



The children in MCC's Kindergarten class recently visited the College Center to create their own pizzas for a hands-on lesson and cooking activity. Math was also incorporated into the lesson; the pizzas were cut in half and then quarters, as Debra Stoler, the kindergarten teacher, explained basic fractions. The children were able to visualize the math lesson they had been working on throughout the week. And they enjoyed eating the pizzas. At left, Jayahni Alvarez adds cheese to her pie; below, Chloe Jencik works on her creation.



## Education Honor Students to Present Literacy Event for Children

Kappa Delta Pi, the international honor society for education at MCC, is hosting Literacy Alive!, a program for 5-10 year olds and their parents to encourage a love of reading. This free program, open to Middlesex County residents, includes a workshop by Steve Light, author of numerous children's books such as "Have You Seen My Dragon?," "Lucky Lazlo," and "Zephyr Takes Flight."

It will be held in the College Center on Saturday, March 25, from 9 to 11:45 a.m. and is followed by lunch.

The children and their parents will attend three workshops during the

morning: one by Mr. Light; a literacy session conducted by MCC students in the honor society; and a crafts program in which the children will make a project to take home. The workshops are designed to encourage reading, and also to assist parents teach literary skills to their kids.

"This program will benefit both young students and their parents," said MCC Professor Melissa Luis, the advisor to Kappa Delta Pi. "Our guest, Steve Light, is not only a wonderful author and illustrator, but he is also a preschool teacher who is an expert in promoting reading to young children.

It will also help parents teach reading skills to their kids. And it'll be fun as well."

Each child will receive a copy of an autographed book by Mr. Light.

The program is limited to the first 100 children who register through Eventbrite. To register, please go to <https://www.middlesexcc.edu/literacy>.



Steve Light



The Veterans and Servicemembers Association hosted two representatives of the Veterans Administration at a recent meeting. Dave Brimmer, outreach coordinator of the VA New Jersey Health Care System, and Janine Decker, women veterans program manager, spoke to the group about their health care benefits, especially those for women veterans. They chatted with the MCC students before the presentation. From left: Mr. Brimmer, Ms. Decker, Estela Sharp, vice president of the association, and Sam Olesinski, president.

## News 12 Producer to Speak on Career at Women’s History Celebration

Ivy Charmatz, an Emmy-award-winning executive producer for news and special projects at the television station News 12 New Jersey, will speak at MCC Wednesday, March 22 at 9:30 a.m. in Crabiell Hall, Brunswick Room. Her appearance is part of the Women’s History Month celebration.

“This year’s national theme is Trailblazing Women in Labor and Business,” said Mary Tutalo, Student Life coordinator. “Ivy is a role model for young women everywhere, so we are very happy she will be joining us to speak about her career. It is open to everyone but we especially invited the communication classes so they could hear about her road to success.”

Ms. Charmatz will speak about her career and how she advanced to a top position at News 12. She first joined the station in 1996 and currently oversees its production of specials, including the very popular On The Road series. She was the executive producer and co-writer of the groundbreaking special that took a powerful and emotionally-charged look at the state’s heroin epidemic. A graduate of Rutgers University, Ms. Charmatz has also worked on nationally syndicated television programs and is an experienced public relations expert with an emphasis on message identification and development. Ms. Charmatz is also the proud recipient of



Ivy Charmatz

a 2012 Gracie Award for her story on Rock and Roll Hall of Fame member Darlene Love.

On Thursday, March 16, Student Life is sponsoring a trip to New York to see “On Your Feet,” a musical about the singer Gloria Estefan.

“We picked a play that had a strong woman lead in celebration of Women’s History Month,” Ms. Tutalo said.

### THIS MONTH AT MIDDLESEX

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## Notables

**Patrick Madama**, vice president for institutional advancement, was recognized for 25 years of outstanding service to the advancement profession at the annual District II CASE Conference in Baltimore in February. Other achievement award winners included Barbara Capsouras of the County College of Morris and Donna Salmon of the University of Rochester.

# Kevin Dalina Finds Every Day is an Event

Kevin Dalina '08 was in a panic. He had just failed calculus and his grade point average was perilously close to dipping below 3.0. If it fell any further, he would be eliminated from the Dual Degree Program with Rutgers and would not be able to transfer there.

But Kevin Dalina is nothing if not persistent. He took the class again with Don Groninger, worked hard, and got a B plus.

