



Faculty Contract Negotiations Continue

By: Alexander Lewis
Staff Writer

The College's full-time faculty withdrew voluntary services effective Oct. 24 in response to the status of the on-going faculty contract negotiations with The College's management, according to

faculty members.

The management representative, Thomas Peterson, said the management policy is not to comment during on-going faculty contract negotiations. Withdrawal of voluntary services limits the activities of faculty members. Faculty members will now only teach.

Patricia Payne, President of the Local 1940 chapter of the American Federation of Teachers Union, said, "When full-time faculty are hired, they are automatically a union member. We currently have 155 full-time faculty, and they are all members of the union. We [have] met several times at the bargaining table with management, without success. The Union declared an impasse in September and we are waiting for a mediator to be

assigned. The faculty is currently teaching, advising, counseling, providing admission and library services, but they are not engaging in voluntary activities as a demonstration to Management that we need to settle the contract ASAP." According to anonymous sources, tensions revolve around salary increases and health insurance costs. The faculty have been working without a contract since June 30, 2016, according to union representation. Withdrawal of services also occurred in 2012 during the last contract negotiation before the contract was settled with a 2 percent salary increase.

You can reach the author at:
alexander.lewis99@yahoo.com



Photo Courtesy of Alexander Lewis

The College's full-time faculty withdrew voluntary services effective on Oct. 24 in response to the status of the on-going faculty contract with The College's management.

Virginia Tech Survivor to Speak at The College

By: Roque Cabrera
Managing Editor

The College's new club, The GThe College's new club, The Genocide and Human Rights Awareness club, GHRA, has invited Rev. D Scott Russell, a survi-

vor of the Virginia tech shootings will speak about his experiences with campus violence in College Center's Coral, top floor, on Monday, Dec 5th at 11 am and also a discussion on mental health.

Rev. Russell is currently a chapel for Rutgers university and has agreed to speak at The College about his

experience in Virginia Tech. "I have a deep commitment to campus life, whether it is a large university like [Virginia Tech] VT or Rutgers or a smaller campus like MCC. Any campus is a crossroads for people from so many walks of life. I think is a 'sacred' place where we gather to share ideas and learn from each other. We share

our stories and, if we are open to it, can have some of our basic beliefs challenged," said Rev. Russel.

Rev. Russel was a chaplain in Virginia Tech when the shootings happened. Now he is coming to the College to speak to the students and faculty about his experience with the tragedy.

Rev. Russel said, "The

student who did the killings was a second-generation immigrant who suffered from mental illness. Many of his professors saw warning signs but lacked any clear way to raise concerns about his behavior. He clearly planned his crime. He killed two students in a dorm on one side of campus to create a diversion while he crossed campus, secured an academic building by chaining the doors shut and then killing 30 students and faculty there before taking his own life. The community was deeply shaken by the killings, which created many moving responses in the aftermath."

Rev. Scott will also speak about the dangers of isolating students and that when students feel isolated disaster is most likely to happen.

"Another of the lessons learned is how to incorporate students who are cross-cultural. It is important to follow up with students who are international or first-generation. How are they adapting to the stressors of a new culture? How are they measuring up to their family's expectations? How can the university community help in the transition to full-acclimation to the new culture?" said Rev. Russel.

The event was put together by Prof. Terrence Corrigan, teacher of History and Social Sciences, Roque Cabrera, public Relations specialist for GHRA, whom invited Rev. Russell to speak at the event, and Priya Singh, GHRA's president.

You can reach the author at:
roquecabrera123@yahoo.com



Photo Courtesy of Roque Cabrera

Rev. Russel, a survivor of the Virginia Tech shootings, will be visiting The College to talk about mental health.

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AFT Members Attend Board of Trustees Meeting



Photo Courtesy of AFT

The Local 1940 AFT (American Federation of Teachers - Local 1940 Middlesex County College) stood in Chambers Hall on Jan. 25, the morning of the MCC Board of Trustees meeting, holding signs.

Middlesex County College Starts New Payment Plan

By: **Diane Balint**
Managing Editor

Middlesex County College offers a new payment plan during the Spring 2017 semester to make tuition payments affordable for students, by introducing a four-installment payment program.

The idea for the new payment plan was established by Brian Clemmons, Dean of Enrollment Management. The new payment plan has taken the place of the preexisting three-installment payment plan that the college had for students.

The payment plan allows students who cannot afford to pay their total tuition at

one time, to pay it off monthly.

Students must enroll themselves for the payment plan via their campus cruiser. Students must log on to their campus cruiser account, choose WebAdvisor/Student Services, then click "Payment Plan Sign-Up" for access to the application.

Students may enroll at anytime. There is a non-refundable \$25 enrollment fee due along with the first payment. The second payment is due on Jan. 26. The third payment is due on Feb. 23. The final payment is due Mar. 23.

"Being enrolled allows students to make their schedule and secure their classes without having to worry that they may lose their spot in a class,"

said Enrollment Services Assistant said Rameez Rathore.

"Having the four payment plan breaks down the tuition even more and gives [students] a lot of flexibility and time make [payments]," said Rathore.

