Celebrating 50 Years: Public Invited to Open House & Expo April 19

MCC is throwing open its doors to welcome everyone for its Community Open House & Expo on Sunday, April 19 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the Edison campus. In celebration of the College’s 50th anniversary, this event will offer activities for people of all ages.

“It’s a celebration of MCC and will be a lot of fun,” said Lisa Gregory, associate director of admissions and co-chair of the organizing committee. “We’re going to showcase our campus and programs for prospective students. We’re also going to have carnival games, a play, music, art, mini-golf, a classic car show, fun activities for children, open swim, and refreshments at 1964 prices, the year of our founding. So whether you are considering enrolling at Middlesex or you would just like to see the campus and have a great time, this event is for you.”

Except for the performance of “Fiddler on the Roof,” all activities are free. For a complete list and to register, please visit www.MCCOpenHouse.com.

The Community Open House & Expo is family-friendly and will include activities aimed at children. Kids can decorate (and eat) their own cupcakes; the MCC Theater Camp will conduct a drama workshop; the Middlesex Academy for Science, Math and Engineering is organizing Bubble Soccer for kids; parents and children can tour the College’s Child Care Center; and kids can enjoy pony rides and a petting zoo. In addition, student employees of the Blue Colt Bookstore will read stories to young children.

Music will be a big part of the day as the British Invasion Tribute Band, featuring Robert Murdock, class of ’79, will entertain. The group performed at MCC’s alumni reunion in 2013 to rave reviews.

The Edison Light Cruisers will hold a car show from Noon-4 p.m. featuring classic, modern muscle cars, exotic and specialty cars.

“This is going to be terrific,” Ms. Gregory said. “We expect at least 100 cars.”

“Fiddler on the Roof,” which also made its debut in 1964, will be performed. Tickets may be ordered in advance from the website.

“This is a wonderful musical that is fun for the whole family,” she said.

The pool will be open for recreational swim.

Alumni artists have created wonderful paintings, sculptures and mixed media pieces that will be displayed. At least one work from each artist will be auctioned off with the proceeds going to the Alumni Scholarship Fund. The program is being curated by Dorothy Bitetto ’69, Alumni Association president, and Francine Neidle-Krimsky ’86, who retired last spring after 28 years as professor of graphic arts. Alumni artists include Ray Santoleri ’88, Richmond S. Otolorin Garrick ’95, Edward Wargo ’82, Thomas Wood, Kristin Belger ’90, Kristin Foye ’01, Courtney Averett ’10, Nancy Swolensky ’77, David Link ’09, Michele A. Sutera ’08, Ashley Hanania ’05, Linda Stockman ’86, Nicholas A. Tancredi ’11 and Professor Neidle-Krimsky ’86.

Visual art students will also have an exhibition of their work on display.

In addition, many academic disciplines will offer workshops and information sessions in their areas. These include math, English, biotechnology, natural science, medical laboratory technology, computer science, art, radiography, dental hygiene,

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“Endless Possibilities” Documents 50 Years of MCC Achievements

Three members of the Middlesex County College class of 2014 have collaborated on a history of the College. “Endless Possibilities: Middlesex County College 1964-2014” was written by Kim Silva-Martinez, the photo editor is Nicole Kazar and the art director is Damian Gonzalez.

“Middlesex is a unique college, with a fascinating history and a rich legacy,” Ms. Silva-Martinez said. “This was truly a labor of love.”

“Endless Possibilities” is divided into sections by decades. It actually touches on pre-college history, as the land was part of the Raritan Arsenal, an Army base. It covers the conversion of the property; the public relations campaign in the county to convince the residents of the need for a county college; and hiring the first president, Frank Chambers.

It then spans the decades from the 1960s to the 2010s, featuring faculty, staff and students. Each section includes a two-page spread on a graduate or faculty member, as well as smaller features on other prominent members of the College community. It is speckled with photos through the years. The text includes smaller stories on students, faculty and staff during those eras. In addition, there are separate sections on the library, athletics, student life, the student newspaper and the MCC Foundation.

Published by the College, the 152-page book, which runs 40,000 words, is available at the MCC Blue Colt Bookstore.

Ms. Silva-Martinez is now a student at Montclair State University; Ms. Kazar graduated in 2014 with a degree in photography and is now completing her Associate Degree in Graphic Arts at Middlesex; and Mr. Gonzalez is the graphic services coordinator in MCC’s Office of Marketing Communications.

“I think Kim, Nicole and Damian have done a fabulous job in capturing the fabric of Middlesex County College,” said Patrick Madama, vice president for institutional advancement at Middlesex. “It is very well written, and the photographs and design work together to create a wonderful tapestry. I think anyone who enjoys local history or cares about MCC will love it.”
The Arts and Sciences Festival, an annual event highlighting the contributions of music, history, science, sociology, theater, poetry and more to society, will be held at the College in April. Most events are free and open to the public.

“This is a wonderful opportunity to spend the day with published writers and learn their secrets,” said Professor Melissa Edwards, who is coordinating the program. “We’ll have sessions on writing children’s books, memoirs, poetry, teaching the core curriculum, journalism, playwriting, public relations, teaching reading to students, and others. It promises to be an excellent program – and very valuable for writers and aspiring writers.”

