



## Triumphant **RETURN**

Alberto Alayón is overseeing construction at South Hall, on the same ground where he went to class 30 years ago.

See page 8.

# CAMPUS NEWS

## MCC Signs Reverse Transfer Agreement with Pillar College

Representatives of Middlesex County College and Pillar College recently signed a reverse transfer agreement. This pact allows students attending Pillar College to receive a Middlesex degree for courses they have taken at MCC and Pillar.

“It is really designed for students who started at Middlesex and transferred to Pillar just shy of an Associate Degree,” said Mark McCormick, MCC’s vice president for academic and student affairs. “What we find is students may transfer early, intending to earn a Bachelor’s Degree, but then an unforeseen circumstance prevents them from finishing. This agreement means they could take the credits they have earned from both institutions and apply them to an Associate Degree from MCC. We encourage all our students to graduate before transferring, but we recognize this doesn’t always happen.”

The agreement with Pillar is the first reverse transfer agreement Middlesex has signed. MCC has numerous transfer articulation agreements with colleges and universities all over the nation. In the other transfer agreements, students earn an Associate Degree at MCC, then apply their credits earned to the four-year school where they transfer in as juniors.

In the Pillar agreement, students must have earned at least 30 degree-eligible, transferable credits from Middlesex; the remainder can be earned at Pillar.



Seated, from left: Mark McCormick, vice president for academic and student affairs, and Joann La Perla-Morales, president at Middlesex County College; David E. Schroeder, president, and Wayne R. Dyer, vice president of strategic alliances, at Pillar College. Standing: Marla Brinson, dean of student affairs, and Patrick Madama, vice president for institutional advancement, at Middlesex.

“One of the interesting features of this agreement is that the student could be awarded an Associate Degree from MCC and a Bachelor’s Degree from Pillar simultaneously,” Dr. McCormick said.



### Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders

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# Learning + Fun!



The curriculum of MCC's new kindergarten will mirror many of the aspects of area school systems.

## Full-Day Kindergarten Program Opening in the Fall

The College will begin offering a kindergarten class this fall. The program, which will run from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., will supplement MCC's existing child care program for those 2 ½ to 6 years old.

"Many of our parents expressed a desire for us to open a kindergarten class," said Mary Jo Tivenan-Mackintosh, the Child Care director. "The area public schools offer

half-day kindergarten, so this is a real need for working parents."

The curriculum of MCC's program will align with New Jersey's kindergarten standards and mirror many of the aspects of the local systems, which will make the transition to first grade easier. MCC's kindergarten will use the enVisionMATH program and the Creative Curriculum, which is currently taught in the Child Care Center.

"It will be a balanced kindergarten classroom, with hands-on learning in areas such as literacy and math," she said. "Being on a college campus, we can offer a unique perspective. The kids visit the College Bookstore, MCC's dental students do presentations on oral hygiene, the Sign Language Club reads stories and explains how to sign certain words, and we have student groups who read to the kids."

Ms. Tivenan-Mackintosh said the class will consist of 15 to 17 children.

"A certified teacher and aide will be in the classroom at all times," she said.

The cost is \$975 per month, with lunch and a snack included. Before and after care will be available for an additional fee. For more information, please call 732-906-2542.

"I'm really looking forward to starting this program," Ms. Tivenan-Mackintosh said. "It'll be a wonderful, creative atmosphere in which to learn and grow."



The eighth edition of "Middlesex: A Literary Journal" has been published, and the authors were honored at a reception in January. From left: Gregg Glory, Daniel Weeks, Dan Zimmerman, Hank Kalet, Mat Spano, Frank Finale, and Emanuel di Pasquale. If you would like a copy, please contact the English Department at 732-906-2591.

## 3 Students Honored for Posters on Journal Articles

When Professor Christine Harrington published her textbook, “Student Success in College: Doing What Works!,” she decided to take some of the royalties from it and establish a scholarship for students. She invited those taking Student Success 101 classes to create posters summarizing research findings from a peer-reviewed journal article. The winners were honored at a ceremony in December. They were: Carly Adams, who won the \$1,000 first-place prize for her poster on managing stress; Erika Rosario won the \$700 second-place award for a poster on marijuana use and its effect on academic performance; and Mario Perez, who took the \$300 third-place prize for his poster on kids and video games.



