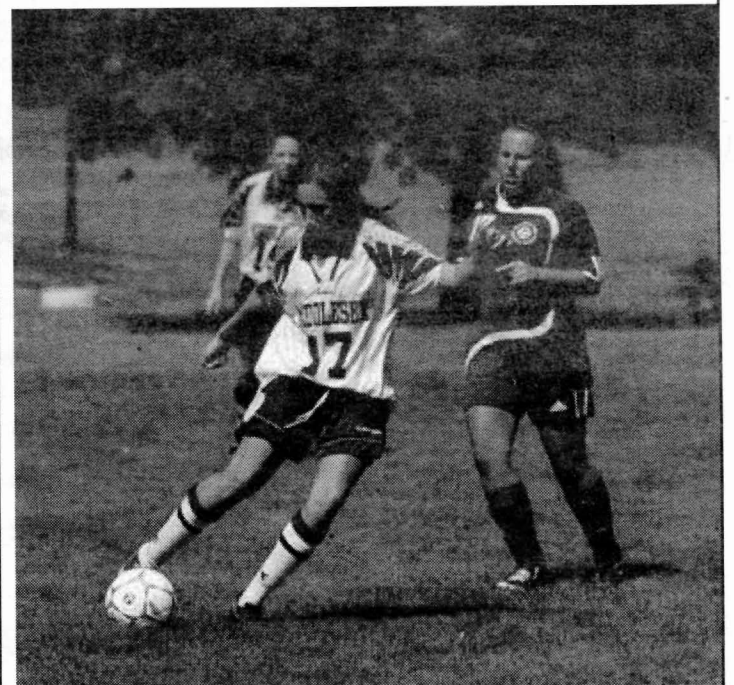


Photo by Tom Peterson

Freshman Ashley Kuzio maneuvers the ball around a defender. MCC didn't allow a single goal in the romp.

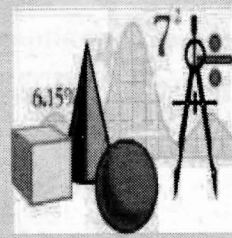
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Middlesex County College: Campus and Community Calendar

Date of event: Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Time of event: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Short description of event: Drop-In: Counseling and Career Services
Location of event: Edison Hall Room 100
Contact Information: Call 732-906-2595

Time of event: 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
Short description of event: Workshop: "I Feel Lonely and I don't know what to do about it ..."
Location of event: Edison Hall Room 100

Date of event: Oct. 2
Time of event: 2 p.m.
Short description of event: College Assembly Task Force Organizational Meeting
Location of event: L'Hommedieu Hall 205

Time of event: 2 - 3 p.m.
Short description of event: Workshop: The Way To An "A"
Location of event: Edison Hall Room 100

Short description of event: MCC Foundation Community Celebration
Location of event: College Center Cafeteria A-C

Time of event: 3:30 p.m.
Short description of event: MCC Women's Soccer away vs. Lackawanna College

Time of event: 4:00 p.m.
Short description of event: MCC Men's Soccer vs. Camden CC
Location of event: Thomas A. Edison Park, Mill Road

Date of event: Oct. 4
Time of event: Noon
Short description of event: MCC Women's Soccer vs. Gloucester CC (Region XIX)
Location of event: Thomas A. Edison Park, Mill Road

Time of event: Noon
Short description of event: MCC Men's Soccer away vs. Gloucester CC (Region XIX)

Date of event: Oct. 5
Short description of event: Highlander Invitational (MCC Cross Country Meet)
Location of event: Branch Brook Park, Newark, NJ

Date of event: Oct. 6
Time of event: 11 a.m.
Short Explanation of event: CCPB Meeting
Location of event: College Center - Cafeteria C

Time of event: 11:15 - 12:15 p.m.
Short explanation of event: The Way to an "A" Workshop
Location: Edison Hall Room 100
Contact Information: Call 732-906-2595

Time of event: 5 - 6 p.m.
Short explanation of event: Workshop: The Way to an "A" for returning adults - Registration Required
Location of event: Edison Hall Room 100
Contact Information: Call 732-905-2546 to register

Date of event: Oct. 7
Time of event: 3:30 p.m.
Short explanation of event: MCC Men's Soccer vs. CC of Morris (Region XIX)
Location of event: Thomas A. Edison Park, Mill Road

Submit calendar events to quovadis_newspaper@hotmail.com Post your own calendar events at www.quovadisnewspaper.com

Dance-a-Thon

Date: Friday, Oct. 17

**Publish Tickets online
at
www.quovadisnewspaper.com
or stop by the College Center
room 316**

**Please submit story ideas, announcements, and ads to
quovadis_newspaper@hotmail.com. Submits ads 7 days in advance.**

Oct. 8 - Issue 6
Oct. 15 - Issue 7
Oct. 22 - Issue 8
Oct. 29 - Issue 9

Nov. 5 - Issue 10
Nov. 12 - Issue 12
Nov. 19 - Issue 12

Nov. 26 - Issue 13
Dec. 3 - Issue 14
Dec. 10 - Issue 15

MCC Social Committee Club

Derek Gean
Staff Writer

On Sept. 11 at the Corral restaurant within the College Center at Middlesex County College, there was a Social Committee meeting that discussed what is in store for the fall semester of 2008 at MCC.

Patricia Daly, now temporary holding the club, told both new and old members to help themselves to the complimentary food and drinks in the back of the room. After all the students had settled in, it came down to business. She had

asked each student to stand up and identify what their name and major is. Many of the students were first-year English majors.

One of the more important events that was revealed was the Halloween party which is scheduled for Oct. 24. It is an event that many clubs contribute to in order to make the night something to look forward to. There has been a dancing room, a video game room, tarot and palm reading and a haunted house in the past years. Students can expect great things coming this October from the

con't SCC, pg. 3

Police Blotter

Natalie Serrano
Staff Writer

Lost Cell Phone - On Sept. 15 at 12 p.m. at the Blue Colt Bookstore, an individual reported that she lost her cell phone possibly in the Bookstore. She noticed it missing after she had left the store and entered another building.

Motor Vehicle Accident - On Sept. 17 at 1:57 p.m. in Parking Lot 1, while backing out of a parking space, Vehicle #1 collided with Vehicle #2 causing damage to both vehicles. No injuries were reported.

Theft - On Sept. 16 at 5:45 p.m. in Main Hall, a student reportedly placed her purse by her desk. When she lifted it to leave class, she noticed that her wallet was

missing. Various credit cards, bankcards and documents were contained in the wallet. There are no witnesses or suspects at this time.

Motor Vehicle Accident - On Sept. 17 at 9:09 a.m. in Parking Lot 4, while backing out of a parking space, Vehicle #2 backed into Vehicle #1, which was traveling on the roadway. No damage was observed on Vehicle #2. Vehicle #1's driver's side fender sustained damage.

Disruptive Student - On Sept. 18 at 6:20 p.m. in the Johnson Learning Center, an individual was disruptive during class, which prompted a call for intervention. The person left the scene before police arrived.

Weather

10/01 Wednesday	10/02 Thursday	10/03 Friday	10/04 Saturday
High 69° Low 51°	High 71° Low 47°	High 72° Low 49°	High 70° Low 55°
9/28 Sunday	9/29 Monday	9/30 Tuesday	
High 74° Low 55°	High 73° Low 56°	High 75° Low 55°	

Editorial Board: Fall 2008

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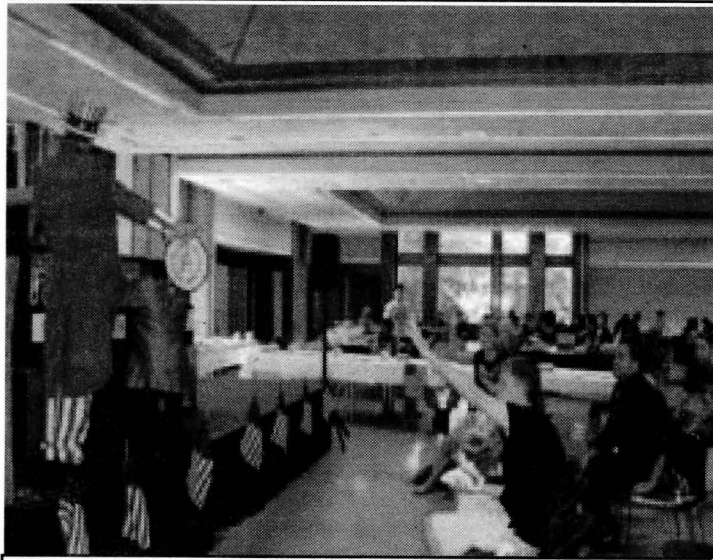
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Constitution Day Quizzes Students

Lisa Kaiser
Staff Writer

The buzzer sounded and the audience fell silent as it awaited the contestant's answer. The "Constitution Day Game Show" had begun.

