

QUOVOVADIS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2024

WEEKLY STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF MIDDLESEX COLLEGE

VOLUME 61 - ISSUE 6

Journal Takes Submissions

English Department to Accept 'A Literary Journal' Contributions through May

By Trinity Dunn, Managing Editor

The English department is accepting submissions for the Middlesex 'A Literary Journal' through the Canvas app or via email up to the end of May, so the community can express their creativity by submitting their work for the journal.

Mathew Spano, Chair of the English department, said they are accepting poetry, short fiction, creative essays, creative nonfiction essays, photography and videos of musical performances as well.

"Anybody can submit to the journal," he said.

Spano said, "Obviously, we want to feature student work. But, faculty, staff, anybody in the college community or in the surrounding Middlesex County community can submit to the journal."

Spano said they have a canvas shell for the literary journal and interested individuals can contact him via email at mspano@middlesexcc.edu.

He said, "Then I will send them an invitation to get them into the canvas shell for the journal and once they're in there, they can look at previous issues, there's submission

guidelines, there's lots of useful stuff there."

He said, "There's a place for them to upload their submission there, or they can email directly to me."

Spano said, "This is a chance for everybody to be creative and share their creativity with the rest of our community."

He said that having a publication to add to your resume is a bonus for students, especially when they are filling out college or job applications.

"One thing I really like about the journal is it's one of those places where we can pull the community together. So, we try to get retirees to submit work, people from the board, people who live in the community, parents who are sending their students to Middlesex. It's a place where people who might not ordinarily run into each other or share work with each other can do that," said Spano.

Spano said, "I think that's probably one of the best things about the journal."

Lia Katarski, a first year student, said, "I think it's a great opportunity because it provides me with an outlet to express myself. Sometimes, the work we do in school is only lim-

ited to what is required for the class, so I do not always get the opportunity to display my creativity."

Katarski said, "Having this as an option is able to help me expand my ideas as well as showcase my work."

Amanda Connelly, Instructor in the English department, said, "The literary journal benefits faculty because it allows us to flex a muscle of creativity that we so rarely get to share with our own students."

Connelly said, "While students view us as instructors who may not ever leave the confines of Middlesex's campus, we have so many interests that may be separate from our teaching but also, at times, helped bring us to teaching in the first place."

She said, "Through sharing our art, written or otherwise, we are able

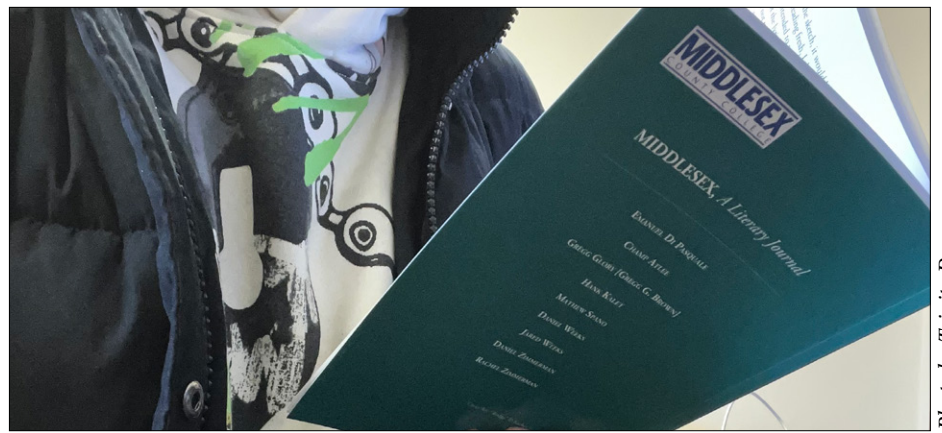


Photo by Trinity Dunn

A person peers through a 2018 copy of the Middlesex 'A Literary Journal'

to connect with our students and colleagues on a more human level as we believe that art is central to the human condition. I know that may sound cheesy, but for Professor Dademo and I, we value seeing students as whole beings, and our participation in the literary journal allows students to see us in the same way."

Spano said the literary journal has been running for over 10 years.

Spano said, "I've been editing it the last few years, and I really want to hand it off to some of our pro-

fessors who teach creative writing and teach in those areas so they can work with students more directly. They have more connections with students than I do. That'll probably be happening, if not this issue, then the next issue."

Connelly said, "With the help of Professor Daniel Markowicz, another co-advisor, Professor Ray Dademo and I are hoping to expand the meaning of our literary journal to better encapsulate all of the arts and encourage more of the Middlesex community to get involved."

EOF Holds Career Expo Sponsored by S.T.E.P. Ahead



Photo Courtesy of Middlesex College

Audience listening to panelists (left to right) Ode Hoppie, Jumba Mutasa Mugwanya, David Laboriel, Dr. Tatiana Y Warren, Usman Sharif, Tariq Eatman, Caleb Williams, Salim Williams at a Career Panel held Fall 2023

By Trinity Dunn, Managing Editor

The Educational Opportunity Fund Program (EOF) will be hosting a Career Expo open to the public sponsored by Striving Towards Educational Persistency (S.T.E.P.) Ahead in the College Center on March 8 starting at 9 a.m., so individuals can listen and converse with guest speakers and attend workshops targeting certain career fields.

Salim Williams, S.T.E.P. Ahead member and EOF advisor, said, "We're going to do our check-in at 8:30 in the morning until 9:30, and then we're going to our opening, you know, talk about the different guests that are going to be speaking. Then we're going to have our breakout sessions, where the students can go into rooms with the different presenters

and speakers, and they can learn about the different careers."

He said after that students will come back and have lunch, then get another chance to network.

Williams said they host these career panels because many students get their degree but don't know what the next step is and don't have any connections.

"It's about providing students with knowledge and guidance so when they do leave out of the college they are more ahead than ever," he said.

