MCC's gym was turned into a mini-hospital for patients displaced by Hurricane Sandy and the College community turned out to volunteer. Here, nursing students Raychelle Grooms (left) and Karen Sanchez take a patient's blood pressure.
Campus News
MCC awarded “military friendly” title from magazine • Peter Schlittenhardt '09 combines his favorite sport with a love of travel • Retirees return to campus • MCC’s links with the community • Hurricane Sandy response • Volunteer efforts during the storm.

Foundation Report
Bioscience initiative • Casino Night a great evening of make-believe gambling • Annual golf classic May 13 • Corporations fund scholarships for deserving students • Reception links donors with the students they helped.

Alumni Activities
AlumNotes: See what your former classmates are up to • Join us for the fifth food tasting fundraiser.

Sports Update
Update on fall and winter sports • men’s basketball team works to help community.

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MIDDLESEX NOW 2
Crabiel Hall Receives LEED Approval; Honored by Magazine

Crabiel Hall, the newest building at MCC, received a LEED® silver rating from the United States Green Building Council, signifying the structure’s environmental attributes. In addition, a national publication, College Planning & Management, gave a Project of Distinction Award to the College for the construction, which was completed in January of 2011.

The 36,000-square-foot building includes 13 classrooms, office space, four computer labs and a demonstration kitchen.

“The silver rating was our goal, so I’m very happy to have achieved it,” said Donald R. Drost Jr., executive director of facilities management. “Crabiel Hall is the model for how buildings will be designed in the future, with an eye on protecting the environment while still creating an excellent facility.”

LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is an internationally recognized mark of excellence that provides a framework for identifying and implementing practical and measurable green building design, construction, operations and maintenance solutions.

“Buildings are a prime example of how human systems integrate with natural systems,” said Rick Fedrizzi, president, CEO and founding chair of the U.S. Green Building Council. “The Middlesex County College project efficiently uses our natural resources and makes an immediate, positive impact on our planet, which will tremendously benefit future generations to come.”

Crabiel Hall’s sustainable features include drought-resistant plantings, high efficiency HVAC with heat recovery, preferred parking for hybrid vehicles, reduction in storm water runoff, waterless urinals, construction waste recycling, use of renewable and regional materials, an indoor air quality plan that includes a building air flush-out and pre-occupancy air testing, use of low-vapor emitting materials, and lighting controls.

Crabiel Hall was one of 18 construction projects cited by College Planning & Management in its special section called Outstanding Design + Architecture in Education. The magazine said “The projects reflect the exciting changes and trends in educational design that are needed to create the learning environments that we can be proud to provide. All of the projects reflect the growing awareness of environmental concerns that have fostered a greater interest in ‘green’ or sustainable school design.”

The magazine called Crabiel Hall “an efficient, aesthetically pleasing and fiscally responsible building. The project resulted in a safe and healthy environment to serve nearly 13,000 students at Middlesex County College.”

Mr. Drost agreed.

“We’re honored to be recognized for a quality building,” he said. “Crabiel Hall was completed on time and under budget, and in the two years since it has been occupied, it has served our students well.”
G.I. Jobs, the premier magazine for military personnel transitioning into civilian life, has named Middlesex County College to the coveted Military Friendly Schools® list. The list honors the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace America’s military service members, veterans and spouses and ensure their success on campus.

“Inclusion on the 2013 list of Military Friendly Schools shows Middlesex County College’s commitment to providing a supportive environment for military students,” said Sean Collins, director of G.I. Jobs. “As interest in education grows, we’re thrilled to provide the military community with transparent, world-class resources to assist in their search for schools.”

The Military Friendly Schools website, www.militaryfriendlyschools.com, features the list, as well as interactive and search tools to help military students find the best school to suit their unique needs and preferences. The 1,739 colleges, universities and trade schools on the list exhibit leading practices in the recruitment and retention of students with military experience.

David Brimmer, director of MCC’s Center for Veterans Services, said inclusion on the list is an honor.

“Our center is committed to providing student veterans with all the tools they need to succeed at MCC,” he said. “Our purpose is to help our student veterans make a smooth transition to college life, to make sure they use the educational benefits to which they are entitled, and to make their college experience rewarding and productive. We offer various methods of support to student veterans and current service members alike. And the center is a place where veterans can relax between classes and socialize with each other.”

The list of Military Friendly Schools was compiled through extensive research and a data-driven survey of more than 12,000 schools approved by the Veterans Administration.

Health and Safety Day at MCC brought dozens of human service and safety agencies to campus to help students, faculty and staff learn about how to make their lives healthier. The day included a visit by the kids in the College Child Care Center, who learned about fire safety from the Edison Fire Department. Here, Firefighter Paul Weeks – in full gear – shares a high 5 with Tymir Reaves. The purpose is to get the kids used to seeing what a firefighter might look like in a real fire so they are not intimidated or frightened should they actually need rescuing.
Old friends and colleagues got together at a luncheon for College retirees in December. The lunch, cooked and served by students in the Hospitality, Culinary Arts, and Dietetics program, brought back 40 retired College faculty and staff. It was a great afternoon of catching up and reminiscing. Here, David Beyer chats with Irene Pearse.

Learn to Become a Great Cook at “Today’s Table”

Make 2013 the year you become a great chef. Today’s Table is the chance to learn skills from wonderful chefs, receive a copy of their recipe and sample the food.

The program will be held in the Crabiel Hall culinary lab. You may register a la carte at $30 for each class or choose any three for $75. The savings are available to anyone who registers with payment for the three classes at the same time; this offer is not valid on the full-day Saturday classes or the wine appreciation program. Except where noted, classes meet from 6:30-9 p.m. or 9:30 p.m.