Middlesex County College and the Kramer Agency conducted the "Constitution Day Game Show" to help students recognize the significance of Constitution Day. The event was held on Monday, Sept. 15 in the College Center cafeteria from 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Three podiums equipped with buzzers and lights were set up on a stage in the middle of the cafeteria. American flags lined the edge of the stage and the three rows of chairs set up for the contestants. Patriotic students wore red, white and blue balloon hats over a foot tall.

"This was a fun way to bring everyone together," said Patricia Daly, Assistant Director of Student Activities.

Students piled into the cafeteria with the hopes of walking away with the grand prize of \$100 in cash. The second and third place winners and the audience also had the opportunity to win money. Consolation prizes were given out to contestants who did not place in the top three scores.

Contestants were chosen to participate in the game show by catching a Frisbee that was thrown into the audience by a host from the Kramer Agency dressed as Uncle Sam. The game consisted of several rounds of three contestants who were asked trivia questions about United States history and the Constitution. Questions varied in difficulty from "What are the

three branches of government?" to "What country did the United States fight during the Revolutionary War?"

"The game show is essentially 'Name that Tune,' but with history questions. Our main focus was to bring awareness of Constitution Day and get the students to learn and participate," said Daly.

MCC has held this event for four years, since a law was passed requiring all colleges to recognize Constitution Day in 2004. According to the National Association of Student Financial and Administrators (NASFAA), "Higher institutions must offer educational programs about the Constitution on Constitution Day in or

con't DAY, pg. 4

Dance-a-Thon

Date: Friday, Oct. 17

**Publish Tickets online
at**

**www.quovadisnewspaper.com
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room 316**

Club To Offer Help For Students With Ideas

Dereck Rivera
Staff Writer

The English as a second language club, also known as ESL, offers activities, programs, workshops, and general help for students who want to learn about American culture and succeed in test taking skills.

Advisor Ellen Measday focuses on the individual needs of each student. "Every student's ideas count," said Measday. "All of our students are new to the American academic educational system and that's what we're here for, to help them adapt to Middlesex County

College and make friends," said Measday.

Students everyday are taking tests and need support and instruction with test taking skills. "We offer test taking strategy workshops and basic skills tests," said Measday. All workshops are based on what the students suggest and what they want. Students who become a club member have the opportunity to be open to what they need in terms of instructional help.

Last year the club took part in activities such as movie afternoon, pizza parties, and trips to Philadelphia's Franklin

Museum, Liberty Science Center, MoMa, and China Town. The club hopes to be able to return and visit new places this semester.

The club meets twice a month every Thursday at 2 p.m. in JL 144. The ESL Club accounts for 25 members and is continuing to grow. The club is centered on students who need help and are open to new ideas and suggestions.

NJLM con't from pg. 1

be understood that education and municipalities are not separate. They need to work together to get things accomplished, said Joseph Doria, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs was next to speak.

When the opening session was completed a short break was given before the first two breakout sessions began. From 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the Performing Arts Center Session A: School Funding-Review of Key Changes and

Regulations took place. At the same time in the Coral room on the second floor of the College Center Session B: Preschool Expansion was also offered.

From 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in the Coral room Session C: School Construction was held and downstairs in the Performing Arts Center Session D: School Consolidation, CORE Bill and Shared Grant Opportunities also took place. When all session ended participants and guests were offered a lunch and networking break. The event came to a close with a special guest speaker,

Scott Weiner, CEO of New Jersey Schools Development Authority.

"There are a number of municipalities including Middlesex County that will benefit substantially from this new formula. The overall education profile and long term outcome if we put a greater emphasis on early childhood education will be a success," said Davy.

PSYCH con't from pg. 1

course is completely online, you can attend any time during day or night. As long as you are an active learner, I will try to do my best to help you succeed. Remember, I am only an e-mail away," said Singer.

Singer said, "Currently, 20 students are enrolled in the course. Hopefully, this course will run during the fall and spring semesters, depending on enrollment."

Singer said, "Being physi-

cally disabled certainly does not make one less of a person. Anything is possible as long as you have the 'YES, I CAN' attitude. Fighting the good fight may be extremely difficult at times. However, when you have accomplished your goals, you will realize that it was worthwhile to struggle climbing the steep ladder."

"It is my mission to educate students that the disabled are people too," said Singer.

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Tae-Kwon-Do Kick-Punch-Art

Elizabeth Alvarado
Staff Writer

The fall 2008 semester kicks off another round of the Middlesex County College Martial Arts Club in the Art Gallery. Every Wednesday at the College Center, a group of dedicated students join together to train and learn Tae Kwon Do.

The club has been one of Middlesex's disciplined programs for the past 30 years, and the last 18 from before the year 1990 are recorded in the trophy case.

The advisor, Gabriel Gonzalez, Jr. is a Tae Kwon Do Grand Master, and teaches the incoming new students. Also there to help is Bharat Patel, a Criminal Justice major and member of the Chem Tech program since 2003. Patel has been presi-

dent of the club since 2003 and is one of the eight returning members. He said that other than learning Tae Kwon Do, he also has an interest in Tang Soo Do, which is the martial art of self-defense that is practiced by most of the black belt members. Those who have achieved the highest rankings with belts are the ones that are qualified to teach.

"To join MCC's Martial Arts Club, experience isn't needed and there are no prerequisites necessary; just [the] will to learn and strive to promote the true spirit of the martial arts," said Patel.

The Martial Arts Club's purpose is to gain knowledge of what a person is capable of and learn what they can do in certain situations.

SCC con't from pg. 2

various clubs participating on that night.

Some of the issues that were discussed regarding the Halloween party were security, entertainment and club programs. Daly went over security longer than most of the other topics at hand and did stress the fact that everyone should have fun on that night. When she did the overview on entertainment, she said that if a student suggests an idea, it may

be considered being put into the Halloween party.

Club events for this year's Halloween party have yet to be announced; however there is a prediction that there may be a video game room and a live DJ in the dancing room at the Halloween party.

After giving an overview of the Halloween party, Daly said "All positions in the Social Committee are open". This means that the president, vice president, treasurer and secretary positions are open to

all members of the club and any interested students within MCC. If you wish to become an officer of the Social Committee, please go to the next scheduled meeting on Sept. 18 for more information.

Some of the planned events that were revealed within the meeting were as follows:

"Clearly You Crystals", which is scheduled to happen on Sept. 23, is an event that will happen in the College Center. In the past, students would line up to make crystal

versions of their faces within box-shaped crystals. It was suggested to start lining up at 8 a.m. since the event was very popular with students in previous years.

On Sept. 25, there is a theater trip to see "In the Heights." Tickets for MCC students who have their ID are \$35 each, and for staff, faculty and alumni they are 40\$ each. The bus leaves from West Hall at 5 p.m. Ticket sales for students start on Sept. 9 and Sept. 16 for

staff, faculty and alumni. There is a maximum limit of two tickets per valid MCC student ID.

On Oct. 9, there will be a lunch/ dinner held at Little Spain Restaurant in Fords, NJ. Tickets go on sale Sept. 23 at 9:30 a.m. and cost \$5 each with a valid MCC student ID. For staff, faculty and alumni, tickets go on sale Sept. 29 at the price of \$10 each. There is a maximum of two limit of two tickets per valid MCC student ID and there is limited spacing available.