Kevin Dalina, who is now *Doctor* Kevin Dalina, said, "I tell my students, no matter what, you can fail a class and still become successful."

Indeed. The 28-year-old's story is not untypical of many MCC students.

He grew up in Fords, graduated from Woodbridge High School after playing football, basketball and golf, and wanted to go to Rutgers. He enrolled in the Dual Degree Program, and came to MCC with the goal of transferring to Rutgers after his MCC graduation.

"Starting at MCC was one of the best decisions I ever made," he said. "I had some great professors



Kevin Dalina

here. For example, Brian DeUriarte really influenced my desire to study economics. I really flourished at MCC."

Dr. Dalina majored in Liberal Arts/Business at MCC and was a dual major in Economics and Sports Management at Rutgers. He aspired to become the general manager of a sports team before discovering that the road there started with selling tickets and

sponsorships for 80 hours a week.

At about the same time, he was also discovering he really liked helping people academically. He worked in New Student Orientation and for a time was program coordinator in Athletics, before joining Student Activities for six years. He learned from colleagues Pat Daly and Kasey Drennen, and started to enjoy planning and coordinating events. Last year, the College created the events management position with plans to expand off-campus groups' use of College facilities.

"My goal is to expand the number of events we have from outside organizations by marketing our facilities to the community," he said. He also handles room reservations for administrative departments and off-campus groups; academic departments work with Registration for their classroom needs and student groups work with student activities.

Dr. Dalina also teaches history, sociology and the Student Success course where he uses his experience as motivation for his charges.

"I tell my students you don't have to be the smartest person in the world to become successful," he said. "Motivation and persistence are more important. Somehow we find that motivation. I found mine here."



An art exhibition by Richmond Garrick '96 opened with a reception, in which he shared his story and his vision with the capacity crowd. The artist, a native of Sierra Leone, displayed his work that included vivid scenes of his native land, including during its civil war, as well as 13 portraits of noted black luminaries. Mr. Garrick is donating the portraits to the College, which will permanently display them in West Hall. Mr. Garrick is a teacher at Williamstown High School, and many of his students and colleagues attended the reception. He spoke with high school students Maggie O'Donnell (center) and Samantha Ancello about his painting, "Wife's Parents."



## Pink Night Scores Big Win for Cancer Charity

"Pink Night," a program in which the Middlesex County College and Brookdale Community College basketball teams supported cancer awareness, was held at Middlesex on February 21. The men's and women's teams from both schools wore special warm-up t-shirts and members of the MCC women's team organized a bake sale and collected donations for a cancer charity. Before the women's game, Corine Mogenis, a thyroid cancer survivor, officiated at a ceremonial tipoff. She is tossing the ball, and is flanked by Middlesex forward Kaitlyn Johnsen (left) and Brookdale's Kristina Dellanno. In the background, from left, Middlesex President Joann La Perla-Morales; Michel Powell, MCC head coach; and Rich Brunson, Brookdale head coach. The fundraising effort raised \$250, which was donated to Peppermints & Ginger, an organization that provides comfort kits to chemotherapy patients.



From left: club advisor Patty Kiernan, with students Shayne Judge, Alyssa Capone, Lauren Sutphen and Claudia Brzoza.



Students, faculty and staff in the Nursing Program participated in the "National Wear Red Day" campaign on Thursday, February 16, promoted by the American Heart Association and the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. They were asked to wear red on that day, since red 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.

## Calories Don't Count at Disney!

An MCC student club, "Middlesex, Math and the Mouse," recently visited the Disney attractions in Florida for research purposes. They have been investigating ways to use statistics to predict wait times for rides, and in the fall semester, heard from Len Testa, who has written books on the subject. The club was created to provide students a nonthreatening, practical application of material taught in Statistics courses at MCC by allowing students to analyze and gather real data at Walt Disney World. Club members learned there's no reason to count calories when you're on vacation there. The data suggest that adult women can eat over 3,700 calories per day and lose weight, if they are over 150 lbs. and spend six hours actively touring the parks. Another research project involved predicting the wait times of lines and creating a plan to avoid waiting in the longest ones. The club members were able to complete a challenge of four parks in one day, which requires visits to all four parks and completion of at least two-thirds of the major attractions in each park in less than 12 hours. The club is in the process of creating a searchable database that will allow students and faculty to access all of the data gathered from the trip. The group enjoyed the visit and fundraising for another one has already started.