Enterprising Speaker: William Shatner at MCC forum

MCC Breaks Ground at Former Boston & Maine Building

Middlesex Community College held its annual Paul E. Sullivan Institute graduation event at the Nesmith House

Middlesex Community College Wins 10 Medals at DECA National Competition

Bedford Campus
591 SPRINGS ROAD
BEDFORD, MA 01730

Lowell Campus
33 KEARNEY SQUARE
LOWELL, MA 01852
WALTER SCOTT ASKS...

WILLIAM SHATNER

He had no clue when he first warp-factored into our living rooms almost 50 years ago as Capt. James T. Kirk on Star Trek that it would be the defining role of his career. Now Shatner, 84, is reaching out to a new generation as the narrator of the Sprout Network (formerly PBS Kids) stop-motion children's series Clangers, premiering June 20.

What's the appeal for you of a children's show like Clangers?

"I have three girls who have children. So I have experience with a lot of kids—and know how to tell a story in a way so that they won't be looking around to see what else there is to do. That's what we do on Clangers."

What entertainment resonated with you at a young age? "My earliest memory of something on screen was Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, the Disney film. I remember the movie was over and my dad was taking me out, and I was holding on to an armrest. I wanted to see it again."

Is it true you lived in your truck after wrapping the Star Trek series in 1969? "Yeah. They didn't pay very well, and I got a divorce at that same time and I had three children, so it was a little rocky."

What's the best takeaway from the success of Star Trek? "It gave me the opportunity to raise funds for people. One of the ways I've done that for the last 30 years is to put on a horse show, the priceline.com Hollywood Charity Horse Show sponsored by Wells Fargo."

What else do you have in the works? "So many things. I helped design the big, three-wheel Rivet motorcycle at rivetmotors.com. Also, if you go to shatnersmanowar.com, you'll see a whole new graphic novel based on my sci-fi novel, Man O' War."
CAPTAIN'S LOG

William Shatner talks about the past, present & future before next week's MCC Celebrity Forum
Enterprising speaker:
William Shatner at MCC Forum

More on the MCC Celebrity Forum

- Tickets for Celebrity Forum: An Evening with William Shatner on June 13 are still available at $65 (premium seats) and $45 (regular seats). Tickets can be purchased by calling the Lowell Memorial Auditorium box office at 978-722-8881, online at www.lowellauditorium.com, or in person at the Lowell Memorial Auditorium Box Office, 50 East Merrimack St. in Lowell. For group sales of 15 or more, contact Joelyn Prieto at 978-343-5751 or email jprieto@owenlauuditorium.com.

- For information about Celebrity Forum sponsorships and photo opportunities with Shatner, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/CF15 or contact MCC’s Dean of College Advancement Dennis Maevers at 781-280-3514.

- MCC is asking the public to submit questions for the “Lightning Round” at the end of the Shatner interview. You can send your questions to MCC’s Executive Director of Public Affairs Patrick Crock on Twitter @patrickcrock, and he will name the individual’s Twitter handle when he asks the questions.

- Last year’s event brought Oscar-winning actor and director Robert Redford to Lowell. Other speakers have come from Hollywood (Michael J. Fox, 2012), journalism (Mike and Chris Wallace, 2007; Tim Russert, 2006), politics (George H.W. Bush and Barbara Bush, 2001), and royalty (Sarah Ferguson, 2003).

- The Celebrity Forum is also a fundraiser for the Middlesex Community College Foundation, which provides scholarships to students in the Lowell Connections Program — a program for those who enter the community college with the intention to transfer to UMass Lowell — and students in the honors program.
For the second time in a month, Lowell beams in a ‘Star Trek’ actor

By Rick Soby
rsoby@lowellsun.com

LOWELL — Trekkies are about to travel back in time, to a universe when they knew of only one Captain Kirk.

William Shatner, the original James Tiberius Kirk, captain of the USS Enterprise in “Star Trek,” is set to take the Lowell Memorial Auditorium stage next week at the Middlesex Community College Celebrity Forum. The Golden Globe-winning actor — who has experience as a film director, musician, comedian and author — is speaking at 8 p.m. on Thursday, June 11.

This will be the second time in a month that a “Star Trek” legend has spoken in Lowell, LeVar Burton, Lt. Commander Geordi La Forge in “Star Trek: The Next Generation,” was UMass Lowell’s commencement speaker in May.

Before Shatner beams into Lowell next week, the 84-year-old talked to The Sun, answering a few questions about his past, present and future.

Q: What will you be talking about next week in Lowell?
A: I’ve been talking to a lot of people about what they want to hear from me; it’s been mostly science fiction and the mystery of it all. I can admit that nobody truly knows anything. Scientists are stumbling around and trying to understand physics, but in truth, we know nothing. It’s all a mystery out there, and what we do know is suspect. So there will be questions and discussions on the mysteries and possibilities.

Q: You’ve gone from outer space to a law firm, from hosting a beauty pageant to having success with an entertaining commercial. What’s been the key to succeeding at each role?
A: It’s all about doing the best you can. I show up early, work as hard as I can at what I’m doing, and make sure to stay late.

Q: Many people think of “Star Trek” when they hear your name. But what do you hope your legacy is?
A: I know that legacy and fame and notoriety are all ephemeral. Moments after you die, it fades away immediately. All that remains are the good deeds that you do throughout your lifetime. It’s important to do something nice for somebody else. Whatever it is that you do to have a positive effect on whoever you meet.

Q: Leonard Nimoy (who Shatner worked closely with on “Star Trek”) recently passed. What was your fondest memory of him?
A: The laughter we shared. For 50 years, we laughed a lot together. When we rode the stage together, there was always a lot of laughter. He was a brother I never had. I loved him like a brother.

Q: Why has “Star Trek” been popular for so long?
A: It’s about the vision of the future — that it’s positive, that we haven’t killed ourselves, and that we exist 300 years from now.

Q: You’re 84 and look great. What’s been your secret to living long and prospering?
A: It’s been the magic potion. No, I’m just joking with you. I guess I would have to credit good genes for that.

Shatner has partnered with motorcycle builder American Wrench to create the rivet motorcycle, above, and boldly travel across the U.S. on the three-wheeled motorcycle.

Q: Our area loves politics. Why didn’t you ever run for political office?
A: I’ve been running too hard to be an actor.

Q: What’s your best advice for young actors?
A: Like I said before, you need to get there early, work hard and stay late.

Q: We like to say in the newsroom that there’s always a Lowell connection. How much were you influenced by Kerouac when you performed your “Transformed Man” spoken-word series?
A: I don’t think I was inspired by Kerouac for that, but I am going to have my own “On The Road” novel by Kerouac’s journey about 10 days after I come to Lowell. I’m heading from Chicago to Los Angeles on a unique three-wheel motorcycle, which we’re calling the “Rivet Motorcycle U.S. Journey.” It should take about eight days. We’ll be heading with members of The American Legion Riders, and raise awareness of the work the Legion does for U.S. veterans. The entire trip will be shot by a film crew for a TV show. It should be extraordinary.