DAY con't from pg. 2

MCC has held this event for four years, since a law was passed requiring all colleges to recognize Constitution Day in 2004. According to the National Association of Student Financial and Administrators (NASFAA), "Higher institutions must offer educational programs about the Constitution on Constitution Day in order to remain eligible for Title IV funding." MCC and the Student Activities Department decided the best way to recognize Constitution Day was to give students the opportunity to participate in an exciting event that informs them about our nation's history.

Ryan Higgins, a Criminal Justice major, said, "Even though I did not go up on stage to play the game, I learned a lot about the U.S. that I didn't know before. It was pretty fun to watch."

MCC Plans Cultural and Educational Trip to Italy for Spring 2009

Courtney Cerreta
A&E Editor

Middlesex County College is planning their next cultural and educational trip to Italy for Spring 2009. Departure for the trip is set for March 12, 2009 with a return date of March 20.

Italian professor Nanette Granuzzo and Modern Language Lab coordinator and Spanish professor Gloria Zuluaga are coordinating the trip to Italy. They had

their first meeting on Sept. 25 where they talked about money payments and details about the



trip's itinerary.

Just \$2,199 provides transportation, breakfast, dinner, overnight stays and tours in Venice, Florence and Rome.

Travelers will visit such places as Venice, Padua in Florence, Accademia, Pisa, Rome, The Vatican, Colosseum, Piazza Navona, Pompeii and Herculaneum.

"This is Middlesex's fourth trip to Europe and second trip to Italy. Middlesex has been to Italy, Spain and France. We are happy to be able to return to Italy," said Granuzzo.

"This is a great opportunity to travel abroad and learn the culture firsthand. Everyone stays in a group, making the experience safer than traveling alone. Also, the transportation is given and there are planned tours and places to visit," said

Zuluaga.

"For some of these people, it is their first time on a plane, obtaining a passport and dealing with money exchange," said Granuzzo.

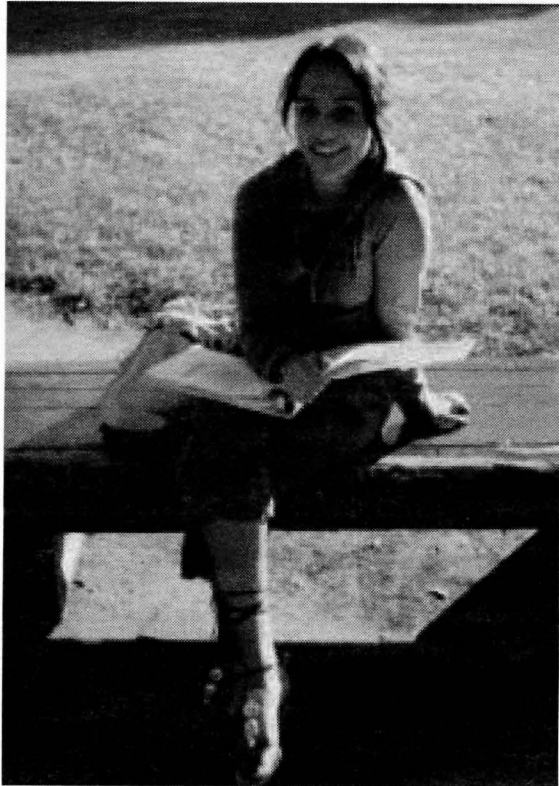
"The last three trips have been very successful. The students had a great time. We are looking forward to another successful trip," said Granuzzo.

For those that are interested, Oct. 16, is the date the first payment is due and Dec. 1, is when the entire balance is due.

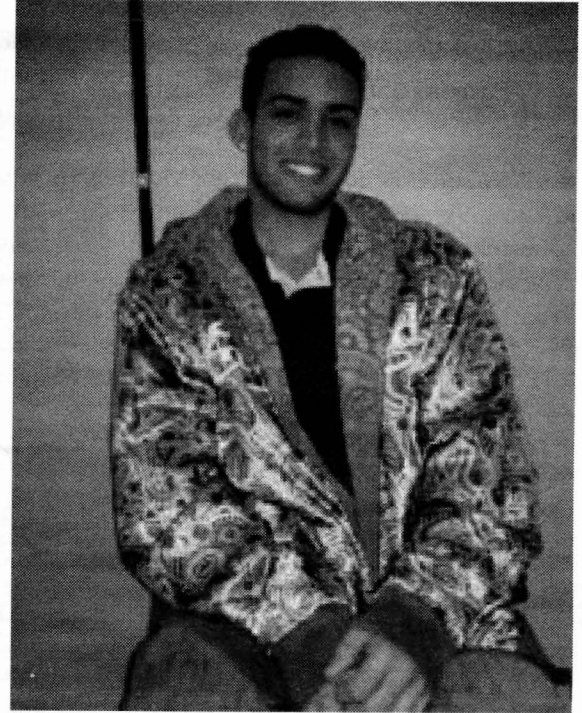
For more information please contact Gloria Zuluaga by phone ext. 3779 or email GZuluaga@middlesexcc.edu or Nanette Granuzzo by phone ext. 3234 or email NGranuzzo@middlesexcc.edu.

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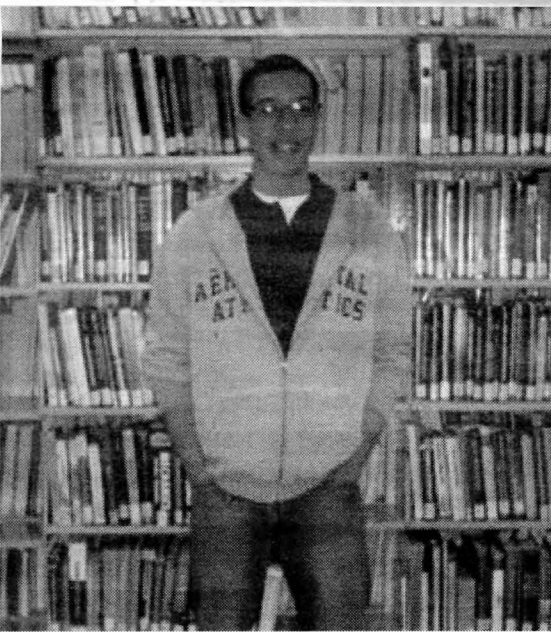
Any Pointers We Should Know When It Comes to Fall Fashion?



Name: Joshua G. Tirado.
Town: Woodbridge
Major: Art
Answer: "You definitely want to wear sweaters because it's breezy in the fall but make sure you're not too overdressed and try to match and look nice. Make sure it's comfortable too."



Name: Annetta Fooks
Town: East Brunswick
Major: No Major
Answer: "Long boots and long shoes. Dreadlocks are the hair of the season. Go for the urban type figure."



Name: Kimberly Nguyen
Town: Edison
Major: Math
Answer: "Don't wear ugly sweaters like the plain colored ones or wool sweaters. No high socks with sandals because it just doesn't work. Wear accessories like a hat to match the outfit to look more complete. Be you and don't try to dress like someone else."



Name: Joanel Veras
Town: Edison
Major: Liberal Arts
Answer: "Be prepared for the inconsistent weather, although it's usually cold outside. Wear sweaters because classrooms are usually extremely cold as it is so you don't have to bother your friends for one or complaining that you're cold"

Advice For Fall Fashionistas

Kristian Santiago
Staff Writer

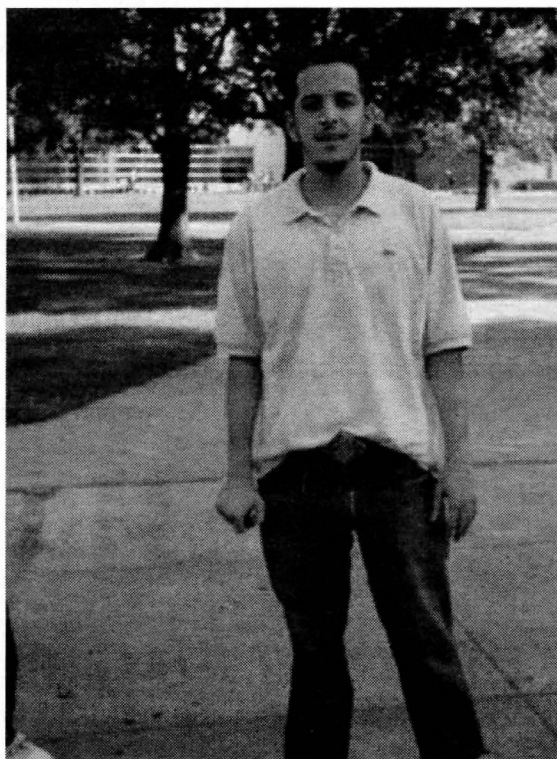
going on in great old New Jersey.