From left: College President Joann La Perla-Morales, Christine Harrington, Carly Adams, Erika Rosario, and Mark McCormick, vice president for academic and student affairs.

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## Director of Corporate Education and Training Named

Nick DeMatteo has joined Middlesex County College as the director of corporate education and training. He spent 25 years in the manufacturing industry, including as the plant manager of Laird Technologies. He then went into higher education, working at the Center for Business and Industry at Northampton Community College and as the director of workforce development at Westmoreland Community College.

He holds a Master of Science Degree in project management from George Washington University.

Corporate education and training assists the business community with the training needs of their employees. Classes can be offered on campus or at the business location.

“My whole premise is building partnerships with busi-



Nick DeMatteo

ness and industry, and to provide a valuable economic development resource for Middlesex County,” he said.

Mr. DeMatteo can be reached at 732-906-4860 or [NDeMatteo@middlesexcc.edu](mailto:NDeMatteo@middlesexcc.edu).

# Middlesex Prof Translates Capuana's Stories

One is a riveting courtroom drama, another a thriller in which a woman, who took the rap for a murder actually committed by her husband, comes looking for him. Themes of class and betrayal, these are only two of nine plays by the Sicilian author Luigi Capuana (1839-1915) that have been translated into English by Professor Santi Buscemi.

"It was a new challenge for me," said Professor Buscemi, who has translated other works by Capuana. "I grew up speaking Sicilian but had less familiarity with the written word. But I was fascinated by the plays. Some of the characters in them were very familiar to me – I grew up with them – figuratively. That was the fun of it."

The work, "Nine Sicilian Plays by Luigi Capuana Translated from Sicilian into English," was published in February by Mellen Press. Aimed at research and university libraries, the book retails for \$100.

Not only did Professor Buscemi translate the work, he also took the photograph on its cover. It is a photo of a 12th Century Monastery, St. John's of the Hermits in Palermo.

Professor Buscemi has become an expert on the life of Capuana, the father of "verismo," the literary philosophy

that maintains that humans are pawns of outside influence – economic, political, social, biological – that leaves little room for free will.

"Capuana was a prolific author of novels, short stories, fairy tales, criticism and plays – with plays coming more toward the end of his life," Professor Buscemi said. "He did 12 plays and I used the nine best and most famous in the book."

Capuana wrote in both Italian and Sicilian and Professor Buscemi credits him and others such as Nino Martoglio with reviving regional languages in Italy.

This is Professor Buscemi's third translation of Capuana. His first was "C'era una volta," a collection of fairy tales under the English title "Sicilian Tales," which was followed by "The Marquis of Roccaverdina."

He's not done with Capuana.

He completed "Profiles of Women: A collection of six novellas," as well as two short story collections: "The Neighbors" and "The Enemy Is Within Us." Professor Buscemi is also completing a translation of "Giacinta," Capuana's first novel.

"Capuana is a fascinating author," Professor Buscemi said. "I've enjoyed studying his life and work."



Students, faculty and staff in the Nursing Program participated in the "National Wear Red Day" campaign on Friday, February 26, promoted by the American Heart Association and the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. They were asked to wear red on that day, since it is a color that stands out. Everyone was given a Heart Health Information Packet and asked to share it with someone they knew who could benefit from it. This was a wonderful community outreach activity.

# Church Leader Finds a Home in Tucson

By Chuck O'Donnell '91

Rev. Katie McCallister '07 is simply but lovingly known as Mother Katie to the parishioners at St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Tucson, Arizona, where she is the assistant to the rector for this thriving congregation that has spread roots among so many cacti in the shadow of the Catalina Mountains.

She found healing and strength through the church.

"It's so full, it's so full of rich experiences," Rev. McCallister said. "Every day is different and every day can bring something amazing when we're open to how God moves among us in everything. Even in the mundane or difficult moments of life, God's presence abides and connecting to the divine is possible.

"It's all about seeking the divine in the ordinary business of daily life; it's about people and seeking the image of God within them. This is something we are all called to do: seek the divinity within people and ourselves, look for the goodness from which we are all created. I'm humbled and grateful to help people do this."

Rev. McCallister, who went to Middlesex County College after graduating from South Amboy High School in 2005, says church was a source of peace and strength for her during her troubled times as a teenager.

