

CELT Newsletter: April 2022

Dear CELT Colleagues,

We hope everyone had a wonderful Spring Break! We were so excited to see some of you at our Open House in March. Hopefully we'll begin to see more of each other in Fall 2022. There aren't many more events left, but we'd love to see you at our April events. Click for the [full schedule of Spring 2022 events](#).

We're starting to plan events for Fall 2022, and we want to hear from you! Developing a workshop (on your own or with another faculty member) is a fun and engaging experience. Please email us at CELT@middlesexcc.edu if you have any ideas for workshops for Fall 2022.

Have a great rest of the semester!

Congratulations!

We are pleased to announce the recipients of the 2022 Middlesex College Faculty Awards. We can't wait to celebrate with you on April 12th!

Middlesex College Full-Time Faculty Teaching Award

Jennifer Applebee

Middlesex College Part-Time Faculty Teaching Award

Denise Rompilla

Helpful Articles

Did you know you can join many online organizations for free? The College has subscriptions to [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#) where you can read pedagogical articles for free! **Here are a few headlines we thought you might like:**

[How to Learn from Anyplace in the Faculty Ranks](#) by Catherine Christopher tells us how to make a difference on campus.

[Teaching into Conflict](#) by Karlyn Crowley shows us how to talk to our students about current topics like the atrocities in the Ukraine. Sometimes we need to get comfortable with the discomfort.



Upcoming CELT Events

April 14th at 2 PM: Tech Hacks and Snacks. Have any new tech or apps to share? Join Sheri-Rose Rubin to talk tech! [Register here.](#)

April 12th at 2pm: Join us in celebrating our 2022 CELT Faculty Award Recipients. Information forthcoming.

April 26th at 2pm: Managing Malicious Microaggressions. Join Crystal Quillen and April Johnson for a talk about microaggressions and strategies to prepare ourselves. [Register here.](#)

SPRINGTIME CELEBRATIONS

Join us in celebrating our faculty and students! Be on the lookout for future announcements with location information.

- **Casino Night on April 8th**
- **PTK Induction Ceremony on April 21st at 4pm.**
- **Honors Convocation on May 12th at 4pm.**
- **Commencement Ceremony on May 19th at 10:30am.**

Congratulations to everyone being honored!



Nadine Thompson

Instructor, Dental Hygiene

How many years have you taught? I have been teaching for 8 years; 7 as an adjunct at Middlesex and then became full time in January 2021.

What classes do you teach? I teach Dental Health Education, Community Dental Health, and am a clinical instructor for Preventative Oral Health Services for the second-year dental hygiene students in clinic and radiology.

What about teaching do you find most enjoyable? I really love it when the students have that “light-bulb” moment and they are making connections outside of their didactic courses and seeing the bigger picture while treating their patients in clinic. As this is a health professional program, I get to see the students’ growth and development over two years and there’s nothing better than seeing a student reach their goal of graduation and pass their licensure exams.

Briefly describe a favorite assignment or in-class activity.

One of my favorite assignments uses an online simulation activity that highlights the drastic health and social disparities that exist in our communities. It poses different life scenarios to the students and they have to make decisions regarding their jobs, healthcare, childcare, housing, transportation etc.; each decision has different outcomes and they see how much their finances play a role in the options they actually have available. After the simulation exercise, they have to answer questions as it relates to community oral health and make connections from the lecture material.

What is something your students/colleagues would be surprised to learn about you?

I got married at 18 years old, and thankfully, 22 years later I have no regrets! I am not an adventurous person by nature, but since our family has two growing boys, 9 & 11, my husband is constantly creating new adventures for us to do. Just in the last 3 years, I have tried surfing (broke a toe), climbed a mountain in CO (survived), went outdoor rock climbing, kayaked some pretty strong currents, and was a passenger in a “rock crawler” up and down sheer vertical rocks (Moab, UT).



Clairie Vassiliadis

Professor, Mathematics

How many years have you taught? I’ve been teaching full-time since the fall of 1999. Prior to that, I taught as an adjunct at Rutgers, Newark and NJIT for about 5 years.

What classes do you teach? I teach in the Mathematics Department. I usually teach courses in the Calculus sequence like Algebra, Precalculus, Calculus I and II, but I have also taught other classes like Statistics I and II, Mathematical Structures I and II, Mathematics of Money and A Survey of Mathematics.

Three words that best describe your teaching style.

Passionate. Positive. Student-centered.

Briefly tell us about your favorite lecture topic or course to teach.

My favorite ever activity, and I am admitting that I haven’t done it for a while, is what you would call “Let the students lead the class”.

At the beginning of the semester, I ask students to choose a topic/section, from the syllabus, that they will have to present and introduce to the class for about 20 minutes. I then ask them to give an introduction of the selected topic and solve a couple of examples. This requires preparation and deep understanding of the material, not only for the current topic, but also of any previous topics.

My goal is to get students excited to show their knowledge, share it with their classmates, speak the language of math and write on the board using the correct terminology and mathematical notation. Through this process of preparing to teach a topic to their classmates, students come to my office hours for help and guidance and that results in a comfortable and supportive relationship.

What is something your students/colleagues would be surprised to learn about you?

To my colleague-friends, I am like an open book... But something I don’t really share much them with, is that I was a student-athlete, played varsity volleyball at NJIT, and I was Most Valuable Player (MVP) for 2 years in a row!