Min-K, a small boutique on 334 E. 11th Street marked 30 to 50 percent off certain shirts and blouses, most of which were lightweight but long-sleeved; perfect for layering or wearing alone during early fall. Ravinstyle on 466 Washington Street slashed their prices by up to 70 percent on a few cardigans, blouses, and tops. These items deemed "summer wear" by the fashion industry would make a normal person die of heat exhaustion if worn in the summer sun. Thus, making them perfect for our weird weather.

If a trip to Manhattan is inconvenient, take advantage of the sales at Woodbridge, Menlo Park, and Bridgewater malls. If you dig hard enough through the tank tops, short shorts, and bikinis, you will find something cute, appropriate, and affordable for fall.

I don't know about you, but dressing for fall is one of the weirdest times of the year for me. It's too warm to wear that awesome Juicy Couture puffer vest from last year, but too cold to stay in that Alvin Valley tee shirt dress from this summer. So in past years, my fall wardrobe mainly consisted of jeans and whichever hoodie was clean at the time. Walking around Manhattan (ahem, during free transit week), I had to bite my finger off trying to keep myself from pulling out the AmEx. There's so many end of the season sales it's ridiculous. Seriously, take advantage of it. And while most of the clothing they sell is, in fact, useless to us now, many of it works during this hot day/cool night combo thing we've got

Name: Marcos Fernandez
Town: Edison
Major: Physics
Answer: "Make it fashionable. Form fitted clothes. Clothes that are warm and yet good looking. Don't go crazy with the colors even if it's fall. No neon green."



Gossip Girl Show Review

Corina Lombardi-Adamousky
Managing Editor

"Gossip Girl here; your one and only source into the scandalous lives of Manhattan's elite. And who am I? That's one secret I'll never tell. You know you love me. Xoxo, Gossip Girl" Kristin Bell, Gossip Girl.

The famous voice over running through millions of heads all over America and Canada is part of the fastest growing series on television today. Whether it is freshmen in high school or a mother of three, The CW's hit drama, "Gossip Girl" is spreading like wildfire into people's hearts.

Sept. 1 started the initial wave of new and returning fall shows on the CW television network, one of which is this

year's number two rated show on the network, "Gossip Girl." "Gossip Girl" stars: Blake Lively, Leighton Meester, Penn Badgley, Chace Crawford, Taylor Momsen, Ed Westwick, Jessica Szohr, John Patrick Amedori, Kelly Rutherford, and Matthew Settle first premiered on the CW on Sept. 19 last year. The pilot episode alone brought in a total of 3.65 million viewers.

Last year's newest drama, about New York City's Upper East Side privileged youth is one of the few shows to live up to the hype it created. The show is based on the hit series of books "Gossip Girl" written by Cecily Von Zieglar, a native New Yorker. The shows viewers jumped from 3.65 million in the pilot to 4.3 million in the season two premiere, "Summer Kind of Wonderland."

Season one's devastating finale, "Much 'I do'

About Nothing" left fans shell-shocked. Serena Van Der Woodsen (Lively) and Dan Humphrey (Badgley), the top rated couple by fans, ended their season long relationship leaving the couples fate up in arms. Meanwhile

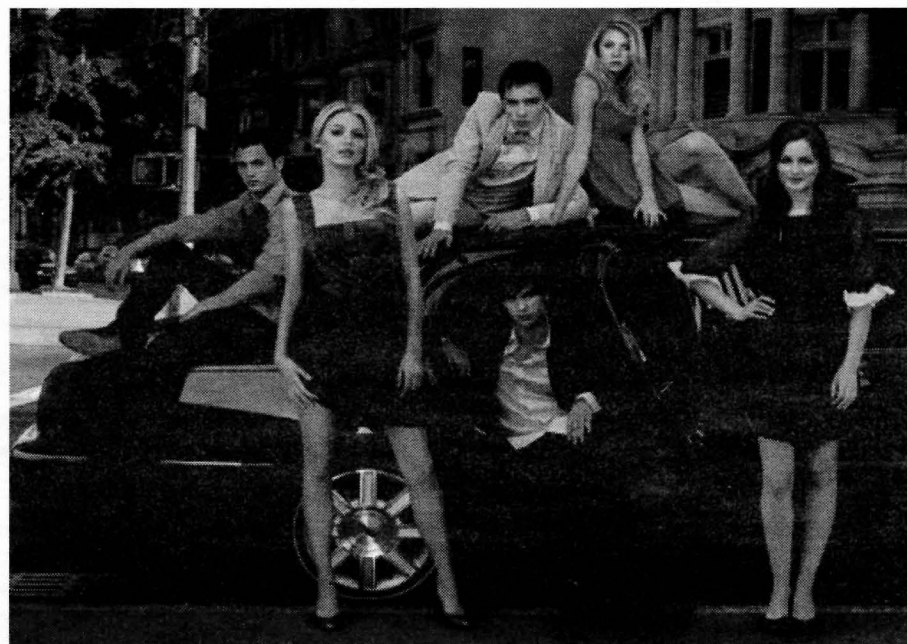
Chuck Bass (Westwick) decided his previous plan to commit to Blair Waldorf (Meester) was beyond his comfort zone. Nate Archibald's (Crawford) drug addicted father fled the country as Lilly Van Der Woodsen's (Rutherford) wedding of the century to Bart Bass (Robert

John Burke) was nearly ruined by Rufus Humphrey (Settle). The dirty secrets poured from Serena's closet when Georgiana Sparks (Michelle Trachtenberg), a feisty troublemaker came back into her life.

Between the drama filled angst, musical sex part-

ners, scandalous lies, and love triangles that will leave you reeling, there is never a dull moment on screen. Each week "Gossip Girl" touches on several different topics that could very well be affecting the average teen

con't GOSSIP, pg. 7



Burn After Reading Movie Review

Eric Sugatan
Staff Writer

George Clooney shoots Brad Pitt...in the head. If that sentence doesn't at least slightly intrigue you about "Burn After Reading," the Coen brothers' ("No Country for Old Men," "O Brother, Where Art Thou?," "The Big Lebowski") new dark comedy, then I'm not sure what will. Well, there are a lot of other things actually, but nothing I'd spoil for those who haven't seen it yet. Just take my word for it: it's a damn good movie, if not a refreshing take on comedies in general.

The plot of the movie in its entirety is actually a number of separate conflicts that are all somehow connected. The main plot — which serves as a catalyst and a variable for the other plots — revolves around Oswald Cox, played by John Malkovich ("The Mutant Chronicles," "Beowulf," "Con Air"), an agent for the CIA who quits his job and decides to pursue his passion of writing in the form of a memoir. Through a series of unfortunate events, a copy of his memoirs — which suppos-