The college has promoted the new payment plan through many sources including, the college's website, emails, social media accounts, posters, flyers, pamphlets, etc. For more information about the payment plan visit <https://www.middlesexcc.edu/student-account-services> or call Student Account Services 732-906-2572.

You can reach the author at: dmbalint1997@gmail.com



Photo Courtesy of Sam Cheng

Students can pay their tuition in multiple monetary forms including cash.

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Contract Negotiations Continue

By: Alexander Lewis
Managing Editor

The College has reached an agreement in contract negotiations with the three unions that represent the support staff (AFSCME), facilities and maintenance workers (Teamsters), and police (FOP), but has not reached an agreement with the faculty union (AFT).

Director of Marketing Communications, Thomas Peterson, said, The AFSCME and the Teamsters agreed to a four-year contract with an increase of 2.5 percent for each of the four years. Peterson also said that a similar FOP agreement is currently pending member ratification.

According to a document given to *Quo Vadis* by Peterson, after AFT filed for an impasse and mediation with the Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC) in September 2016, a mediation session was held in December with a state appointed mediator.

The document said that the College's management proposed to AFT, a four-year contract with a total 10 percent increase in wages over the life of the agreement, with no change in medical insurance contribution cost calculations.

The AFT countered with a proposal for a three-year contract with a 9 percent wage increase, but with a reduction in medical insurance

contributions and a freeze in contributions for the life of the contract, as well as other proposals, according to the College's documentation.

Patricia Payne, President of the Local 1940 chapter of AFT, said, "At mediation, no proposal offers were actually presented. We never got that far. The mediator advised us, early on in the process, that he did not think we would be able to settle. And at the end of the session he advised us that he would not be returning. The next step is fact-finding, which is another mediation effort at a different level."

Payne also said that MCC President Joann La Perla-Morales emailed information about the negotiations to the faculty.

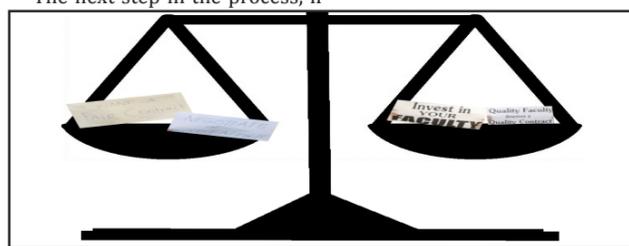
Payne said that discussions that occurred during mediation were supposed to be confidential.

Previous negotiation sessions were held in March, April, June in addition to the two that were held in September.

The next step in the process, if

an agreement cannot be reached between the College and the AFT, is a Fact-Finding Hearing before PERC.

You can reach the author at: alexander.lewis99@yahoo.com



Negotiations are still being weighed out.

Courtesy of Alexander Lewis

Activities Fair Draws Large Crowd

By: Claire Lacy
Staff Writer

Middlesex County College held a Student Activities Fair in Cafeteria C on Monday, Jan. 30 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Students and some faculty created visuals, (e.g. flyers and posters) which displayed names of clubs with the purpose to grab the attention of students. Each club gave students that were interested a general summary of activities that they do at their clubs as well as the place and time that their clubs usually meet.

Some of the clubs that were at the Student Activities Fair included the following: CRU, Music Club, Pakistani Club, Martial Arts Team,

Student Government Association, Athletics, Biology Society, English as a Second Language, Middlesex County College Harmony, Backstage Players, and Geek Index.

Geek Index was one club that stood out from all the others, as its table had many visuals that were on display including comic books and Pokémon character stuffed animals. One of the presidents of Geek Index is a marketing major named Kelley Petersen from North Brunswick.

Petersen said that the purpose of Geek Index is getting together and making friends with similar interests.

The activities that take place in Geek Index include reading comic books, playing video games, and



Blue Colt Radio offers a contest to win a prize pack at their table.

playing card games (including "Yu-Gi-Oh" and "Vanguard" cards). Members of "Geek Index" usually get together on Thursdays starting

at 2 p.m. in either Cafeteria C, the Terrace, or in rooms 319-321 in College Center.

You can reach the author at: Lacy.jclaire@gmail.com

Photo Courtesy of Alexander Lewis



Photo Courtesy of Sam Cheng

Members of the Shadows on Paper club gather at the fair to promote their club.



Photo Courtesy of Sam Cheng

Students attending the fair walk around learning about the different clubs on campus.

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Assembly Unable to Convene this Month

By: Alexander Lewis
Managing Editor

Department Assistant of the College Assembly Joan O'Brien said the College Assembly could not hold the February monthly meeting because of the faculty job action, which affected the required quorum.

"...there is not adequate participation on the part of the faculty to move anything along," she said.

O'Brien said, "The meeting was unable to convene for lack of quorum. We were shy one student and

one faculty member."

The Assembly bylaws read that "At all meetings of the College Assembly, the presence of thirteen (13) voting members shall constitute a quorum. There shall be at least three (3) representatives from the student, faculty, and administration (Deans/Chairpersons/Directors/Administrators) constituencies - and one (1) from the support staff constituency."

