This Month @ MIDDLESEX COUNTY COLLEGE

January 2017 Vol. 9, No. 5

The annual holiday party included a food drive that collected boxes of food, which was donated to M.C.F.O.O.D.S. (Middlesex County Food Organization and Outreach Distribution Services). Members of the College community dropped off food as they entered the party. From left, Charlotte Quigley, manager of Career Services; Jose Laureano, director of MCC's Perth Amboy Center; Melissa Vogel, assistant in the Career and Transfer Services Department; and Barbara Gillen, registration services assistant.

Sweet Sounds: Xiaotong Wang and the Language of Music

Xiaotong Wang picked up the violin when he was 3 ½ years old and he has never set it down. A native of China, he was pushed by his parents to learn the instrument.

But he soon came to love it.

Xiaotong Wang

"It became my buddy," he said. "It became my passion. I wanted to learn more."

Indeed. The notes that flow from his violin are sweet, moving and melodious.

"Music – the violin – is my life," he says. "I can't live without music."

His wife is also a violinist and his 3-year-old son is learning the instrument.

Mr. Wang received a Bachelor's Degree at the Academy of Music in JiNan, China, and his Master's and Ph.D. from the Moscow Conservatory in Russia. He developed a love for classical music, especially Tchaikovsky.

"Now I love all classical and romantic music," he said.

During his eight years in Russia, he studied for six and played for two with the Russian National Orchestra. He is now performing with the Bravura Philharmonic Orchestra in Princeton.

"Mr. Wang is truly a first-class violinist," said Chiu-Tze Lin, Bravura's music director and conductor. "He has great tech-

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When Professor Christine Harrington published "Student Success in College: Doing What Works!" she took some of the royalties and established a scholarship for students. She invited those taking Student Success 101 classes to create posters summarizing research findings from a journal article. The three winners were honored at a ceremony in December. From left: Professor Albert Joy, whose Student Success classes yielded all three winners; Joann La Perla-Morales, College president; Humberto Marmolejo, first place winner ($1,500) whose poster focused on motivation and academic success; Ashley Abreu, second place winner ($800), who looked at time management; Crysol Lopez-Perez, third place winner ($500), who highlighted how entering college affects health; and Dr. Harrington.

Xiaotong Wang, His Violin, and the Language of Music

Continued from page 1

nique and a most musical tone in his playing. I have enjoyed working with Mr. Wang tremendously as he is always professional in his interaction with colleagues. New Jersey is very lucky to have Mr. Xiatong Wang residing here. I am sure that he will contribute enormously to the arts and culture in New Jersey."

In 2007, Mr. Wang won the first prize in the 21st Century Youth Virtuoso Competition and in 2008, he was invited by the Tula Oblast government and New Moscow National Music School to become a lifelong judge of the Gnesin-Academy Cup Chamber Music International Competition.

He is fluent in Chinese and Russian, and is learning English at MCC.

"The English as a Second Language Program at MCC is very, very good and helpful," he said. He credits his teachers – Gary Abbott, Richard Roy, Mary Lynch and Sudipta Biswas – with helping him immensely. Mr. Wang started taking classes in the summer, and has gone to level four already, which is the highest level for the program.

"It's a pleasure teaching Xiaotong whose passion is to improve his English language and American culture," said Professor Lynch. "And it is especially a pleasure when he shares with his ESL classmates his passion for performing in orchestras with his magnificent violin."

He plans to stay in the United States and become a music teacher at a university. Actually, he is now teaching violin to 15 students – most of them American-born Chinese – in the United States. He can teach and communicate with his students in English now.

Jane Jiang, an MCC reference librarian who is also from China, said Mr. Wang learned Russian in about six months.

"Since he picked up Russian that quickly, he'll be able to learn English rapidly," she said. "He is very passionate and enthusiastic about his new life in the U.S."

Mr. Wang actually knows a fourth tongue.

"Music is its own language," he said.

