



### What a Time It Was!

About 100 alumni from the classes of the 1960s and 1970s mixed with faculty, staff and emeriti at a reunion in October. The group met old friends, reminisced with faculty, and enjoyed dinner. They also danced to the wonderful sounds of the British Invasion Tribute Band, which included Robert Murdock, class of '79.



## MCC Plans 2 New Buildings for Spring of 2016

Two new College buildings – the Center for Student Services and an academic science building that will be called South Hall – are scheduled to open in the spring of 2016. The center will provide a revolutionary process for enrolling students and the new science building will provide state-of-the-art classrooms and labs.

### Center for Student Services

While this project is in development and a steering committee is working on specifics, it will be a two-story building of approximately 26,000 square feet, at the corner of Parkside Drive and College Drive East. The project includes improvements to the park – a more defined path, new lighting and benches – as well as upgrading two parking lots and increasing the number

of spaces in them.

“It’s going to revolutionize how we admit and register students,” said Kasey Drennen, director of the College’s First-Year Experience. “We’ve been looking at Montgomery County Community College, which is in the vanguard of enrollment services, to create a true one-stop process.”

Students could take care of most of their enrollment process by visiting one counter.

“The idea is you can get through the process quicker and more conveniently,” Mr. Drennen said.

“The Center will serve as the first point of contact for Admissions, Financial Aid, the Scholarships Office, Student Accounts, Advising, the Registrar and First-Year Experience, as well as Corporate and Community

Education.

Donald R. Drost Jr., executive director of facilities management, said the steering committee will work on the business model as the project is being designed. DMR Architects has been selected and the actual construction is scheduled to start at the end of 2014 or early 2015 and is expected to cost \$12 million. It will be funded by Chapter 12, a program in which the county government sells bonds, and the state and the county then split the debt service.

Middlesex’s most recent building, Crabiell Hall, received a LEED® silver rating from the United States Green Building Council, signifying its environmental attributes. LEED, or Leadership in Energy and

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# Phi Theta Kappa Completion Project Hosts Transfer Fair

The MCC chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges, recently held a transfer fair as part of kickoff week for the Community College Completion Challenge (called C4).

Sponsored by the New Jersey Council of County Colleges' Center for Student Success and the New Jersey Education Association, the NJ C4 initiative is an effort to increase the number of community college students

completing their associate degrees and certificates so that they have the credentials they need to successfully transfer to four-year colleges and universities to earn their bachelor's degrees and enter careers that provide family-sustaining wages.

Activities were held at all of New Jersey's 19 community colleges during the week of October 14-18.

"Phi Theta Kappa is committed to actively promoting completion of a

college credential – an associate degree or certificate among college students," said Rod Risley, executive director of Phi Theta Kappa. "Throughout this completion week in New Jersey we hope to encourage students to take that pledge and declare that they will, indeed, complete their education."

The Council videotaped the transfer fair, as well as conducted interviews with students, College President Joann La Perla-Morales, as well as PTK Co-Presidents Ron Rubanick and Yana Burlachka.

The Community College Completion Challenge website, [www.cccompletionchallenge.org](http://www.cccompletionchallenge.org), showcases the missions, action plans and strategies developed by each organization to involve their constituents to produce five million more associate degree and certificate holders by 2020.



Phi Theta Kappa Co-President Ron Rubanick is interviewed by Jake Farbman, communications director of the New Jersey Council of County Colleges. The cameraman is Gary Gellman. See the video on YouTube: [NJC4-Middlesex County College](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJC4-Middlesex-County-College).

## THIS MONTH AT MIDDLESEX

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### Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders

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## Notables

**Virgil Blanco**, professor of ESL/Languages and Culture, was elected vice president of Fulbright New Jersey, a chapter of the National Fulbright program. It is an organization for American academics who have received a Fulbright award and for those who are presently on a Fulbright award from overseas. At the organization's October meeting, he also spoke about Spanish culture and the differences between the various Spanish-speaking countries.