Williams said four of his students were able to get scholarships for internships in engineering because they were able to make a connection with someone last year.

He said they try to provide students the knowledge and ability to make connections so they can have an easier time job searching after they graduate or have direct access to one.

He said they brought in many different people from certain career fields in the last career panel.

Daniel Langford, another S.T.E.P. Ahead member and EOF Director, said they have people who are police officers, and lawyers, in real estate and the medical field.

He said the career expo is going to give the opportunity not only to EOF students at Middlesex but EOF students from other schools, to learn what these careers are about.

He said anyone listening to people's journey from this panel can benefit from and make use of this experience in the future.

Richard Exantus, a Middlesex student, said, "Networking with others, especially when they're at different stages in their life, kind of show you how layered a decision can be."

Exantus said he feels as though the people around you can be a tool to help you get through life.

Langford said, "I also think it's important that people of color are able to see examples of individuals who are working in the field."

He said if people can see examples of people like them, they'll feel empowered.

Langford said the S.T.E.P. Ahead initiative is primarily known for working with young men, specifically young men of color, and women

too, to help and get them onto the next step in their careers.

Williams said his joy is to help students find their 'why' and what they want to be later in life.

He said the EOF program hosts many events like this to teach students how to be adults and not just workers.

Langford said, "I want to make sure that we are growing our program to levels that this college has not seen before, and my intention is to be the premier two-year EOF program around the state."

He said he wants their EOF students to be able to feel inspired and ready, through the EOF program, to go after whatever they want to do in life once they leave Middlesex.

S.T.E.P. Ahead Program Members

- Bismark Escolastico
- Christopher Mooney
- Daniel Langford
- Gurdeep Sawhney
- Jamar Johnson
- Ode Hoppie
- Salim Williams
- Will Harris

QUO VADIS STAFF

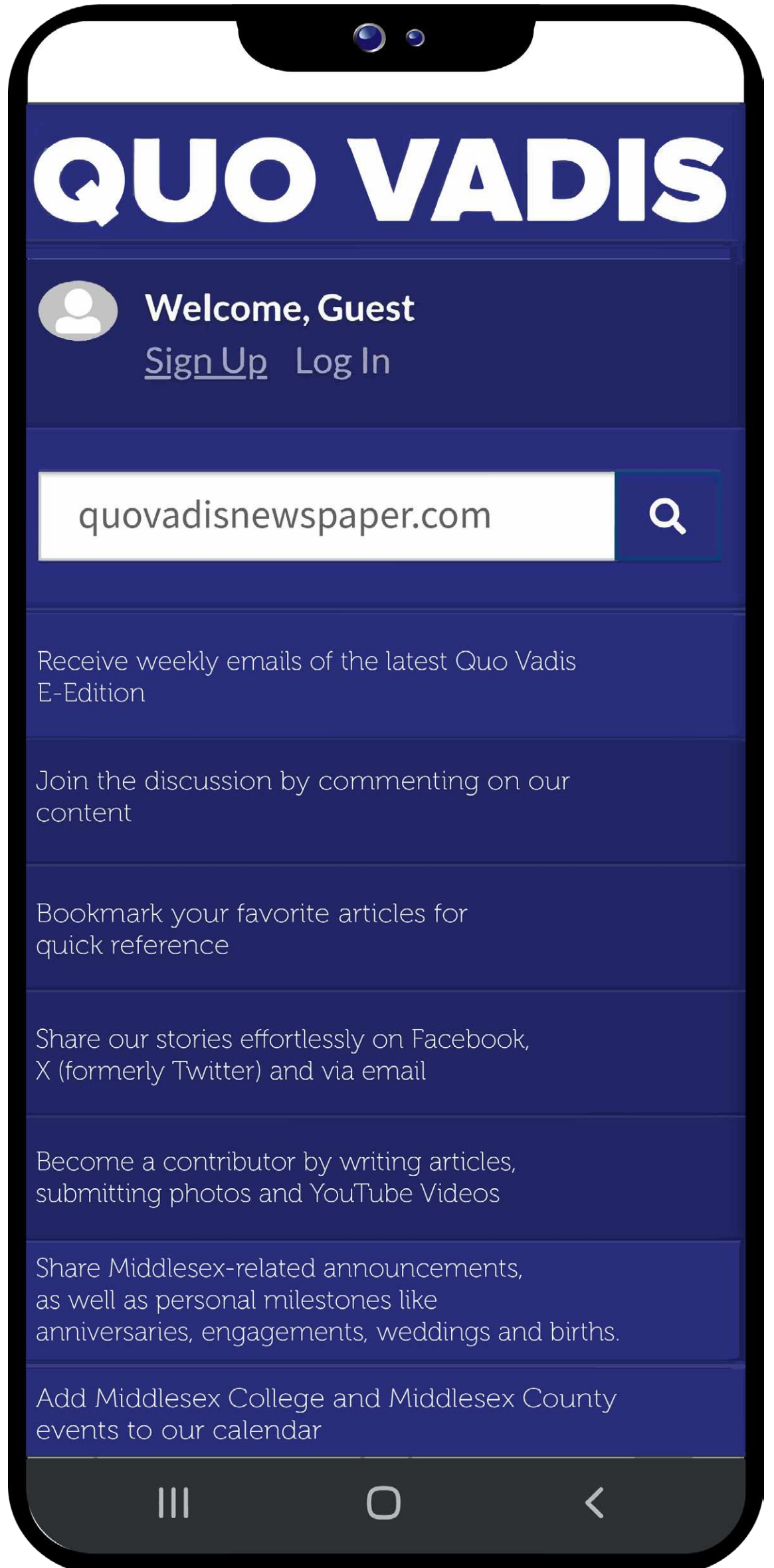
Managing Editors:..... Sean Huey Melido, Trinity Dunn
 Core Staff:..... Kenneth Ortega
 Front Page Editor:..... Erin Hellhake
 Campus Page Editor:..... Trinity Dunn
 Opinion Page Editor:..... Marro Hawkins II, Caprice Benifield Sanchez
 Reviews Page Editor:..... Sean Huey Melido
 Fun Page Editor:..... Trinity Dunn
 Sports Page Editor:..... Marquis Pullins Jr., Caprice Benifield Sanchez
 Head Layout Editor:..... Caprice Benifield Sanchez
 Staff Writers:..... Ellen Kwon, Trinity Dunn, David Porter, Hina Naqvi,
 Erin Hellhake, Sean Huey Melido, Marro Hawkins II, Marquis Pullins Jr.
 Copy Editors:..... Erin Hellhake, Sean Huey Melido,
 Marro Hawkins II, Marquis Pullins Jr.
 Photographers:..... Trinity Dunn, Ellen Kwon,
 Sean Huey Melido, Erin Hellhake, Eva Reyes
 Faculty Adviser:..... Dr. Melissa Edwards