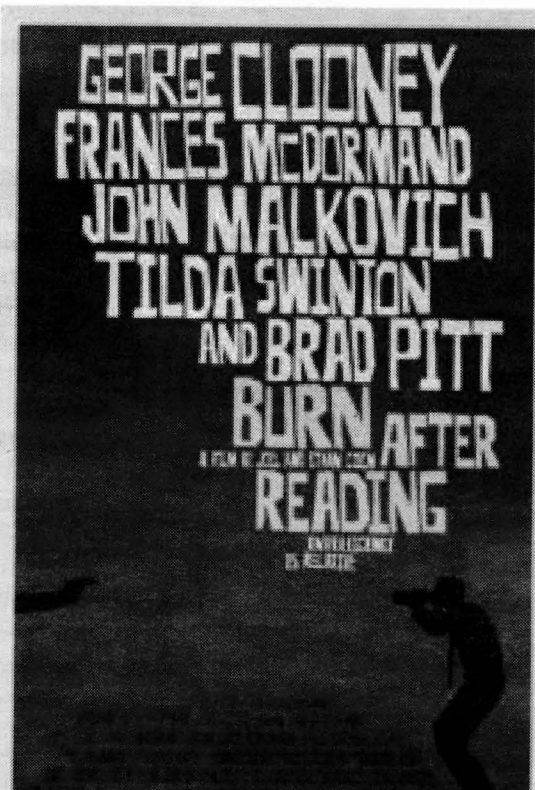
mation — finds its way to Chad, a peppy and enthusiastic, but ultimately moronic gym employee, surprisingly played by none other than Brad Pitt, (The "Ocean's" trilogy, "Babel," "Mr. and Mrs. Smith") and Linda, his somewhat more-capable co-worker and friend, played by Frances McDormand ("Mrs. Pettigrew Lives for a Day," "Aeon Flux," "North Country"). The limbô of events that follow afterward unfold a grim web of lies, idiocy and the importance of liposuction. The whole movie would seem like a mess if put into words, but the Coen brothers' push it a l o n g n i c e l y . T h i n k "Pulp Fiction" except the stories are in order.

Although a plot such as this could be made into a number of less-than-stellar rehashes of the same kind of movie, the Coen's

take combines lightheartedness and utter seriousness in such a way that sometimes you're not sure if you should be laughing or not. This is likely one of the more somber, yet interestingly humorous movies I've ever seen. The direction is grounded and precise and the soundtrack makes even the simplest moments tense. It's like a dumb comedy inserted into a smart thriller; like "I-Spy" meets "Spy Game."

A lot of the movie's interesting atmosphere is owed to the characters that inhabit it. The Oscar-win

con't MOVIE, pg. 7



New Clothing Store: Garage

Natalie Serrano
Magazine Editor

Woodbridge Center Mall in Edison recently opened a new clothing store entitled Garage, which is located in the Sears wing, adjacent to the Applebee's Bar and Restaurant. Its appearance and merchandise echoes the styles of stores such as Hollister and American Eagle.

As customers walk into Garage they are greeted with a corner display of a mannequin outfitted in comfortable sweats and a brightly colored hooded shirt with different colored layered tanks underneath. Garage also has something that makes its opening display unique to others stores at Woodbridge Center Mall, a stained glass window.

The window displays that surround the store show the fashionable yet laid back style their clothes represent. The window displays are upbeat and jammed packed with mannequins sporting a variety of outfits along with shoulder bags, winter boots, and colorful signs and lighting that is similar to that of the Victoria's Secret Pink Collection window display. Inside the store fixed lighting and dark wood walls and tables show off hooded Henley's; graphic tees, most of which are branded with the Garage logo; a wide assortment of sweatpants; layering tank tops in bright colors; off the shoulder sweaters; striped button-up shirts; thick hooded sweatshirts and winter-style jackets.

The middle of the store is reserved for their accessories and lounge wear collection. Bracelets with phrases like "Live, Laugh, Love" are hung up next to leg warmers, scarves and tube socks meant to be worn with their Ugg-styled winter boots. They also sell a fun and vibrant collection of underwear. Towards the back of the store are large posters of smiling, fresh-faced models sporting Garage gear. Another unique feature Garage has is a waiting room meant for customers waiting to try on clothes or others waiting for their friends to come out of fitting rooms. It gives off a cool vibe with unique cushioned seating, a plasma television and dark ethnic fabrics gracing the walls and ceilings.

The price range of Garage's merchandise is anywhere from \$12 to \$60 with their most expensive item being a pink, black and gray striped pea coat jacket. Their denim prices range from \$42 for a pair of dark denim skinny jeans to \$25 for light denim flared jeans. They also sell yoga pants and leggings. Their shirts are all priced under \$22 and their sweaters are all priced above \$28. Their accessories range from \$8 for bracelets to \$18 for scarves.

The associates of Garage are very helpful and pleasant. They offer personal testimony to customers along with a helping hand. They are very knowledgeable about their merchandise and sales.

Garage is an overall fashionable store with a cool

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GOSSIP, con't from pg. 6

ager or parent (although probably on a less glamorous scale). The topics covered within the show range from drugs, parental abandonment and bulimia to bad break-ups, low self-esteem and of course the number one plague of teenager's, gossip.

So far season two has been no exception. The wild antics and sexual appetites have never been higher when the show picks up three months from when season one ended. If viewers were worried at the end of last season that Serena

and Nate were going to end up together, worry no more. Nate's got his eye on someone a little more mature this season.

After Chuck ditches Blair his summer in the Hamptons isn't as hot as he thought it would be. Blair comes home from vacation with a nice little surprise that that leaves Chuck rethinking the way he abruptly ended their budding relationship. And Dan, well he's been lip-locking with every hot young female he can get his hands on. By the end of the first episode so much information has been thrown at the viewer

it's hard to not want to tune into next week's episode.

The much anticipated season two will air new episodes every Monday night at 8 p.m. and will contain 24 episodes.

Excitement over the new season of "Gossip Girl" has a lot of people talking. Seventeen magazine's website said it best, "Fans of the show already know things (and even people!) are not always what they seem on the Upper East Side (and in the Hamptons!). The scandal and OMFG moments of season one are heightened in season two and we can't wait to see more!"

Movie Listings

Beverly Hills Chihuahua

A spoiled Chihuahua named Chloe gets lost in Mexico. For the first time, she must rely on people she doesn't know to help her gain courage to find her way back home. This movie starring Piper Perabo, Jamie Lee Curtis, and Drew Barrymore is rated PG and opens Oct. 3.

This movie starring Michael Cera, Kat Dennings, and Alexis Dziena is rated PG-13 and opens Oct. 3.

Flash of Genius

When Bob Kearns invents a device that will change every car ever made, he teams up with a major car company that is in awe of his creation. When they inform Kearns that they are dropping his idea and instead release it as their own invention, he becomes a man obsessed with justice for him and his family. This movie starring Greg Kinnear, Lauren Graham, and Dermot Mulroney is rated PG-13 and opens Oct. 3.

Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist

Nick and Norah have nothing in common except their taste in music. Despite their differences, they spend the whole night in New York city trying to find a legendary band's mystery show and it winds up turning into their first romantic date together.

Television Guide

10-1-08	8:00 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	9:00 p.m.	9:30 p.m.
ABC	Pushing Daisies (new)	Pushing Daisies (new)	Private Practice (new)	Private Practice (new)
CBS	New Adventures of Old Christine (new)	Gary Unmarried (new)	Criminal Minds (new)	Criminal Minds (new)
FOX	Bones (new)	Bones (new)	Till Death (new)	Do Not Disturb (new)
NBC	Knight Rider (new)	Knight Rider (new)	America's Got Talent	America's Got Talent
PBS	Secrets of the Dead (new)	Secrets of the Dead (new)	Get Ready for Digital TV (new)	Atchafalaya Houseboat (new)
CW	America's Next Top Model (new)	America's Next Top Model (new)	90210 (repeat)	90210 (repeat)

10-2-08	8:00 p.m.	8:30 p.m.	9:00 p.m.	9:30 p.m.
ABC	Ugly Betty (new)	Ugly Betty (new)	Vice-Presidential Debate	Vice-Presidential Debate
CBS	Survivor: Gabon-Earth's Last Eden (new)	Survivor: Gabon-Earth's Last Eden (new)	Vice-Presidential Debate	Vice-Presidential Debate
FOX	Hole in the Wall (new)	Hole in the Wall (new)	Vice-Presidential Debate	Vice-Presidential Debate
NBC	My Name is Earl (new)	My Name is Earl (new)	Vice-Presidential Debate	Vice-Presidential Debate
PBS	This Old House Hour (new)	This Old House Hour (new)	Vice-Presidential Debate	Vice-Presidential Debate
CW	Smallville (new)	Smallville (new)	Supernatural (new)	Supernatural (new)

MOVIE, con't from pg. 6

ning, and Oscar-worthy (sorry Brad) cast of this movie portray their characters totally out of the context that the direction and soundtrack try to create...in a good way. Some of them also take on roles you would never want or expect

them to take. George Clooney ("Leatherheads," "Michael Clayton," "Syriana") is a womanizing and deceitful treasury agent and not the sly, collected or generally likable character everyone usually views him as. Brad Pitt plays the dumbest person in the movie. What!? Actually, everyone in the movie is

shed in an unintelligible light, but Pitt's character could easily rank as the most maladrofit.

