

## Rush Holt Receives L'Hommedieu Award, Highest College Honor

Rush Holt, the chief executive officer of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and a former Congressman from New Jersey's 12<sup>th</sup> District, was presented the Paige D. L'Hommedieu Award, the highest citation given by Middlesex County College. The award, named for the founding chairperson of the College's Board of Trustees, was presented at the Fall Convocation on August 31.

"Over his distinguished career, Dr. Holt has been a teacher, a scientist, an administrator and a policymaker," said MCC President Joann La Perla-Morales. "Dr. Holt has been committed to education, public service and the betterment of the community throughout his career both as a faculty member at Swarthmore College where he taught physics, public policy and religion courses, and as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for New Jersey's 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional district from 1999 to 2015. Middlesex County and Middlesex County College were fortunate to have been represented by Congressman Holt for those 16 years. As a member of the Committee on Education and Workforce and on the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training, the Honorable Rush Holt represented and fought to keep higher education accessible for all of our citizens."

Dr. Holt was assistant director of the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, a Department of Energy national lab, which is the largest



From left, Stacy R. Horowitz '15 and student Amanda Athey with Rush Holt, President Joann La Perla-Morales, and Laurie Herrick '14. They are recipients of the Congressman Rush Holt and Dr. Margaret Lancefield Annual Scholarship, established at MCC in 2000. The scholarship assists part-time students who work and have family obligations and reside in New Jersey's 12th Congressional District.

research facility of Princeton University and one of the largest alternative energy research facilities in the country. He also served on the faculty of Swarthmore College, where he taught courses in physics and public policy. In 1982, he took leave from Swarthmore to serve as an AAAS/American Physical Society Science and Technology Policy Fellow on Capitol Hill. The program places outstanding scientists and engineers in executive, legislative and Congressional branch assignments. He calls his fellowship "life changing," and served as a springboard to his role in Congress,

where he served for 16 years. He established a long track record of advocacy for federal investment in research and development, science education and innovation.

He served on the National Commission on the Teaching of Mathematics and Science, founded the Congressional Research and Development Caucus, and served as a co-chair of the Biomedical Research Caucus. Dr. Holt served eight years on the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and, from 2007 to 2010, chaired the Select Intelligence



MC<sup>4</sup>, otherwise known as the Middlesex County College Crafters' Club, knitted 219 caps to be donated to the victims of the earthquake in Nepal. The club, consisting of MCC students, faculty and staff, gather weekly during their lunch hour to create items to donate to various causes. Seated, from left: Maureen Silas, a student; Helga Herrera, student; Izabela Jedruchniewicz, senior lab coordinator in the Engineering Technology Department. Standing: Nancy Cornell, adjunct professor in the English Department; Savitri Yanamandra, physics lab coordinator; Roseann Latsko, and Laura Norek, project assistant in School Relations. Not pictured: Evelyn Kelton, Brenda Cooney and Komal Sadarangani.

## Rush Holt: "The Center of Gravity is Here"

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Oversight Panel, which worked to strengthen legislative oversight of the intelligence community.

Dr. Holt and his wife established the Congressman Rush Holt /Dr. Margaret Lancefield Annual Scholarship for Middlesex County College students and several recipients of the scholarship were in the audience.

"This L'Hommedieu award means a great deal to me," Dr. Holt said as he accepted the award. "This place and other community colleges around the

country are what we are depending on for the economic and cultural growth of our country."

He said that New Jersey has many fine private colleges and universities.

"But that's not where the center of gravity is," he said. "The center of gravity is here."

Dr. Holt said that in both his role as a Congressman and as chief of the AAAS, he has worked to integrate science into all aspects of education.

"It's through science that we learn to ask questions so they can be

answered empirically, with evidence," he said. "Evidenced-based thinking, I'm sorry to say, seems to be eroding."

In his new role with the AAAS, he said he will continue to advocate for community colleges, and for an emphasis on education for all.

"Especially in the sciences," he said. "And in the sciences for all students, not just those who in the future will be working in technical fields."

## Notables

In Spring 2015, Psychology Professors Christine Harrington and Crystal Quillen conducted a research study entitled "Syllabus Length and Use of Images: An Empirical Investigation of Student Perceptions," which has been published in "The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Psychology," an APA journal. A total of 149 Middlesex County College students participated in this study. The majority of students (66 percent) preferred a longer syllabus that included assignment details versus a shorter syllabus. Medium and longer syllabi were also more likely to lead to more positive impressions of the professor and the course. This research has much practical value for faculty of all disciplines.