The College Assembly is a governing body.

O'Brien said, "We [the College Assembly] have the task forces, which are assigned to charges (dif-

ferent aspects) and they have to work among themselves to see how they would do it. They would come to us with a proposal and then the assembly votes on it."

The different and vital task forces include curriculum, which approves and recommends new courses and academic standards, which recommends admission, grading, transfer, and course credit graduation requirement standards.

You can reach the author at:
alexander.lewis99@yahoo.com

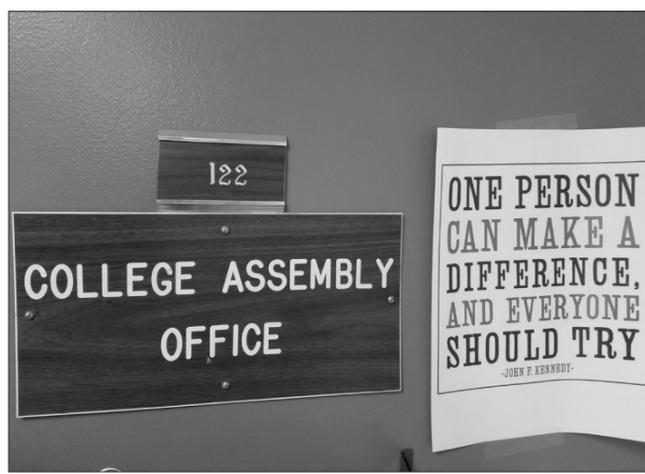


Photo Courtesy of Alexander Lewis

The College Assembly Office is located in Raritan Hall room 122.

Public Hearing on Tuition Increase Upcoming



Photo Courtesy of Samantha Cheng

The last tuition increase occurred in 2015.

By: Alexander Lewis
Managing Editor

A public hearing on proposed tuition increase of the College will be held in the Chambers Hall Board at the Edison campus on Friday Feb. 17 at 8:30 a.m.

The hearing is open to the public for those interested in voicing their opinion on the matter.

Tuition has previously increased by around 1 percent in 2013 and 2014 or \$1 per credit hour, and 2 percent in 2015 or \$2 per credit hour.

The data from <https://www.state.nj.us> shows that Middlesex County College has the fourth least expensive credit cost, a difference of around 11 percent vs. the New Jersey average.

In early 2016, New Jersey lawmakers, specifically The Assembly Higher Education Committee, approved bill A552, which placed an annual 4 percent cap on in-state tuition and fee increases at public colleges.

You can reach the author at:
alexander.lewis99@yahoo.com

New Harmony Club Embraces Musical Talent at MCC

By: Anais Azcona
Staff Writer

Middlesex County College welcomes a new music club called MCC Harmony, which will meet in the Arts Gallery in the College Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The new club made an appearance at the Student Activi-

ties Fair on Jan. 30. MCC Harmony introduced their club to the campus with a performance by Carlos Franco.

Franco, founder of the club, said, "MCC Harmony is going to work with musicians and singers, but the primary focus of the club will be the voice."

The new music group is going to give students the oppor-

tunity to improve on their musical abilities by working together toward a common goal. Focusing on the development of one's musical abilities is what will set this club apart from others said Franco.

MCC Harmony currently has 27 members signed up, but is constantly growing. The club accepts students with an interest in music, Franco said.

Franco said he will use his previous experiences as a singing contestant in singing contests such as "La Banda", "La Voz Kids" and "America's Got Talent" to help those looking forward to learning more about music and performing.

Franco said the club, "is going to help singers and musicians bring their talents to the next level by giving them the opportuni-

ty to perform in multiple events.

The club will be sponsoring events this spring.

For more information about joining contact the Office of Student Activities or MCC Harmony at middlesexchammony@gmail.com.

You can reach the author at:
anaisazcona@gmail.com

Actor Performs Sojourner Truth in Honor of Black History Month

By: Claire Lacy
Staff Writer

Actor educator, and singer Daisy Nelson Century gave a performance at the Middlesex County College Center Corral on this month.

During this event, Century portrayed abolitionist and women's rights activist Sojourner Truth in a dramatic speech titled "Ain't I a Woman?" in which she told Truth's life story. The details that were present in this performance dated all the way back to Truth's early days as a slave to when she was a free women's rights activist.

The performance started with Century walking out to the performance area dressed in

clothing that was similar to Truth's clothing as well as a wooden cane.

During the performance, Century, in Truth's character, mentions a "book of wit and wisdom" carried by Truth. After the performance, Century explained that "no one knows what happened to that little book". Century also passed around a copy of Abraham Lincoln's signature that was in that book.

Century has portrayed several African-American women throughout history, but said that Sojourner Truth is her favorite to portray as well as Harriet Tubman.

You can reach the author at:
Lacy.j.claire@gmail.com



Photo Courtesy of Samantha Cheng



Photo Courtesy of Samantha Cheng

Black History Month is being celebrated throughout the entire college.

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AFT Holds Rally

By: Alexander Lewis
Managing Editor

The Local 1940 chapter of the American Federation of Teacher Union (AFT) along with students and other educators held a rally for quality higher education and fair contracts at the Quad on the Edison campus on Monday, April 24 from 11 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.