"My family went through a difficult season when I was young and I tried to self-medicate in different ways. I kept trying to fill a hole in my heart that eventually I learned only God could fill," she said. "Thankfully, my mom took us to church most Sundays while growing up. It was at church that I felt close to God. Even though I stumbled in life and got into trouble, I grew up in the church. While I know the church has wounded many people, I'm grateful to say church was very stable and a safe place for me, emotionally, physically and spiritually. It was in the ritual of worship that I gained a sense of peace and belonging.

"When people wonder if they're good enough, or worthy of love and forgiveness, I tell them that I'm sure of it, not only because I believe in my bones that we are each a

dwelling place for our divine creator, but also because if God loves me with all my craziness, God definitely loves you with yours too. I follow Jesus because he knows what it is to hurt, feel betrayed, angry and lonely. He gets us. He knows our sufferings and loves us in our fullness."

On the other side was another stony path of sorts. Rev. McCallister originally had her heart set on attending Ramapo College, but she was wait-listed. So, she arrived at Middlesex County College's gates, unsure of her direction in life.

She turned to a counselor, Sheema Majiduddin, for help.

"She was fantastic," Rev. McCallister said. "(Ms. Majiduddin) met with me several times and asked clarifying questions and facilitated personality and skills assessments with great care so that I could gain clarity in my vocational and educational interest."

At that point in her life, Rev. McCallister was also having something of a spiritual awakening. She had done an internship at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Keansburg the summer before arriving at MCC. She realized she had a genuine fondness for people and for helping people.

When they put it all together, it was clear to Ms. Majiduddin and Rev. McCallister that she should pursue a degree in family studies and human development.

"That was not taught at the time in New Jersey at the public schools with that specificity," Rev. McCallister said. "So I went looking outside the state. I figured if I was going to leave the state, I was going someplace warm."

So it was off to the University of Arizona, which had one of the best family studies and human development programs in the country. After earning her degree, she attended seminary school and was ordained a priest at her home parish, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in South River, on May 24, 2014.

She has found a home in Tucson, in a sanctuary with a huge cross-shaped window that allows an ethereal glow to fill the room during services.



# Rev. Katie McCallister: A Calling to Help People

*Continued from page 6*

“In the pulpit or standing up in front of the congregation, she wakes everybody up,” said Creston King, a senior warden on the church’s governing body. “She’s got that fire kind of in her that I think a lot of people like. A lot of the congregants I have spoken with say they really like her sermons.”

Working in St. Alban’s school and interacting with kids has also been a blessing for Rev. McCallister. The high schoolers are often at an age of discovery and exploration, and challenge her on many levels, including an intellectual one.

The little ones, she says, “know God in a way most adults have forgotten: without shame.” It’s never more

evident than when the preschool students file into chapel on Tuesday mornings.

“I offer each one of them a blessing when they come in,” Rev. McCallister says. “I say, ‘Would you like a blessing?’ They can say, ‘no’ or they can say, ‘yes.’ They change their minds depending on the week or their mood.

“I have this one little girl, Kiera, she’s got these dimples that will not quit. They’re adorable. And every week without fail she wants a blessing, plus a second. Another student always wants to smell the holy oil that I use to anoint them. He often smells it, puts his finger in and then dots my face.

“Parents often say they catch their child saying prayers or singing our songs at home. They don’t talk about God the way we do, but they get it.”

## Alumnus Writes Book on Boxing Legend

Bill Dettloff ’91 had pumped gas on the graveyard shift at a Hess station and worked for an insurance company and had gone 10 tough rounds with life by the time he arrived at Middlesex County College in 1989.

Tired of dead-end jobs, he knew there was a writer inside waiting to get his chance. He loved boxing, and he harbored a dream of chronicling every straight jab and roundhouse right thrown by the sport’s greatest fighters.

It would be a long battle to get there, but Mr. Dettloff credits his time at MCC for pushing him into the ring of boxing journalism.

“Two English teachers made a big deal about essays I’d written, which told me that it wasn’t just a couple high school teachers who saw something,” Mr. Dettloff said. “They confirmed what I hoped they would – that I had something. That was hugely important to me at that time.”

“What I learned at MCC was that I had something and if I didn’t give up, if I hung in there and figured things out, I just might get somewhere.”

He would eventually forge a career as one of the country’s most respected boxing journalists. During his 18 years as senior writer for *The Ring* magazine, he chronicled several title fights and also co-authored “Box Like the Pros” with former heavyweight champion Joe Frazier.