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 contact Faculty Adviser, Melissa Edwards, at medwards@middlesexcc.edu.

Create an Account on Our Website

By Quo Vadis



Middlesex College Info Board

Campus Hours

West Hall: Mon, Wed, Fri 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Tue 8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
 Library: Mon-Thu 8 a.m. - 7 p.m., Fri 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Computer Center: 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
 Testing Center: 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
 Cafeteria: 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
 Counseling Services: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Edison:
732-548-6000
 New Brunswick:
732-745-8866
 Perth Amboy:
732-906-7755

Edison Campus Map



Lost?

On-Campus Food:

- Starbucks Café
- Main Hall
- Mon - Fri 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Colt Café
- College Center
- Mon - Fri 7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.



Edison Campus Food Menu and Prices

Off-Campus Food:

- Panera
- 2700 Woodbridge Ave, Edison
- Mon - Fri 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- Wawa
- 2720 Woodbridge Ave, Edison
- Open 24 hours



Panera Menu



Wawa Menu

Bookstore
 Mon - Thu 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Fri 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
 Sat - Sun. CLOSED

Lost and Found

All items are held for 90 days prior to being re-classified, auctioned or discarded.

Lost and Found items can be retrieved during normal business hours of Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., excluding weekends and holidays.

Missing property should be reported as soon as the discovery is made either by calling the College Police directly at Ext. 3500 from on campus, or 732-906-2500 from off campus. Or, complete and submit the form [here](#).

Food Pantry

Location: College Center (Rooms 170 and 171)

Entrance is on College Drive East at the rear of College Center, across from the Physical Education building, between parking lots 16 and 3. Parking: Visitor lot 3

When you visit: Please bring your Middlesex College Student ID card and a couple of reusable grocery shopping bags.

Enrolled students can register with the [Hub & Pantry](#) to access:

- Food Pantry (weekly grocery shop, daily grab & go snacks, meals prepared by our HCD students, new Lunch Club program)
- Chromebook Loaner program
- Resources and Referrals to additional support and services
- Student Emergency Grant application and information

Join the Quo Vadis Newspaper Team

Students interested in joining Quo Vadis Newspaper can use this link: <https://rb.gy/4reflq> to attend our weekly meeting every Friday at 2 p.m.

College Prepares for Banquet Lunch

By Ellen Kwon, Staff Writer

Culinary students will be hosting a banquet luncheon at the College Center's Terrace every Wednesday from March 27 to April 24 for guests to sample the fruits of their labor and the skills that they have accumulated throughout their time at Middlesex College.

According to the distributed flyers containing the banquet's menus, this \$8 banquet lunch consists of a three-course meal and follows a different theme of cuisine each week that it's held.

Last semester's banquet meals featured themes served from many different countries and fusion styles, including but not limited to Filipino, Sichuan, Greek, Swiss and Tex-Mex food, according to the banquet menu flyers.

Mary Caffrey, a guest of the banquet who enjoyed her experience so much that she's been frequenting it as much as she could for the past three years, said that the menu's theme changing every week allowed her to try foods she normally wouldn't be able to, and in turn exposed her to many different cultures and flavors.

She said, "One week, for (Switzerland) we had a fondue. It was a very fun and interesting experience...the lavender ice cream was one of my favorites. It was delicious."

Jungmin Kwon, a Middlesex County resident who sampled some of the Sichuan dishes said, "While eating, I didn't have a single thought that the food was made by students... and when I found out that it was, I was shocked because the quality of the food was so high."

Professor Cindy Braun, a full-time faculty member of the culinary courses and helper for the banquet preparations, said that for the banquet students to bring their culinary vision to light, they have to go through a difficult but necessary process of planning and executing a luncheon from start to finish.

Some of what banquet students have to do as part of bringing the luncheon to life is setting up the decor and transforming the Terrace into a banquet-worthy place, said Caffrey.

She said, "The decor is always exquisite."

Braun said that there is a scene

playing on the background television depicting a themed country.

"They have these elaborate centerpieces for the dining tables, and the experience is entertaining and fun," she said.

But the banquet couldn't happen if not for all of the careful work that happens behind the scenes, said Braun.

Brian McInerney, the Culinary Director of the Culinary Department for hospitality, culinary and dietetics and an instructor for the banquet class for over a decade, said students in the banquet class are tasked to budget, do paperwork, take on managerial roles, and leave with an experience and skill-set for real life.

McInerney said he tries to approach the class to make it as real as a commercial kitchen as possible for the banquet class students.

"That's a big part of the class — the planning behind the scenes. As I tell all my students, to be a good manager, to be a good owner of a restaurant, you can't be reactive. You have to be proactive. So planning is all part of... what goes into it," he said.

He said, "Planning the venues, the paperwork, the order sheets, the ingredient worksheets, we do a financial sheet...all of these are planning for the day... We literally have six, seven weeks of just planning before they open up the first luncheon... It's a lot of planning. That's the basis for the whole class."