The rally was attended by several members of the AFT including President of AFT New Jersey Donna Chiera, President of NJ AFL-CIO Charles Wowkanech, President of Union of Rutgers Administrators-AFT Lucye Millerand, MCC Alum and EVP of Union of Rutgers Administrators Darlene Smith, President of the Perth Amboy Federation Patricia Paradiso and Anna Barcy and Akin O'Huxley of Rutgers AAUP-AFL.

Patricia Payne, President of the Local 1940 chapter, said, "[The] campus rally [was] for a fair contract, it is part of our contract campaign. The mediator met with us and after one session said he would not be back because management refused to budge."

In a press release given to Quo Vadis, Payne said, "College management is taking a hard line by sending Jackson Lewis to the table and the bargaining process has suffered as a result. The college budget should go toward helping students succeed."

"The faculty and the adjuncts ... really care a lot about the students. And we want to make sure we are as supportive as we can be for them, so that they're successful," said Payne, "They [administration] told us at the bargaining table that they have money. They just don't choose to spend it for the faculty... investing in your faculty is investing in your students."

President of NJ AFL-CIO Charles Wowkanech spoke at the rally, and said, "This is the first time I've heard of a county college hiring a nationally union-busting firm. It's been pretty clear to me that the strategy of this administration is to just keep wearing you down, wearing you down, so you take a deal that you're not going to take. At the end of the day, we're going to last longer than Jackson Lewis."

According to a document given to Quo Vadis by Thomas Peterson, the College's Director of Marketing Communications, the College has offered contract terms that would allow the professors to remain among the highest paid in the State.

The document said that the College's offers rejected by the Union are consistent with those the College has already negotiated with the three unions that represent its support staff (AFSCME), maintenance workers (Teamsters) and police (Fraternal Order of Police).

"The Union rejected the Col-



AFT members hold up signs at the rally at the campus Quad.

Photo Courtesy of Adam Homza

lege's offers and filed for impasse last Sep. with the New Jersey Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC)... While the College prefers to reach resolution without formal fact-finding hearings, the process initiated by the Union requires it. The College would like the formal fact-finding process to begin as soon as possible," stated the release, "However, the Faculty Union has stated that, due to their summer vacation schedules, they would prefer that the hearing be scheduled sometime during the fall semester. The College is prepared to proceed as soon as possible in hopes of reaching a resolution."

The document said that the College's administration believes the proposals are fair and reasonable. It also indicated that the administration is making every effort to bring these negotiations to a conclusion that takes into consideration the interests of the entire Middlesex County College Community.

Additional Photos on page 8

You can reach the author at: alexander.lewis99@yahoo.com

SUMMARY OF MCC'S PROPOSALS

Provided to the AFT Negotiating Committee on March 23, 2017

TERM:

Four-year contract. (July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2020)

COMPENSATION:

Two and one-half percent (2.5%) non-retroactive increase each contract-year, pro-rated in the first year, beginning with ratification by the Union and approval by the College Board of Trustees. (Art. IX. B (1), H(1), and I(1)).

REIMBURSEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL DUES:

Increase from \$390 to \$425 per year.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION:

Add hearing aids, and increase reimbursement from \$250 to \$275 per year and.

PREFERENCE FOR ADJUNCT POSITIONS:

Replace the language after "will be" in the first sentence of Art. III. C(4) with "permitted to apply for adjunct teaching positions."

VOICE OR IMAGE REPRODUCTION:

Remove Art. III. F.

FOUR DAY SCHEDULE:

Remove the second sentence from Art. III. H(1).

CHANGES IN LENGTH OF CLASS PERIOD:

Remove Art. III. 0.

CLASSROOM OBSERVATION:

Add "or designee" after "department chairperson" in Art. III. B(1) and (2).

ON-LINE DISTANCE EDUCATION:

Remove Art. X. A(4), (6), and (8). In Art. X. A(II), change the student load from 20 to 30, and replace the last sentence with: "A bargaining unit member shall teach no more than two (2) on-line courses or six (6) contact hours of on-line course(s), whichever is less, per academic year as components of their full-time teaching load, so long as the bargaining unit member is scheduled to teach a minimum of nine (9) contact hours of classroom teaching each semester."



AAUP-AFT members Akin O'Huxley and Anna Barcy show their support.

Photo Courtesy of Adam Homza

"Believe Tonight" Raises Awareness

By: Samantha Cheng & Alexander Lewis
Staff Writer & Managing Editor

Members of Adelante, a MCC student organization, will be holding a walk called, "Believe Tonight" on the Edison Campus Quad at 6 p.m. on Friday, April 28 to raise awareness and funds for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

Vice President of Adelante, Brandon Rodriguez said, "We're asking people to show up at five so they can sign in

[and complete] paperwork." Rodriguez said that participants can download the Charity Miles app and sign up to use it. Then, they must select "Leukemia & Lymphoma Society." From there, they have to tap on the three white dots at the top left corner, select team and search for the team called, "#BelieveTonight17."