Follow Rick Soby on Twitter and Tout @rsobyLSun.

Back on a fast track

MCC breaks grounds at former Boston & Maine building

By Grant Welker

gwelker@lowellsun.com

LOWELL — In its 140 years, the brick Victorian Gothic building at Central and Green streets has been a train depot, a bowling alley, a barber shop, a real-estate firm, a florist shop, even a campaign headquarters for the late Paul Tsongas.

Now, after sitting vacant for several decades, the building is soon to get what could be its most anticipated use, as a performing-arts space for Middlesex Community College.

“This is a testament to the old adage, ‘All good things are worth waiting for.’”

State Sen. Eileen Donoghue

Monday at a ceremony marking the start of a nearly two-year renovation.

The Boston & Maine building, named for the old rail line that it briefly served, will feature a 177-person theater on the first floor and a music hall of about half that size on the second floor. The building, also known for a time as the Rialto building, will also be outfitted with much-needed

Please see MCC/5
MCC/From Page 1

classroom space for the college's performing-arts program.

“We've been bursting at the seams,” said Karen Oster, the chair of the school's performing-arts program. “One of the things holding us back has been not having a place to go.”

Without dedicated performance space, Middlesex has had to use the Merrimack Repertory Theatre or Lowell High School. The college has never had a true performance space for itself, Oster said.

The project has been a long time coming. Middlesex took ownership of the building in 2008 after the Lowell Historic Preservation Commission saved it from demolition. A new clock tower replaced an earlier one that had been demolished, and a ribbon of signs across the facade was removed.

From there, it was a years-long fight to get funding.

The $19 million project being covered with $11 million the state committed in 2013, with the remainder funded by the college through its capital building fund.

Middlesex has experience reusing old spaces.

Its Bedford campus is a former seminary, and the college got its start in Lowell in Wannalancit Mills. Its Carole A. Cowan Center — renamed for the former school president from the City Building — is a former Wang training building. Its Morse Federal Building is a former post office.

Middlesex will also be adding academic space elsewhere downtown. The college received $10 million in state funding last fall for new classrooms near its existing spaces around Merrimack and Middle streets.

A request for proposals for that project is expected to be released by the end of the summer.

At Monday's ceremony, a crowd gathered in the shell of the building that gives little clue of what it will look like in two years.

A long brick wall behind the lectern will be knocked down to make room for the main theater. Columns spaced throughout the room will be eliminated. Even the floor where chairs were set up for the event will be removed so that the theater can dip into the basement for extra space.

“Paul would be proud to see what’s become of this building,” U.S. Rep. Niki Tsongas said of her late husband, who had a campaign office there and is known for his starting historic preservation in the city.

“Instead of an eyesore, it will be a beacon of development and life,” Mayor Rodney Elliott said.

The reborn Boston & Maine building, with about 17,000 square feet, will add to several new or coming additions in that area of downtown.

Around the corner on Jackson Street, 52 new housing units opened earlier this year at a former mill building christened as Counting House Lofts.

Just up Central Street, the former Appleton National Bank building at the corner of Hurst Street will reopen this fall as a senior-care facility. Element Care is doing a complete overhaul of the inside of the building while retaining and even restoring many architectural details.

Follow Grant Welker on Twitter and Tout @SunGrantWelker.
LOWELL -- In its 140 years, the brick Victorian Gothic building at Central and Green streets has been a train depot, a bowling alley, a barber shop, a real estate firm, a florist, even a campaign headquarters for the late Paul Tsongas.

Now, after sitting vacant for several decades, the building is soon to get what could be its most anticipated use, as a performing arts space for Middlesex Community College.

"This is a testament to the old adage, 'All good things are worth waiting for,'" state Sen. Eileen Donoghue, a Lowell Democrat, said Monday at a ceremony marking the start of a nearly two-year renovation.

The Boston & Maine building, named for the old rail line that it briefly served, will feature a 177-person theater on the first floor and a music hall of about half that size on the second floor. The building will also be outfitted with much-needed classroom space for the college's performing arts program.

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Follow Grant Welker on Twitter and Tout to SunGrantWelker.
At Middlesex Community College I'm taking Drawing 1 and Art Appreciation this semester. I'm taking these classes because I want to fulfill my G.D.C. (Graphic Design Certificate) and someday have a job in this field.

I like my drawing class because I've always enjoyed drawing all my life. However I don't like Art Appreciation because it's like history with all the boring textbook reading/note taking, thinking of art in-depth and analyzing art. Even though I like art I don't like doing a thorough analysis of art.

Drawing 1 is a hands-on class and Art Appreciation is a lecture class. Hands-on classes are more fun than listening to a lecture all throughout the class. Hands-on classes are fun because you only have to hear a short lecture and do in-class work.

I'm taking classes at the Bedford and Lowell campuses this semester, and they both have their ups and downs. I like the Bedford campus better than the Lowell campus because it's closer to HOPEhouse, so I get more time to work on homework after class. Also the Bedford campus looks nicer than the Lowell one. Bedford's campus reminds me of camping with my family, which I really enjoyed. The only downside to the Bedford campus is that's where I have class on my longer day. The Bedford campus is woodsy/suburban and Lowell is more urban. The good thing about the Lowell campus is that there are interesting restaurants to check out.
The ROADS LESS TRAVELED

High school graduation season is upon us, in all its color-coordinated cap-and-gown glory. For most students, the pomp and circumstance is a foregone conclusion of the past four years. But for others, walking across that stage will symbolize triumph over obstacles that challenged their young lives and threatened to take them off course.

STORIES BY KATHLEEN CONTI GLOBE STAFF

'Honestly, I was lost. I didn't know what I wanted to do with my life. I didn't really see the point of school.'

DAVID FRANK, 23 (above left, with Jimmy Bo), working in the kitchen at the United Teen Equality Center in Lowell

Seeking second chance, a dropout embraces education

In January, David Frak found himself in a college classroom in Lowell, nervous about his first day of class but picturing a future for himself.

"I was sitting there realizing what you could do if you put your mind to it, where you can go, and just imagining," Frak said. "I talked to a lot of people; they told me a lot of stories and, old and young, how it's never too late — no matter what you go through, there's always a second chance."

"The last time Frak sat in a room pondering his future was three years ago in a holding cell, after a drug-related arrest. "It was a 50/50 chance I would've gone to jail," he said. "I was going to do the time, what am I going to have when I come out?" he recalled. "I didn't have my [high school diploma], I didn't have work experience, apart from what I was doing before."