His latest book, “Ezzard Charles: A Boxing Life,” is a sympathetic requiem for the man Mr. Dettloff calls the greatest light heavyweight in history.

By all rights, Mr. Charles should have been hailed as a hero. He was raised in a shack at the end of a dirt road in North Carolina and literally fought to get ahead. He had to contend with the likes of Jimmy Bivins and Archie Moore in the ring, and the mob’s long-reaching influence

outside it.

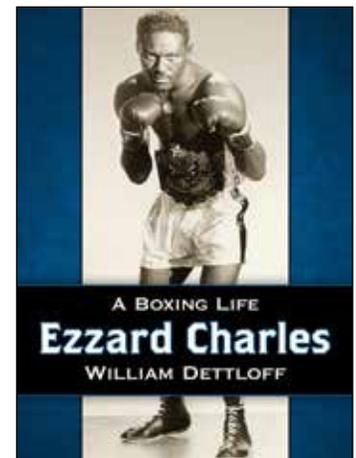
Mr. Charles would not be denied, and in 1950, he did what many thought was impossible: He beat Joe Louis for the heavyweight title.

But a boxing public that was already critical of Mr. Charles’ tactical boxing style turned vicious after the Louis fight. He would become the heavyweight champ who was booed when stepping into the ring, and little changed after he battled bravely (and lost) to a young newcomer named Rocky Marciano.

Mr. Dettloff’s exhaustive research revealed that fans could never forgive Mr. Charles for beating the wildly popular Mr. Louis.

Mr. Louis was an American icon, and for beating him, Mr. Charles was subjected to scorn. Out of the spotlight, he would pass away in 1975 with little fanfare. The fact that Mr. Dettloff’s book is the first biography on Mr. Charles speaks volumes.

“We saw the same thing when Gene Tunney followed an enormously popular champ in Jack Dempsey and the same thing when Larry Holmes followed an enormously popular champ in Muhammad Ali,” he said. “There are these gigantic heroes and you’re the next guy. How do you follow that?”



By Chuck O’Donnell ’91

# *Guess What?*

*You can go home again.*



Alberto Alayón looks at the new South Hall building with pride. He knows every inch of it and can tell you when the windows will be installed, when the plumbing will be set up, when the electricity will be turned on.

The senior project manager for Epic, Mr. Alayón is MCC's representative in making sure the work is done right, and on time.

Thirty years earlier, he was taking classes on the same spot he is working at now. South I and South II, which were razed in the summer of 2014

to make room for the new construction, had been used for technology classes when he was a student. Mr. Alayón graduated in 1984 with an Associate Degree in Civil Engineering Technology.

"We had a great cadre of professors," he said. "Ray

Nolan, Frank Rubino, Carl Kiesewetter and Jay Edelson, to name a few. They enjoyed teaching and they enjoyed the students. They made it a home for us. It was a very positive experience for me. I got a great education."



He graduated from MCC, and was awarded an ROTC scholarship from the U.S. Army and continued his studies at NJIT in Newark. In 1987 he graduated with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Civil Engineering Technology and received a commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He

worked briefly for Epic before being called to active duty in the Army Corps of Engineers during Desert Storm. He spent five years on active duty with assignments

*Continued on page 9*



# Alberto Alayón

*Continued from page 8*

in Germany and the U.S. followed by three years with the National Guard attaining the rank of major, before returning to Epic. He has been there for the last 25 years.

Mr. Alayón resides in Pennsylvania with his wife Rose of 25 years and has two children.

This is his first project for MCC.

“I was excited to come back,” he said. “There’s been a lot of positive changes. Aside from the original Arsenal buildings, there were only six or seven College buildings then. It’s kind of coincidental that I’m working on the same ground that I stood at when I was a student. It brings back positive memories.”