For a complete list of the classes or more information visit www.middlesexcc.edu/profcom; to register please call 732-906-2556. Menus are subject to change. Classes include:

**The Breakfast Club** Tuesday, March 12.
**Baking 101** Thursday, March 14.
**Pork – the Other White Meat** Tuesday, March 19.
**Celebration Dinner Party** Thursday, March 21.
**Paris in the Spring – a night dedicated to Julia Child** Tuesday, March 26.
**Make Ahead Meals Made Easy** Tuesday, April 2.
**Italian Adventure – the Basics** Thursday, April 4.
**The Bonefish Grill Comes to Middlesex County College** Tuesday, April 9.
**Champagne Brunch** Thursday, April 11.
**Cookies, Cookies, Cookies** Tuesday, April 16.
**Moroccan Menu Magic** Thursday, April 18.
**Sushi for Beginners** Tuesday, April 23.
**Mexican Fiesta** Thursday, April 25.

**Behind the Bonefish Grill** Thursday, May 2.
**Spring Dessert Specialties** Tuesday, May 7.
**When in Rome** Thursday, May 9.
**Sensational Salads** Saturday, May 11, 9 a.m.-Noon.
**From Beer to Eternity** Tuesday, May 14.
**Time for a Tea Party** Thursday, May 16.
**Say Cheesecake** Saturday, May 18, 9 a.m.-Noon.
**Seafood Specialties** Tuesday, May 21.
**Four Course Dinners for Six** Wednesday, May 22.

In addition, Today’s Table will feature three all-day Saturday programs, each running from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and a wine appreciation program. These classes do not qualify for the discount.

**Express Yourself:**

**The Tri-State Writers’ Workshop**

Learn strategies from professionals on how to improve your writing.

**Saturday, April 27**

www.middlesexcc.edu/express

The writers’ workshop is a fundraiser to support publication of the College literary journal, the best creative writing from faculty, staff and others. To receive a copy, e-mail lfriedman@middlesexcc.edu.
Peter Schlittenhardt ’09 loves hockey and travel. He spends summers helping MCC students and winters trekking all over the midwest officiating his favorite sport.
Peter Schlittenhardt is the same person – it’s just the crowd that’s different. During the summer months, he is an orientation specialist, helping new students register, enroll and learn about MCC. He’s nurturing, caring and helpful.

During the winter, he’s a hockey referee. His audience is often less appreciative of his work.

He grew up in East Brunswick, and came to MCC in the fall of 2007, majoring in Liberal Arts/Business. He graduated in 2009, transferred to Rutgers, and graduated from there in 2011.

“i really enjoyed my time at Middlesex and thought I got a great education,” he said. “I especially liked the professors and the fact that the class sizes are small so you can develop a personal relationship with them. You develop a bond. I was very happy here – I keep coming back.”

His father, who never learned to skate, was a big hockey fan, and he transferred that love to his son.

“As soon as I learned how to walk, my dad had me in skates,” he says. “I liked how hockey requires a lot of different skills, the fact that it is a fast sport, and that you never see the same thing twice.”

He played club hockey all through high school, but suffered two broken collarbones in one season. It was then he realized that a professional career was not in his future. He had done some refereeing during his playing days – mainly just to help pay for equipment – but then started to look at it as a possible career. He refed amateur hockey up and down the east coast, and this year is in the United States Hockey League, which is a high amateur conference in the midwest. He’ll be in Green Bay, Detroit, Nebraska, Iowa, Fargo and North and South Dakota. Players in the USHL are one step away from professional minor-league hockey or the Division I college ranks.

Mr. Schlittenhardt loves hockey, but he loves traveling just as much.

“It’s a lot of fun and I get to visit a lot of interesting towns,” he says. “I remember passing through one town between St. Cloud, Minnesota and Aberdeen, South Dakota that had a sign that said, ‘Population 64.’ They would consider a town like Woodbridge or Edison to be a major, major city.”

His goal is to continue to ref, perhaps someday in the National Hockey League. Of the 85 officials there, only 15 are from the United States, but he is not deterred. If it doesn’t happen, he’s happy to travel the back roads of the U.S. officiating his favorite sport.

“I love seeing the areas of the country that are so different from New Jersey,” he said. “I want to see as many places as possible.”

This is what Peter Schlittenhardt hears during the summer: “Thank you so much. You’ve really been a big help. See you in the fall.”

This is what Peter Schlittenhardt hears in the winter: “You don’t @#$%^ know what you’re doing! You don’t belong here! You’ve been @#!&* me all game!”
Community Connections:
The College as a resource for the region

The gym had never looked so bizarre: Rows upon rows upon rows of metal cots, interspaced with hand-washing stations, storage bins and medical apparatus. Officers from the United States Public Health Services in green battle fatigues raced about. It was a few days after the wrath of Hurricane Sandy, and the College was called upon to transform the gym into a medical shelter.

It was a dramatic example – but not a singular one – of the role that Middlesex County College plays in the life of the community. Members of the public interact with the College on a daily basis.

“Our most important mission is educating students,” said College President Joann La Perla-Morales. “But we take very seriously our responsibility to the community, to act as a resource for the larger world.”

Sandy, one hopes, was an aberration. But the link between the College and community is not, and includes many different facets. It ranges from students in geology classes cleaning the beaches to free dance performances; from providing space for meetings to helping to run the Science Olympiad.

“I hope the people in Middlesex County understand that this is their community college,” Dr. La Perla-Morales said.

* * *

The Monday of spring break is usually a quiet day. Classrooms are empty, parking lots have plenty of space, no lines in the cafeteria. Then comes Tuesday: the Science Olympiad. On that day, 1,200 students from all over New Jersey converge on the campus. They bring catapults and bottle rockets, and a great deal of enthusiasm. It is the state finals, where students in middle and high schools compete to see who will go on to the nationals. The energy is infectious.