Prak, now 23, does not like to talk in detail about the "before." At 16, he dropped out of school. He had gone to Lowell High, where he said he hung out with "a bad crowd." He skipped school most days, and the days he was there he was either getting into fights or serving in-house suspensions.

Eventually, he flunked his freshman year. In 2007 he was sent to an alternative high school, where he only lasted a couple of months before dropping out.

"Honestly, I was lost," Frak said. "I didn't know what I wanted to do with my life. I didn't really see the point of school. . . . My parents tried their best. It was me: I'm the one who didn't want to do anything."

After his arrest, Prak followed a friend's suggestion and enrolled at the United Teen Equality Center, known as
Once a dropout, he now seizes a second chance at an education

David Prak, 23, at UTEC in Lowell, from which he will graduate on June 25.

Prak at work on his job in the kitchen at the United Teen Equality Center in Lowell.

Prak at work on his job in the kitchen at the United Teen Equality Center in Lowell.

>DAVID PRAK
Continued from Page 1

UTEC, a Lowell nonprofit that helps at-risk young people get back on track through a series of education and workforce programs.

Soon after enrolling, Prak found out his girlfriend was pregnant. With the case against him still active, his main concern was missing the birth of their child if he was sent to jail. But the case was dismissed a week before his daughter, Kasi, was born a year ago in May.

"I came (to UTEC) for my second chance," said Prak. "It would be selfish of me to do all these things and end up in jail and leave her without a father."

Last August, Prak achieved his number-one goal: obtaining a high school equivalency diploma. Motivated by Kasi, Prak quickly worked his way through UTEC's workforce program and is scheduled to graduate June 25.

The young man who once saw no point to school is now eagerly awaiting the start of his second semester at Middlesex Community College in September. He intends to take business courses with the hope of transferring to the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

"I'm looking forward to the UTEC graduation because I want to walk the stage," Prak said. "When I was younger, I would never see me doing this at all, and I'm actually doing it, and I'm bolding toward the future."

Kathleen Conti can be reached at kconti@globe.com. Follow her on Twitter @GlobeKConti.
CTI’s Board of Directors a vital link to the community

Since 1965, Community Action Agencies have been required by legislation to have governing boards that include one-third representatives from the low-income sector, one-third from the public sector, such as local government officials, and one-third from the private sector such as business, labor, religious and cultural groups, educational entities and social service agencies.

Effective boards are responsible for assuring that agencies continue to address and respond to the causes and conditions of poverty in their community, achieve anticipated family and community outcomes, and remain administratively and fiscally sound.

Community Teamwork is governed by a 24-member Board of Directors, whose role is to set agency policy, to hire and evaluate the Executive Director and to practice their fiduciary responsibility to ensure the agency stays on solid financial ground.

In front from left are Maria Sweeney; Germaine Vigant-Trudel; Lowell City Councilor Rita Mercier; Dr. Phoila Chena; Marie Barros; and Carleen Gavin. In the center row from left are Rita O’Brian Dev; Paulette Renaud-Carrigan; Sheila Och; Clerk, Bernadette Donovan; and Dr. Khairuddin. At rear from left are Richard Lemoine, Assistant Treasurer; David Brown; Dennis Pendas, Vice President; James Hogan, Treasurer; Robert Correnti, Glenn Goldman, President, and Marty Conway.

Missing from photo: Khien Awason-Nk.mdeng, Lowell Mayor Rodney Elliott, Lowell City Councilor William Martin and Analise Sanh.

Everyone teaches, everyone learns.

Middlesex Community College congratulates

Community Teamwork Inc.

for 50 years of service to the Lowell Community.

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STAY CONNECTED
Middlesex Community College win 10 medals at DECA national competition

Middlesex Community College students Brett Rich, of Billerica; Dana Bupphaves, of Pepperell; Kayla Caffrey, of Carlisle; Bryan Carlson, of Acton; and Dimitar Matrapazov, of Waltham, won a total of 10 awards at the Collegiate Division of DECA National Competition and International Career Development Conference held recently in Orlando.

Led by Vikram Sharma, accounting professor and faculty adviser for the Finance and Accounting Club, the team of five students competed against students from four-year universities and community colleges from the U.S. and Canada.

Rich and Bupphaves each won two medals in the Financial Statement Analysis category; Caffrey and Carlson each won two medals in the Advertising Campaign category and earned one medal each in the Entrepreneurship category; and Matrapazov was a round one participant in the Accounting category.

This recent national success follows wins earlier in the year at the DECA Regional Competition at Johnson and Wales University in Rhode Island, where a team of nine MCC students led by Professor Rob Kaulfuss and Sharma won eight medals.

Pictured are Brett Rich, of Billerica; Dana Bupphaves, Kayla Caffrey and Bryan Carlson, of Acton; and Dimitar Matrapazov. COURTESY PHOTO

The DECA Club at Middlesex began in 2013 by Judy Hogan, dean of Business, and Deborah Walsh, assistant dean of business.

EDUCATION BRIEFS

Middlesex Community College Lowell campus offers health professions classes

Middlesex Community College’s Academy of Health Professions offers short-term training and college-credit programs that could lead students to a career in an entry-level health care field. Programs offered include certified nursing assistant, medical assisting, medical receptionist, medical office administration, clinical laboratory and phlebotomy. All classes are held on the Lowell campus. Financial aid is available. The next AHP courses begin June 8. For information: 800-818-3434.

Middlesex Community College will offer its summer Sprint Program to help entering first-year college students improve their skills.

The eight-week summer program runs four mornings a week June 8 through July 30 on the Lowell Campus. To be eligible, students must receive a qualifying score on the MCC placement test or be recommended by a Middlesex adviser.

Students who complete spring courses can register for the next level of college courses in their major program of study, starting in the fall semester.

For information: 800-818-3434.

Middlesex Community College in Bedford offers accelerated summer courses

Middlesex Community College’s Flexible Studies Program is offering accelerated summer courses in reading, writing, English language learner, world languages and humanities.

The Flexible Studies Program provides an alternative learning environment to traditional classroom instruction. Students participate in creating their own learning experiences based on their college readiness, interests and long-term goals.

The program format is adaptable to diverse learning styles, incorporating web-based technologies, computer programs, audio-visual materials and small-group instruction.

For information: 781-280-3736.
MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Online summer classes offered

Middlesex Community College will offer online summer courses, giving students an opportunity to complete assignments without coming to campus. Online and evening summer sessions run June 1 to July 8 and June 15 to Aug. 11. Enrollment is open, and financial aid is available to those who qualify.

For information: middlesex.mass.edu.

MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Multiple summer session courses offered

Summer courses at Middlesex Community College will offer summer courses, and registration is now open; financial aid is available for those who qualify. MCC offers one of four summer sessions, including a Saturday accelerated session, online and evening courses.