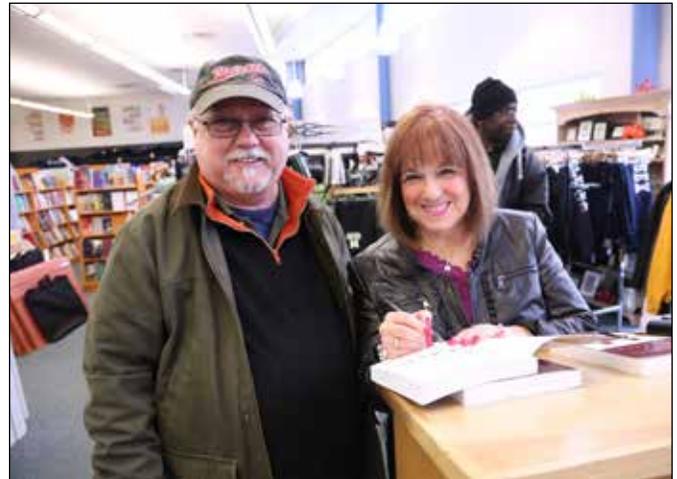
Opposite page: Don Drost '79, left, executive director of facilities management at MCC, with Alberto Alayón '84 in front of the new South Hall. At left, the two gave MCC engineering students a tour of the construction last fall.

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## Faculty Authors Present Their Works at College Bookstore



Professor Emanuel di Pasquale signed copies and read passages from his new book, “Natural Love and the Unnatural Attacks Against It” in February at the Bookstore.



Professor Shirley Watchtel signed copies of her novel, “The Music Makers,” following a reading at the Bookstore in February. “The Music Makers” follows the lives of two families in upstate New York, examining their relationships and exploring the struggles of life. She signs a copy of the book for her colleague, Professor Daniel Zimmerman.

# FOUNDATION REPORT



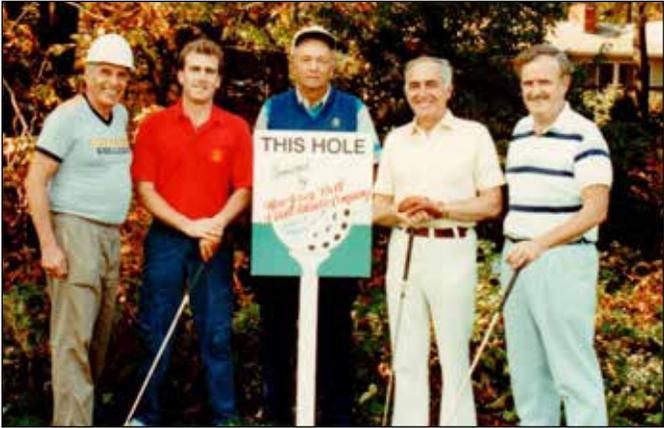
MCC Board of Trustees meeting, December 1965 includes: John Hoffman (front left), Frank Marchitto (second left), Nicholas Venezia (third left), Lillian Carman (fifth left) and Alice Lake (sixth left). Paige D. L'Hommedieu heads the table. Also present are Dr. Frank Chambers (front right) and Joseph Klegman (third right).

## Happy Anniversary MCC Foundation!

The Middlesex County College Foundation is now 50 years old. At a December 1965 meeting of the College's Board of Trustees, Joseph Klegman, chairman of the Community Affairs Committee, announced the decision to incorporate the Middlesex County College Foundation as the fundraising entity of the College. This was vision-

ary at the time as the belief was generally held that a publicly-funded college would not be in need of private support. Incorporated on January 18, 1966, the original stated purpose of the Foundation was to solicit donations from individuals, corporations and groups to fund scholarships for

deserving students. Since its inception, the MCC Foundation has provided over \$12 million in scholarship support to more than 15,000 students. Additionally, the Foundation solicits private contributions in support of the College's programs and services.



At left, Sidney and Rose Danzis at a themed Foundation Scholarship Ball; above, participants enjoyed an early golf outing.

# Recent Gifts Support Student Scholarships

Endowed scholarship fund contributions have been generously provided by Robert and Elaine Ciatto for the Robert and Elaine Ciatto Endowed Scholarship, Colleen and Michael A. Maroney, Jr. for the Colleen and Michael A. Maroney, Jr. Endowed Scholarship, Barbara Rosengarten for the Steven B. Rosengarten Memorial Scholarship for a Graduating Senior, and Mary Trickel for the Mary Trickel Endowed Fund.

## Support for annual scholarships has been provided by:

Proctor & Gamble Company provided \$1,500 for the Ann Goodwin Memorial Annual Scholarship. The scholarship is a tribute in memory of Professor Goodwin, a member of the dental hygiene community who was regarded as an expert in clinical dental hygiene, oral pathology and education.