Brad Inglesby, a culinary student who completed the banquet class in the Fall 2023 semester said, "(The banquet course) teaches people how to get a feel for the restaurant experience. It gives you a fast-paced environment with a deadline. It teaches



Evan Johnson (left) and Winsor Abbott (right) preparing food in the kitchen

you how to produce food in quantity... It gives you some managerial and service experience. And chef McInerney teaches that fantastical-ly."

"This class is given toward the end of students' time (at Middlesex College), and so that's how they have the skill and the experience to know how to run a restaurant with me helping

them, but also gives them more of a managerial feel for the class," he said.

"The class is built on how they are as managers but also on keeping their budget, getting their paperwork done on deadlines. It encompasses everything they've learned for a semester and a half here in this department and accumulates in this banquet class," said McInerney.

The banquet class is difficult but rewarding, and the students who are a part of it are incredibly close and supportive of each other, Braun said.

"I'm proud of this department and I'm proud of all of the students," said Braun.

Braun said, "I think the banquet course is like the crowning jewel of the culinary students' experience here. They'll remember it for the rest of their lives."

"As far as the execution and results of (the banquet, the finished product is) very well received from the public and the Middlesex community... I think the Middlesex community really, really enjoys (the banquet), we get so much positive feedback from them," she said.

Inglesby said, "I think every guest was super satisfied. I think all of the students in the class were super satisfied. And I think it was a great learning experience for everyone."

For \$8, the banquet luncheon is out of this world, and there is no other place that can offer such an amazing experience of food and atmosphere, Caffrey said.



Esmailyn Bonifacio placing dough on a tray

Calendar of Events

To be able to click the links, please download the PDF file. To do so, click menu icon on the top left, click on Downloads and then click Full edition. After the document opens click the download icon on the top right.

Feb.

29

Admissions Virtual Information Session
Online event
3 - 4 p.m.

Come discover how you can explore, grow and thrive at Middlesex College. The admissions team is ready to help you navigate the admissions and enrollment process. This session will cover how to apply and enroll at Middlesex College. Learn more and register by clicking [here](#).

Mar.

2

CAFD Adjunct Faculty Development Day
Parkview Room, West Hall
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Join the college and share ideas about teaching with adjunct faculty colleagues. Join for the keynote presentation followed by engaging workshops. Register for this event by clicking [here](#).

4

Fairleigh Dickinson University Instant Decision Day
College Center, room 310
10 a.m.

Meet with admissions representatives from Fairleigh Dickinson University to review your application and receive an instant admissions decision. Students must have at least 45 credits.

Sign up here: <https://calendly.com/mctransfer/fairleigh-dickinson-university-instant-decision-day>.

9

Spring Recess Begins
No Classes

Police Blotter

Police responded to a medical call about an individual feeling lightheaded in South Hall on Feb. 8 at 7:57 p.m. EMS arrived and evaluated the patient, but they refused further medical attention.

Police responded to an individual experiencing an allergic reaction in Raritan Hall on Feb. 12 at 10:43 a.m. When EMS arrived, they treated the patient, who faced hives along their collarbone, neck, left wrist, and elbow.

Police responded to a motor vehicle crash in College Drive East on Feb. 14 at 9:57 a.m. Vehicles #1 and #2 were traveling southbound on College Drive East when Vehicle #1 attempted to improperly pass the other. This resulted in Vehicle #1 striking Vehicle #2, leaving minor damage to the right rear quarter panel. Vehicle #1 sustained damage to the front left panel, driver-side mirror, and right front tire and rim. However, all parties refused further medical attention.



Kevin Romero, Police Officer 134

Toni Morrison Leaves Her Impact on History

By Hina Naqvi, Staff Writer

Sometimes I wonder, why do we say books are treasures? But are they a treasure or we as explorers are the experts who rightfully discover the inexhaustible knowledge from the treasure of books? While researching about Black extraordinary people, one of the writers I always wanted to write about is Toni Morrison. This past week, I had an opportunity to watch the documentary, "Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am."

It was extremely worth watching, and as a writer, I was able to connect with her, especially when she said that she used to write in the mornings. I also like the way she laughs while narrating her stories and it was very natural and casual. I was able to feel the depth of grief when she stated an incident of a young girl who said that no God exists.

This is the quote from the transcript. "Morrison: I remember an incident from my childhood when a very close friend of mine and I were walking down the street. We were discussing whether God existed. And she said he did not. And I said he did. But then she said she had proof. She said, 'I have been praying for two years for blue eyes, and he never gave me any.' So I just remember turning around and looking at her. She was very, very black, and she was very, very, very beautiful. How painful. Can you imagine that kind of pain? About that, about color? So, I wanted to say, you know, this kind of racism hurts. This is not lynchings and murders and drownings. This is interior pain. So deep, for an 11-year-old girl to believe that if she only had some characteristic of

the white world, she would be okay. She surrendered completely to the master narrative, I mean, the whole notion of what is ugliness, what is worthlessness. She got it from her family, she got it from school, she got it from the movies, she got it everywhere."

I could relate to this when I remember my daughter, who was in kindergarten, one day she came back from school; she told me why she liked her friend (African American), and it was because she had the same black hair as hers. I was clueless and thought about how early kids started to observe color identity.

"Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am," is an introspection on the Noble and Pulitzer Prize-winning author that delves into her life experiences and her extraordinary imagination which she translated into her writings.

It started with her childhood town of Lorain, Ohio, to her meeting with Muhammad Ali, from working with Angela Davis to her riverfront writing room.

This film focuses on Toni Morrison's critically acclaimed work, which includes her novels "Beloved," "The Bluest Eye," "Sula," and "Song of Solomon."

Moreover, she recollects the days when she became the first black woman senior editor at Random House in New York, in their fiction department.