"Burn After Reading" offers a unique perspective of the comedy movie. Even if you're not totally sold on the Coen brothers' style of story and direction, it is worth checking out.


FALL FASHION WORD SEARCH

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- BOOTS
- FITTED JACKET
- LEATHER TOTE BAGS
- PANTSUITS
- PEARLS
- SKINNY JEANS
- SWEATERS
- TURTLENECKS

HOROSCOPES


Capricorn

(Dec. 22-Jan. 20):  A friend will point out a positive aspect of your personality, causing you to re-evaluate how you see yourself.


Cancer

(June 22- July 23):  Your first instinct was solid. You will be so glad you listened to your gut!


Aquarius

(Jan. 21-Feb. 19):  You are so mad, but you have to be professional. Keep it in check, then vent to someone outside the situation.


Leo

(July 24-Aug. 23):  Listen carefully today. Resist the urge to tune out, because a subtle detail will be quite important.


Pisces

(Feb. 20-March 20):  You don't feel qualified, but you really are. With a little help, you'll do an amazing job.


Virgo

(Aug. 24-Sept. 23):  No more beating around the bush for you! You know what you want, and today you'll come out and say it.


Aries

(March 21-April 20):  No shortcuts today! If you do it right the first time, you'll have no worries.


Libra

(Sept. 24- Oct. 22):  You will realize that a situation is not working, and remove yourself from it. Good for you for being proactive.


Taurus

(April 21-May 21):  You knew something was up! A friend will confide in you today about something you suspected all along.


Scorpio

(Oct. 23-Nov. 22):  You are nervous to see an old friend, but it will be instantly just like old times.

Gemini

(May 22-June 21):  It is ok to enjoy yourself! You don't need to feel guilty that things are going well.

Sagittarius

(Nov. 23- Dec. 21):  Tensions have been escalating, but you will stop things from boiling over by being honest and upfront today.

College Assembly Task Force Organizational Meeting

Paul Lazaro
Editor-in-Chief

The College Assembly held its Task Force Organizational Meeting on Thursday, Sept. 18 in L'Hommedieu Hall. Not all the members of the CA were required to attend, only the members of the standing task forces.

CA chairperson Richard Ellison, also chairperson of the Accounting and Legal Studies department, opened the meeting with an overview of what the meeting would consist of.

Ellison also introduced

Middlesex County College's president, Dr. Joann La Perla-Morales, to the task forces. La Perla-Morales thanked the task forces for all their work during the previous academic year and spoke briefly about what lies ahead for the CA.

"This is the body that recommends policy for the institution [MCC]... this is where it happens," said La Perla-Morales. She also encouraged "idea exchange" among the task forces to help them with their charges.

Dr. Karen Hays, vice president for Student and Academic Affairs, also thanked ev-

eryone present for their hard work in getting recommendations passed. Hays said that the work that the CA did in the previous academic year was a record-breaking, especially in regards to the new curriculum that was begun. Hays stressed that the task forces utilize all the resources on campus in accomplishing their goals.

Ellison then addressed the group again, reminding the task forces of the CA's role on campus. Ellison said that the CA is responsible for making recommendations to the president of the college, leaving the implementation of those recommen-

dations to the president and her administrative staff.

Ellison also stressed the importance of attendance at all CA and task force meetings. In-depth research and the conducting of studies was also brought up, as well as the use of discussion and debate to achieve more solid consensus.

The last thing that Ellison asked the task forces to do in their meetings was to elect a chairperson.

Before the group separated into the individual task force meetings, Dr. Christine Harrington, chairperson of the

Assessment Initiative Group, spoke about the group's progress and upcoming workshops that will be held.

The task forces dispersed to their assigned meeting locations, situated throughout L'Hommedieu Hall. Ellison and Lisa Sgro, the department assistant for the CA, followed up with each task force during their respective meetings.

The first CA meeting of the academic year will be on Oct. 2 at 2 p.m. All CA meetings are held in the Rose M. Channing Danzis Amphitheater in L'Hommedieu Hall and are open to all.

The Man Behind Mathematical Success

Dereck Rivera
A & F Editor

Mathematics professor Don Groninger creates his own diverse style of teaching that many find engaging, yet intuitive. His capability to bring together an approachable environment puts students at ease, believing that every student has the potential to meet their academic success. Groninger said he believes that every student has the ability to become better at math.

"Many years ago NCTM began to advocate the fact that every student can learn algebra," he said.

"I advocate a somewhat stronger opinion- every student can learn mathematics, including calculus and beyond," said Groninger.

With the help of his students, he can create an interactive social environment of mathematical solutions, ruling out the lecture approach style of teaching. "The classroom should be a place for students to practice their mathematics not a place for me to practice," said Groninger.

He insists students collaborate ideas and present them to help one another.

"I actually coerce my students to talk about mathematics they are practicing and concurrently practice the written mathematics in front of and with the help of their peers," said Groninger.

Like many instructors, Groninger also faces challenging moments. Many students are embedded with the notion of mathematics in its usual form.

"When students come to my classroom trained in thinking all of mathematics is created from a recipe and that the recipe creates an exact solution, it is sometimes very difficult to break that mode of thinking," said Groninger.

It can be difficult breaking the habit of the fundamental mathematic procedures. He explains: "The practice of college mathematics is so much more than executing an algorithm; it's the gaining of an understanding of some very rudimentary ideas. Setting the stage to explain an idea so that everyone understands can be a serious challenge."

Groninger also teaches at the Graduate School of Education at Kean University, and the Institute of Math and Science at Fairleigh Dickenson University. He is also the coordinator for the NJ STARS Program at Middlesex County College.

Aside from his educational jobs, Groninger operates a farm in Pennsylvania, near Penn State University. "I own a 200 acre farm that is home to Holstein dairy cows and each year provides a bountiful harvest of corn, alfalfa, and soybeans," he said.

Somewhere along the way, Groninger considers himself a life-long student at heart. "Someone who continually fails at learning a second language, wants to study economics in a serious way," said Groninger.

Groninger calls his experience worthy and enjoyable here at MCC. "I like to thank the students of MCC, past and present, for making my time here at the college a most pleasant and rewarding experience. He describes his teaching at MCC fun. "I'm not going to work, MCC is not work for me but is a nice place to hang out."

Professor Profile: Dr. Victor Vega

Hector Bonilla
Staff Writer

In the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) office in South Hall One at the far end of the Middlesex County College Edison Campus sits a room adorned with pictures of African-American scholars and Egyptian Kings, books dealing mostly with the histories of the Caribbean and Africa, and a large Puerto Rican flag on the wall to the left of the doorway. This is the office of Tenured Counseling Associate Professor and adjunct Professor of African-American Studies and Student Development Dr. Victor Vega, Ph.D. An avid historian, educator, public speaker, Civil Rights activist, and fluent speaker of three languages (English, Spanish, and Medu Netjer), Dr. Vega has more than 30 years of experience in education. He first received his bachelor's degree in science from Syracuse University, where he was a member of both the Puerto Rican Association and the Black Student Union. In 1974, he joined the Aspira of New York, a Puerto Rican educational agency, as an educator and community organizer. He continued his own education, receiving a Masters in Human Development from Farleigh Dickinson, and a Ph.D. and a Masters in African-American Studies from Temple University. Today, Dr. Vega is a Counselor

with the EOF program at the Middlesex County College Edison Campus.