The Science Olympiad is a cooperative venture between the statewide organization and the College’s Office of School Relations. That office is set up to assist and interact with area schools, kindergarten through high school.

“We work with the K-12 community – students, teachers and future teachers – almost 7,000 per year,” said Kimberlee Hooper, the director. “Through programs such as the High School Scholars dual enrollment program, the summer Gateway program, and the Algebra Summer Institute, we provide academic enrichment and college-credit options for young students. Through programs such as New Pathways to Teaching in New Jersey, Advanced Placement Summer Institutes, and the Creative Classroom, we provide opportunities for professional development.
The Middlesex County College annual holiday party included a food drive that collected 1500 pounds of food, which was donated to M.C.F.O.O.D.S. (Middlesex County Food Organization and Outreach Distribution Services). Members of the College community dropped off food as they entered the party. The Hospitality, Culinary Arts, and Dietetics Department also contributed a huge box of food. In addition, the Student Activities Department and the Blue Colt Bookstore organized food collection bins all over campus. At the party, from left, Roelof Baay, of Accounts Payable; Amanda Marcocci, an MCC student who works at the Bookstore; Shannon Williams, Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Department; and Ode Hoppie, Student Activities.

for current and future teachers. We also coordinate the state DECA program, which is an association of marketing clubs for high school students.”

* * *

It is a quiet morning on the beach in Laurence Harbor. Gulls swoop, the sun is bright. And students in Professor Claire Condle’s oceanography and geology classes arrive to clean the beach. The program, run once each semester, is organized by Clean Ocean Action, a nonprofit dedicated to improving the quality of marine waters off the New Jersey and New York coasts. The MCC group will spend several hours removing garbage, making the beach beautiful.

Of course, no discussion about the College and the community can be complete without mentioning Democracy House, the Center for Community Engagement, under the direction of Professor Jennifer Altman. This is a program, founded in 1995, in which MCC students take on unmet needs in the community. They serve food at Elijah’s Promise Soup Kitchen, teach English as a Second Language classes and run food, clothing and blood drives. Democracy House, funded by the Bonner Foundation, Americorps and the College, performs thousands of hours of service each year.

In addition, it runs programs designed to engage students with their community. Last year, it organized a conference on battling poverty, one on how to make government more efficient, and a forum on the presidential election.

Democracy House is especially active in the New Brunswick community, most recently with the New Brunswick Community Food Alliance. They mentor high school students in the EMPOWER program at the College’s New Brunswick Center and volunteer at X-Cite Night, an evening recreation program for kids in that city.

“Democracy House allows students to get a grass roots understanding of the community,” said Jessica Gulutz, the coordinator. “They learn what the needs are and how they can help. It also provides them with experience in leadership. They receive intensive training in public service leadership and attend national conferences. Educationally, the Center works with faculty to link local service experiences to course learning outcomes.”

* * *

It is a cold day in February and the toddler looks worried. His mom brought him to the MCC Dental Clinic for “Give Kids Smile Day,” but he’s not sure he’s going to like his first checkup. Just then, one of the volunteer hygienists appears. She’s dressed as the tooth fairy and she has this big smile as she welcomes the young boy.

“Maybe this isn’t going to be so bad,” he thinks. Give Kids a Smile Day is a national program in which dentists, dental hygienists and students donate their time to examine young patients whose parents may not have insurance or funds to cover it.

“My kid received services valued at over $73,000 that day.”
Reaching Out: MCC Volunteers at Sandy Shelter

More than 70 volunteers from the MCC community helped patients staying in the Physical Education Center after being displaced by Hurricane Sandy. The gym was used by Rapid Deployment Force 3, managed by the United States Department of Public Health Services with assistance from other agencies, including the County Health Department. They were there to help New Jersey residents with medical needs who required shelter after the hurricane. College volunteers included students from Democracy House, the service-learning program; students from the radiography program; students and faculty from the nursing program; as well as other students and alumni. A number of clergy visited the patients and transported them back home as they were discharged.

The site had a total of 115 patients, with as many as 74 there at any one time.

Volunteers distributed meals and visited with the patients, trying to keep their spirits up. The student nurses also helped with showering and other activities of daily living, personal needs, and taking blood pressure. Some worked a full eight-hour shift.

Nancy Berger, director of the nursing program, said the week of volunteering provided a chance to help the community as well as for student nurses to be exposed to caring for people during a disaster.

“Our nursing program understands the necessity for community involvement,” she said. “When Hurricane Sandy hit, a number of students had asked about volunteering. This is a great opportunity because it allows them to see that nursing takes place in all environments. More and more, health care is happening in the community – not just hospitals or clinics. This was the chance for our students to see that trend happening and to participate in it. It was also an opportunity to give back to the community.”

Student nurse Raychelle Grooms said her service was fulfilling.

“This was an opportunity to help the community and also to learn more about the nursing field,” she said.

A student from Democracy House was also proud of the work of her organization.

“It was an honor and my pleasure to help out,” said Rebecca Lynn Gonzalez. “I hope they are all OK and getting on with their lives. By working hard and together, we can make a big difference to help the world.”

College President Joann La Perla-Morales thanked all the volunteers for their service.

“I hope you feel a sense of pride in your work,” she said. “You made a real difference in helping New Jersey recover from that terrible storm.”
The call came in Friday night, four days after Hurricane Sandy wreaked havoc over New Jersey and the east coast. John Pulomena, the Middlesex County administrator, was on the line; he needed a place to house vulnerable people with medical conditions from the area who had been displaced by the storm. A hospital stay wasn’t necessary – and they were overcrowded already – but the patients would need more care than a regular shelter could provide.

The Physical Education Center was the perfect location and College President Joann La Perla-Morales didn’t hesitate to approve.