As an editor, Morrison worked extensively on Black literature, and her first book was Contemporary African Literature (1972). In this effort, she included the works of Nigerian writers and made way for a new generation of Afro-American writers.

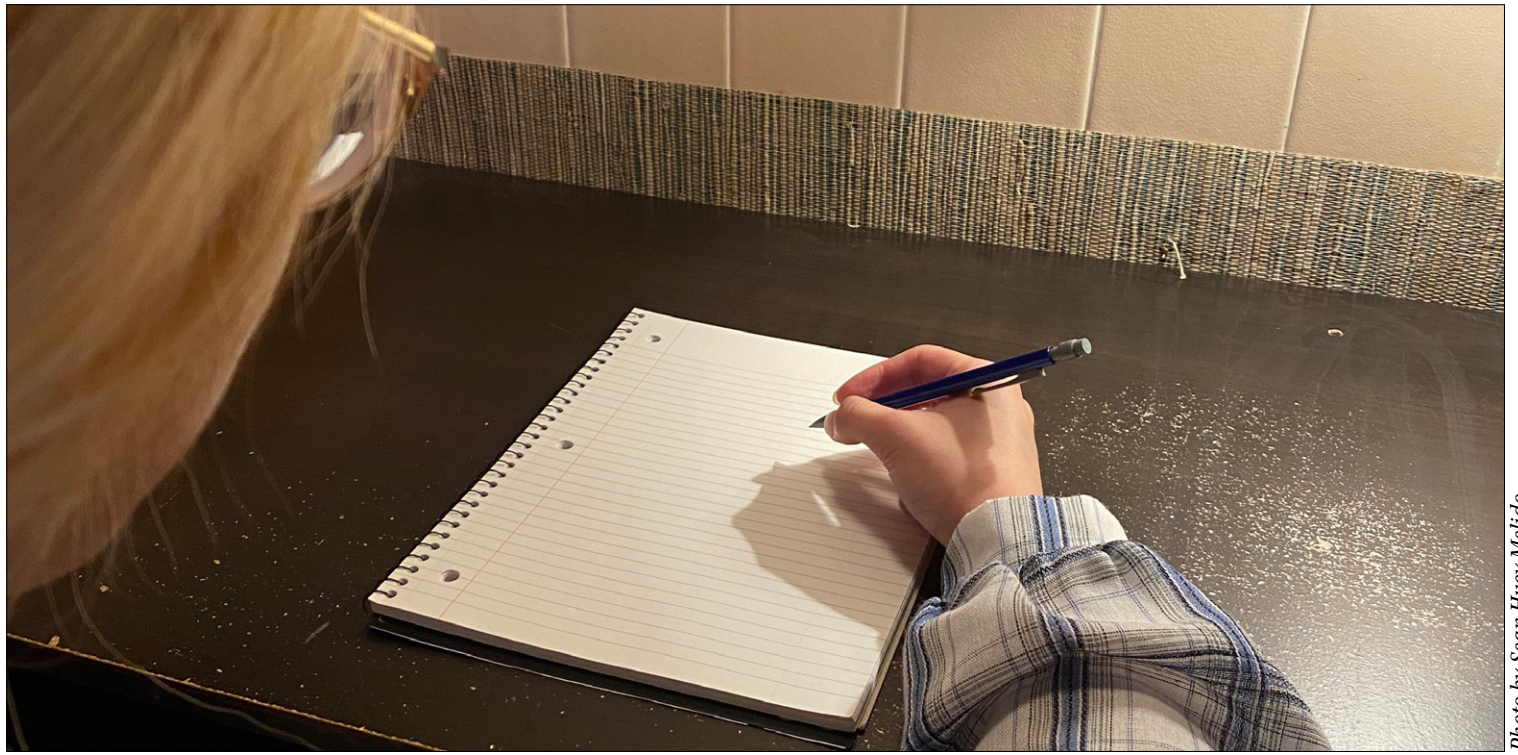
The Director Timothy Greenfield-Sanders recollects her meeting with Toni Morrison when on Feb. 9, 1981, she came to his East Village photo studio for a Soho News cover

shoot and said that they developed an instant friendship. Later, when Vanity Fair profiled her, she asked Greenfield-Sanders to do the photo shoot.

The documentary is available on PBS but I watched it on Amazon Prime Video.

Anyone who has an interest in learning more about Morrison should watch it.

It gives the clues of how to write even in difficult times. I would conclude its review with one of my favorite quotes from Morrison, "My world did not shrink because I was a Black writer. It just got bigger."



A writer pondering over writing

Photo by Sean Huey Melido

Thurgood Marshall Causes Reflection on Curriculum

By Ellen Kwon, Staff Writer

"...There were so many people, outstanding people within the black history in this country... and a lot of them would say they stood on the shoulders of people before... There are just so many people who have contributed to the advancement of Black people in our country... [Marshall] became the highest judge you could be in the United States and did it as a black person who overcame all kinds of obstacles that... a white person would not have."

"I admired him so much for his perseverance and capabilities that he was one of the reasons I decided to go to law school." —Patricia Willard, Esq.

The first time that I found out about Thurgood Marshall was when I was interviewing Patricia Willard, Esq. for her opinion on significant figures in Black History.

The way that she fondly talked about him invoked inspiration within me, and I found myself developing a strong admiration for him throughout the interview. That initial interview led me to do some personal research on Marshall, where I found out more about his achievements and impact on American Black history.

According to the Legal Defense Fund website, Thurgood Marshall was the first Supreme Court Justice of color. He helped fight systematic segregation and racial discrimination and paved the way for Black people in the justice system.

Thurgood Marshall undoubtedly had a lasting impact on the way that our country is run today, but it made me think to myself: how come more people do not know about him? Then I further reflected upon how few significant Black figures are discussed in history books.

Everyone knows Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman and Malcolm X. But these are only a few names that are talked about compared to the wide variety of other Black figures who have also achieved great things. It would be nice to shine the spotlight on more amazing Black people who deserve the recognition too.