The following faculty members have earned promotions for this academic year:

### To Assistant Professor

Jason Holmwood, Counseling and Career Services  
Kimberly Krapels, Radiography

### To Associate Professor

Stephanie Vera, ESL/Languages and Culture

### To Professor

Virender Kanwal, Natural Sciences  
Janet Lansinger, Natural Sciences



Members of the Middlesex County College Veterans and Servicemembers Association joined about 250 Habitat for Humanity volunteers to help repair homes damaged by Hurricane Sandy during the Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project on Oct. 12. Habitat for Humanity organized the building effort to repair 14 homes and construct two new ones in Union Beach. President and Mrs. Carter joined the volunteers in constructing frames for one of the homes, and President Carter helped install them. One block away, the Middlesex County College military veterans helped repair another home by installing flooring and painting an upstairs bedroom. At left, Rigo Gutierrez, the president of the Association, paints the room. Below, President Carter constructs a frame.



## Scholarships Office Provides Friendly Aid Process

Students seeking scholarship help at MCC can turn to an office unique to community colleges in the state. The Scholarships Office assists students with the process and also the evaluators judging their requests.

“It’s a very effective program,” said Pam Hedberg, the director. “I’m very proud of the services we provide. We are fortunate to have approximately 60 dedicated review committee members, many of whom are faculty and administrators of the College, who spend countless hours ranking scholarship applications. Numerous scholarships are awarded based on their efforts. The most rewarding part of what we do is hear from the students how scholarships have enriched their lives.”

Ms. Hedberg works closely with the Middlesex County College Foundation, which has provided over \$10 million in aid to 15,000 students over its almost 50-year history. During the recent economic slowdown, scholarship support lagged, but it has come back and in 2012, provided \$425,000 in aid to 342 students. While the books aren’t closed on this year, support is already over the half-million-dollar mark.

The Scholarships Office administers more than 100 endowed and annual scholarships. These awards have criteria established by the donor. Students fill out one common online application to be considered by the review committees. They can also apply for general Foundation awards, many of which go to students who – for one reason or another – do not qualify for

other financial aid.

“It could be that they experienced a loss of a job, or that, while they are living at home, their family is not supporting them financially at college, or it might be some other change in circumstance,” Ms. Hedberg said. “But the most common issue is that the student already has a degree. They are not eligible for federal aid, so we try to help them.”

Ms. Hedberg said the online application process, called “STARS Online,” has made the process easier for both student and evaluator, so much so that the number of applicants has increased from 200 a few years ago to 1200 last year. The process has another benefit.

“We probably save 100 trees a year,” she said.



### Everyone's a Winner!

Smiles were the common currency as the College community and friends gathered for a night of make-believe gambling. The event, a fundraiser to support student scholarships, included food, raffles, prizes and fun. Casino Night netted \$15,000. Many attendees took home prizes including a 50/50 raffle winner of \$1,250. Thanks to all the volunteers and supporters.

## New Science Building and Center for Student Services Planned

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

Mr. Drost said the College is attempting to attain a gold rating for this building.

### South Hall

In 2012, New Jersey voters approved the “Building Our Future” bond, which allocated \$750 million for construction projects at the state’s colleges and universities, including \$150 million for community colleges. At MCC, the proposed project was for a new, state-of-the-art science building.

“The timeline to submit a proposal for this money was incredibly tight,” said College President Joann La Perla-Morales. “We knew that in our recent Master Plan, upgraded laboratories were cited as a need of the college. A committee worked diligently and quickly to prepare three separate proposals for the bond money and equipment. The committee members included Parag Muley, David Edwards, Ron Goldfarb, Sue Perkins, Patrick Madama, Don Drost and Roseann Bucciarelli. They did a great job. A special note of appreciation goes to the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders for providing the college with the \$3.4 million needed as a match.”

The MCC Board hired LR Kimball Architects, and the program phase – determining the academic needs for labs, lecture and classroom space – will begin soon.

Mr. Drost said it will most likely be a two-story building that will replace South I and South II. The departments currently there will be relocated by the end of 2013. Demolition will take place in January. The goal is also a LEED gold rating for this building.

Parag Muley, chair of Natural Sciences, is eager for the new building to be completed.

“It’ll be fabulous,” he said. “It’ll be an excellent addition to our existing facility that will fill a much-needed niche. It will bring our resources on par with national and international standards as well as incorporate new pedagogies that have been evolving. Students can indulge in self-discovery and self-learn.”



### Learning About Fire Safety

Health and Safety Day at Middlesex County College 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 members of the Edison Fire Department, who taught fire safety to the kids in the MCC Child Care Center. Here, Aryanna Goodwin tries on a helmet and examines the mask. She is flanked by Firefighters Ed Hummel (left) and Brian Stauder.