And so began 11 days of disruption and inconvenience, but also a spot-on example of caring and community service. Over the weekend, crews from Facilities went to work. They moved the bleachers, the wrestling mat and other equipment. Two generators – one from the County and one from the College – were installed to provide backup electricity if needed. MCC workers lowered a protective covering over the gym floor, and assisted the Centers for Disease Control with delivery of hundreds of crates of supplies and cots. The Department of Information Technology installed phone lines and provided data access. One classroom was turned into a pharmacy. Washers and dryers normally used for athletic team uniforms were pressed into service to clean clothes and linens for the patients, and the College food service vendor began serving meals. Campus Police handled security, along with backup from the County Sheriff’s Office. Practice for the basketball teams was moved to Edison High School. Classes were relocated to other buildings and a volleyball class suddenly became an outdoor tennis class. Recreation programs were put on hold.

The gym was turned over to the United States Department of Public Health Services, a military, uniformed service consisting of officers assigned to various agencies such as Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, the Department of Defense, and the Centers for Disease Control.

During a crisis, they respond.

And respond they did. While there were fewer patients than expected – a total of 115 over the eight days of occupancy, with a high of 74 – the medical issues they faced were more critical than predicted.

Continued on page 13
Democracy House, the College’s service learning program, hosted a discussion on the election with Ross Baker, political science professor at Rutgers University (left), and Tom Moran, editor and columnist at the Star Ledger. Before the program they spoke with Jennifer Altman, director of Democracy House, and MCC student Anatoly Doubrovny.

Examining the Role of MCC in the Community

Continued from page 9

“There is a large portion of children who do not have adequate dental care because their parents may be unemployed or lack dental insurance,” said Hope-Claire Holbeck, the chair of the Dental Auxiliaries Department. “There are a lot of children who go without dental care. We see about 75 to 100 kids per year and MCC is one of a number of locations, but also one of the busiest. We provide the most comprehensive dental care in the state – the most restorative care. It is very hectic day, but I love it because it allows us to help kids who have nowhere else to turn.”

A couple of months later, adults in the community are invited to attend an oral cancer screening. Dentists and oral surgeons, along with dental students, provide a quick check for that deadly disease. And during the rest of the academic year, dental students perform teeth cleaning for members of the community.

* * *

MCC’s facilities are used for events and meetings by local groups, as many as 1,000 per year. These include the County government reorganization each January; social services meetings and programs; meetings, conferences and workshops run by private and public organizations; and reemployment and eligibility assessment for the state.

Others include:

• Plays in the Park, a summer program of community theater, which uses the MCC Performing Arts Center for rehearsals.

• The College’s Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society of two-year colleges, has a longstanding emphasis on community service. The group reads to kids in the child care center, plans blood drives, raises money for breast cancer research, and collects toys for kids in area hospitals.

• Summer camps are available for kids 6 to 18. Camp Middlesex is actually a multitude of camps in areas such as robotics, fashion, science, sports, theater and many more. The only common denominator is fun. middlesexcc.edu/camp

• The MCC child care center is open to the public for children age 2-5. The kids have fun while they learn, draw, color and play.

• The public is invited to visit the art gallery, home to numerous shows by excellent artists. middlesexcc.edu/art

• Each year, several plays are performed in the theatre; www.middlesexcc.edu/theatre.

• The public is invited to watch the MCC sports teams in action. middlesexcc.edu/sports

• The College hosts five walkathons per year for charitable organizations.

• Students in the Hospitality, Culinary, and Dietetic Department host lunches open to the public. For $6, they get an excellent, served meal.

• The dance ensemble performs once each semester.

• Members of the English Department – and others – teach the annual Tri-State Writers’ Workshop. This one-day program, a fundraiser for the College’s literary journal, brings aspiring writers on campus to learn from MCC faculty. middlesexcc.edu/express

• A high school swim team and a YMCA swim team use the pool for practice and meets.

• The Greater Middlesex Conference High School basketball tournaments are held in the gym.

Continued on page 13
**Gym Used as Medical Facility During Crisis**

*Continued from page 11*

Public Health Services personnel worked 12-hour shifts, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. – with a smaller group working the reverse hours. Most would travel to Fort Dix to sleep, but a few spent the nights on cots in the locker rooms. The patients, however, lived in the gym.

They watched TV, played board games with volunteers, and were cared for by Public Health nurses and College volunteers. It was not luxurious living, but it was warm, comfortable and safe.

By the following Wednesday, November 14, their number had dwindled to just two patients; everyone else had been discharged. Many were transported home by members of the Middlesex County clergy.

Just as the operation was winding down, a Nor’easter dumped 3 inches of snow on the campus, complicating efforts to move patients. A power outage in New Brunswick closed the College’s center there for two days.

While the storm was awful and the relief effort was serious, there were a few lighthearted moments during the week. Many of the officers were from out of state – southern accents prevailed. As two women were being discharged, one of the officers wrote out their destination: “Ash Berry Park, NJ.” It took a little head scratching before the correct location was discerned: Asbury Park.

“Sorry,” she said with a laugh, and a drawl. “I’m not from around here.”

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**The College’s Links with the Community Are Strong**

*Continued from page 12*

- **Project SPAN** is a program that trains volunteers to be mentors and role models – big brothers or sisters for at-risk children.

- The men’s and women’s basketball teams, along with the softball squad, promote breast cancer awareness by sponsoring Pink Day each February. They wear pink warmups and wristbands, and hold a bake sale to support cancer research. In addition, the men’s basketball team works with the New Jersey Hawks, a sports program for individuals with developmental disabilities.

- The Alumni Association organizes an art exhibit and a food tasting scholarship fundraiser.