We are in the middle of Black History Month and I think it's great to celebrate the rich past and people who exist in our country, I think that instead of focusing on Black history for one month out of the year, we as Middlesex students and faculty should always have an awareness for black history.

I believe that the current curriculum at Middlesex College is outdated. American colleges require certain courses to graduate but some courses do not stay relevant to us after graduation. For example, a dietetics major is likely never going to need to remember precalculus for their field. However, it is relevant for each individual to appreciate and acknowledge the colorful tapestries of cultures and history of the people surrounding us.

That is why I propose that Middlesex College's history department should consider updating its current curriculum. The history department should invite roughly 1000 students to suggest what they want to learn about in the class and perhaps offer these participants a list of Black figures that are relevant to the course that they can choose from.

In doing so, we would include Black history in the regular curriculum at Middlesex College, spreading awareness and celebrating the achievements of underappreciated greats such as Thurgood Marshall. Instead of simply thinking of Black history for a month, let's do our part to always have awareness of Black history.



A reader picking out books by Thurgood Marshall

Photo by Ellen Kwon

'Go Tell It on the Mountain' Engages Reader



Photo by Erin Hellhake

A reader picking out books by James Baldwin

By Erin Hellhake, Section Editor

The artistry and proficiency of notable literary expert, intellectual and activist James Baldwin are encapsulated in his 1953 novel, "Go Tell It on the Mountain," which follows the

experiences of John Grimes, a clever and perceptive teenager living in Harlem, New York, in 1935.

The novel is regarded as a semi-autobiographical exposition.

The novel encompasses determination during adversity and adolescence in an eloquent and engrossing manner; the novel assists a reader in recognizing the aptitude and expressiveness of the prominent author. While the story itself takes place throughout a single day (the protagonist's fourteenth birthday), it contains various recollective accounts of Grimes, his parents and his aunt. In the novel, Grimes grapples with the fact that he feels his stepfather, Gabriel, disdains him; Gabriel's strict and domineering nature adversely affects Grimes throughout the narrative.

Grimes grapples with his perception of religion; this becomes of existential concern to Grimes, as his family is staunchly religious, Gabriel is a pastor and biblical themes are

present throughout the lives of the relatives.

In an eloquent and intellectual, yet accessible and perceptible narration, Baldwin depicts the protagonist's numerous vices with his identity, his family and his church; this instills a personal and recognizable sentiment from the reader that assists in providing Baldwin with his literary and social notability.

Baldwin uses comprehensive and emotional analogies and comparisons that promote sentimentality and intimate interconnection with the reader; he provides perceptible and engaging imagery that intrigues observers.

The book is separated into three parts; however, Part Two contains multiple subparts, including, "The Prayer of the Saints-Florence's

Prayer," "The Prayer of the Saints-Gabriel's Prayer" and "The Prayer of the Saints-Elizabeth's Prayer," after "Part One: The Seventh Day," and before "Part Three: The Threshing-Floor."

"Go Tell It on the Mountain" is a fascinating, empirical and affecting account of Baldwin's personal experiences and regards the repressive circumstances of many Black Americans living in the northern United States during the twentieth century.

Baldwin is regarded as an inspirational and nominal author and activist who specialized in advocacy for marginalized races and classes, essays and novels of intellectual themes and societal critiques with an impactful outsider perspective; "Go Tell It on the Mountain" embodies the propheticism of this distinguished literary and reformer figure.

Twice Showcases Versatility in 'Eyes Wide Open'

By Sean Huey Melido, Managing Editor

Twice, the South Korean K-pop girl group under JYP Entertainment, released their second full-length album, "Eyes Wide Open," on Oct. 26, 2020. "Eyes Wide Open" follows a retro concept, from the sound to the aesthetics and visuals found online and in the physical album.

Out of the 13 songs, six are directly contributed by members with the lyrics. Other songs were contributed to, including writing, production, and other aspects by other artists and producers.

Twice comprises nine members: Nayeon, Jeongyeon, Momo, Sana, Jihyo, Mina, Dahyun, Chaeyoung and Tzuyu. The girl group was formed through the survival show, "Sixteen," and officially made their debut on Oct. 20, 2015, with the album, "The Story Begins."

The first song and title track is "I Can't Stop Me" produced by Michel "Lindgren" Schulz and written by various artists, most notably J.Y. Park; fans set high standards for the song during pre-release. It is a synth-pop song with hints of disco, and instrumentals that exude the feeling of retro and represent the album. The lyrics describe the heart-pounding sensation of standing at the edge of something; Presumably, good and bad. It is the feeling when one is just about to give in to temptation and let oneself be tainted. It exemplifies the anxiety of falling and straying away from something you had high ideals for.

"Hell in Heaven" is the second song, and one of the if not the most mature track in the album. Twice makes use of their husky voice, successfully creating a sexy sound and alluding to the listener's ears as if they were the very snake that tempted Eve. The beginning of this song includes a line from the 1940s movie "Eyes in the Night," the line being "Surely you can see that you could never make her happy?" This line, accompanied by an addicting melody of strings, introduces a naughty atmosphere at the start of the song. As "Hell in Heaven" builds up to the first pre-chorus, a drop happens right after—all instrumental except the strings from the start disappear as member Jihyo sings in an alluring voice. While "I Can't Stop Me" describes standing at a boundary of good and bad, "Heaven in Hell" describes having embraced the naughty and sinful side; it feels so good that

it makes one think they're in heaven in hell. With risqué lyrics, the song narrates desperation.

