

Congratulations!

The Class of 2006 is ready to take on new challenges.



NEWS FROM OUR GRADUATES:

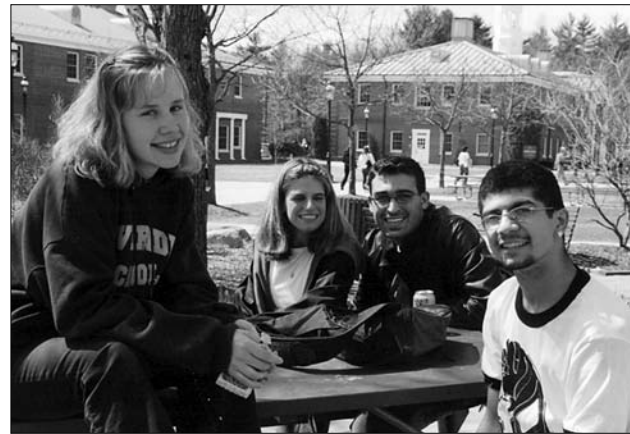
Anna Tepe, of Sterling, MA, tells us that her time in the Transition Program has helped her to be successful at her job at NEADS (The National Education for Assistance Dog Services, Inc). In particular, Anna feels that the computer classes helped her the most. She is enjoying her work as a Trainer Assistant at NEADS and has continued to take classes in Animal Care at Becker College.


Stephanie Leonard, of Shrewsbury, MA, has just completed her first month of employment as a Mail Clerk with the FBI in Boston. She is doing well at her job and credits the Transition Program with preparing her for independent travel to Boston each day. She continues to be involved with competitive athletics and stays in touch with friends.

Fran Mason, of Southboro, MA, reports in on his success after graduating from the program in 2005. Fran is busy with two part-time positions. He works three days a week at R.G. Vanderweil Engineering Company in South Boston where he had done his internship. He does data entry and filing. The other two days, Fran keeps busy doing maintenance and filing at Dav-Tech Plating in Marlboro. Fran tells us that the Transition Program helped prepare him for his job. He is glad that he was taught how to fill out job applications, conduct a job interview and improve his computer skills. He tells us that he enjoys both of his jobs.

Melissa Miano, formerly of Methuen, MA, has relocated with her family to sunny Parrish, Florida. Melissa tells us that she is adjusting to her new locale and was recently hired to work at the Gap Outlet near to her community. She hopes to have the opportunity to continue to follow her favorite New England Sports Teams. We all wish Melissa the very best with her relocation.

Our thanks to all the grads who have kept in touch and provided these wonderful updates.



The **Transition PROGRAM**  **FACULTY AND STAFF**

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TRANSITION PROGRAM
Middlesex Community College | Enrollment Center,
591 Springs Road | Bedford, MA 01730
Visit the Transition Website at:
www.middlesex.mass.edu/DisabilitySupport/TransitionProgram/

MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Transition PROGRAM

NEWSLETTER

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2006 GRADUATES

MAY 2006

Welcome to the 2006 edition of the Transition Program Newsletter. It was written and word processed by the Class of 2006, with direction from the Transition Program faculty. Special thanks to the MCC's Office of Marketing and Publications for editing, production and design.

The Middlesex Community College Transition Program is an innovative, two-year, noncredit certificate program designed for students with significant learning disabilities who would find traditional college classes too challenging. The program helps students reach their potential, through specialized coursework and hands-on experience. Students attend classes three days a week and on the other two days work at unpaid internship placements in competitive work environments. Graduates of the Transition Program receive a Certificate of Completion in Office and Business Support.

The Transition Program is a nationally recognized Exemplary Program Award-winner, and is the only community college program of its kind in Massachusetts. The program has been in operation since 1985 and continues to attract students from a wide geographic area. To learn more about the Middlesex Community College Transition Program, please call 781-280-3630.



Meet the

2006 Middlesex Community College Transition PROGRAM Graduates...



Jamie Baker Tyngsboro, MA

Jamie has achieved a lot in his two years in the Transition Program. He has enjoyed gaining more friends than he has ever had before. He thinks that the teachers were "awesome." Over the past two years, Jamie feels he has become more outgoing. His two clerical internships at **Saints Memorial Medical Center** and **Lowell General Hospital** have provided him with experience in data entry, pulling payment packages, processing certified mailings, assembling MassHealth packages, and operating office machines, such as the fax and photocopier. Jamie tells us that he feels prepared to enter the work world by what he learned in his Business Office Practice class, knowing the importance of getting to his internship on time, and he has also improved his self-confidence. He hopes to work full time and perhaps take a course to keep up his skills in the future.