Dr. Rush Holt and Dr. Margaret Lancefield renewed their commitment to the Congressman Rush Holt and Dr. Margaret Lancefield Annual Scholarship. The scholarship benefits part-time students who work, have family obligations and reside in New Jersey's 12th Congressional District.

The JFK Medical Center Auxiliary provided \$2,000 for the organization's scholarship, which was established in 1990 for full-time Health Technologies students from Metuchen, Edison or Woodbridge. The scholarship has benefitted 58 students since its inception.

Murray Stevens has renewed his support of the Anne Stevens Memorial Scholarship that he established in 2010 in honor of his wife who was an active nurse all her life



Michael A. Maroney, Jr. '80 (right) and Colleen Maroney with the first Colleen and Michael A. Maroney, Jr. Endowed scholarship recipient, Victor Flores.

while raising a family.

The Professor Robert Urbanski Annual Scholarship Fund received a generous contribution from Maud Urbanski.

Contributions from members – and former members – of the campus community included the following: Leslie Carter and Fannie Gordon supported the Harry Payne Annual Scholarship, Andrew Dzurisin pledged his continued support of the Dr. Diane Z. Wilhelm Memorial Annual Scholarship, Pamela Hedberg donated to the Mary Trickel Endowed Fund, and Susan McColley continued her support of the Damien Nuccio Memorial Nursing Award which she established in 2010 in memory of her grandson. Dr. Mathew Spano added to the Dr. Francis A. Spano Annual Scholarship, and Kathleen Zupcic to the Lieutenant Colonel Willard Blohm, U.S. Army and Lieutenant Arch Updike, U.S. Navy Scholarship.

In addition to scholarship support, donations to support College programs were received as follows: \$2,500 from Friends of Middlesex County Charity Golf Corporation for the Center for Veteran Services; \$5,000 from Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery; and \$2,000 from Infineum US L.P. for the Process Technology Program.

The Irene Herbert Ross and Harper Grant Ross Foundation provided a gift of \$2,000 for the Annual Fund. The Ross Foundation has provided unrestricted support annually since 1998.

## Help MCC Students

### *Please Support the Annual Fund*

Your donation to the Annual Fund helps the MCC Foundation fulfill its mission of providing scholarships for MCC students and raising funds for select College programs. All gifts make a difference! Please make your gift online at [www.mcc-foundation.org](http://www.mcc-foundation.org) or call 732-906-2564. Thank you!

## MCC Foundation Mission Partners

Foundation Mission Partners enhance MCC Foundation's resources and help meet the challenge of providing financial opportunities for students to fulfill their educational and career goals.

**Corporate Mission Partner** (\$10,000): Johnson & Johnson.

**Mission Partner** (\$5,000): The Provident Bank Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital.

**Associate Mission Partner** (\$2,500): Stewart Business Systems.



More than 230 guests enjoyed an evening of make-believe gambling playing roulette, craps, blackjack and poker at Casino Night in February, helping to raise net proceeds of over \$35,000 to support the mission of the MCC Foundation.

Generous sponsorship support was received from numerous individuals, corporations and foundations, including: *Casino Hosts:* Paige and Elizabeth L’Hommedieu, The Provident Bank Foundation, and Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital; *Desert Sponsors:* Investors Bank, Middlesex County AFL-CIO Labor Council, New Brunswick Plating Inc./Accucast Manufacturing Co. LLC, Shoprite, Starbrad Realty, LLC, Summit Associates Inc., and Whispering Knoll Assisted Living; *Gaming Table Sponsors:* Donna Marie Gardner-Beadling and Ron Beadling, Roseanne Bucciarelli, Frank Deiner, Donald Drost, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union No. 456, Middlesex County Building & Construction Trades Council, Peter and Kate Mitnacht, Gerald and Jo Aimee Ostrov, Plumbers & Pipefitters Local Union No. 9, Stewart Business Systems, Universal Mailing Service Inc., and Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A.; *Lady Luck Sponsors:* Til and Kathy Dallavalle, Falk and Flotteron, LLC, Joanne Fillweber, Firstech Environmental, Epic Management Inc., Meenu



Guests enjoyed make-believe gambling, while Alex “Cardman” Perricone entertained.

and Narendar Jain, Johnson & Urban LLC, L.R. Kimball, Micky and Linda Landis, Magyar Bank, and Kim Silva-Martinez. *Casino Host Co-Sponsors:* Mark Banyacski, Marla Brinson, James Finne, Phalguni Ghosh, Ronald Goldfarb, Warren Kelemen, Joann La Perla-Morales, Patrick Madama, Mark McCormick, Susan Perkins and Theresa Young.