Day summer sessions run May 26 to June 25 and July 6 to Aug. 5. Classes meet four days a week on the Bedford and Lowell campuses. MCC’s expanded online and evening summer session run June 1 to July 28 and June 15 to Aug. 11.

The summer Saturday accelerated session will run May 23 to Aug. 1.

For information: middlesex.mass.edu/summer.
State Rep. Rady Mom, commencement speaker for Middlesex Community College, bows Thursday at Lowell Memorial Auditorium as MCC President James Mabry looks on at right. Coverage of graduations at Mt. Wachusett Community College and Central Catholic High are on Page 3.

‘Keep faith in your own ability’

By Chelsea Feinlein
chfeinlein@lowellsun.com

LOWELL — The graduates of Middlesex Community College introduced at Thursday’s commencement ceremony included a student planning to join Doctors Without Borders after medical school, a single mother of two who hopes to someday found a shelter for homeless mothers, and a young woman from Ghana who was the first in her family to leave her

Inside, online

- See a list of local MCC graduates
- View video and a slide show at lowellsun.com

Please see MCC/12
'Keep faith in your own ability'

MCC/From Page 1

homeland to attend college.
MCC graduated its largest class ever on Thursday morning, with 1,449 students earning degrees. Among those, 47 percent were first-generation college graduates.

State Rep. Rady Mom, himself an MCC graduate, said in his commencement address that students must embrace failure, learn from it and continue to move forward.

"America provides opportunity like nowhere else in the world. However, it is up to us to serve it and recognize that opportunity, even in hard times and failures," Mom told the graduates.

"You must always keep moving, keep looking forward and keep faith in your own ability to succeed," Mom said.

MCC Academic Counselor Reginald Nichols addresses students during commencement Thursday at Lowell Memorial Auditorium.

MCC commencement student speaker Diana Santana, of Lawrence, addresses fellow graduates Thursday at Lowell Memorial Auditorium.

MCC Academy President James Mabry, left, congratulates student speaker Brett Rich of Billerica.

MCC’s Class of 2015

- 1,449 graduates
- 1,831 degrees earned
- 80 students earning more than one degree
- 74 varsity graduating
- 1777 graduating average
- 675 first-generation college students
- 65 countries and 12 states represented
- 177 graduates in Phi Theta Kappa

He added: "Looking at you I see people ready to make great discoveries, people ready to change the way we look at the world and above all, the future leaders of our society." MCC President James Mabry, who was presiding over his first commencement ceremony since taking office earlier this year, praised students for their commitment to community service in addition to their studies.

"My charge to you the graduates is that you continue to challenge yourselves, you continue to serve your community and you take time to reflect on your good fortune," Mabry said. "And I also ask that you remain strong and vocal supporters of public高等教育 so that generations of those to follow will have equal opportunities to succeed."

Follow Chelsea Feinstein on Twitter and Tout @CEFeinstein.
EDFORD — Diana Santana and Brett Rich, students at Middlesex Community College's graduation Thursday, have made sure to get the most out of their years at MCC.

Santana, a single mother of two, has worked her way through to her associate's degree in communications. When she began at MCC, she was living in a homeless shelter in Lawrence.

Rich, of Billerica, has spent his two years at MCC seizing every possible opportunity, from alternative spring break in New Orleans to starting a ping pong club. He'll graduate Thursday having just won the school's Student of the Year award, for exemplary achievement in education, extracurricular activities and service.

MCC graduation
- **Date:** Thursday
- **Time:** Processional at 9:30 a.m., ceremony at 10 a.m.
- **Location:** Lowell Memorial Auditorium, 50 E. Merrimack St.
- **Number of graduates:** More than 1,500, the largest graduating class in MCC history
- **Keynote speaker:** State Rep. Rady Mom, who will also be receiving Distinguished Alumni Award

**Diana Santana**
MCC is a long way from the Dominican Republic, where 30-year-old Diana Santana, now of Lawrence, was born.

She moved to the U.S. in 2011, initially living with her sister in Revere and speaking only basic English. She later moved into a homeless shelter in Lawrence, where she was living when her second child, daughter Amber, was born.

Through a program called Home Base, she moved into an apartment with subsidized rent with daughter Amber, now 3, and her son Michael, now 7.

On Thursday, they will be there cheering as she gives her speech, along with her parents, who are traveling from the Dominican Republic to see Santana graduate.

She's worked her way through MCC, taking a part-time job as a writing tutor at the college, and taken English as a second language courses to become fluent.

Over the course of her 24-month program with Home Base, she has gradually paid larger portions of her rent, and will soon be expected to take it.
Students made most of MCC

MCC/From Page 1

Next fall, she plans to attend UMass Lowell, where she will double major in communications and women's studies. She hopes to become a journalist and write stories about women who are overcoming adversity.

"It's not a job, it's more like a passion," she said of her goals for the future. Eventually, she hopes to found a shelter for women who are struggling to overcome the same problems she has faced.

"Because I've been in the same shoes, I can have that understanding," she said. "It's so important to have someone who's willing to lend a hand."

Santana got that helping hand herself, through the Paul Sullivan Leadership Institute at MCC. That program gives students with leadership potential the chance to work with mentors, participate in service projects and attend workshops to develop their leadership skills.

Santana said it was one of her most fulfilling experiences at the school.

"The connections I've made have been amazing," she said. "Everyone is so supportive and just happy to help. It's like a movie or something."

Brett Rich

When Brett Rich, 20, started his college career at MCC two years ago, his friends who were going on to attend four-year schools laughed him off, convinced that their college experiences would be inherently better than his.

But now, he's the one whose college career has made his friends jealous.

Between the opportunities he's had, the professors who've mentored him and his real-world experiences, he's gotten outside of his classes, Rich said his MCC experience is one he wouldn't trade for anything.

"When I got here, I was really looking to get involved. This place is like a second home for me, so why not go the extra mile and get involved in any way that I can?" he said.

That included founding a ping pong club, through which he met some of his closest friends at MCC, and traveling to Florida to participate in a competition geared toward business students.

"It was so life-changing," he said. "So much has happened to these people and they have just a positive outlook on life, it really helped all of us grow."

He's planning to transfer to either UMass Amherst or Northeastern University in the fall to continue his business studies, and plans to pursue an MBA after that.

Eventually, he'd like to be the CFO of a company, a career for which he said MCC has given him the foundation.

"You've got to set the bar high," he said.

Follow Chelsea Feinstein on Twitter and Tout @CEFeinstein.
2 MCC students to speak at 2015 commencement

LOWELL — Middlesex Community College students Brett Rich of Billerica and Diana Santana of Lawrence have been selected as 2015 student commencement speakers.

They will address the approximately 1,400 members of the Class of 2015 during commencement exercises to be held Thursday, at 10 a.m., at Lowell Memorial Auditorium.

Rich is a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges. He is graduating with an Associate in Science degree in Business Administration Transfer, with highest honors and a 3.98 grade-point average.