"Last year [the walk] was named 'Light the Night.' This year it's 'Believe Tonight,'" said Rodriguez.

"Believe Tonight" is going to

[have the same donation structure as 'Light the Night' did with] the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society."

"I want to incorporate many clubs and colleges into the event," said Rodriguez.

Rodriguez said, "Participants at the walk will include members of Adelante, other students from The College, students from other colleges, like Felician University, and maybe students from Rutgers."

Some students from Rodriguez's high school in

South Amboy will also attend.

Rodriguez said his mother was diagnosed with leukemia and she was in the hospital for 10 days. Due to many health issues, she passed away.

Rodriguez is using his mother's passing as motivation to inspire others, and when a friend went through a similar situation with his mother, he helped him cope with it.

The upper administration of MCC expressed interest and it is highly like-

ly that members will attend.

"Gene Gurkoff, founder and CEO of Charity Miles, plans on coming to the event, although this is uncertain," said Rodriguez.

For more information about the "Believe Tonight" walk, contact Brandon Rodriguez at brandondr7481@portal.middlesexcc.edu.

You can reach the authors at: samanthacheng1234@gmail.com and alexander.lewis99@yahoo.com

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Blue Colts Softball Scores Big

By: Marissa Bowden
Staff Writer

The College's women's softball team, the Blue Colts, scored a win over Bucks Community College from Newtown, P.A.,

on Thursday, April 13 at 3:30 p.m. The first game they played went progressively fast. The Colts were performing well, with several hits and plays, leading them to score more over the other team. The game did not last the full seven innings due to the

eight-run rule by the fifth inning. Regarding that rule, the score ended up being 12-3. A half hour after the first game, the second game started. Michelle Gebhardt, a Blue Colts softball player, came up to bat and scored a homerun for

the team. Shortly after that, the entire team started scoring runs over their opponent. The Colts were hitting line drives, doubles, and RBI's. The team showed how they can work together and successfully beat their opponent.

This game lasted longer than the first game, but the Colts did not let that stop them, and ended the game with a winning score of 18-4.

You can reach the author at: marissalynnbowden@yahoo.com

Blue Colts Lose To Brookdale Community College

By: Marissa Bowden
Staff Writer

Middlesex County College's Blue Colts Softball team suffered a loss against Brookdale Community College on Tuesday, April 18 at 3:30 p.m. During the first inning of the game there was no scoring between any of the teams. At the top of the second inning Brookdale scored two runs for their team. Blue Colts put in everything that they had in the next innings, but it wasn't doing the trick. The game only lasted five innings, with a final score of 0-10. When the second game came around and the Blue Colts came rushing in with a double from

softball player Michelle Gebhardt. Blue Colts tried to hold off Brookdale as much as they could, but that didn't come into play. Before everyone knew it, at the bottom of the second inning the score was 1-7. The next couple of innings were tough for The Blue Colts, but they knew not to give up. Around this time it was the bottom of the fourth inning, with a score of 1-16. Suddenly, The Blue Colts were able to score a couple runs for their team in the top of the fifth inning. That effort didn't go unnoticed, but didn't stop Brookdale from continuing to score. This game only lasted five innings like the first one, with a score of 3-20.

You can reach the author at: marissalynnbowden@yahoo.com



Photo Courtesy of Marissa Bowden

The Blue Colt's Softball Team lost to Brookdale Community College on April 18.

Additional Photos From the AFT Rally



AFT members prepare for the rally.

Photo Courtesy of Alexander Lewis



Counselor Sheema Majiduddin uses a megaphone to chant slogans.

Photo Courtesy of Alexander Lewis



Student Samantha Cheng shows her support.

Photo Courtesy of Alexander Lewis



Faculty members holding signs.

Photo Courtesy of Adam Homza



Local student holds sign at rally.

Photo Courtesy of Alexander Lewis



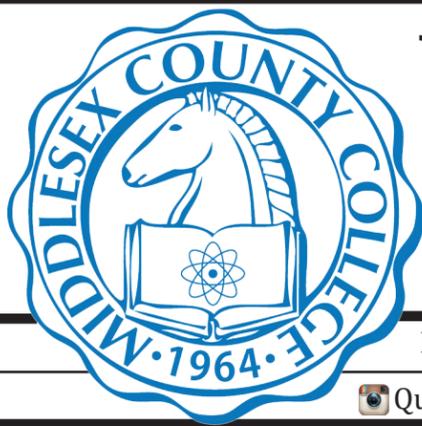
Faculty members holds signs at rally.

Photo Courtesy of Samantha Cheng



MCC student speaks to show her support for the faculty.

Photo Courtesy of Samantha Cheng



Library Celebrates 50th Anniversary

By Alexander Lewis
Managing Editor

The Middlesex County College library is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its dedication with a week of fun events and exhibits in the library during the week of Sept. 23.

Library Director Marilyn Ochoa said, "The library is celebrating our 50th anniversary mid-September. The week of the 18th we're going to be putting out a variety of games and candy and things like that..."

According to a flyer, courtesy of the Student Life office, the library will be hold-

ing events like photo exhibits, model cars, films, books, magazines, and online exhibits.