Recently, the EOF program has started a drive to persuade MCC students to register to vote, offering voter registration forms in their office. Dr. Vega takes this new duty very seriously, as evidenced in a statement he posted on the EOF Middlesex County College's chapter webpage: "The Word 'activism' involves decision making and taking action to accomplish a social, cultural or political goal. Becoming an activist means taking on several roles that include being an advocate, protestor, campaigner, radical, militant, promoter, revolutionary, or confrontational. Individuals who take on these roles have decided to make a contribution to society. Their decision to contribute means that they will engage others in important and challenging goals that will strengthen knowledge and improve the human condition."

"The Education Opportunity Fund program of Middlesex County College is a program that is underscored by the activist spirit. Since the late 1960's the program's acronym, EOF, has implied access, retention and scholastic achievement."

Dr. Vega also does presentations and lectures on African and Latino subjects for different organizations and occasionally works as a consultant.

Dance-a-Thon

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Ask Dr. D.R.

Damian Fond, Perth Amboy

Q: Why do people have Christmas in July? Why can't they just wait for Christmas on Dec. 25?

A: In our mind we believe it is Christmas, but in reality were hoping we put our last drawer in the fridge.

Richard Bass, Woodbridge

Q: I believe everyone has the right to be naked. Nothing is more beautiful than showing your body. It says a lot about you. "We were born naked, so we should die naked!"

A: No, you don't have to wear anything. But please, do so when in public. I wonder how anyone like you could cook on a BBQ?

Ulrick Bernardino, Fords

Q: Hey bro, my skin feels like a corn on cob in the sun! It is so dry and ruff, I used every kind of cream and stuff. I heard dipping yourself in mud helps sooth rough skin. Does this work?

A: Well, if you want to get dirty every time, be my guest.

Sandy Mellow, Cranbury

Q: I hate when people double dip, especially when everyone is sharing the same sauce. How do you feel about this?

A: I double dip; if they don't like it, too bad. The sauce is too good to dip once!

Caitlin Farnsworth, Parlin

Q: I've tried the pills, treadmill, shakes, yoga; you name it! I don't know what to do to rid this fat off my body. Help!

A: Trying is only part of the solution; actually doing it will solve it.

Imari Belliard, South Plainfield

Q: I'm a lucky guy. I win bingo games, lottery, and contests without effort. I take a number put it in place, and Bam! I just won \$1,000. Will my luck ever run out?

A: Congratulations! "In the end, you'll lose it all and become a nobody."

Debbie Krock, Dayton

Q: This weather is awful! The rain won't stop. The clouds wont let out sun. I don't know what to do anymore. I have splitting headaches and dragging days. And it's getting cold! Help?

A: Well it looks like your SAD. What I mean is you have Seasonal Affective Disorder. The "winter blues." You can try and beat the stress by heading south.

Veronica Banesly, Edison

Q: I believe in eternal love as well as finding your true soul mate and living in a solitary love life. I happen to have everlasting love with my beautiful boyfriend. Is love always like this?

A: No, yours just happens to be an oddity of many living in a dreadful relationship.



Perla Goods, Morgan

Q: Why do grannies bake so well? The cookies, cakes, muffins, pies. What is their secret?

A: It's all in the hands of great experience. Wait till you get older you be on the same train.

Zackary Leonard, Plainsboro

Q: Doc, what do you do if you're confronted with two individuals on opposite ends of a restroom urinal? I really have to go sometimes but they might look.

A: Have you ever heard of Restroom Etiquette? Always use the middle urinal; therefore your chances are slim of being seen.

Isaac Dudley, Sayreville

Q: Every time I bend down, I have to be careful not to let one out. Do you know what I mean, doc?

A: Yes, some people can't resist the temptation of busting one for old man Jenkins.

Abigale Pine, Old Bridge

Q: I know a couple of friends who are born on Christmas. I know this one guy who gets tons of gifts and love from his girlfriend; it is like he gets twice the happiness. Aren't people like this so lucky?

A: Nah, I rather been born on Valentine's Day. That's when you really get happy and get "a lot of love" if you know what I mean.

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2. Letters, articles, and photographs that are submitted become the property of *Quo Vadis*.
3. All letters and articles must be sent to quovadis_newspaper@hotmail.com. Submissions must include a complete name, signature, and telephone number.
4. We encourage articles from students not associated with *Quo Vadis*.
5. The Editorial Board reserves the right to reject or edit any material on basis of length, taste, suitability or clarity.

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The Editorial Board of *Quo Vadis* will publish any "Letter to the Editor" that includes; author's names, address, contact phone number. All letters must be submitted in a Microsoft Word attachment to quovadis_newspaper.com.

Submissions are subject to editing for spelling, punctuation, spacing and Associated Press (AP) style.

Drop letters off in the *Quo Vadis* Mailbox located in the Student Activities office or submit letters via e-mail to quovadis_newspaper@hotmail.com.

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Two Sport MCC Athlete Going For the Stars this Semester

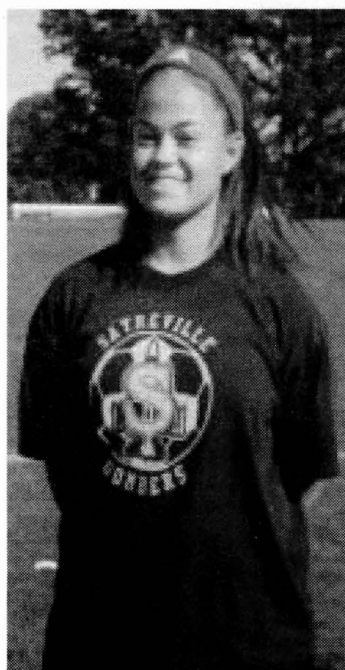


Photo by Kristian Santiago

MCC sophomore Suannette Rios, a two-sport athlete, poses for a quick shot after practice on Sept. 19

Kristian Santiago
Staff Writer

Nineteen year-old business major, soccer right midfielder and basketball shooting guard Suannette Rios is entering her sophomore year at Middlesex County College as one of its many outstanding athletes. With basketball and soccer practices, games and a heavy course load, one would wonder how Rios handles it all. Rios comments on her surefire way to tackle schoolwork and sports stresses.

"I take every assignment one at a time. I work at every little skill before I move onto the bigger task at hand because everything takes time in order to be the best it can be," said Rios. As if soccer weren't time consuming enough, Rios' main sport, basketball, calls for much

of her time as well.

"Playing two sports is very stressful. It taught me how to manage my time more wisely and makes me a better athlete overall," said Rios. Besides improving her athletic prowess, Rios thanks her two sports for teaching her sociability and leadership skills.

"Handling stressful situations in sports is a great task because it can show how greatly determined someone is and if they're willing to quit on their team," said Rios. Along with a supporting team, Rios has her coaches to thank for her academic and athletic success.

Rios' strongest support system and fan club, however, is her own family. The Rios family has been attending every one of Suannette's games ever since she was a child. Before every game, Rios makes an involuntary glance over to the

stands and looks to her family, who are always present. During the game, her family's cheering voices stand out from the rest.

"Whenever I play well or I do something really well my father gives me a thumbs up during the game or a hand slap at the end of the game. Everyone knows him for saying 'just do it'. Just knowing they are there helps me play a better game because to me, they are the hardest coaches I have ever faced," said Rios. "After every game my father tells me the positives and negatives [of how I played] and from there, I work on whatever I need to work on."

Rios continues, "My mother (Epifania Rios) tells me that I need to be more aggressive and how my team worked with each other. My brother (Joshua Rios) is another great supporter. We have always been competing with each other ever since we could walk and he tells me the truth about how I play every time. Basically, I want to make sure I make my parents proud at every game and prove to them that all the years that I have been playing sports was well worth it."

Rios' father, Mariano,

shows his support by being a tough coach. He does not expect perfection, but expects great effort and heart. Rios tells his daughter what is on his mind.

"Just show them what you are made of. You make me proud either way because I know how you can play. Don't worry about your coaches or anyone else, just play your game," said Rios to his daughter.

Overall, playing sports is not just a mere outdoor activity to Rios or anyone in her family. Sports have taught Rios many important lessons that she uses not only on the field, but also in life.

"There is always someone out there that's going to be better than you, who always will be faster, smarter, more agile. It's up to you to prove to them what you can do. Show no intimidation; just determination. Work more and more and never take a day off because there's always someone out there working more than you. Overall, never quit no matter who you face because its heart that wins games, not just the name on the jersey."

