

## Alumnus Featured in Black History Month Art Exhibit

The College will host an art exhibit celebrating Black History Month in February. The exhibit, by noted artist Richmond Garrick, an MCC alumnus from the class of 1996 and native of Sierra Leone, includes his work on the civil war in that country, as well as 13 prints of noted African and African-American luminaries.

The exhibit opens Thursday, February 2 with a reception from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Studio Theatre Gallery. The event, open to the public, includes a performance by his son, classical

pianist Richmond Denzel Garrick. The exhibition will continue throughout the month of February. The gallery is open 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays except February 20.

The exhibit is titled “Noble Expressions.”

“We are delighted to have an outstanding alumni artist sharing his incredible gifts with the College and the community at large,” said MCC President Joann La Perla-Morales. “His work is an inspiration to so many and I urge everyone to view it.”

The portraits are of Barack Obama, Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, Duke Ellington, Thurgood Marshall, Louis Armstrong, Ida B. Wells, Ray Charles, Malcolm X, Frederick Douglass and Maya Angelou.

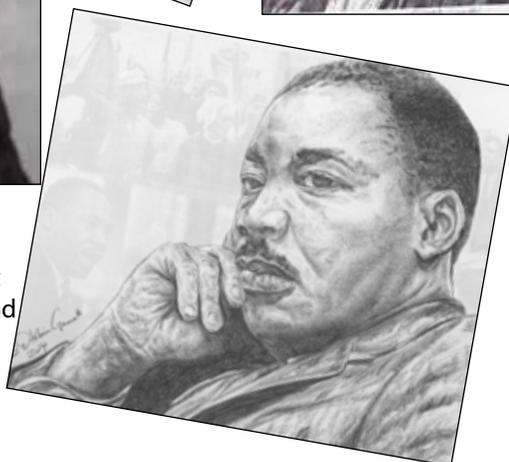
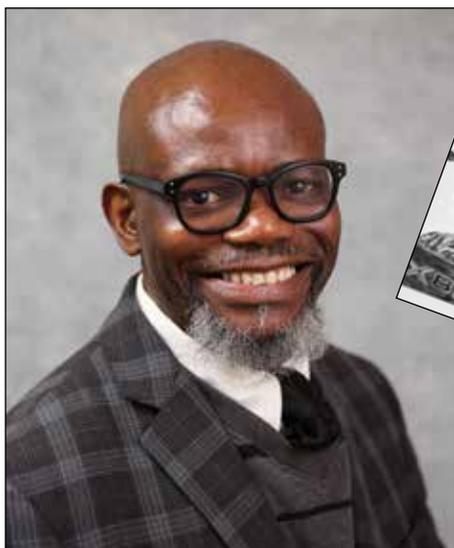
After the exhibit concludes, Mr. Garrick is donating the 13 portraits to the College, which will house them permanently in West Hall, the new enrollment services building.

“I love all of the portraits but I revere Dr. Martin Luther King, President Barack Obama, the late President Nelson Mandela, Frederick Douglass, Ida Wells, the great writer, and Rosa Parks,” Mr. Garrick said. “They are all inspirational. My decision to donate the prints to the College is in deep gratitude for the nurturing and support I received from such an esteemed institution.”

Dorothy Bitetto '69, president of the Alumni Association, lauded the artist.

“Richmond has participated in several past alumni art exhibits and we are so happy he will be showing his work in this solo show,” she said. “We are so appreciative that he will be donating the 13 pieces that will inspire and educate generations of MCC students.”

A teacher at Williamstown High School in Monroe Township, Mr. Garrick is also a visiting professor at DeVry University and has been an adjunct professor at Rutgers University and Middlesex County College.



Richmond Garrick with three of his portraits: Ray Charles, Maya Angelou and Martin Luther King Jr. The exhibit kicks off with a reception on Feb. 2 and runs through the end of the month. The series is then being donated to the College. They will hang in West Hall permanently.



Above left, Eric He and Julissa Gesumaria prepare Wendy Wu for the test; at left, Ms. Wu completes a puzzle; and above, dribbles two basketballs.

## Student Selected for Brain Waves Research Project

An MCC student, Julissa Gesumaria, was selected to participate in the Governor’s STEM Scholars research project, a program to encourage high school and college students to go into STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) careers. Ms. Gesumaria, a Biology major, is

conducting research on the effects of specific physical activities on brainwaves and cognitive performance. She plans to go into the field of neurology.

“Studies suggest that bi-manual coordination, using two hands to complete a task simultaneously,

can enhance brain activity,” said Carmo Ferreira, research coordinator at the College who is working with the students. “Using electroencephalography (EEG), she is testing the effects that mental activities have on the brain’s alpha wave frequencies before and after a test subject performs various two-handed physical activities such as dribbling two basketballs – one in each hand.”

Ms. Gesumaria recorded the brain waves of high school student Wendy Wu as she completed a puzzle in two minutes, dribbles two basketballs, and does other tasks.

Ms. Gesumaria is also testing how a subject performs at a mental activity after completing a more physical one. “We’re trying to have these students see the effect on the brain when we do these types of activities,” Ms. Ferreira said. “In fact, Julissa is also currently testing the effects that relaxation has on brain wave patterns. It’s fascinating and really helps the students learn about brain function.”

### THIS MONTH AT MIDDLESEX

This Month at Middlesex is a publication of Middlesex County College  
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# Rose Williams: Compassionate Customer Service

The first floor of Chambers Hall is now quiet. And a little dark. It used to house Admissions, Advising, Registration, the Veterans Center, and STARS, but they've all moved to Enrollment Services in West Hall. The bottom floor of Chambers is now only home to Human Resources, which consists of five people. None of whom is noisy.

"But each day we get students coming here looking for enrollment services," said Rose Williams. "I love that. We like interacting with them. It's refreshing."

Ms. Williams started at MCC in September as human resources specialist. She comes to MCC after working in local government and corporations.

Her most recent post was as HR coordinator for the Township of Livingston, during which she earned her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration at Thomas Edison State University. While at Livingston, she handled all aspects of human resources, including benefits, retirement, recruiting, payroll, worker's



compensation, employee relations, records and training.

"I enjoyed working for the township, but it was small and a little limiting," she said. "I wanted to broaden my horizons. My very first job was at Pace University. I love everything about education."

She has also worked as an assistant,

business analyst and coordinator for Babies R Us and Toys R Us.

Ms. Williams plans to put an emphasis on "compassionate customer service." She hopes to offer workshops on retirement and other benefits.

"We have to follow rules and regulations, but we want to do it with a smile," she said.



From left: Mark McCormick, MCC's vice president for academic and student affairs; Joann La Perla-Morales, College president; Victor Valeski, East Brunswick superintendent; and Vicki Becker, vice president of the Board of Education. Standing: Marla Brinson, MCC's dean of student affairs; Patrick Madama, vice president for institutional advancement; Michael Vinella, East Brunswick High School principal; Deborah Gulick, director of curriculum; and Evelyn Ogden, assistant superintendent.

## College Inks Agreement with East Brunswick High School

MCC and East Brunswick Public Schools signed an agreement officially launching the MCC/East Brunswick High School College Pathways program.

This initiative provides East Brunswick High School students the opportunity to earn an Associate Degree by taking college courses while still in high school. At present, more than 450 East Brunswick High School students have registered for 40 classes. Courses include mathematics, English, public speaking, accounting, computer science, natural sciences, history, political science and psychology, and world languages.



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