



From left: Christine Harrington, teaching excellence award winner; Mark McCormick, vice president for academic and student affairs; Susan Altman, scholar award winner; College President Joann La Perla-Morales; Patricia Kiernan, adjunct award winner; and Ronald Goldfarb, special assistant to the president and member of the Council for Adjunct Faculty Development.

## Outstanding Profs Receive Awards for Teaching, Scholarship

Three outstanding professors at Middlesex County College were recently honored: Susan Altman, professor of fine art, was selected as the 2016 Faculty Scholar; Christine Harrington, of the History and Social Sciences Department, received the Excellence in Teaching Award; and Patricia Kiernan, of the Mathematics Department, received the Excellence in Teaching Part Time Award.

Professor Altman has done extensive research on digital technologies in studio art.

“What was most impressive was her implementation of Adobe Creative Suite and her studio research on a pioneering new technique using electricity in the etching process instead of traditional chemicals that had a negative impact on the environment,” said Mat Spano, a member of the selection committee. “She also cites her familiarity with the

SOTL (Scholarship of Teaching and Learning) research in her discipline as well as her contributions to shaping that research by way of critical reviews and papers and presentations of her own. Professor Altman has also found ways to apply this scholarship to her classroom and studio teaching. This is demonstrated by her use of writing for critical thinking in the classroom by way of teaching students to write critiques of artworks, a strategy that she researched and developed further resulting in the publication of an article in *Issues of Education at Community Colleges*.”

Dr. Harrington “is truly a master teacher among master teachers,” Dr. Spano said. “She effectively channels all of her research and publications in pedagogy and the psychology of learning into her lectures, lesson plans, activities and assignments. The effortless way in which she seems to

have integrated her years of research into her teaching philosophy is quite impressive. She makes it look easy, but those of us who know the breadth and depth of her research as well as the many challenges involved in reaching our student population appreciate her achievement in classroom teaching. In particular, we applaud her skillful implementation of scaffolding, writing-to-learn activities, collaborative learning (the way it should be done), motivational techniques, support systems, and formative assessment. A master teacher has the ability, the experience, and the versatility to reach multiple audiences and guide them to the learning outcomes. Professor Harrington does all of this, and more.”

Patricia Kiernan is a proponent of the “flipped classroom” approach, in which the students listen to video

# 6 Students Receive NASA Grants to Conduct Research

A trip into space may not be in their immediate plans, but six Middlesex County College students are still in NASA's orbit. They are benefiting from NASA scholarships designed to increase their research abilities.

Each are receiving \$5,000 stipends from the New Jersey Space Grant Consortium to conduct research with professors at MCC. Four started their research in the fall and will finish this spring. The other two began in January and will conclude at the end of the summer.



"The students are working on various topics," said Parag Muley, chair of the Natural Sciences Department. "They are all excellent students; we are very proud of their accomplishments."

Sarah Schneider was one of the participants.

"My project was on coordination compounds, which are metals with multiple ligands attached to them," she said. "I'm working specifically with Cobalt 3 compounds and studying the rates of certain reactions. Research in this area can potentially help cure disease."

Phalguni Ghosh, assistant chair of the Natural Sciences Department, said Ms. Schneider was one of the students who presented their work at a conference this spring.

"She did some molecular-level analysis," he said. "She has done an

Sarah Schneider at work in the lab.

excellent piece of work."

Dr. Ghosh said the research class has allowed students to improve their critical thinking skills in interpreting scientific data; integrate lab skills into the project; develop scientific literature skills; and help improve public speaking skills.

Another student, Danielle Caruso, is working at JFK Hospital in its neuroscience lab, studying how cancer cells grow.

Samuel Wieczorzak is working on examining the life of medication in the bloodstream. Once you take a medication, the liver starts rejecting it.

"How do you hide this drug long enough before your liver destroys it?" Dr. Muley asked.

Other projects include Denna Lessing using petrographic analysis to investigate climate change and natural resources in the state; Amy Walczak is looking at the effects of variables on respiratory cycles; and Joseph Cruz examining blood pressure and caffeine research.

"These are top-notch students doing original research," Dr. Muley said. "Many of their projects have real-world implications."

## Outstanding Profs

*Continued from page 1*

lectures on their own time via the internet, and then come to class to work with their professor on assignments.

"She seems to understand the purpose of the flipped approach as evidenced by her clear, concise video lectures, embedded with quizzes, and active-learning in-class activities rooted in practical and creative problem-solving," Dr. Spano said. "She also has students demonstrate core concepts for their peers. She strives to understand the students' perspective and challenges and uses this as the starting point for her lesson plans."