Rich serves as secretary of the Student Union Government Association. He received a 2014 Leadership Recognition Award as founder/president of the MCC Ping Pong Club. He also traveled to New Orleans to help rebuild homes for victims of Hurricane Katrina as part of MCC’s Alternative Spring Break.

The winner of a first-place award for Financial Statement Analysis at the Northeast Regional DECA Competition, Rich and his Middlesex teammates went on to win 10 awards at the National DECA Competition, held recently in Orlando, Fla.

He plans to continue his education and earn a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration, then pursue an MBA. He hopes to transfer to Boston College, Bentley University or Northeastern University.

Santana, a native of the Dominican Republic, is graduating with an Associate in Arts degree in Liberal Arts & Sciences with a Communications Concentration, with highest honors.

The single mother of two children, Santana first enrolled at Middlesex in English Language Learner classes. She is graduating as a Commonwealth Honors Scholar with a 3.83 grade-point average.

She is president of Phi Theta Kappa, serves as co-chair of the Women’s Leadership Network, and is a fellow with the Paul Sullivan Leadership Institute. She is also a student ambassador for the Commonwealth Honors Program, a peer mentor for the Multicultural Achievement Peer Program, and a Senior Orientation Leader. In June, she will travel to Costa Rica as part of MCC’s International Education Fellowship program.

She plans to continue her education at the Honors College at UMass Lowell to pursue a double major in Women’s Studies and Communications.
Middlesex Students Win 10 Medals at DECA National Competition

Middlesex Community College students (left to right) Brett Rich, of Billerica, Dana Bupphaves, of Pepperell, Bryan Carlson, of Acton, Kayla Caffrey, of Carlisle, and Dimitar Matrapazov, of Waltham, led by Professor Vikram Sharma, faculty advisor of the Finance and Accounting Club, won a total of 10 awards at the Collegiate Division of DECA National competition and International Career Development Conference held recently in Orlando, Fla.

Middlesex Community College students Brett Rich, of Billerica, Dana Bupphaves, of Pepperell, Kayla Caffrey, of Carlisle, Bryan Carlson, of Acton, and Dimitar Matrapazov, of Waltham, won a total of 10 awards at the Collegiate Division of DECA National Competition and International Career Development Conference held recently in Orlando, Fla.

Led by Vikram Sharma, Accounting Professor and faculty advisor for the Finance and Accounting Club, the team of five students competed against students from four-year universities and community colleges from the U.S. and Canada.

Rich and Bupphaves each won two medals in the Financial Statement Analysis category; Caffrey and Carlson each won two medals in the Advertising Campaign category and earned one medal each in the Entrepreneurship category; and Matrapazov was a round one participant in the Accounting category.

This recent national success follows wins earlier in the year at the DECA Regional Competition at Johnson and Wales University in Rhode Island, where a team of nine MCC students led by Professor Rob Kaulfuss and Sharma won eight medals.

The DECA Club at Middlesex began in 2013 by Judy Hogan, Dean of Business, and Deborah Walsh, Assistant Dean of Business. For more information about MCC's DECA Club, contact Deborah Walsh at walshd@middlesex.mass.edu.

Founded in 1946, DECA programs and activities help prepare emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe. The Collegiate Division of DECA includes more than 15,000 members in 275 colleges and universities. To learn more, visit www.deca.org.
Middlesex Community College is proud to announce its recipients of the 2015 National Institute of Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Excellence Awards. Honorees include Professor of Mathematics Maria Arambel, of Woburn; Director of the TRIO Program for Student Achievement Aimee Rusman, of Nashua, NH; and Hospitality Management Program Coordinator Kim Morrisey, of Bedford.

Middlesex Community College is proud to announce its recipients of the annual National Institute of Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Excellence Awards. Honorees for 2015 include Professor of Mathematics Maria Arambel, of Woburn; Director of the TRIO Program for Student Achievement Aimee Rusman, of Nashua, NH; and Hospitality Management Program Coordinator Kim Morrisey, of Bedford.

Affiliated with the University of Texas at Austin, NISOD’s Excellence Awards honor the contributions and achievements of community and technical college faculty, administrators and staff — individuals who have demonstrated outstanding commitment and contributions to their students and colleagues.

“The NISOD Excellence Awards give Middlesex the privilege of honoring faculty and staff for their dedication to teaching excellence and fine work in furtherance of student learning and success,” said MCC Associate Provost Clea Andreas. “Recipients are recognized by the college community as exemplary educators who have demonstrated their leadership through significant accomplishments both in and out of the classroom. We are grateful for their efforts on behalf of our students, and are fortunate to have them as colleagues.”

Excellence Award recipients will be celebrated during NISOD’s annual International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence, May 23-26, in Austin, Texas.

Created in 1978, NISOD is a consortium of community and technical colleges that share a commitment to supporting excellence in teaching, learning and leadership. NISOD supports its member colleges by providing professional development resources and learning experiences. For more information about NISOD, visit www.nisod.org.

Middlesex Community College meets the evolving educational, civic and workforce needs of our local and global communities. As one of the largest, most comprehensive community colleges in the state, we educate more than 13,000 students annually on our campuses in Bedford and Lowell, and online. MCC offers more than 75 degree and certificate programs, plus hundreds of noncredit courses. At Middlesex, everyone teaches, everyone learns.
The Lowell Sun congratulates...

Join us in applauding the "29 Who Shine," a group of outstanding public college and university graduates who will be honored at the State House today for their academic achievements, leadership potential and contributions to the civic life and prosperity of the Commonwealth.

Whether furthering their education or entering high-demand careers here in the state, these stellar students truly embody the vibrant future we all envision for Massachusetts.
EDUCATION

How their garden grows

MCC students prepare expanding community garden for planting

By Joy Richard
richard@wickedlocal.com

For some, gardening can be a kind of therapy done in the solitude of their yards, but for the students and staff at Middlesex Community College students tending crops has truly become a community event.

As soon as spring sprung and the weather began to turn toward more plant-friendly temperatures, MCC students and staff rushed to get their ever-growing garden perched on one of the small knolls at Bedford campus ready for their version of opening day, an afternoon of planting set for Friday, May 29.

According to MCC senior, Sustainability Advisory Committee student intern and garden manager Evan Rees of Lexington, as of Friday, May 8, the garden has more than 40 people signed up to plant this year. He added that most signed up come with a partner, so they are expecting more than 60 people this year, which he said the group is excited and ready for.

"Last year, we had more initially, but a lot more people dropped off, whereas this year most of them are returning gardeners," said Rees, shovel in hand as he worked with other student volunteers breaking ground and cleaning up the patches.

On top of growing organic food for students and staff to consume come fall, the group is preparing to donate some of what the garden grows to the Merrimack Valley Food Bank in Lowell.