## THIS MONTH AT MIDDLESEX

This Month at Middlesex is a publication of Middlesex County College  
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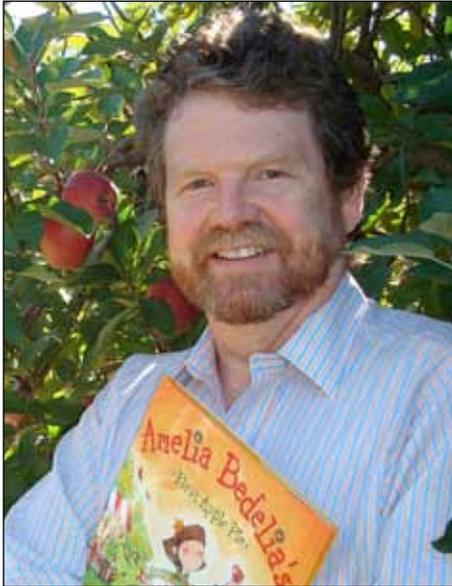
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## *Adventures with Amelia Bedelia:*

# Program Promotes the Joys of Reading for Kids

Democracy House will host a Make a Difference Day Program designed to encourage young kids to read on Saturday, October 24. Children age 4-10 are invited to visit the campus, hear from the author of the popular children's book series Amelia Bedelia,



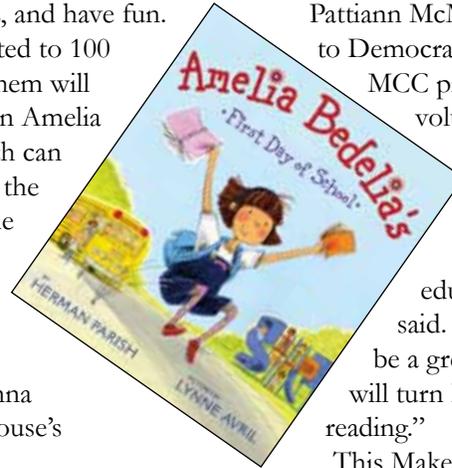
Herman Parish

enjoy refreshments, and have fun. Registration is limited to 100 children; each of them will receive a copy of an Amelia Bedelia book, which can be autographed by the author that day. The program is free.

"We hope this day will inspire children to want to read," said Arianna Illa, Democracy House's coordinator.

The program, called "Adventures with Amelia: MCC Reads," will run from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Herman Parish, who continued the Amelia books created by his aunt, Peggy Parish, brings the youngster to life with wacky wordplay, anecdotes about his aunt and insights into his writing process. He will talk to kids and parents, plus hold a special workshop just for parents on how to encourage their kids to read.



Pattiann McMahon, faculty advisor to Democracy House, said that MCC professors and student volunteers will read to the children and then conduct an activity related to the reading. "It's going to be both educational and fun," she said. "I think it's going to be a great day, and I hope we will turn kids on to the joys of reading."

This Make A Difference Day grant was provided by Gannett Co. Inc./ Home News Tribune.

"We are very grateful to Gannett and the Home News for providing the funding for this day," Ms. Illa said. "Kids from all over the area will benefit from this program."

Registration is strictly limited to 100 children and their parents, who must register in advance at [www.middlesexcc.edu](http://www.middlesexcc.edu).



Faisal Usman received the fall 2015 Middlesex County College Alumni Association Scholarship for Academic Excellence. The scholarship, for \$750, will allow him to complete his Engineering Technology Degree at Middlesex. He plans to graduate and transfer to either Stanford University or the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is shown with Dorothy Bitetto '69, Alumni Association president.

## 'endless possibilities' Wins 2 Awards

The book created by three alumni to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Middlesex County College garnered two awards: an Hermes Platinum award and a Medallion award from the District 1 of the National Council of Marketing and Public Relations, which recognizes excellence in community, technical and junior college marketing and public relations activities.

Hermes is an international competition administered and judged by the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals.

The book was published by the College with valuable contributions of three 2014 alumni: Kim Silva-Martinez, author; Nicole Kazar, photo editor; and Damian Gonzalez, art director.



Lena Buccigrossi



Two 2015 graduates were awarded scholarships from the New Jersey Section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association (NJAIHA). They are Michael Blahut, a Chemical Process Technology Major, now employed as a chemical operator at the Paulsboro, NJ refinery of Axion Specialty Products, and Katheryn Fay, a Dietetics Major now in Environmental Science at Rutgers University. The organization gives several scholarships each year to students interested in industrial hygiene or environmental health. They are shown with Professor Gail Becker at an NJAIHA meeting.



Ciara Alston



Josue Cevallos

Fall sports are all enjoying solid starts and are making a push for the playoffs.