The Foundation also thanks its Mission Partners for their loyal commitment to students: Johnson & Johnson, The Provident Bank Foundation, Stewart Business Systems, and Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital.

Mark Banyacski chaired the event, assisted by MCC Foundation Trustees Genette Falk and Joanne Fillweber ’82, together with several faculty and staff members. Restaurants, theatres, hotels, sports teams, and numerous businesses and individuals donated Tricky Tray items. Alex “Cardman” Perricone ’11 and disc jockey, Luis Reyes, entertained the guests throughout the evening.

# ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

## AlumNotes

**Joseph P. Adornetto '72** retired from Florida Power and Light in 2012. He is married and has three children; two boys and one girl all of whom live in Florida. Joseph and his wife also have five grandchildren. Joseph's hobbies include Corvette restoration and playing music (keyboard.)

**Dwight Anderson '77** is employed at Schweitzer Engineering Labs in Pullman, WA. For the past two years he has requested that a donation made by his employer in his name be directed to the MCC Foundation.

**Glenn Foley '77** is chief executive officer of Narvitas Medical Devices International, headquartered in London, UK. Glenn works with the U.S. team based in the New York/New Jersey area.

**Evonne Goldman '92** is currently a financial professional with New York Life Insurance Company. She has also had a successful career in financial services and commercial credit.



Rod Silva

**Rod Silva '95** is founder and director of brand development of Muscle Maker Grill, headquartered in Colonia. Muscle Maker Grill currently has 60 locations in 12 states with 24 locations in New Jersey, and it is planning to expand to five more states in 2016. A nutrition and fitness enthusiast since age 18, Rod opened a sport supplement and smoothie business while studying at MCC and Kean University. Rod lives in Edison with his wife and children.

**Jasmine Lynch '07** has joined Salem Community College as director of retention and admissions. She earned an Associate Degree in Social and Rehabilitation Services, a Bachelor's in Sociology from Kean University, and a Master's in Higher Education with a specialization in leadership for student success from Waldon University. While a graduate student, Jasmine focused her research on community college students and fostering their success through comprehensive advising, new student orientation, and first-year experience programs.

**Hernando D. Ospina '08** is an associate partner with New York Life Insurance Company, based in Edison. He earned a B.S. in Accounting at Kean University and worked for three years as a corporate accountant for the Wakefern Food Corp. He joined New York Life in 2013 and was promoted to partner last September. "This career has changed my life and I will forever be thankful to Thevan (senior partner and fellow alumnus Thevan Theivakumar '82) for introducing me to such a wonderful company."

**Kingsley Eshun '09** is currently enrolled at the New Jersey Institute of Technology in the Electronics and Computer Engineering program, and is employed at Stewart Business Systems.



Paul Singh

**Paul Singh '11** recently joined the Rutgers School of Business in Camden as professional studies program coordinator. Paul served for a number of years in the MCC Scholarships Office.

**Orran Bierstein '14** is currently a student at Texas A&M University at Galveston. Orran is preparing to complete a Bachelor's Degree in Marine Biology and begin a Master's program next Fall.

**Mohamed Vayani '14** has donated a \$300 award he received for a STEM C2 Research Poster to the MCC Foundation. Mohamed is now studying at the Ross University School of Medicine in Portsmouth, Dominica.

## In Memoriam

Susan Gaydos '84

Lynn Quattrocchi '81

James Travers '93

# SPORTS UPDATE

## Pink Night Scores Big Win for Cancer Charity

“Pink Night,” a program in which the Middlesex County College and Ocean County College basketball teams supported breast cancer awareness, was held at Middlesex in February. The men’s and women’s teams from both schools wore special warm-up t-shirts and members of the women’s team organized a bake sale and collected donations for cancer research. The program was

part of “Pink Zone,” a national effort to raise awareness and funds, organized by the Women’s Basketball Coaches Association. The effort raised \$524, which was donated to Peppermints & Ginger, an organization that provides comfort kits to chemotherapy patients. The Middlesex women won the first contest 82-73 and the Middlesex men took the nightcap 67-52.