Rees said last year, the group donated approximately 600 pounds of food, which they are hoping to top this year. With that said, Rees and the group would like to keep some of the food at MCC in the hopes of creating a farmers' market.

"We feel like there is also a need for affordable produce here on campus, so we are going to see if we can do a sliding-scale farmers' market," said Rees, who added that while there are no official dates for the market, he hopes it would happen after the start of the fall semester.

On the administrative side, Director of Student Financial Services Christopher Fiori, past chairman of the Sustainability Advisory Committee, said in April that the garden has been a feature on campus for the last five years. He said they started small with a 16- by 16-foot garden and each year the plot has grown as interest grew. Now the garden is 5,000 square feet, with 2,000 square feet set aside for the student club and 3,000 square feet for the community.

MCC business major, Chelmsford resident and Sustainability Club president Taylor Nolet said she started with the garden last fall. Hoping to use her business degree in the field of agriculture, she said jumping into the community garden project was an easy choice.

"I would like to work in sustainable farming, organic farming or local farming," said Nolet as she chopped away at weeds in one of the patches adding that she thought the garden was "beautiful" at first sight. "It has been wonderful. When we do finally harvest it is going to be a great opportunity for students to take home organic produce."

SEE GARDEN, A9
Student commencement speakers announced

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Brett Rich
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In June, she will travel to Costa Rica as part of MCC’s International Education Fellowship program. Santana plans to continue her education at the Honors College at UMass Lowell to pursue a double major in women’s studies and communications.

State Rep. Rady Mom, who in November won election to the 18th Middlesex House District — becoming the first Cambodian-American legislator in the United States — will deliver the commencement address to the Class of 2015. Mom will also be presented MCC’s 2015 Distinguished Alumni Award.

For information: demars@middlesex.mass.edu.

MCC announces excellence awards

Middlesex Community College recently announced its recipients of the annual National Institute of Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Excellence Awards. Honorees for 2015 include Professor of Mathematics Maria Arambel, of Woburn; Director of the TRIO Program for Student Achievement Aimee Rusman and Hospitality Management Program Coordinator Kim Morrissey, of Groton.

Affiliated with the University of Texas at Austin, NISOD’s Excellence Awards honor the contributions and achievements of community and technical college faculty, staff, and individuals who have demonstrated outstanding commitment and contributions to their students and colleagues.

Middlesex Community College reaccredited by NEASC

The New England Association of Schools and Colleges Commission on Institutions of Higher Education has continued Middlesex Community College’s accreditation for 10 years.

MCC was awarded the maximum reaccreditation and found “substantially in compliance” with the Commission’s Standards for Accreditation. The reaccreditation process included a three-year, collegewide process of self-study, as well as a four-day evaluation visit last fall by a NEASC visiting team.

“The superlative report from NEASC highlights Middlesex as an institution focused on student success and completion,” said MCC President James Mabry. “The strong affirmation from NEASC shows that MCC is a sound institution that does not shy away from assessment and self-examination in its pursuit of excellence. This college, through a rigorous and collaborative self-study process, demonstrated its many strengths, its commitment to improvement, and its dedication to student learning,” Mabry added. “The Middlesex NEASC team and the whole college should be congratulated for an outstanding effort.”

MCC has been accredited by the Commission since 1973 and was last reviewed in 2004. Its accreditation by the New England Association encompasses the entire institution.

The Commission has recently reviewed the institutions of Higher Education and is one of seven accrediting commissions in the United States that provide institutional accreditation on a regional basis. Accreditation is voluntary and applies to the institution as a whole. The commission, which is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, accredits approximately 240 institutions in the six-state New England region.

25
New challenges ahead for graduates, Griffin

By Christopher Scott
cscott@lowellsun.com

LOWELL — Happiness and relief are usually the dominant emotions during an early May Middlesex Community College event held at its Nesmith House, when the college rolls out the red carpet to recognize the latest group of students who’ve graduated from the Paul E. Sullivan Institute.

Tuesday afternoon’s event, the eighth annual, was no different. Guests and VIPs were welcomed by 12 confident, smiling, impeccably dressed students in the front hallway, who introduced themselves with firm handshakes and eye contact.

Following the accolades and platitudes from folks like James Mabry, the new MCC president, Mayor Rodney Elliott and Sen. Eileen Donoghue, a tinge of sadness touched the room as the graduates thanked their adviser, Mary Jo Griffin, MCC’s community affairs director.

Please see GRIFFIN/5

Mary Jo Griffin at Tuesday’s Nesmith House event in Lowell for the Paul E. Sullivan Institute at Middlesex Community College.
Middlesex Community College held its annual Paul E. Sullivan Institute graduation event at the Nesmith House. From left are Kevin Hoan, Karla Frias, Theresa Gray, Deenah Jacques, Jessica Rousse, MCC President James Mabry, Sullivan's widow and MCC community affairs director Mary Jo Griffin, Stephanie Lopez, Diana Santana, Werter Machado, Saudy Polanco, Dacía Benjamin, Ilse Bellido and Venessa VanWyk.
New challenges await grads, Griffin

GRiffin/From Page 3

Griffin, Sullivan's widow, has overseen the each class, ensuring each student is polished — professionally, academically, emotionally — and prepared for life beyond Middlesex.

The Class of 2015, however, was Griffin's last. She is resigning May 22 to return to state government.

"It's time for a change, a new challenge," said a teary-eyed Griffin after receiving an embrace from Executive Director of Public Affairs Patrick Cook. "I might be leaving this position, but I am not leaving the Advisory Board."

The institute, Cook recalled, struggled a little initially or, at least, until Griffin got involved.

"The institute just morphed after Mary Jo took over," said Cook, noting Griffin's passionate ability to successfully persuade some of Greater Lowell's most influential politicians and businessmen to spend time and mentor the students. "She has been a rock."

"And even though Mary Jo is leaving, the program will not stop, we will not let it stop," Cook said.

In brief remarks, Mabry echoed a similar sentiment. "Middlesex Community College will continue to support the Paul E. Sullivan Institute. We want to keep creating future leaders for this community."

Take for, example, Patrick Kinney and Danilo Sena. Both graduated in the inaugural institute class and we both were back at the Nesmith Tuesday to congratulate the graduates and thank Griffin: Kinney as a constituent services specialist for Rep. Niki Tsongas and Danilo Sena as chief of staff for state Sen. Jamie Eldridge.

One of the graduates was Venessa Vanwyck, 24, who was born and raised in the northwest African country of Namibia. The institute, she said, has shown her the importance of listening first, and speaking later.

"I have taken that heart," said Vanwyck, who is graduating with an associate's degree in para-legal studies and is heading to UMass Lowell next fall to study finance. "I've learned that listening first also improves relations with other people, and I can work better with other people."

Vanwyck was one of the first graduates in the greeting line.