Harout Bedrossian Arlington, MA

Harout tells us that he has loved the students and teachers in the Transition Program, particularly because they have all been so supportive of him. Harout has had lots of success while at **Mount Auburn Hospital** in The Transport Department. Among the tasks he has mastered in Transport has been transporting discharged patients, bringing blood work to the labs, transporting equipment like IV pumps and delivering linens. Harout's level of independence and confidence has improved significantly. He feels comfortable and enjoys being a member of a team. In classes, Harout has learned about necessary independent living skills such as, saving money, developing and following a budget and life skills. His goal is to become employed at Mount Auburn on a full-time basis.

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April Bemis
Acton, MA

April has made some good friends and enjoys the early mornings in the Student Lounge with her friends before classes. April spent her first year at an internship at **McLean Hospital** in Belmont doing clerical tasks and helping in the Gift Shop. In her second year she has worked at **Mount Auburn Hospital** in Cambridge where she files medical records, delivers files to the ER and Day Surgery, and looks up records in the computer. She feels that her participation in the program has made her more independent and confident, and has given her a clearer sense of what will be expected of her in the work world. Her goal is to work full time and look into training to work in a massage business.



Travis Bly
Chelmsford, MA

Travis tells us that the three things he has learned in the past two years that have best prepared him for work are to always be on time for work, learning to take initiative, and to try to be neat and well organized. Travis has worked at **Lowell General Hospital** in the Mailroom and at **The Career Center of Lowell** doing clerical tasks. His favorite tasks are photocopying, assembling packets, greeting and assisting visitors, and alphabetical filing. Travis especially enjoyed the friendships he made and the memories he will have. He hopes to get a full-time job in the future.



Marybeth Bunker
Chelmsford, MA

Marybeth has had a lot of success at her internships at **Saints Memorial Medical Center** and **Lowell General Hospital**. She has learned to deliver and collect mail, and operate the postage meter, as well as assemble supplies in the Mother/Infant Unit. Marybeth has enjoyed learning the skills necessary to conduct a successful job search, including developing a resume and going on a job interview. Marybeth's hope is to get a job in a hospital environment like her internship placements.



Asli Green
Reading, MA

Asli values the friendship she made and support she has received from her friends. She has enjoyed two internship placements at **Lahey Clinic** in Burlington: last year as a messenger/escort in The Transport Department and this year as a receptionist in Internal Medicine. Asli especially likes to help people and make deliveries around the hospital. She has learned how to advocate for herself and make decisions. After graduation, she plans to work with the goal of eventually living on her own.



Michael Guthrie
Lowell, MA

Michael tells us he especially enjoyed the Lunchtime Seminars, the Elective Courses, his teachers and the friends he made. Michael spent his first year internship at the **Social Security Administration** in Lowell, where he learned to file alphabetically, sort mail and prepare folders. In his second year, Michael has been very successful as a Medical Record Intern at **Saints Memorial Medical Center**. Michael has mastered data entry of medical identification numbers and delivering records throughout the hospital. Michael comments that the best part about his internships has been gaining experience in the workforce as well as meeting new people. He feels that he has changed a lot over the past two years by gaining more personal insight, becoming a better typist and learning the steps necessary to look for a job. His goal is to get a clerical job, after graduation, in a hospital setting.



Jon Keleher
Concord, MA

Jon has liked the people in the program, both students and teachers. He thinks that not having tests "is great." He also comments that he finds the information that he learned to be useful and has gained a better understanding of what working is really like. He has also gained a good network of friends from his two years in the Transition Program. Jon's first year internship was at **Wausau Insurance** in Bedford, where his tasks were word processing, alphabetical and numerical filing, operating a postage meter and fax machine, and processing incoming mail. In his second year, Jon has had a wonderful experience at the **Institute for Community Inclusion** in Boston, where he does data entry, photocopying, provides back-up support to the receptionist, word processing, and assembles packets. Jon is grateful that he has developed a resume. He hopes to continue at one of his two retail jobs in Concord and perhaps get a second job in Boston.



Renee Pirelli
Woburn, MA

Renee has also appreciated that there are no tests and papers in the program. She likes her teachers and the elective courses she has taken. Her first-year internship was in the Mailroom at **Stride Rite corporate headquarters** in Lexington. In her second year, Renee has worked in The Transport Department at **Lahey Clinic** where she has been involved in transporting discharged patients, assisting patients around the hospital, and delivering flowers and cards to patient's rooms. Her favorite aspect of her internship this year has been her positive connection with her co-workers. Renee tells us that she feels that she has become more outgoing and talkative in the past two years. She also values that she has learned how to conduct a successful job interview, how to correctly and accurately complete job applications, and how to keep a job. Her hope is to obtain part- or full-time employment in a medical environment.