THIS MONTH AT MIDDLESEX

This Month at Middlesex is a publication of Middlesex County College
2600 Woodbridge Ave., Edison, NJ 08837

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Thank You!

Thank you to the many members of the MCC faculty and staff who supported the mission of the MCC Foundation by donating to scholarships and program funds, purchasing tickets to fundraising events, or making a contribution to the Annual Fund in fiscal year 2016 (July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016). Many of those listed below are already supporting the Foundation in the current fiscal year through payroll deductions. If you are interested in making a tax-deductible contribution to assist MCC's deserving students, please contact the MCC Foundation at 111 Hof Road, telephone 732-906-2564, email: foundation@middlesexcc.edu. You may also make a gift online at www.mcc-foundation.org.

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Thirteen 3 to 5 year-olds from Acelero Learning of Monmouth /Middlesex Counties recently visited the MCC Dental Hygiene Clinic. Senior dental hygiene students, faculty and the clinic dentist welcomed the children. The kids received a dental screening, toothbrush education, a teeth cleaning and fluoride varnish application. From left: Joy Mangafas and Marilyn Rangel clean a child's teeth.

The Foundation aims for 100 percent accuracy, but please contact the office if your name has been omitted from this key group of supporters.

Members of the Renaissance at Monroe Veterans Club recently donated $3,000 to benefit student-veterans. Emergency funds will be provided to assist student-veterans in completing their degree program. The club has been supportive in the past as well, providing funding for books and educational supplies in the amount of $4,000 in each of the last two academic years. From left: Noel Schleifman, club secretary/treasurer; Bob Friedman, vice president; Abe Adams, president; College President Joann La Perla-Morales; Richard Feldman, MCC's coordinator of Veterans Services; and Joe Barracato, club vice president.

Ziykara Hicks (center right, holding ball) with the banner honoring her for scoring 1,000 points at MCC. The sophomore guard hit the milestone at a December 10 game at Cumberland County College, but the banner was unveiled at the next home game. A larger version will hang in the Physical Education Center. She is surrounded by teammates, coaches, College officials, family and basketball alumnae. Above, she drives in for two of her 1,000 points.

Notables

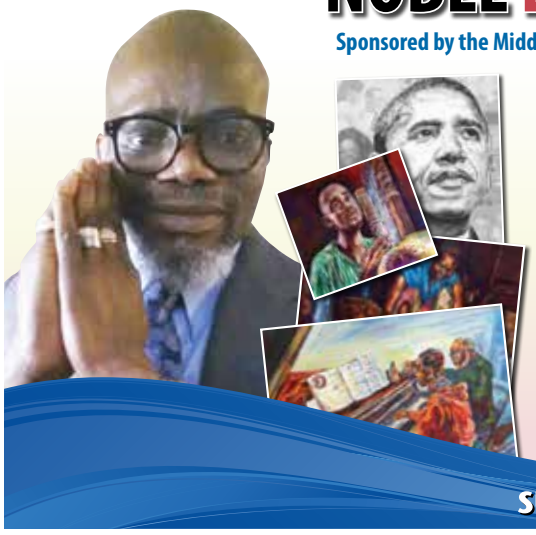
Tom Peterson, director of Marketing Communications, was presented the Spirit of the Arc Award at the Arc of New Jersey's annual dinner in December. He has been a volunteer and member of the Board of Directors of Camp Jaycee, a summer camp for children and adults with developmental disabilities, for 10 years.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY COLLEGE

BLACK HISTORY MONTH ART EXHIBIT

NOBLE EXPRESSIONS

Sponsored by the Middlesex County College Alumni Association



Drawings & Paintings by
Sierra Leonean
Award-Winning Artist
Richmond Garrick '96

OPENING RECEPTION
STUDIO THEATER GALLERY
Thursday, February 2, 2017
6:30-8:30 p.m.
featuring Classical Pianist
Richmond Denzel Garrick

ARTIST LECTURE
7:00 p.m.

SUCCESS STARTS HERE