"Oh, that was a breeze for us now," said Vanwyck. "Mary Jo gave us the confidence to do that. It would have been hard doing that in September."

Follow Scott on Twitter @cscoottlowellsun.
Across downtown, a host of projects promise new vitality

By Grant Welker
grwelker@lowellsun.com

LOWELL — More than $10 million in private investment, as has been poured into Appleton National Bank, is something the city’s Department of Planning and Development is constantly striving to see in the city, particularly downtown.

The new Element Care space, expected to open this fall, may also be the most notable of several downtown developments underway or expected to be soon.

Just up the street, at 226 Central St., four new market-rate condominiums are planned. A few blocks away, 40 units of market-rate rentals are being built at a cost of $2.6 million in a five-story building at 24 Merrimack St.

Down the other side of Central Street, the Boston & Maine building will soon become a performing-arts center for Middlesex Community College. Also known as the Rialto building, it was built only

years apart from the Appleton National Bank building and in the same High Victorian Gothic style.

Middlesex Community College is scheduled to begin an 18-month renovation and reconstruction process in June and spend more than $18 million on the project.

Diane Tradd, the city’s planning and development director, called the Element Care and Middlesex Community College projects “great additions to the downtown.”

Hiring the 62,000 square-foot Appleton National Bank building fully occupied, it will significantly boost downtown’s occupancy rate. A report by City Hall in earlier this year showed downtown to have a vacancy rate for ground-floor spaces of about 10 percent — around the national retail average.

But the upper floors of downtown buildings are much more likely to sit vacant. The city’s Department of Planning and Development found a vacancy rate for those spaces of nearly 20 percent. More than 200,000 square-feet of space sits empty in those upper floors in downtown buildings.

The largest vacancy, at 16-17 Kearney Square, the former Sun newspaper headquarters, contains more than 45,000 square feet of available space. The owner is working with the Department of Planning and Development to convert that space into market-rate housing, the report said.

Another 54,000 square feet of space at 116 John St. may have two potential tenants, according to the report.

While the first-floor vacancies are fewer, and total less than half the total square footage as the upper-floor vacancies, they are the ones most visible to passersby. The Department of Planning and Development is also working to help property owners fill those spaces.

Most notably, the city was able to quickly attract a new restaurant, Bishop’s Legacy Restaurant, to the former La Boniche space on Merrimack Street. The sandwich chain Jimmy John’s is moving into the former Giovanni’s Trend’s space across the street.

The city is also helping property owners find leases for the largest ground-floor vacancy, 15,000 square feet at 40 Church St., and a high-visibility vacancy at the former Chantilly Place storefront on Merrimack Street.

Follow Grant Welker on Twitter and

One of Middlesex Community College’s most public faces, Director of Community Affairs Mary Jo Griffin, is resigning May 22 to return to state government.

Griffin is not at liberty to say where in state government, but she is looking forward to a new challenge and is thankful that MCC gave her such great opportunities.

For the last several years, Griffin has overseen the Paul E. Sullivan Institute, named for her late husband, the Sun columnist and WBZ radio talk-show host who died in September 2007 at 50 after a three-year battle with brain cancer.

Each year, the institute enrolled about a dozen students to give them a push educationally, professionally, and emotionally by helping them learn the subtleties of proper dress, public speaking and preparing for job interviews.

During a Sun Editorial Board meeting last week, MCC’s new president, James Mabry, said he likes what the Sullivan Institute stands for and accomplishments, and that it should remain a vibrant part of the MCC landscape.

Griffin, a former Chelmsford School Committee member, worked two state jobs before MCC: She served as chairman of the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission; and served as a member of an appeals board that resolves differences between the state Registry of Motor Vehicles and motorists.
UPCOMING AT MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A week of music

A World of Music, Middlesex Community College’s free spring concert series, continues with an MCC Faculty Composers Concert to be held today, at 3 p.m., in MCC’s Concert Hall (Building 8) on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road. The concert is free and open to the public.

New works by Music Department faculty members Richard Chownhill, David Janssen, Todd Kitchen, Aaron Rosenberg and Michelle Zacagnini will be performed.

Other events in MCC’s free A world of Music spring concert series include three MCC Student Recitals:

- Student Instrumentalists and singers will perform Monday, at noon, in MCC’s Concert Hall, on the Bedford campus.
- Voice students will perform Tuesday, at 10:30 a.m., in the Federal Building Assembly Room, on the Lowell campus.
- The MCC Guitar Ensemble will perform Wednesday, at 12:30 p.m., in the Federal Building Assembly Room in Lowell, 50 Kearney Square.

STEM Expo is Friday

LOWELL — Middlesex Community College’s STEM and Health Pathways Center will hold a STEM & Health Expo on Friday, at 2:30 p.m., in Room 215 in the Talbot Building, 44 Middle St., on the Lowell campus. The event is free and open to the public. Participants can learn about a variety of career opportunities in those high-demand fields, participate in hands-on classroom and lab demonstrations, meet and network with STEM & Health faculty and staff, and speak with current MCC students enrolled in the programs. To register, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/pathwayscenter/stem-expo.aspx.

RN Refresher Program

Registration is open for Middlesex Community College’s noncredit RN Refresher Program. The program is designed to prepare Massachusetts registered nurses who have been away from nursing practice for an extended period of time to re-enter the workforce by updating nursing concepts and skills. The program consists of 72 hours of theory and hands-on practice in MCC’s Nursing Skills Lab on the Lowell campus. Students must have a current, valid Massachusetts RN license in good standing to take this course. Classes meet Monday through Friday, June 1-18, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., on the Lowell campus. Enrollment is open through May 15. Cost is $1,900. For more information, contact Sheila Morin at 781-280-3608 or morins@middlesex.mass.edu, or visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/career-training/rnrefresher.aspx. To enroll, call 1-800-818-3434.
Warren chats up MCC students on costs, impact

By Todd Feathers tfeathers@lowellsun

LOWELL — Sen. Elizabeth Warren praised the backgrounds and accomplishments of Middlesex Community College students she met with on Friday, while criticizing government and Republican policies she said were preventing more students from taking advantage of similar opportunities.

The Democrat sat down for a roundtable discussion about community college and student debt with a diverse group of MCC stu-

Please see WARREN/5
WARREN/From Page 1

students. And while she expounded at several points on problems she sees in the public-education system, Warren spent most of the hourlong session asking the students how MCC had impacted them and their families.

"What I heard from the students today is that this is a place that creates a warm and healthy environment where they grow their dreams, and that's what building the future is all about," she said.

The students included a veteran who plans to become a cop, a mother of two from the Dominican Republic, a woman pursuing her second college degree in 11 years, and several students using MCC as a jumping-off point to other institutions.

Rahif Siddiqui, the son of Pakistani immigrants and a first-generation college student, said that his parents were extraordinarily supportive of his education, but that it represented a substantial financial burden for his family.