"... we're going to have some live-height cutouts of people dressed in '60s appropriate attire," said Ochoa, "And you can put your head through the open slot to take photos of yourself wearing '60s attire."

Director Ochoa also explained what kind of exhibits the library will be hosting.

"We're also going to have a gallery exhibit downstairs of images of the library's construction, the dedication ceremony, and some of the uses of the library in the '60s," Ochoa said, "So, you'll get to see some interesting equip-

ment and [other historic pieces]."

Additionally, the library will be hosting maker events, similar to the ones the library hosted in the spring semester.

Ochoa said, "There are a few maker events that are associated with the 50th. We've added some [events]. One of my librarians is doing the physics of bubbles."

Some of the maker events are related to old-school education, specifically chalk.

"We're going to have some chalk art. I think one of the librarians is thinking about showing people how to make chalk," said Ochoa, "We're going to have a variety of things like that and paper making, making things with paper."

50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Sept. 11	Play Twister (weather permitting)
Sept. 18	The Cut-Outs arrive. Take your picture as a "well-dressed 1967 student"
Sept. 19	Play Library Bingo and win a prize
Sept. 20	Try your hand at playing popular 1967 board games
Sept. 21	Razzles, Sweetarts, 100 Grand and other candies that were hits in 1967
Sept. 22	Anniversary cake!



Some things have not changed as much as others since 1967.

Additional Photos on pg. 2



Students studying and using a typewriter in the library.

Photo Courtesy of Alexander Lewis

Currently the library is holding a special 50th anniversary edition of the Best Reads annual book list. According to an announcement from Reference Librarian Elisabeth Oliu you can submit a title of your choice for the "Best" book you read this year online at <http://fs2.formsite.com/jgeridgem/bestreads/index.html> (one submission per person). The Best Reads 2017

books will be displayed in the Library for the month of November.

For more information go to <http://middlesexcc.libguides.com/bestreads>.

Ochoa said, "We are going to run the exhibits until alumni weekend, Sept. 26, through the month of September."

You can reach the author at: alexander.lewis99@yahoo.com

Faculty Contract Negotiations Go On

By Alexander Lewis
Managing Editor

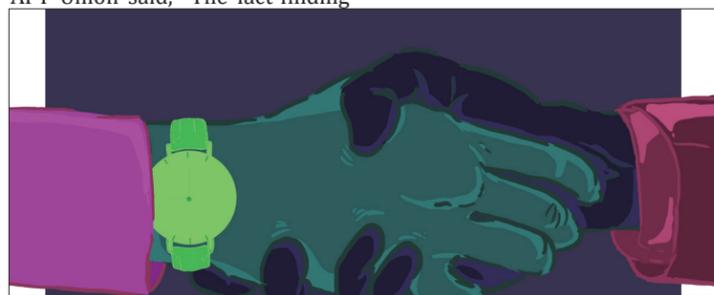
After an unsuccessful mediation attempt and an on-campus rally in April, contract negotiations between MCC full-time faculty, represented by the American Federation of Teachers Union (AFT), and college administration are moving forward, with a Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC) fact-finding hearing scheduled for Friday, Oct. 6.

Patricia Payne, President of the Local 1940 chapter of the AFT Union said, "The fact-finding

hearing will be on Friday, October 6, 2017. The fact finder will issue a non-binding settlement offer. That means that either side can reject it. We are also actively pursuing information regarding lower cost healthcare premiums to present at the bargaining table."

Thomas Peterson, Director of Marketing Communication at the College said, "We're hopeful that the hearing will be successful and an agreement will be reached."

You can reach the author at: alexander.lewis99@yahoo.com



Both sides with for an amicable end to the negotiations.

Courtesy of Ellia Koroma

Career Coach Implementation Helps Students Choose Vocation

By Alexander Lewis
Managing Editor

Manager of Career Services, Charlotte Quigley unveiled a new, more embedded version of Career Coach, the online software that provides students with important information that pertains to their major, during the Spring Convocation in the College Center Cafeteria on Aug. 28 at 9 a.m.

Quigley said, "...anybody who is perusing the academic programs can find Career Coach quite easily and use that to investigate how their choice of [goals affect their careers], or how to reach their goal, with where they see themselves."

Quigley showed the attendees an example of a psychology major and what they could find on Career Coach.

"So, first of all it'll show some ... salary information and some education levels. So ... right off the bat the students are going to get some great information ...

about what they could possibly do with a degree in psychology [or another major]," said Quigley, "If we click on [specific job] we're going to get more information about salary, about postings, about what degrees we have here at Middlesex that will get them started on their path."

"But what they can also see, in addition to wages, is employment information, how many new jobs have been posted in that particular job title, what companies are currently hiring," said Quigley, "They can go and actually see the job postings and apply for them, if there are any open, and the employment projections."

The site also shows detailed breakdowns of the various job postings.