"Up No More" written by Jihyo, is about her experience with insomnia. She said in an album commentary video on Twice's official YouTube that she wanted to reach out to those also struggling with insomnia. This electronic-pop song, mixed with light-pop and a groove is refreshing to the ears, acting like the breeze of cold air you'd feel when you step out to your balcony. With repetitive yet addicting melodies, the chorus reads "I don't wanna, wanna be up, up, no more. I don't wanna, wanna be up, up all night again. Nah, nah, not again." With such straightforward lyrics, there is no deeper meaning; however, this does not take away anything from the song, much less its quality and value. It is extremely easy to sing along—or maybe not because of the repetition, but one may

still enjoy the revitalizing mood "Up No More" gives.

"Do What We Like" is written by Sana and focuses on acceptance and braveness. In the same album commentary video on Twice's official YouTube, Nayeon mentions the song reminds her of the feeling when her ears and nose get clogged underwater. Similarly, the song's beginning is just like that, with the translated English lyrics from Genius being "Clogged in water, it rings through my ears. The voice calling me yeah." The song has a steady beat that one can relax to. The lyrics describe when the narrator is with someone, they can do whatever they like. They acknowledge there is no turning back from a certain point, and they accept this.

"Bring it Back" with lyrics by Dahyun is an EDM song seemingly describing one who is eager to bring the end of a relationship; they want to bring it back, such as the title and

lyrics say. The song is repetitive, especially in the chorus where it repeats "Bring it back" many times. Along with the lyrics are interesting beats and distorted sounds that were brilliantly utilized by some sort of devices. Using the translation provided by Genius, the beginning of the song says, "From some moment, started to change, then I realized, put everything in place, I want to put it back, I want to go back, I desperately want it." This line could mean the change they noticed had a negative effect or simply it was uncomfortable. Either reason was valid for the narrator to have the desire to end something; the strong willingness displayed in this song sets an example of a strong mind.

"Believer" is a pop song that exudes a dreamy sensation from the loving lyrics to ear-pleasing sounds in the instrumental. Accompanied by both light and prominent vocals from the members, "Believer" is an energetic song that describes the feeling of being in love with your significant other so much. The lyrics talk about believing in that significant other and admiring them. This song is incredibly catchy, and perfect to put on when going about your day.

"Queen," another song written by Dahyun, is a swing revival song and talks about self-confidence. First listening to the "Eyes Wide Open" album, this song was an instant favorite. Its catchiness of the melody sung at the beginning and the first line translated from Korean, "It's a show, but I shouldn't forget, I know what you are, you're a queen," was an attention grabber. Throughout the song, the lyrics promote being authentic, followed by a rhythmic beat.

"Go Hard" is an incredibly upbeat song by Twice with another message of self-confidence. Introducing powerful and unique beats, this is the perfect song to get serious, dance to, work out to, and more. With the members' distinctive and strong voices, this track is complete. Korean lyrics translated to English reads "Even if the waves hit and sprinkle thorns, I'm the winner in the end. Even if you shake and push me, I'm unbreakable." These lines exemplify the narrator's strength. The instrumental is made of very addicting and unique beats, different from others in K-pop. "Go Hard" is the embodiment of empowerment.

"Shot Clock" is a loud song with powerful beats and instrumentals,

most notably, drums. Filled with strong vocals, this song is motivational. The lyrics repeatedly say to beat the shot clock and essentially, keep going. After further reading and analyzing the lyrics, one could come up with another meaning—something much more intimate.

"Handle It" is a contemporary R&B written by Chaeyoung, and according to her, the song contains the message of "trying not to acknowledge being apart from each other or breaking up." With slow beats and mellow lyrics, "Handle It" is a sad song listeners may relate to. The vocals are both strong and soft, representing the different emotions felt—the sadness of not being able to take it well, and the frustration of it.

"Depend on You" is an ambient pop song with a soft tone written by Nayeon. Similar to "Believer," the messages are quite similar in the way they describe a loving relationship with a significant other; however, the difference is the mood given in "Depend on You," which would be a tranquil one.

"Say Something" is a city pop song with angelic vocals, sweet melodies, and a steady beat. The song starts with a sudden but not aggressive instrumental, one that is friendly to the ears. Mina's first line, "It will be different tomorrow," could easily be mistaken as something heard from heaven with her divine voice color. Lyrics such as "My heart is leaning, I'll be waiting for you. When the moon tilts, I'm waiting for you," make it clear the meaning is about yearning. In the chorus, "Say Something" is melodically said in soft voices, replicating one of the angels. The sensation this song gives could make one feel like one is living in an imaginary dream world with pink skies, clouds, and everything.

The final song, "Behind the Mask" is a low-tempo song, describing empathy. The lyrics read, "Behind the mask, I wonder if you're smiling. I wonder if you're crying." Said with soft and lulling voices, a soothing mood is created. "Behind the Mask" is a calming and perfect song to end the adventure of the "Eyes Wide Open" album.

Consisting of many tracks with diverse and unique sounds, most notably "Say Something" and "Hell in Heaven," "Eyes Wide Open" is one of Twice's most memorable albums that every fan or casual listener should listen to.



Photo by Sean Huey Melido

The 'Eyes Wide Open' album

Fun Page Announcement

Hello Middlesex students; welcome to our Fun Page. Here, you can submit things like vacation photos, poems, short stories, your experiences at Middlesex so far, or your favorite places to relax and do work on campus. The list could go on, as it's supposed to be a Fun Page; so, write what you think should be on there. Feel free to submit as many as you'd like.

Sincerely,
Quo Vadis

Favorite Valentine's Day Candy

The official winner of our Favorite Valentine's Day Candy Poll is Sour Patch Kids!



Sour Patch Kids

Photo by Eva Reyes

Favorite Mode of Movie-watching

The official winner of our Favorite Mode of Movie-watching Poll is streaming!



Photo Courtesy of Sean Huey Melido

A movie-lover watching a film

Vote for Favorite Social Media

What is your favorite social media app? Scan the QR code to take our poll and make your choice!



Poems

Your Dream Lives On

By Marro Hawkins II, Section Editor

Everyone has dreams or aspects in their lives,
To become or do something great so that
They can be remarkable.