- The Physical Education Center is the fitness home for a number of area residents. For a nominal fee, they can join the center and work out, or they can swim in the pool. middlesexcc.edu/recreation

- A six-week high school basketball league uses the gym in the summer.

- The College’s Career Training Center boasts two GED programs, one in Perth Amboy at the Raritan Bay YMCA and the other at St. Elias Church annex in Carteret. Another program, Youth Work Readiness, helps at-risk high school graduates prepare for a career. The young people learn “soft” skills such as customer service and work readiness, along with a specific skill in areas such as computer programs, medical records, accounting, security and solar energy. This program includes a community service component and the group has run food drives each year.

College President La Perla-Morales says community colleges are attuned to the needs of the public because they are members of the community.

“There’s less of an ‘ivy tower’ mentality,” she said. “We were created to serve the educational and training needs of Middlesex County. We are willing partners with all residents of the Middlesex County community.”

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Admiral Nicole Lurie, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services assistant secretary for preparedness and response, and New Jersey Department of Health Commissioner Mary E. O’Dowd visited the medical center. Here they thank the County and the College for their quick and cooperative response. From left: Freeholder H. James Polos, Admiral Lurie, Ms. O’Dowd, Vice President Patrick Madama, College President Joann La Perla-Morales and Freeholder Director Christopher D. Rafano.
Bristol Myers Squibb Supports Bioscience Initiative

New Jersey has experienced considerable growth in biotechnology and, as the number of biotechnology companies in the state grows, so too does the need for employees with the appropriate training and skills. In order to align high school and college bioscience education and awareness, Middlesex County College developed an initiative entitled Improving Bioscience Education that will expand bioscience education and develop high school student interest in the biosciences.

To implement and administer the initiative, the MCC Foundation has been awarded $20,000 from Bristol-Myers Squibb. A major focus of the bioscience initiative includes offering a five-day comprehensive professional development workshop in June for high school teachers to address various aspects of biosciences. This grant support from Bristol-Myers Squibb will also help MCC provide a Bioscience Summer Institute to excite and engage bright, motivated high school students in the biosciences. This three-week institute will offer a hands-on bioscience experience for Middlesex County high school students during July.

Student Scholarships from Wells Fargo

Brian Daugherty, senior regional director of Wells Fargo and chair of the College Foundation Board of Trustees, delivered a check for $10,000 from the Wells Fargo Foundation to support student scholarships at MCC. The Wells Fargo Foundation Annual Scholarships will support full-time students majoring in accounting, business or business administration. “Wells Fargo is a true partner and shares a commitment with us to provide financial assistance to MCC students that will help open doors to their future success,” said Veronica Clinton, executive director of the MCC Foundation.

The Karma Foundation Supports Scholarships, Now and Forever

During the past few years, the number of students in need of private scholarship support has increased. This past academic year, 1,200 applicants applied for scholarships offered through the Foundation. In response to this growing need, the Karma Foundation provided a grant of $5,000 to provide two annual scholarships for $1,250 each year during the next two academic years. These scholarships will assist four female students who have demonstrated financial need, who are older than traditional college students, and have a strong desire to achieve their educational and career goals.

This support is particularly generous as the Karma Foundation established a $25,000 endowed scholarship fund in 2010 that will provide a scholarship to a deserving MCC student in perpetuity. During the years the endowment was growing, Karma provided additional annual scholarship support so that students could benefit immediately.

31st Annual Scholarship Golf Classic
Monday, May 13, 2013
Metuchen Golf and Country Club, Edison

Play golf on a beautiful course and help the Middlesex County College Foundation provide scholarship support to qualified, deserving students. Sponsorship and underwriting opportunities are available.
Contact Venetta Ellerbe, 732-906-2564, or email foundation@middlesexcc.edu
Saying Thanks
Scholarship recipients met their benefactors at the College’s Scholarship Reception in November. The reception was an opportunity for those who fund scholarships to meet the students who receive them. They also heard from Precious Japheth, above, an engineering science student, who addressed the group on behalf of all the students, as well as Mary Trickel ’77, a benefactor who explained why scholarship help is so important.

CASINO NIGHT: Everyone’s a Winner!
A fun-filled Casino Night was held in October as more than 100 guests enjoyed an evening of risk-free gambling. They played blackjack, craps, roulette and poker, with winners receiving tickets to place in a raffle for great prizes at the end of the night. Sponsors of the event included Universal Mailing Service, Summit Associates, New Brunswick Plating, Middlesex County AFL-CIO Labor Council, the Provident Bank Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, and Elizabeth and Paige B. L’Hommiedieu. A wide variety of restaurants, sports teams, hotels, theaters, stores, local companies and individuals donated raffle items. The enthusiastic and energetic committee was chaired by Foundation trustees Diane Conboy of Provident Bank and Genette Falk of Davis Realtors.
Susan Wosatka ’68, a graduate in Chemical Technology, retired from Exxon in 2004 as a senior research technician. Now living in North Brunswick, she has been traveling to different places around the world. In 2013 she plans to go to San Antonio, and also cruise down the Rhine from Amsterdam to Lucerne. In 2014 she’ll visit the coast of Norway to the Artic Circle to see the Northern Lights.

Gerry (Garatino) Burns ’71 is currently working in the Bernards Township School District and has been married to Denis Burns for 41 years. They reside in Forks Township, PA, and have three children and four grandchildren. They enjoy volunteering at the State Theatre, Easton, PA for the past 10 years and are avid geocachers.

Louis O. Decker ’76 began his career as a junior draftsman at an engineering company in Westfield and advanced through the company to vice president and GM. During that time he earned an A.A.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering from MCC and successfully completed the four-year Engineering Technology program at Rutgers University. He then earned a B.S. in Business Administration/Management from Upsala College. His experience at MCC provided him with a solid foundation in mechanical engineering and, in 1995, he started DecTecH Associates LLC, an engineering consulting firm specializing in food processing technology in addition to the chemical, and pulp and paper industries. DecTecH specializes in steam ejector vacuum systems, process evaluation and vacuum cooling.

