

Pink Night Promotes Cancer Awareness

"Pink Night," a program in which the Middlesex County College and Ocean County College basketball teams supported Breast Cancer Awareness, was held at Middlesex on February 19. The men's and women's teams from both schools wore special warm-up t-shirts and members of the Middlesex softball squad held 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. Before the women's game, MCC President Joann La Perla-Morales officiated at a ceremonial tipoff. She is flanked by MCC guard Jennifer Shereyka, left, and Ocean County College's Charli Topinka. Behind them are, from left, Marla Brinson, MCC's dean of student affairs; MCC Head Coach Michel Powell; and Ocean head coach Dana Kovich. The Middlesex women won the contest 87-82. The men's teams played later and MCC won that one 81-79.



MCC Named in Top 150 Community Colleges in Nation

The Aspen Institute, an educational and policy studies organization based in Washington, DC., has named Middlesex County College as one of the top 150 community colleges in the nation.

The Aspen Institute identified the top 150 community colleges through an assessment of institutional performance, improvement, and equity on student retention and completion measures. MCC was selected from more than 1,000 community colleges in the United States that serve almost half of all undergraduates in the nation.

"Community colleges have tremendous power to change lives, and

their success will increasingly define our nation's economic strength and the potential for social mobility for every American," said Josh Wyner, executive director of the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program. "This competition is designed to spotlight the excellent work being done in the most effective community colleges, those that best help students obtain meaningful, high-quality education and training for competitive-wage jobs after college. We hope it will raise the bar and provide a roadmap for community colleges nationwide."

The only other New Jersey

community college to make the list is Ocean County College.

Middlesex is now eligible to compete for \$1 million in funding from the Aspen Institute.

The 150 are located in 37 states across the nation; they represent urban, rural, and suburban markets; and they encompass large and small community colleges – from Miami Dade College in Florida serving over 100,000 students to Carver Career Center in West Virginia with fewer than 500 students.

A full list of the 150 community colleges is available at www.AspenPrize.org.

Americorps Program Helps Parents and Kids

Sara Spatz, director of the Parent-Child Home Program run by the United Way of Central Jersey, had a problem. The State of New Jersey had awarded a grant to hire 12 Americorps members to work with Middlesex County families. They would act as a role model for parents and interact with the children, age 16 months to 3 years old.

Many of the families spoke only Spanish.

“We had a difficult time recruiting because the Americorps members had to be bilingual,” Ms. Spatz said.

So she turned to MCC President Joann La Perla-Morales, who is a board member of the United Way.

Charlotte Quigley, manager of career services, posted notices on the student portal, CampusCruiser. Four students have applied; two are now working and

two are being considered.

The two currently in the program are Lia Molina, left, and Tania Mora. They each work with 10 families, visiting twice a week for a half-hour, becoming a big sister to the kids and a role model for the parents.

“I love it, every day is different,” says Ms. Molina. “We model good parenting practices for the adults and bring toys and games to the kids and play with them. It’s rewarding and fun.”

Ms. Mora says she sees growth and development in the children.

“I see every day how they are learning – counting, identifying colors and shapes, and how their language skills increase with

each visit. It’s wonderful to see.”

Ms. Spatz was very pleased the College stepped up to assist.

“I’m very grateful,” she said. “The College has been a big help. The majority of the responses have come from MCC.”



Celebrating Women’s History Month in March

Lectures, performances, films and music will highlight Women’s History Month at Middlesex County College. The month of March will see an array of interesting and vibrant programs. Except for the March 26 trip to

Broadway, all are free, open to the public, and held in the College Center on the Edison campus.

“We’re featuring many different programs,” said Patricia Daly, director of Student Activities. “We

have serious discussions of domestic violence, and some light entertainment with music and film. It’s going to be both educational and entertaining.”

The program kicks off with “Good Lessons From Bad Women” by Dorothy Leeds, a one-woman play with vignettes of Eleanor Roosevelt, Mae West, Emperor Wu and others. It’ll be Monday, March 3 at 11 a.m. in Cafeteria C.

On Wednesday, March 5, the MCC Counseling and Career Services Department will hold a workshop on Body Image, in which counselors will explore the influences of media on the understanding of body image along with clips from the documentary film “Miss Representation.” It’ll be in room 312 at 11 a.m.

The film “Free Angela and All Political Prisoners” will be shown Thursday, March 6 at 11 a.m. in the Main Lounge.

“Musical Ladies – Songs From Your

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THIS MONTH AT MIDDLESEX

This Month at Middlesex is a publication of Middlesex County College
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Bright Smiles; Healthy Kids

The MCC dental clinic was the home of bright smiles in February as about 50 children from all over the area visited for free dental care during “Give Kids a Smile Day,” a national effort to ensure children have access to quality dental care. Local dentists, hygienists, and MCC dental students and alumnae volunteered their time and talents as they treated kids who received an exam, cleaning, fluoride treatments, sealants, as well as education on how to brush and floss. The service was the equivalent of \$43,000 worth of dentistry.



In photo at left, Jennifer Diakunczak, left, and the Tooth Fairy, otherwise known as Christine Etter, teach Aman Mitra the proper way to brush. Above, Kay Lim, a 2012 MCC graduate, cleans the teeth of Issac Wu.

Music, Film, Lectures Highlight Women’s History Month

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Favorite Divas” will be performed Monday, March 17 at 11 a.m. in the Main Lounge.

The film “Philomena” is scheduled for Wednesday, March 19 at 11 a.m. in the Main Lounge.

On Monday, March 24, Nancy Hulse will speak on “Ain’t No Way to Treat a Lady,” an examination of domestic violence in relationships. It’ll be in Cafeteria C at 11 a.m.

Singer and songwriter Sarah Miles will perform Tuesday, March 25 at 11 a.m. in the Main Lounge.

Monica C. Gural, a Legal Services of New Jersey attorney, will talk on “Healthy Relationships and Domestic Violence Law” on Wednesday, March 26 in room 319 at Noon.

On Wednesday, March 26, the College will coordinate a bus trip to Broadway to see a performance of “Matilda.” Tickets go on sale for students on March 4 at 9:30 a.m. at \$10 each (2 maximum). If tickets are still available, they will be awarded by lottery for staff, faculty and alumni on March 18 (last date to drop off information for lottery). Sale date March 19th for \$15 each (2 maximum).

Bus Leaves Lot 2 at 5 p.m. and returns by 11 p.m.

The movie “Her” will be shown Friday, March 28 at 11 a.m. in the Main Lounge.

The events conclude with a lecture, “I AM Beautiful?” by Julia Garcia, in which she encourages women to uncover their true beauty and empowerment. It will be Monday, March 31 at 11 a.m. in Cafeteria C.

For more information, contact the Office of Student Activities at 732-906-2569.



Brother and sister Jaquan Pearyer and Quorea Pearyer have led their respective teams into the Garden State Athletic Conference playoffs this winter. Jaquan is leading the men's

team in scoring and Quorea is leading the women. She has also been Player of the Week this year and is currently sixth in the nation in scoring.

Mark Your Calendar

MCC Alumni Association Food Tasting Event

*An Evening of Good Taste
for the Educated Palate*

Wednesday, April 9 • 6-8 p.m. • College Center
\$30 in advance; \$35 at the door; \$20 students
alumni@middlesexcc.edu • 732-906-7732

32nd Annual Golf Classic

*Metuchen Golf
and Country Club, Edison*

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

For more information, please call the MCC
Foundation at 732-906-2564, email foundation@
middlesexcc.edu, visit www.mcc-foundation.org