Some want their names to be known worldwide,
To be the topic of everyone's conversations.
Some want to have all the riches of the Earth,
To conquer every natural resource.

There's been many people who think this way.
However, that is not the majority.
There are those whose aspirations have been to
Help their fellow man and cultivate humanity,
Rather than focus on increasing profits.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Was one of those exceptional
leaders and there are no words that
I could express my gratitude for his actions.

You marched while getting beat, spit on, hosed and called
every despicable racial slur created
Just so young blacks such as myself could live life without
worry.
You took in the punishment without arguments so that we
the new generation could be
Brave and raise our voices against the monsters known as
racism and prejudice.

I know that if you were still with us on this Earth, there
would be no killing of innocent black men
Like what happened with George Floyd, Daunte Wright and
Trayvon Martin.

I know that if you were still here, Reverend, there would be no confusion or discord of black people Trying to prove their "blackness" to another.
We would unite and fight for freedom, rather than fight and kill each other.

Although you didn't live long to see your dream come to fruition, I assure you that your dream is starting to come true.
You dreamt of children of slaves and slave owners befriending each other.
You dreamt of states such as Mississippi becoming states of true freedom, no longer being states of segregation and oppression.
You dreamt of America becoming a great nation where all men, regardless of race, ethnicity, or culture,
Are treated equally and fairly.
For America to be a truly free country where every family can have the American Dream.

Reverend King, each day and year, we get closer to achieving that dream.
The dream you had for your people has not fallen and died.
We, the new generation of American blacks, have taken the mantle that you and the other great

Civil Rights leaders left and are following in your footsteps so
America can truly be the home
of the brave and free.

So, just rest easy in Heaven and cheer us on as you hear the
resounding ring of the bell as we
get to the peak.

As you hear the freedom bell ring, we'll cheer on for freedom
has come at last!
Thank you, God, freedom and prosperity have finally come!



Illustration by Eva Reyes

Martin Luther King Jr. and other Civil rights leaders

Women's Basketball Shines With Teamwork on Sophomore Night

By Marquis R. Pullins Jr, Section Editor



Photo Courtesy of Middlesex College

(Left to right) Marielys Jerez, Ashley Knuth, Courtney Hansen, Vanessa Rivas, Maeghan Prophete and Sarah Ohnmeiss on Sophomore Night



Photo Courtesy of Middlesex College

Vanessa Rivas with the easy lay-up



Photo Courtesy of Middlesex College

Ashley Knuth with the lay-up

The Middlesex women's basketball team won 69-43 on Sophomore Night against Camden County College on Feb. 20 at Middlesex College.

Not only does this mean the women's basketball team is going to the playoffs, but this was also the 400th win in Coach Powell's career.

Ashley Knuth, guard, said to get Powell's 400th win on their sophomore night is beyond sensational.

The women's basketball team was coming off a win against Orange County College and hoping to keep their streak going against Camden on Sophomore night.

Coach Michel Powell said, "These girls are hard workers and that we punched our ticket to the playoffs in our first year at a Division II level is great."

Before the game, Middlesex honored sophomores Marielys Jerez, Maeghan Prophete, Sarah Ohnmeiss, Ashley Knuth, Courtney Hansen and Vanessa Rivas.

Powell started the game by starting all of the sophomores.

The first quarter was physical and defensive for the women's basketball team.

Guard Courtney Hansen starts the game with a 3-pointer to make the score 3-2.

There was a lot of hustle on the offensive front to get the team going, as well as Courtney Hansen's hustle lay-up to make the score 9-8.

"There was a lot of team playing in the first quarter, now we have to get the Sophomore night jitters out of us," said Coach Powell.

They were down in the first quarter 11-15.

The women's basketball team kicked off the second quarter fast, leading to a quick lay-up by center Vanessa Rivas to cut the lead to 13-15.

With an assist from forward Jalena Santiago, guard Ashley Knuth ties the game with a lay-up early in the

first quarter.

Courtney Hansen drains a much-needed 3-pointer to stretch the lead 20-16 in the middle of the second quarter.

On the precipice of a great second quarter guard Ashley Knuth goes in for another lay-up to make the score 22-16.

As Camden County College was moving closer forward Vanessa Rivas took the charge and drained both free throws.

Those free throws made the score 29-26 going into halftime.

We have the opportunity to stretch this lead, but we just need to be smarter about our ball placement, said Coach Powell.

The women's basketball team once again starts strong, coming out with a lay-up from forward Vanessa Rivas to make the score 31-26.

This quarter was when the women's basketball team started to create some separation with Camden.

Courtney Hansen, guard, said there was always someone open in the paint.

In the third quarter, the women's basketball team got 16 points from lay-ups, ending the third quarter with the score 53-35.

To start the fourth quarter, back to the drawing board with Courtney Hansen draining an easy lay-up to make the score 57-38.

Forward Vanessa Rivas creates the assist for other forward Damani Anderson for a lay-up, making the score 61-42.

Forward Jalena Santiago's mid-range shot concluded the game.

"On behalf of Middlesex Athletics, I just want to give my congratulations on an incredible season," said Athletic Director Rocco Constantino.

This was the women's basketball team's last home game of the season until the playoff bracket was released.

Announcement

The English Department is hosting a Literature Course Showcase encouraging students to “Get LIT!” for the Fall 2024 semester. This event will take place in the Main Lobby of College Center on Tuesday, March 19 from 2 - 4 p.m. Students can talk with the English faculty about the awesome Literature Course offerings for the Fall semester. This is a great opportunity for students to ask questions and get detailed info about the Literature offerings from the English Department professors. There will be light snacks and some giveaways, too!

Attend the Quo Vadis STUDENT NEWSPAPER

**General
Virtual Meeting every Friday
at 2 p.m.**

QV is hosting 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!

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

<https://rb.gy/4rcflq>