Richard Waidelich ’76 is the director of tennis for the Bay Head Yacht Club in New Jersey during the summer, and the activities center director for the Loxahatchee Club, Jupiter, FL in the winter.

Ruth Olivia Bredbenner ’78 retired after 25 years at Hunterdon Medical Center as an RN. She completed oncology nurse certification and volunteers in her community. She is a writer, married, and the mother of three sons.

Michael Blake ’79 earned a B.S. in Marketing from Rider University in 1982. He is owner and president of Pro Form Printing. His company has grown to more than 125 accounts since its founding in New Jersey. The corporation is now located in Nazareth, PA. He is the father of a 20-year-old son.

Robert Murdock ’79 earned his B.A. in Accounting from Rider University in 1981. He plays bass guitar and sings with the musical group “The British Invasion Tribute...More Than Just The Beatles” and manages all business accounting for the band. He is married and has one daughter.

William E. Armstrong, Jr. ’80 served in the U.S. Air Force from 1966-69 with the rank of staff sergeant aircraft electrician. In 1996, he earned his B.S. in Business Management from Monmouth University. He retired after a 34-year career with Verizon and is currently employed as a substitute teacher at Bayshore Middle School in Leonardo, NJ. He is married to France for 40 years and has three children: Jason, Melanie and Rebecca, and two grandchildren. They reside in Atlantic Highlands.

Michael Hart ’84 earned an Associate’s Degree in Marketing and a second in ‘89 in Distribution/Transportation. In 2008 he earned a Help Desk Administration certificate and another in 2012 for Electronic Health Records. Mr. Hart was active in the Circle K club and enjoys bowling and photography; he has won prizes for his photography at the Middlesex County Fair. In 2008 he was employee of the month with Kelly Services. He belongs to the Knights of Columbus. He started an Alzheimer’s support group on Facebook and currently works as a contractor at Janssen in Raritan.

Robert Murdock ’79 (second from the top) and his band.
Frank DiSanzo '85 is chief information and strategy officer, St. Peter’s Healthcare System, New Brunswick.

Rich Muro '86 earned his baccalaureate degree from NJIT and is now the owner of Test Track, Inc., a company that sells electronic test equipment to thousands of companies. He is the father of three children.

Hilda Noel '86 earned a B.S. from Thomas Edison State College and would like to pursue a Master of Science Degree. She also writes articles on oral health for her blog.

Brenda Hagan ’90 retired from East Brunswick Township after 16 years as an instructional aide. She retired from Special Needs PREP (CCD) after 41 years. She is also the proud mother of seven children, three of whom graduated from MCC: Kristin Hagan Bolger ’90, Therese Hagan Makulinski ’94, and Aimee Hagan ’09. Ms. Hagan is the grandmother of nine (soon to be 10) grandchildren.

Yvonne Varner ’93 began attending MCC at 17 years old, but found she was not ready. She enrolled in the U.S. Army Reserves where she served for six years, and was married. She continued taking classes while living in Germany and then in Colorado. In 1985, separated and with two children, she returned to MCC to finish her degree, remarried and had a third child. She graduated with honors, earned an A.A.S. in Fashion Merchandising and was a member of Phi Theta Kappa. She was named most outstanding graduate of the Department of Minority Student Affairs. She has earned both her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees online from the University of Phoenix. She hopes to teach at MCC one day.

Renee Gatz ’94 is the author of “Wise Words & Witty Expressions,” a collection of all the expressions her Irish American mother said to help her navigate life’s ups and downs. Ms. Gatz also writes a monthly article titled “The Power of Irish Wisdom” for the Irish American Cultural Institute’s member newsletter and has been featured along with 35 other women of Irish descent in a book, “Wild Irish Women.”

Glenn Briceno ’95 is principal systems engineer for SAIC (Science Applications International Corporation), an American defense company that provides scientific, engineering, systems integration, technical services and solutions. He currently supports the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command in satellite and terrestrial communications systems design, integration and architecting. He has 15 years of experience in both the commercial and military communication industries. Mr. Briceno earned a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Texas A&M University, and an M.S. in Electrical Engineering from Polytechnic University of NYU-Brooklyn. He lives with his wife, Jolene, in Long Branch, where they enjoy hiking and kayaking.

Andrea Steinberg ’97 is a food stylist, chef and recipe taster for television and publishing.

John Basilio ’98 studied Radiography Education and is currently living in La Paz, Bolivia serving an organization called Fundación Arco Iris and Hospital Arco Iris, a foundation and hospital dedicated to meeting the needs of the poor. His primary function is to administer, consult and translate for the country director of Bolivia for HOPE worldwide, a nonprofit, faith-based organization that serves over 70 countries on six continents and mobilizes 60,000 volunteers per year. HOPE worldwide serves over 2.5 million people yearly and has a special consultative status with the United Nations. He is also employed by HOPE worldwide and has been living in La Paz with his wife and three children for the past 10 months. In the United States he was working as an MRI technologist, but joined this program because of his faith and desire to help people in need.

Continued on page 18

What have you been up to?

Let us know: alumni@middlesexcc.edu

Twelve-year-old Lindsay Benko decided to start her own nonprofit organization, called “Hope,” to help homeless children. With assistance from students in the EMPOWER program (Ecouraging and Mentoring Peers On Work and Education Readiness) at the New Brunswick Center, she created 50 bags for children served by Ejijah’s Promise, the soup kitchen. She is also being helped by her mother, Celis Benko, a 2008 alumna. From left, Maria Dominguez, an EMPOWER participant; Celis Benko; and Lindsay Benko.
Edna Marie Bolan '99 married in 2003 and bought a house in 2004. She resides in Milltown and has two children ages 4 and 6. She is a trademark paralegal at Johnson & Johnson where she has worked for 13 years.