Before the women’s game, two-time cancer survivor Diane Edmonds officiated at a ceremonial tipoff. She is tossing the ball, and is flanked by Middlesex forward Caitlin Norek, left, and Ocean County College’s April Szymczyk. In the background, from left: Middlesex Assistant Coach Jo-Ann Zwiebel, Head Coach Michel Powell, President Joann La Perla-Morales, Ocean Assistant Coach Thomas Westen and Ocean Athletic Director Ilene Cohen.



The women’s basketball coach, Michel Powell, left, with MCC’s Woman of the Year, Kaitlyn Johnsen.

## Hoops Star Named MCC Sportswoman of the Year

Kaitlyn Johnsen was one of 14 female student-athletes honored as Women of the Year at the National Girls and Women in Sports Day celebration. One woman from 14 of New Jersey’s community colleges was honored at the ceremony February 7 at Seton Hall University.

Along with the New Jersey Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women and The Star Ledger, the 30th annual, statewide celebration of National Girls and Women in Sports Day celebration theme was “Leading the Way!” The recipients were honored in a room full of hundreds of athletic administrators, coaches, athletes, parents and supporters. The collegiate athletes were also recognized at halftime of the Seton Hall women’s basketball game. The event also honored women from high schools and four-year colleges and universities.

“Kaitlyn is a wonderful student-athlete,” said Carey Monkowski, MCC’s assistant athletic director. “She’s an outstanding student, as well as a great teammate and a team leader.”

Ms. Johnsen plays soccer, basketball and softball; she was named All Region and All Conference in soccer.

# Alum Recalls MLB Days with Houston Astros

By Chuck O'Donnell



**D**ave Meads' electric stuff prompted the Houston Astros to select him in the 1984 major league amateur draft, but a good fastball and a sharp breaking pitch will only take you so far.

It was a focused mind-set,

some youthful enthusiasm and a lot of determination that helped the left-handed hurler eventually rise through the minor league ranks to become the only Middlesex County College player to pull on a major league uniform.

"The only thing I can say is I never doubted I would make it," Mr. Meads '84 said. "It was just one of those things that didn't come into play. It was always *when* I get there, not *if* I get there.



Dave Meads' baseball card from his professional playing days, and, at left, still pitching semipro.

Often relieving a future Hall of Famer (Nolan Ryan) and a onetime Cy Young Award winner (Mike Scott), Mr. Meads would go 8-4 with a 4.48 earned-run average in 67 games over the 1987 and '88 seasons with Houston before injuries derailed his pitching career.

By 1989, he found himself out of baseball, so he went back to the

field he originally had come to MCC to study: electrical engineering. He relocated to California's warmer climes, went back to school to complete his Associate Degree and launched a second career.

Today, he works for General Dynamics Corporation, a multibillion-dollar aerospace and defense conglomerate.

"I work in guided-projectile work, so it's far off from what people would expect from a baseball player," Mr. Meads said. "I help in designing tools for the war fighter to defend themselves, protection for our country in missile defense systems.

"I love the work. I do test engineering, some electrical engineering work with it. It's a lot of smart people and I love being around them."

Mr. Meads may have found a rewarding second career, but that doesn't mean he's left baseball behind. Not only does he often round up some coworkers to have a catch outside during their lunch breaks, but he also plays in a men's semipro team in the Redwood Empire Baseball League based in Sonoma County.

"Up until this year, I still pitched," he said. "This year it's debatable if I'm going to do that or not."

## Winter Sports Wrap-Up

The **Women's Basketball** team finished the season Garden State Athletic Conference Champions and Region XIX Runners-up with an overall record of 25-4, a Region record of 19-2 and Conference record of 15-1. The team placed two on the All-Region XIX and Garden State Athletic Conference teams: Ziykara Hicks (Player of the Year) and Zsade Byrd.

**Men's Basketball** finished the season with a 15-14 overall record. They qualified for the playoffs, losing in the first round to Atlantic Cape Community College. Berruche Archille was named to the All-Region XIX team and Garden State Athletic Conference teams. Eugene Campbell was named to the Garden State Athletic Conference team.

**Wrestling** finished fourth in the district this season. Ben Aquilina won his weight class for the districts and finished 5th at nationals achieving All-American. Joseph Guzzo and Devin Jefferson also qualified for nationals.

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Kids in the Child Care Center enjoyed Crazy Hat Day in March.