Quigley said, "[The postings show] who's currently hiring right now, but more about what the job duties the students will have... there is some actual data about what they will be doing every day. [And] what skillsets the employer who is hiring somebody

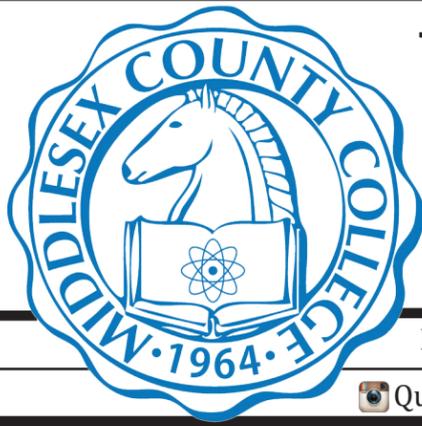
in that field will be looking for."

Students or others in the Middlesex County community may access Career Coach through either the Career Services homepage, on the main page of their chosen major, or by going to <https://middlesexcc.emsicc.com/>.

Career Coach also has an excellent resume-builder for students.

"[It]... is going to give them a great entry-level resume that is professional in appearance, it's spellchecked, it's formatted, and it's going to represent them in the way they want to be represented in order to have the best chance for that interview..." Quigley said, "Career Coach has offered the institution, for every student who develops a resume and uploads into their profile on Career Coach, our Foundation will get a dollar, ... funds that we can use to support our students here at Middlesex."

You can reach the author at: alexander.lewis99@yahoo.com



Negotiations Disturb Meeting

By Alexander Lewis & Danielle Adelaide Cairo
Managing Editor & Staff Writer

Professor Patricia Payne, president of the Local 1940 chapter of the American Federation of Teachers Union (AFT) and Patrick Madama, vice president of Institutional Advancement, expressed their differing opinions on the state of the college and faculty participation and college management at the monthly Board of Trustees meeting in the Corral Restaurant at the College Center on Sept. 20 at 9:30 a.m.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, Payne said, "Our students are our most important entity. We are all here, the board included, to serve our students."

She said that multiple doors in Crabiell Hall were locked during the first week of school, which led to classes being cut short.

On the first day of school, the computers in her class were

not set up properly, Payne said.

"I don't want to be embarrassed when I come to work," said Payne.

She said she believes that the students aren't being served as they should.

Other faculty public comments were made as well, some of which were critical of the college.

Later in the meeting Patrick Madama said, all mistakes discussed are due to the lack of participation from the faculty.

"There's a difference between what the faculty union says and what the faculty as a whole say, and what the opportunities for participation are," said Madama, "We have on this campus a College Assembly that recommends to the administration in all areas of concern, whether it's student life, whether it's opportunities of the curriculum, campus, the community."

Madama said, "Do you know that while the Union has called the job action, that this College Assembly has not been able to meet fulfill its responsibilities because of the lack of participation of faculty."

"College Assembly has nothing to do with the union. It's the College's body of students, faculty and staff that make recommendations to the administration," said Madama, "The people that you've just heard from, in my time serving here going to assembly meetings, have participated very little or not at all."

After this statement, the faculty walked out.

In a follow-up statement he made to Quo Vadis later, Madama clarified his point.

Madama said there was a lack of participation at the fall and spring convocation, and the workshops and sessions designed to inform and solicit input from faculty and staff that follow the College President's State of the College Message.

He said that there was also a lack of participation in the

They expect class to start when it's supposed to, just like me."

She said, "One of my students said their professor, who has class in Main Hall, said they'll have to bring in their own external speakers because they have no sound from the classroom equipment."

"... no air conditioning, no white boards, they have us using a chalk board in 2017. The computers are at least 15 years old. The internet service in Crabiell is [sic] at terrible. There's no cell phone reception. The computers take 15 minutes to boot up," said Payne, "There's only one elevator in the building and when it's not in service, anyone with a disability has no way of getting to the second floor. And this is a new building that was specifically built for classroom purposes. It's a very badly constructed building."

"All of this is due to a poorly managed institution," said Payne, "And the president of the college is ultimately responsible."

MCC President Dr. Joann La Perla-Morales said that college management is working toward maintaining and upgrading facilities.

"Computers at Middlesex County College are replaced with new models every five years as part of an enterprise hardware refresh plan," said La Perla-Morales, "Over the spring and summer this year, 323 computers were replaced and 811 computers received software upgrades."

La Perla-Morales said that IT repairs any computer that



Middlesex County College President Dr. Joann La Perla-Morales.

is identified as performing poorly.

"The same standards of construction and use of materials that led to the buildings achieving the LEED Gold standard in energy efficiency, ironically, also inhibit cell phone signals," said La Perla-Morales.

The College is currently working on a solution to the cellular reception issue said La Perla-Morales.

La Perla-Morales said that the Crabiell Hall elevator and air conditioning units were down for a short period of time this summer due to faulty components.

MCC has invested more than \$5 million over the last 10 years to upgrade HVAC equipment in almost every building on campus said La Perla-Morales

The next Board of Trustees meeting is in the Chambers Hall Boardroom on Oct. 18 at 9:30 a.m.

You can reach the authors at: alexander.lewis99@yahoo.com & cairo.dani@yahoo.com



President of Local 1940 chapter of the American Federation of Teachers Union Patricia Payne.