## THIS MONTH AT MIDDLESEX

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

### Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders

Ronald G. Rios, *Freeholder Director*  
Carol B. Bellante, *Deputy Director*  
Kenneth Armwood

Charles Kenny  
H. James Polos  
Charles E. Tomaro  
Blanquita Valenti

### Middlesex County College Board of Trustees

Dorothy K. Power, *Chairman*  
Thomas Tighe, *Vice Chairman*  
Mark J. Finkelstein, *Treasurer*  
Robert P. Sica, *Secretary*  
Frank T. Antisell  
George J. Lisicki

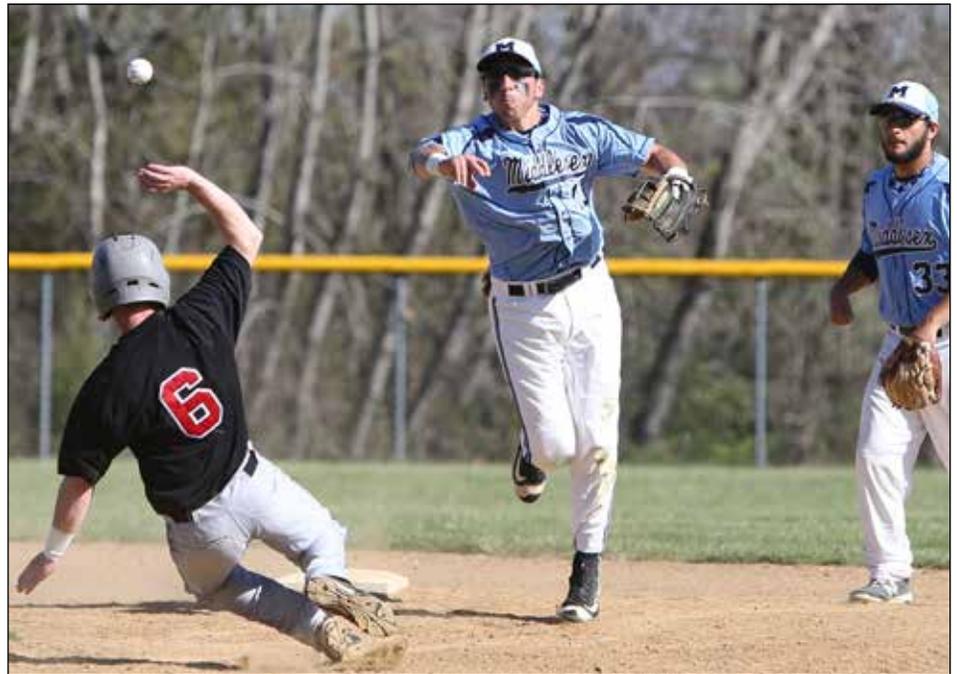
Laura Morana  
John P. Mulkerin  
Robert Oras  
Eileen Palumbo '78  
Praful Raja  
Nicole D. Risoli '15  
Joann La Perla-Morales, *President*

School Spirit Day allowed students to blow off some steam as the semester comes to a close. The program featured carnival games, tug of war and good food. At right, students won prizes by sinking baskets; below the basketball team was one of the participants in tug-of-war; and below right, Ode Hoppie, assistant director of student activities, rang the bell in the strongman competition.



Jacqueline Murekatete, a genocide survivor and human rights activist, spoke at MCC as part of Arts and Sciences Month. Born in Rwanda, Ms. Murekatete was 9 years old when she lost her parents, all six siblings and most of her extended family to the 1994 genocide. She spoke about her life, and she discussed the crime of genocide and other forms of mass atrocities in the world today. The lecture was sponsored by MCC's Center for the Study of Genocide, Prejudice and the Holocaust. She is second from left, and she spoke with, from left, Professor Terrence Corrigan, of the History and Social Science Department and director of the Holocaust Center; MCC students Rebecca Shaferman and Priya Singh; and Rob Giorgi, an MCC alumnus now attending Columbia University, who is the alumni representative on the Holocaust Center Advisory Committee.





Amanda Redman fires a pitch and Anthony Parente completes a double play. The baseball squad is now 22-12 and the softball team is 13-3.

## Democracy House Honored by Middlesex County Freeholders

Democracy House, MCC's service-learning program, and the County's Center for Empowerment were recently honored by the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders for their work in educating the College community about domestic violence, human trafficking and other forms of sexual abuse. They sponsored a film showing of "The Hunting Ground," in which rape survivors fight back using legal strategy, and a luncheon program where survivors shared

their stories. The organizations also sponsored the Clothesline Project, in which students wrote messages on t-shirts, which are then hung in the College Center; and April 25 was Denim Day, in which students were encouraged to wear denim in an effort to raise awareness of and protest against stereotypes surrounding the issue of sexual assault.



From left: MCC student Halimat Oshun; Lori Hayes, Center for Empowerment; Pattiann McMahon, faculty advisor of Democracy House; Carol B. Bellante, Freeholder deputy director; Arianna Illa, Democracy House coordinator; Jennifer Kurdyla of the Center for Empowerment; and MCC student Miranda Brenton.



### Foodies Delight!

About 100 foodies crowded into the College Center to enjoy offerings from local restaurants at the MCC Alumni Association's restaurant tasting in April. A fundraiser for alumni scholarships and programs, the taste allowed restaurants to promote their menus and the public to enjoy a variety of food. Here, alumnae Kayleigh Maklary '10, left, and Jessica Cortese '08 are served by Sandy Urgilez of Famous Dave's.