Soccer Team on Winning Streak

Kristian Santiago
Staff Writer

The Middlesex County College women's soccer team is now 3-2 after a 5-0 shutout against Delaware Tech & CC - Terry on Sept. 20. Freshmen Ashley Kuzio and Lynn Bloodgood scored two goals each and Suannette Rios added one more. Kuzio now leads the team in goals with six for the season so far.

Leading 1-0 at halftime after Kuzio's first goal, the Colts picked up their pace during the second half. Head coach Ted Fiorentino had all positive things to say about his team and the game.

"It's a good win. This put us back over .500. The first

half was a little slow but they picked it up in the second half," said Fiorentino. "They stepped it up and did good. It was a very important win."

Midfielder and co-captain Jamie DeCeglia also felt that the team played better in the second half.

"I feel that the second half of the game is really where we showed our talent. It was a totally different game compared to the first half," said DeCeglia. "We picked ourselves up in the second half. I was really proud of the team."

Right midfielder Suannette Rios headed the ball into the goal, scoring the team's second goal of the game, right after half time. Rios shares Fiorentino's opinion on how

important this win was for the team.

"[The Sept. 20] game was one we needed to win. It was one of the better games we played and our team worked well with each other," said Rios.

The team played very well together and somewhat aggressively with DeCeglia receiving one foul for pushing. The Colts attempted 19 compared to Delaware Tech's 12.

Kuzio and Bloodgood finished the 5-0 shutout alternating goals towards the end of the game.

The Colts now prepare for their game against Mercer County Community College on Thursday, Sept. 25 at Thomas A. Edison Park.



Photo by Tom Peterson

MCC vs. Del Tech - Terry on Sept. 20

MCC Women's Soccer Team Shows Potential

Nick Kruger
Staff Writer

The Middlesex County College women's soccer team got their 2008 campaign underway at the beginning of September with the start of the new semester.

They are very encouraged by the potential they have shown and are hoping to enjoy a terrific season.

One of the reasons they are so high on their chances this season is the fact that they have a great set of first year players to go along with their proven and experienced second year players.

One of those first year players, Kellie Groves, a 17 year-old freshman from South River, is starting right fullback. Groves is yet to declare a major, but intends to study in the field of marine biology.

Her decision to attend MCC was based in part on whether or not she could still play. "I really wanted to continue playing. It was a factor," said Groves.

Groves' biggest soccer influence growing up was her father who starred on the soccer field himself. "My dad used to play soccer, and I began playing so that he and I would have a stronger bond," said Groves.

Groves has been playing

soccer for five years. She was a two time varsity letter winner at South River High School, as well as a member of a soccer team in Sayreville for two seasons during the spring.

Groves takes great pride in playing soccer for MCC. Being a starter as a freshman on a collegiate soccer team is the highlight of her career at this point, according to Groves. She hopes that in her first collegiate season, she will manage to score a goal.

She has never found the back of the net while playing on the defensive side of the ball, but hopes that will change at some point during the season.

The biggest hurdle that Groves has encountered as a member of the soccer team has been the task of getting to know a whole new set of teammates.

"In high school, you played with pretty much the same people for four years. Here, it's all new people that you need to get used to," said Groves.

The team's greatest strength is their will to win, according to Groves, citing that everyone wants to enjoy personal success, but would rather taste victory. "Everyone just wants to win," said Groves.

With Groves helping to anchor the Blue Colts defense, the MCC women's soccer team is ready to enjoy a strong season.

Cheers and Dances For Reopening of MCC Squads

Kristian Santiago
Staff Writer

After a one-year absence, the Blue Colts welcome back the Dance Team and the Blue Colt Cheerleaders.

With Heather Dougherty as the new instructor for both teams, as well as the Dance Ensemble, the dancers and cheerleaders have high hopes and excitement about the competition this year.

The Dance Team is a competitive activity that starts its year off with a new outlook and new expectations. Many students signed up for the team at the Student Activities Fair on Sept. 8.

Although anyone can sign up, experience and training were needed to pass the Sept. 11 audition to make the team. The

Dance Team mixes lyrical, jazz and hip hop styles to create a new technique of dancing, which has served as entertainment at every MCC basketball game. This year, however, the Dance Team raises the bar and enters its first year in local and national competitions.

"We tried to enter competitions last year but a lot of things went wrong - we didn't have enough people, some weren't experienced," said Kelly Farley, a third year Early Education major and a returning dance team member. "You need experience to be in the dance team. It's a competitive team. This year we're going to compete. We're looking to enter competitions like Starbound and Dancers Inc."

Although the Dance

Team is a lot of hard work and can sometimes be very stressful — especially with this being the first year of competition — the dancers appreciate having the activity available to them.

"Being on the team, you meet so many new people," said Alicia Pagan, a third year Liberal Arts Dance major. "You meet people who are doing something they love while you're doing something you love. It's great."

"We all get really close, like a second family," added Farley.

Dougherty shared the same feelings for the team, as she had for the ensemble.

"I really don't know what to expect because this is my first time here. But a lot of students are returning, a lot of

students signed up, it's looking good. I'm excited," said Dougherty.

Dougherty also has high hopes for reintroducing the new and fresh cheerleading squad this semester. Last year, the squad consisted of second and third year students. With no freshmen on the squad, the cheerleaders graduated, and had no one to leave the squad to. A mass group of freshman girls signed up for Colts cheerleading at this past Student Activities Fair on September 8th. With a fresh start and Dougherty as the new instructor, things are looking up for the new cheerleading squad. The girls could hardly contain their excitement to be able to keep cheering in college.

"A lot of us cheered in high school and want to keep

cheering for a while. It's really great that the squad came up again," said Katie Yon, a freshman Criminal Justice major.

Dale Colastano, a freshman Early Education major, shares the same enthusiasm as Yon, but has a bigger outlook for Colts cheering this semester.

"My expectations are to bring school spirit to this school because no one ever goes to the games. I want people to get involved and support their teams because [the teams] are really good. I want people to be proud to be part of it and proud to be a student here," said Colastano.

The Dance Team and the cheerleading squad will be performing at every basketball game this semester.

MCC Baseball Team has Intramural Scrimmage

Nick Kruger
Staff Writer

On Sept. 11, the Middlesex County College baseball team was staring at a familiar foe when they peered into the opposite dugout.

They were preparing to wage battle with their own teammates. Head coach Michael Lepore decided to play a seven inning affair between two squads composed of his own players. The reasoning behind the inter-squad match was that two weeks into fall, they were unable to get any games in, primarily due to the recent in climate weather conditions.

The two teams were managed by assistant coaches Robert Cleffi and Doug Rader, while Lepore played the role of umpire. The two squads were determined by splitting up the second year players and pitchers as evenly as possible. "They must have had a draft to select their players, because it was really even," said second year outfielder Jason Mickley.

"They did a good job dividing up the teams. It was a really even game," said returning star infielder Nicholas Arena.

Everyone got at least two innings of playing time, due to the fact that there about three people at each position. Pitchers were able to either go one frame, get three outs, or were

allowed to throw up to 25 pitches according to Mickley.

This was game was run differently as far as strategy goes. The players were able to play freely for the most part, without having to look to their respective coach for direction. "I was on coach Rader's team. You could basically just swing away, but the occasional steal sign was put on for our speedy guys," said Mickley.

In the end, coach Cleffi's team was able to survive numerous scoring opportunities at the plate from coach Rader's squad, and came away with a one run victory. Playing this scrimmage did a lot of good for the MCC baseball team. Not only did it help the players shake the rust of not playing in a live game since the summer, but it boosted the team's chemistry as well. "Since there are a lot of new people this year, not everyone knows each other. This helped bring the team together," said Mickley.

The inter-squad game was a lot of fun for the players, and provided them with a good change of pace. "It was competitive, but in a good way. There was a lot of trash talking and high fiving," said Mickley. "Just being able to fool around with everyone was a lot of fun."

The Colts baseball team hopes to be able to start scrimmaging against their previously scheduled opponents soon.

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