Vice President of Institutional Advancement Patrick Madama.

Annual Faculty Award ceremonies.

"When the AFT Faculty Union, prevents its members from participating due to a Job Action, this hurts the College, the students and the faculty," said Madama

Payne also elaborated on her perspective through email after the meeting.

"I did have to cancel my class last Tuesday because we lost too much time," said Payne, "Other days I have lost class time because of things not working. It's unacceptable."

"Students are disturbed.

MCC Nurses Association Holds Blood Drive

By Alexander Lewis
Managing Editor

The Association of Middlesex County College Nursing Students (AMCCNS) in partnership with Central Jersey Blood Center (CJBC) is holding a blood donation drive in the College Center Cafeteria C on Oct. 5, from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. to help the local community in need of blood donations.

Katherine Howard, a faculty member in the nursing program, said, "With all of the natural disasters that we are experiencing now, there's really a critical need for people to donate because they (blood centers) don't have the reserves and they don't have the availability."

Howard said, "As nursing students and nurses, we are very much aware of all of the health issues that are going on, so this is a way to give back to the community."

"They (CJBC) take care of the logistics, the actual drawing of the blood," said Howard, "The student nursing organization does the organizing, the advertis-

ing, the getting people in, making appointments, helping register people, but the blood bank brings in their staff to screen people." Howard said, "And then, based on the participation we have, they donate

money back to the student nursing organization for scholarships." Vice President of AMCCNS, Amanda Williams, has been instrumental in planning the blood drive. Williams recognizes how im-

portant it is to keep a good blood supply to the local community.

"The past blood drives that I've done with PTK were with New York Blood Center," said Williams, "This one is with Central Jersey Blood Center."

Howard said that the Nursing Association wants to help expand the number of blood centers MCC is working with because there is such a great need for donations.

"The one challenge sometimes with doing any activity is the way people take classes," said Howard, "Sometimes somebody will come just one day or two days and they're not going to make another trip out to donate."

"As long as people donate, we don't mind if they give to somebody else," said Howard, "So, hopefully with the different blood drives, we'll be able to tap into everybody." AMCCNS is planning several additional events in the coming months. "We're going to have a table at the health fair Oct. 12," said Howard, "The focus there is going to be preventing diabetes because we see a big increase

in late teens and young adults." Howards said that AMCCNS will educate eventgoers on how to read labels, nutrition, the amount of sugar in different foods and how that affects their health. Additionally, AMCCNS is planning a bone-marrow donation drive for the Spring. "People don't realize that to get screened to be a bone marrow donor, all you need to do is swab the inside of your mouth," said Howard. "A lot of people are very scared," said Williams, "I'm hoping to have a big presentation ... to reach out to the community."

For more information, please contact Amanda Williams at amccnsblooddrive2017@gmail.com or go to <https://www.facebook.com/events/144113352864874/>. To schedule a donation, please either contact Amanda Williams or go to https://donate.cjcblood.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/43826. Walk-ins are also welcome and encouraged.

You can reach the author at: alexander.lewis99@yahoo.com



From left to right: Vice President of the Association of Middlesex County College Nursing Students and nursing faculty member Katherine Howard.

October 5, 2017

To the Editor,

We hear many allegations of “fake news” these days. It’s sometimes difficult to determine where the truth lies. However, as an eyewitness to some of the events cited by Vice President Patrick Madama in your lead story on October 4, I am compelled to bring attention to his false allegations and to comment on the ones that are true.

I am a professor in the Mathematics Department enjoying my 37th year at MCC. I am also the Director of the Center for the Enrichment of Learning and Teaching (CELT). My work with CELT has brought me into contact with many devoted, hardworking faculty from every academic department. The college community can rest assured that student success is our top priority.

Your article quotes Mr. Madama’s assertions that “there was a lack of participation in the fall and spring convocation, . . . workshops, . . . and the Annual Faculty Award ceremonies.” This is simply not true. As the Board of Trustees members who were present can confirm, Dr. LaPerla-Morales addressed a full room in the cafeteria at convocation. We have attendance records for our CELT programs which demonstrate that our audience for the plenary sessions at the start of each semester filled nearly all available seats, and our workshops filled to capacity with additional names on a waiting list. As one of the recipients of a Faculty Award this year, I know that the Award ceremony was also well-attended on a late Thursday afternoon in April.

It is true that the faculty Union has called a job action in response to the administration’s intransigence in contract negotiations and the the College’s decision to retain a law firm that is notorious for union busting. And it is true that faculty participation is currently limited on College Assembly and some committees. Unfortunately, even when the faculty were fully participating, our voice was routinely ignored. For example, the Promotion and Tenure Committee, Academic Technology Advisory Group, Faculty Hiring Guidelines Committee, and countless task forces and screening committees have seen their research and recommendations disregarded without explanation. I know this because I have served on many of them.

It is a sad indication of the state of the College that the Vice President for Institutional Advancement chose to use his farewell remarks to the Board as an opportunity to disparage the very institution he was hired to advance.

Yours truly,
Kathleen Shay, Ph. D.