Lewis Balcom '02 was recently promoted to operations manager for the Rotavirus Manufacturing Division of Merck & Co.

John Stopherd '02 has been working at the Home Depot in Plainfield for eight years. He enjoys traveling and his grandchildren. He misses his night school days at MCC.

Tonya Pizzuro '03 is the director of food and nutritional services and wellness team leader at the Barnabas Health Behavioral Health Center in Toms River. She earned a degree from Farleigh Dickinson University and is pursuing a Master's Degree at New York University.

Zusette Dato '04 says she blossomed after graduating from MCC with a paralegal degree. Always involved in community service and interested in local politics, last fall she won a council seat in South Amboy. This marks the first time South Amboy has had two women serving on the Council and she is very proud of that accomplishment. At MCC she gained a feeling of empowerment.

Sarra El Gamil '05 earned a B.S. from Kean University in 2008 and is now enrolled in the M.B.A. Global Management program at Kean. She is a cash management officer with Provident Bank, Edison.

Ana Lebron-Vera '07 graduated from MCC with high honors. In 2009 she graduated magna cum laude from Kean University earning a Bachelor's in Special Education. She began working in Perth Amboy as a special education teacher and taught language arts literacy to middle school students with special needs. In 2012 she graduated with distinction from Capella University with a Master's in Education specializing in reading and literacy. She taught as an adjunct writing instructor at MCC for one semester. She is now working in Perth Amboy as a reading specialist teaching middle school students with special needs.

Aquaus Kelley '08 is currently employed as a music advisor for an organization called Dynamic Producer. His position includes both business and creative development for aspiring artists, music producers and songwriters.

Jason Parsons '08 attended MCC as an adult student, taking four years to earn his first associate's degree. He believes he may not be where he is today if it wasn't for MCC's diverse range of classes and flexible schedules, taking Saturday classes, internet courses, and winter and summer classes. In 2011, having earned a B.A. in Psychology from Rutgers University, he was hired as a case manager for Community Care Behavioral Health, going on to work for Saint Peter’s University Hospital as a counselor with its For KEEPS program (partial hospitalization program for adolescents). He is also an intern at Breath of Life Counseling Services and will soon begin his Master's program at Centenary College, majoring in Leadership and Public Administration.

Romeyran B. Arbiol '11, Health Science graduate and a Phi Theta Kappa alumnus, was awarded a Dean's Fellowship from The iSchool at Drexel University in Philadelphia, in the Master of Science in Information Systems program. The fellowship is a $10,000 award providing support for graduate study given to a student who demonstrates outstanding academic achievement. Concurrent with this recognition, Mr. Arbiol received the prestigious Congressional Commendation from Congressman Frank Pallone. He is currently working at the University Medical Center of Princeton at Plainsboro, and, in addition to his studies at Drexel, is pursuing a Master's Degree in Business Administration, specializing in Healthcare Management at the University of Scranton.

Yvonne Mikalopas '11, is a dental hygienist at North Brunswick Dental Group, and is the project brush dental hygienist for the Children's Oral Health Program at Central Jersey Family Health Consortium providing oral health outreach and education to children in grades K-2.

**Obituaries**

MCC mourns the passing of three longtime members of the College community: two from its founding and one who started the next year.

**Irving Elan** and **Francis Spano** both began with the College in the fall of 1966. Dr. Spano, who passed away January 23, 2013, was dean of the Science Division, retiring in 1998.

Professor Elan passed away August 15, 2011. He was the dean of Social Sciences and Humanities and a professor of Social Sciences.

“They were both top-notch individuals and top-notch educators,” said Jerry Shindelman, retired MCC professor of Social Sciences.

Obituaries: two from its founding and one who started the next year.

They were very concerned about instruction, and helped turn the College into the excellent institution it is today. Past, present and future generations of students owe them a debt of gratitude.”

**Lynn Winik**, assistant professor in the Department of Visual, Performing and Media Arts, passed away on Tuesday, January 29, 2013. Professor Winik started at the College in 1967 and taught theater classes. She also directed more than 60 plays during her tenure.

“She was a lovely woman and a fine colleague, with tremendous dedication to her students, past and present,” said Nadine Heller, chair of the department. “We will miss her greatly.”
Restaurants from all over will be offering samples of their best dishes at the fifth Alumni Association Food Tasting on Wednesday, April 10. Visit each and find out what makes Central Jersey a mecca of great restaurants. Proceeds support the MCC Alumni Association Scholarship Fund, which awards annual scholarships to deserving students.

Call 732-906-7732 or email alumni@middlesexcc.edu

Exhibit Showcases Decades of Creativity

Eleven Middlesex County College alumni – spanning 1977 to 2011 – displayed their artistic talents at the College’s Alumni Art Exhibit. The program, open to all MCC alumni, showcased painting, photography and sculpture. The artists were recognized at a reception in October. Seated from left: Ashley Hanania ’05, Gabrielle Ambrozia ’11, Amy Glass ’09. Standing: Veronica Clinton, director of development and alumni relations and executive director of the MCC Foundation, Michael Hart ’84, Eric McNerney ’85, David Link ’09, Linda Stockman ’86, Michele Sutera ’08, and Dorothy Bitetto ’69, Alumni Association trustee. Also participating but unable to attend: Monique Ortiz-Arndt ’02, Nancy Swolensky ’77, and Nicholas Tancredi ’11.
The Wine Geek

He teaches classes on the subject, runs the Summit Wine and Food Festival, even developed an app for vino. Is there anything he doesn’t know about wine?

