



### The Cat in the Hat Turns 50, and Kids Are Ready to Party!

Area children enjoyed a birthday party to celebrate Dr. Seuss' "Cat in the Hat," which is now 50 years old. The event, organized by the Middlesex County College Bookstore and the MCC chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the honor society, included coloring, cake, and stories from the Cat himself. It was part of Read Across America, a national effort to encourage reading by young children. From left: The Cat in the Hat, Ron Rubanick, co-president of PTK; Thing 1, otherwise known as Nicole Kazar, PTK co-president; Stephanie Osinski-Rea; and Connor Rea.

## Express Yourself at MCC Writers' Workshop April 5

A writers' workshop open to the public will be held at Middlesex County College on Saturday, April 5. The program mixes sessions on writing skills with practical tips on selling what you have written. There is also a spoken word contest; the winner will receive \$100.

"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.

The program will run from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Attendees may take part in a "spoken word/essay" contest, in which they present their own work. The winner will receive \$100.

In addition, there will be a panel discussion on how to get your work in print. Representatives of small presses as well as published authors will explain

the process of book publishing.

### Teaching the Core

**Curriculum**, Melissa Edwards  
Teaching children how to approach writing for the common core curriculum.

### PR for Small (and Extremely Small) Organizations

Chandra Hayslett  
You are an entrepreneur or work for a small company or nonprofit that can't afford its own public relations person. How can you get the word out? How can you stand out from the crowd? This workshop covers both traditional and new media.

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# Arts & Sciences Festival to Focus on Survival and Memory

The Arts and Sciences Festival, an intellectual exploration in a variety of disciplines, will be held at MCC through the month of April. The theme is Survival and Memory.

“I think we as a community of

learners and educators are examining this topic from as many angles as possible,” said Michael Nester, chair of the Department of English and chair of the Arts and Sciences Festival Planning Committee. “Everyone in

some way is going through some form of struggle. By examining this topic, we may be able to have hope of overcoming it.”

The keynote address is “A Conversation with Richard Smith: Breaking the Bars.” Mr. Smith served 10 years in prison but has transformed himself, and is now a Ph.D. candidate in social welfare. He will speak on the self-sabotaging consequences of the survival mind-set and how burying painful memories frees people to reach their fullest potential.

For details on each workshop, visit [www.middlesexcc.edu](http://www.middlesexcc.edu).



Students from Community Middle School won the Middle School division of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual New Jersey Science Olympiad held at MCC in March. Here, students Devanei Solai, left, and Hasit Dantara practice for an event called “Wheeled Vehicle.” Students from 26 middle schools and 26 high schools participated in this competition designed to encourage students’ interest in science and technology. The top teams from regional tournaments held earlier this year went to the state finals; the state winners – Community Middle School and West Windsor Plainsboro South – will go on to the national championship at the University of South Florida in May.

## THIS MONTH AT MIDDLESEX

This Month at Middlesex is a publication of Middlesex County College  
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## PTK Takes Regional Awards

The MCC chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges, was recently recognized at the organization’s regional convention.

Middlesex was named a Five-Star Chapter for the first time since 2009, and it also received a Hall of Gold Chapter Award, which recognizes a Five-Star Chapter that had a membership increase of 5 percent or more over the previous year.

In addition, several individual members received awards. Former Co-President Yana Burlachka, who graduated in January, and Co-President Ronald Rubanick won Hall of Honor Chapter Officer Awards. Mr. Rubanick also won a Distinguished Chapter Officer Award and Christopher Witte received a Hall of Honor Chapter Member award.

Chapter advisor Kathleen Pearle, who is also chair of the Department of History and Social Science, was very pleased with the results.

“This is a tribute to the entire chapter,” Dr. Pearle said. “It’s a terrific group of students with wonderful leaders. They’ve shown their mettle, and I’m very proud of them and their accomplishments.”



The MCC Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges, recently inducted 152 students into its ranks, plus four new honorary members, from left: Kevin Dalina of Student Activities; Kasey Drennen, interim director of first-year experience; and Brenda Cooney and Odé Hoppie of Student Activities.

## 1 Day Writers' Workshop Designed to Improve Your Skills

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### **E-Prime**, Dan Zimmerman

E-Prime is a writing process that excludes all forms of the verb to be. This simple, direct method can help clarify thinking and strengthen writing. You already often do it, pretty much without thinking. Find out how to turn your instinct into an instrument.