Public school teachers may earn six Professional Development Credits at the workshop.

In addition, Chandra Hayslett, an award-winning journalist, will speak on various careers in communications. She has also been a public relations account executive, worked for nonprofits and published her own blog.

“Express Yourself” is a fundraiser to support the publication of the Middlesex County College literary journal. The registration fee is $75 (same day registration is $80); students are $35. Teachers who enroll five students may attend for free.

For a complete schedule of workshops, please visit www.middlesexcc.edu/experss, email lfrisman@middlesexcc.edu or call 732-906-4250.

Richard Feldman Named New Veterans Services Coordinator

Richard Feldman, an Air Force veteran with many years of experience as a business executive, consultant and assistant academic dean, was appointed coordinator of the Center for Veterans Services, which serves several hundred student veterans.

Mr. Feldman is a Vietnam-era veteran, who served as a personnel officer, recruiting officer and casualty services officer, and was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal, with oak leaf cluster. After active duty he served a short time in the New Jersey Air National Guard.

The MCC Center coordinates services for student military veterans, acting as a one-stop location to assist with their veteran entitlements and the processing of paperwork. It also offers information on resources and services available to veterans, and is a place where they can socialize with other vets.

The Center was established in 2011 with a grant from the Willard T.C. Johnson Foundation. The grant was renewed in 2014.

“My goal is to make the Center for Veterans Services at MCC the benchmark for all community colleges in the nation,” Mr. Feldman said. “With the resources here and the enthusiasm we have, I know we can do it.”

Upon leaving active duty, he began a career in corporate human resources, holding increasingly responsible positions at various Fortune-listed corporations including Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer, Lockheed and AlliedSignal. His last corporate position was as the global vice president of human resources for York International’s largest business unit.

Mr. Feldman became assistant dean of career management at the University of Maryland’s Robert H. Smith School of Business.

Most recently, he managed the Veterans In Pursuit of Educational Readiness Program (VIPER) at Warren County Community College.

Arts & Sciences Festival to Feature Innovation

The Arts and Sciences Festival, an annual event highlighting the contributions of music, history, science, sociology, theater, poetry and more to society, will be held at the College in April. Most events are free and open to the public.

“This month allows faculty, students and others from the outside to gather and celebrate the mind,” said Michael Nester, chair of the English Department and the Arts and Sciences Festival. “This year, as part of the College’s 50th anniversary, the theme will be 50 Years of Innovation 1964-2014. I think the community will really enjoy the offerings. We have a wonderful group of presenters.”

For a complete list of events, please visit www.middlesexcc.edu.

Notables

Dr. Virgil H. Blanco, professor of ESL/Languages and Cultures, has been elected co-president of the New Jersey Fulbright Association at its annual meeting at the Princeton School of Mathematics and Sciences.
Alumni President Honored for 45 Years of Service

Dorothy Bitetto ’69, president of the Alumni Association, was honored at an alumni reception for 45 years of volunteer service to the College. She was presented with a framed copy of the resolution of the College Board of Trustees. The board approved the resolution at its February meeting.

Ms. Bitetto has been involved as a volunteer with MCC since she graduated in 1969; she was a founding member of the Alumni Association and is currently the president. Over the years, she has worked extensively on numerous events, including the Alumni Art Exhibit. She played key roles in planning and implementing alumni reunions in 1983, 1991 and 2013, and she is now working on the College’s Community Open House and Expo, which is scheduled for April 19.

She also served on the College Foundation’s advisory board and supports its fundraising efforts.

“This was an amazing surprise to be honored with such a special distinction coming from the Board of Trustees,” Ms. Bitetto said. “What I do for MCC is out of my love and devotion to the College. I am proud to be called an MCC alumna.”

Open House & Expo to Showcase MCC and Feature Fun for All

The non-credit programs will also hold workshops in areas such as health careers training, appliance/electronic repair technicians, and retirement. The demonstration kitchen is the home of several workshops on cooking.

MCC student groups are also involved in the day’s activities. The award-winning step dance team, “Exitium,” will perform and clubs will provide information on their mission and programs.

The Blue Colt Bookstore will be open all day and will have sales of items, including candy popular from the 1960s, as well as the story time for children.

Democracy House, the College’s service learning program, will organize a blood drive for the community.

The MCC Foundation will sponsor miniature golf.

“This is a free nine-hole mini-golf game for children and adults,” said Venetta Ellerbe, co-chair of the organizing committee.

The baseball and softball teams have home doubleheaders scheduled at noon.

Dr. Debórah Dwork, a Holocaust scholar, will speak on “Refugees 1933-1945 and 1990-2015” in a program co-sponsored by MCC’s Center for the Study of Genocide, Prejudice and the Holocaust.

The Foundation will also hold a Community Forum, in which the public can learn about Corporate Mission Partners and other organizations in partnership with MCC.

For those interested in local history, MCC has created a display of photos and memorabilia from its history.

New Wheels

The mailroom has a new putter to deliver on-campus mail. The vehicle is eco-friendly, creating significantly less emissions than a van. From left: Mail Processors Christian Nunez, Esteban Rodriguez and Willy Espino.