Jen Roman
Westfield, MA

Jen temporarily relocated to live with her sister in Boxborough so she could participate in the Transition Program. She is particularly appreciative of the friends she made in school, the different tasks she learned in her internships and the fond memories she will have. In Jen's first year, she performed clerical and retail support tasks at **Stride Rite Corporate Store** at their headquarters in Lexington. Among her responsibilities were: matching invoices, scanning received boxes, managing inventory, answering phones, preparing orders for the customers, and sometimes helping in Human Resources and the Print Shop. In Jen's second year, she worked at the **Tsongas Arena** for the Lowell Lock Monsters. This was particularly thrilling for Jen as she is a huge hockey fan. While with the Lock Monsters, she performed a variety of clerical tasks including data entry, photocopying, preparing raffle tickets, sorting mail, small projects, and sometimes helping during their home games. Jen reports that she has experienced lots of growth and maturity, especially since she has lived away from her parents. Her hope is to find full-time work back in the Westfield area, get an apartment and be independent.



Alana Russo
Billerica, MA

Alana has enjoyed the college experience and meeting new people. She appreciates that the program helped her to connect with Springboard, a social group for young adults with learning disabilities. She is an active member and loves the club. Alana spent her first year as an intern at **Harte-Hanks Data Technologies** in Billerica, working as a Clerical Assistant. In her second year, she has worked at **Lowell General Hospital** as a Clerical Assistant in the Cancer Center. Since coming to MCC, Alana feels she has become more independent and willing to take more risks. She feels confident in her abilities to develop a resume and to act more professionally, and knows the importance of good attendance and punctuality. Alana's goal is to get a good-paying job as a clerical assistant in a hospital or office setting, and to eventually get her own apartment.



Danielle Russo
Wilmington, MA

Danielle liked her classes and the teachers. She feels that everyone was friendly, caring and understanding. Danielle spent her first year at an internship at **The Career Place** in Woburn. Among her duties were: assisting customers on computers, organizing and assembling packets, and photocopying. In her second year, Danielle has worked as an intern at **Saints Memorial Medical Center** in Security, where she makes badges and directs calls. Danielle feels that she has gained independence, learned how to work hard and how to be a successful adult. Her plan is to continue to work at her retail job until she finds a full-time job after graduation.



Elia Veloso
Hudson, NH

Elia has recently relocated to Hudson from her hometown of Tyngsboro. Her favorite course while in the Transition Program was Basic Office Practice where excelled in word processing and data entry. She has enjoyed her internships at **Saints Memorial Hospital** in Pre-Admissions and Human Resources. Elia feels that she has matured a lot since coming to the program. She feels prepared to enter the world of work by improving her ability to accept criticism, being more aware of her surroundings and by taking initiative. Elia hopes to get a clerical job and to assist special-needs adults in a group home.



James Wade
Lowell, MA

James has liked the teachers, making friends and the internship. He has worked at **Lowell General Hospital** in Patient Accounts and at **Republic Bank** in Chelmsford as a Clerical Intern. He has especially liked the people at his internship and being kept very busy doing data entry. James feels that he has become more open since coming to the Transition Program and has learned more about himself as a person. He feels well prepared to enter the work world and hopes to get a full-time job after completing the program.



Ricky Wallace
Billerica, MA

Ricky tells us that he has liked making friends, going to school three days a week and his teachers. Ricky spent his first year at **Medical Care Center of Lexington** doing Facility Support. In his second year, Ricky worked at **Harte-Hanks Data Technologies** in Billerica as a Facility Technician. Ricky feels that his experience has given him a better understanding of life, differences, and dealing with people. Ricky is excited to have the opportunity to be employed at Harte-Hanks upon graduation and looks forward to the possibility of being brought on as a full-time employee.



Omid Yazdi
Needham, MA

Omid has enjoyed meeting new people and making close and caring friends, especially Ricky Wallace. He has worked very successfully at **Mount Auburn Hospital** in Cambridge in the Mailroom and as an Office Clerk in the Medical Records Department. Omid mastered making pick-ups and deliveries throughout the hospital and has been a valuable member of the team in the Mailroom. He hopes to get a full-time job in an office and perhaps take classes to continue his education.