### **Dream Journal**, Mat Spano

Every night, we plunge beneath the surface into a world of mermaids and sea serpents, leviathans and angel fish – the world of dreams. In this workshop, you will learn techniques for recalling, recording, interpreting and realizing dreams by using the most effective dream-catcher of all—the dream journal, plus its practical uses and applications—from therapeutic effects to its use in creative projects.

### **The Memoir**, Shirley Wachtel

Not an autobiography, the memoir is a distinct and wonderful genre.

### **Teaching Reading Skills to Students**, Celia Winchester

This workshop will teach skills needed

to dissect and understand reading that will assist students in synthesizing and comprehending high school and college level texts.

### **Creative Writing Workshop**, Emanuel di Pasquale & Hank Kalet

Bring your essays, short stories and poems in for a critique. What is working? What isn't? Constructive criticism will make you a better writer and poet.

### **Revising and Perfecting the Manuscript**, Glenn Schiltz

Reading your work with a critical eye is often the most important part of the writing process. This workshop will give you the tools to do that.

### **Writing for the Stage and Screen**, Ben Marshall

Have an idea for a play or movie? This workshop will help you hone it into a script. Just curious about the process? That's OK too.

### **The Importance of Hyper-Local Journalism**, Hank Kalet

How is journalism changing? Who are citizen journalists and why are

they important? What is the future of journalism?

### **The Sonnet: Fun with a Fixed Form**, Michael Nester

We will examine the spread of the sonnet from Petrarch, into England and beyond, paying special attention to its formal features, subject matter changes over the years, and how to effectively craft and teach this fixed poetic form. During the presentation, students will actively engage in the sonnet-writing process.

### **How to Write Children's Books**, Frank Finale

Learn the art of children's literature from this published children's author.

"Express Yourself" is being offered as 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 flyer or to enroll, please visit [www.middlesexcc.edu/express](http://www.middlesexcc.edu/express), e-mail [lfriedman@middlesexcc.edu](mailto:lfriedman@middlesexcc.edu) or call 732-906-4250.

# Alumni Association to Offer Taste of Best Area Restaurants

Restaurants from all over the area will be offering samples of their best dishes at the Middlesex County College Alumni Association food tasting on Wednesday, April 9. The event, which will run from 6-8 p.m., is a fundraiser for the association's scholarship fund.

"We anticipate approximately 25 high-quality restaurants to set up tables in the College Center and offer samples of their best items," said Dorothy Bitetto, president of the Alumni Association's Board of Trustees. "The public is invited to visit each and see what they have to offer. We expect to have diverse types of restaurants participating in this program, which is called "An Evening of Good Taste for the Educated Palate." The radio station Magic 98.3 will entertain.

The cost is \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door, and Middlesex County College students are \$20. Children under 12 are free with the purchase of an adult ticket. The proceeds go toward the Alumni Association's scholarship fund.



Students in the MCC Culinary Program will again participate.

Tickets may be purchased online at [www.middlesexcc.edu/taste](http://www.middlesexcc.edu/taste) or by calling 732-906-7732.

Participating restaurants include but are not limited to: Akbar Restaurant, Bahama Breeze Island Grille, Big E's Burger Joint, Blue Moon, Bonefish Grill, Cutting Board Caterers, Dove Chocolate Discoveries, Edison Job Corps, Habiby's Middle Eastern Cuisine, Hearthstone Grill, JBJ Soul Kitchen, Middlesex County College Hospitality, Culinary Arts & Dietetics, Novita Bistro & Lounge, On the Border Mexican Grill & Cantina, Penang Malaysian & Thai Cuisine, Pines Manor, Rainforest Café, Raritan Bakery, Sam's Club, and Surrender Café.



Above, David Brogan accepts his award. From left: Bakari Lee, chairman of the New Jersey Council of County Colleges; MCC president Joann La Perla-Morales; Lawrence Nespoli, Council president; and Barbara Bernard, second vice chair of the MCC Foundation.

## A Wonderful Evening of Music, Fellowship & Fun

David Brogan '93 was honored as Alumnus of the Year for Business, professional and Community Achievement at the Gala in March. The event, a scholarship fundraiser, also saluted the New Jersey Council of County Colleges which was recognized for 25 years of service to the community college sector. The evening featured a musical tribute to Broadway, starring Barbra Russell and Ron Sharpe.