Meet Ivan Ruiz ’95.
van Ruiz loves wine, and he wants you to love it too.

The owner and wine director of The Wine List of Summit, he is a bundle of energy and enthusiasm as he tours his 5,000-square-foot store. With good reason. It is a beautiful boutique, with a café, take out food business, and racks upon racks of wine.

“Anyone can sell you a bottle of wine, but we search around the globe for the very finest, then introduce our customers to unusual selections and sophisticated subtleties,” he says.

Downstairs is the classroom where he teaches “The ABCs of Wine” to 1,000 people a year. It is also home to the wine locker room. Customers can rent a locker and keep their wine where it is always 55 degrees with 70 percent humidity, the perfect environment.

Mr. Ruiz ’95 is a wine expert, but no wine snob: some of his bottles go for as little as $6, but there is also one, a 1961 Chateau Haut-Brion, that costs $3500. He developed a wine app, and in 1997 spent two months working at various wineries in the Champagne, Loire and Alsace regions of France.

“I love everything about wine,” he says. “How it’s made, how it’s bottled, how it tastes. It is fascinating.” But it is not just a love of wine that keeps him innovating; it is also good business.

“We try to come out with new ideas to survive in a competitive marketplace,” he said. He also builds wine cellars and is working on a TV show, “In Search of the Perfect Palate.”

It is that mixing of business with the love of the product that led to the creation of the Summit Wine Festival held each fall.

“In 2008 the economy crashed,” he recalled. “Summit is 60 to 70 percent Wall Street driven. I toured the town with the mayor and some of the councilmembers and we counted 23 empty stores. We said, ‘What can we do to attract businesses?’ I thought a wine and food festival would help revitalize the climate. I spent 20 years in the restaurant business and I knew all the top chefs so I got them and the sommeliers together. Our first festival was in 2009. We had 1700 people and 40 chefs come to that one.”

It is a food and wine lover’s dream that includes a gala dinner, cooking demonstrations, wine tastings, book signings, and more. The Summit Wine Festival now attracts over 2,000 people, along with top chefs, writers, TV personalities and wine connoisseurs. The proceeds go to the Community FoodBank of New Jersey.

This is all part of his desire to educate people about fine food and drink.

“People know how to eat,” he says. “But they don’t know how to dine.”

* * *

Mr. Ruiz came to the United States from Colombia when he was 17. He worked at fast-food restaurants while at Elizabeth High School, graduated in 1985 and started as a busboy at the Grand Summit Hotel.

“I really liked it there,” he said. “It felt like home.”

He realized that he needed a diploma to be successful, so he came to MCC part time as a culinary arts major. He was 15 credits shy of a degree when he was hired as manager at the famed Ryland Inn. Turning that into New Jersey’s first four-star restaurant was more than a full-time job, so Mr. Ruiz left school. Five years later he was back, earning his degree in 1995.

“The foundation I got at Middlesex was amazing,” he said. “The professors were knowledgeable and they taught professionalism and follow-through. If it wasn’t for the foundation I got at Middlesex, I wouldn’t be here today.”
The **men’s soccer** team finished 8-9-2. They were in the conference playoffs, making it to the semifinal round. The team should have many players who contributed to their success returning next year. Two players, Sam Giraldo and Alejandro Hinestrosa, made the All-Region 19 team and the All-Garden State Athletic Conference team.

The **cross country** squad finished third at the Region 19 Championships. Chris Revolus placed ninth overall at the regions. The team qualified for the districts and placed 12th at the National Junior College Athletic Association Championship in Delhi, NY.

**Women’s soccer** had a good season, going 6-10 and missing the playoffs by a couple of games. They were a very young team that got stronger as the season went on, providing optimism for next year. Two players, Alexis Rambhajan and Brittany Parson, made the All-Region 19 team and the All-Garden State Athletic Conference team.

In the inaugural season of **volleyball** at MCC, the Colts went to the Region 19 playoffs and also won the Garden State Athletic Conference Invitational. They finished the season with 4-7 record. Racheal Wernoch was named to the All-Region 19 team and the All-Garden State Athletic Conference team.

With about two-thirds of the winter season completed, MCC’s basketball and wrestling teams are doing well. The **Men’s Basketball** team started off slow but had a great December and are now 7-14. The team is in the hunt for a playoff bid. Tramaine White is leading the team in scoring with 20.8 points per game.

**Women’s Basketball** has been consistent so far this season and are now 13-7, aiming for a spot in the conference tournament. Jordan Thomas is leading the team in points per game with 12.3 and also rebounds per game with 10.6.

**Wrestling** has been to a few quality tournaments this year to prepare for the NJCAA Eastern District tournament. They finished third in the Garden State Athletic Conference narrowly losing to Bergen Community College.

**Men’s Basketball Helps Community**

Members of the men’s basketball team helped with the Annual Halloween Parade in October in North Plainfield. Those players were Magdy Assawi, Mehdi Benkabbou, Martin Mitchell, Josh Lee, Antwon Paterson and Abdul Bamba. They helped set-up the event and also were the official judges for the costume contest.

The entire team also assisted with the Annual Senior Citizen Holiday Party in December at the Dunellen Methodist Church.
When Hurricane Sandy knocked down about 40 trees on the campus, it created less shade, but also a learning opportunity. Workers cut several sections that will be used in biology classes. Students can study a cross-section of one of the trees to learn about its history and the history of the local environment. The science is called dendrochronology, the study of tree aging. “Trees are some of the oldest living organisms,” said Parag Muley, chair of the Department of Natural Sciences. “You can learn a lot by knowing how it grew.” For example, examining the tree rings can give an idea of the quality of soil, prevalence of insects, fire, drought and the air quality throughout its life. From left: Biology Professor George Allen, Mr. Muley, and Donald R. Drost Jr., executive director of facilities.