"My father went from working 40 hours a week to 50 hours a week and more," he said. "He actually ended up getting a job somewhere else as well to support us."

Siddiqui worked as well to help pay his tuition, and has seen the toll a full-time job can take on an education.

"Sometimes work ends up taking priority over school," he said.

Another student, Diana Santana, said that she entered MCC while pregnant and was forced to live in a shelter for a time.

Warren said she found it "obscene" that the government makes money off of college students who may pay as much as 300 percent more than their parents have to go to school and meanwhile allows millionaires and billionaires to maintain low tax rates.

"The interest rate on student loans is so high that it is producing billions of dollars for the United States government," she said. "It is obscene for the government to be making a profit on student loans."

When asked after the event about a proposal earlier this year by President Barack Obama to have the federal and state governments pay for the first two years of tuition for all community college students, Warren said that was "one option" but did not express particular enthusiasm.

The country is currently on the wrong trajectory in terms of fostering higher education, she said, pointing to a budget item supported by congressional Republicans that would put a 10-year moratorium on raising the maximum amount given to students under the Pell Grant program.

"For me this is personal, I grew up in a family that had a lot of economic ups and downs," Warren said. "But she was able to go to a commuter college and eventually become a professor and then senator "all because I grew up in America that was investing in education opportunities not just for some of our kids but for all of our kids."

The makeup of the MCC student group highlighted several of the demographic challenges community colleges in particular must overcome, not the least of which is accommodating students who are a long way from being kids.

Meranda Fahie is pursuing her second degree, 11 years after receiving her first. And she plans on enrolling in law school after graduating.

She was initially worried that returning to school as an adult would be uncomfortable, she told Warren, but found that the students and staff at MCC viewed her experience as an asset rather than a handicap.

"Everybody is willing to take feedback," she said.

Another student, Joel Torres, is a veteran attending college and preparing to become a police officer.

"Most veterans usually like to keep to ourselves, we feel isolated," he said. "But the veterans services and environment at MCC helped him come out of his shell."

After Torres spoke, Warren reiterated that a college education is a ticket to the middle class and she urged the students and audience to continue pushing for more affordable higher education.

"People trying to get a great education don't have lobbyists, but we do have our voices," she said. "We will win, we will get what we want, we will move this country in a better direction only if we get involved."
New England Gerbil Show at MCC

The nonprofit American Gerbil Society will hold its 14th annual New England Gerbil Show from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 2 at the Middlesex Community College Campus Center, 591 Springs Road, Bedford. Gerbil owners are invited to register their gerbils for this family-friendly event, which includes contests and pet competitions.

Serious gerbil owners and breeders may compete in official judging for the Best-in-Show competition while the public votes for Photo Contest winners. A Pet Class competition for kids gives awards for pets' endearing characteristics, with ribbons awarded for Cutest Face, Fastest Wheel Runner, Friendliest and Best Whiskers. Older children may enter their gerbils in the Mock Show and learn from the AGS's Youth Judges what makes a winning gerbil.

In the Gerbil Olympics, pets can compete in events like Tube Chewing and HamTrak Racing. There will be a gerbil agility demonstration, specialty gerbil-related merchandise, a raffle and silent auction and educational and interactive displays from AGS members.

The show is open to gerbil owners and fans alike. Pet Class entries are required to register at agsgerbils.org. Admission is $5, with a maximum of $20 per family. For more information, call 617-987-0243 or visit agsgerbils.org.

If you go

WHAT: 14th annual New England Gerbil Show
WHEN: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 2
WHERE: Middlesex Community College Campus Center, 591 Springs Road, Bedford
COST: $5; $20 per family
INFO: 617-987-0243; agsgerbils.org
MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

RN refresher program offered

Registration is open for Middlesex Community College's noncredit RN Refresher Program. This program is designed to prepare Massachusetts registered nurses who have been away from nursing practice for an extended period of time to re-enter the workforce by updating nursing concepts and skills.

The goal of the program is to provide a supportive learning environment necessary to refine skills and develop a knowledgebase.

This program consists of 72 hours of theory and hands-on practice in MCC's Nursing Skills Lab on the Lowell campus. There is no clinical component. A certificate and 7.2 CEUs are awarded upon successful completion. Students must have a current, valid Massachusetts RN license and be in good standing to take this course.

Classes meet 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. June 1-18, Mondays through Fridays on the Lowell campus. Enrollment is open through May 15.

Cost: $1,900. For information: 781-280-3608; morins@middlesex.mass.edu; middlesex.mass.edu/careertraining/rnrefresher.aspx
Rep. Mom selected as MCC commencement speaker

"Who I know are in pain."

But on Tuesday night, for example, Mom didn’t return to his home in the Highlands from the State house until about 12:30 a.m., as the House is knee-deep in budget debate. The freshman representative was up early Wednesday morning, dropping his kids off at school, and then it was back to Beacon Hill.

"Very busy," said Mom, "But I knew that would be the case." He also thanked Lowell’s other state representatives, Thomas Golden and David Nangle, for helping him learn the ropes.

"Being a freshman down there can be overwhelming," Mom said. "They’ve helped me a lot and shown me the way.”

James Mahry, MCC’s new president who’s been on the job about two months, said during a recent meeting with The Sun’s Editorial Board that he cannot think of a more appropriate person to deliver the commencement address, noting that Mom, like many MCC students, overcomes hardship and realizes the importance of education.

"Just a great selection," said Mahry.

During the ceremony, Mom will receive MCC’s 2015 Distinguished Alumni Award. MCC’s Distinguished Alumni Award is given annually to an alum who demonstrates achievement in their career or other areas of life, exceptional service to the community, and commitment to Middlesex, as well as integrity and character.

"Rady’s personal story that brought him to the campus is so inspirational, and he made the most of his time with us at MCC, immersing himself in the club experience and engaging in community outreach—something I still remember, 25 years later," said Dennis Malvers, MCC’s Dean of Advancement. "We hope the story of his journey can provide inspiration to all our students to realize how much they can overcome if they persevere.”

Prior to being elected representative, Mom served as a community organizer for more than 20 years. He is a former member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Lowell board, the board of Governance of Saints Medical Center, the Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association, Angkor Dance Troupe, and the Khmer Cultural Council (KCC). He was also a member of the All American City Committee and a delegate to the successful presentation that led to Lowell’s designation as an All American City in 1998.
New MCC president: We can be a national leader

By Chelsea Feinstein
cfeinstein@lowellsun.com

LOWELL — Two months into his tenure as Middlesex Community College president, James Mabry says the college has the potential to become a national leader and example among community colleges. “Middlesex is really a strong college. It’s really a recognized leader within the state,” Mabry said Tuesday in a meeting with The Sun’s editorial board. But in talking with faculty and staff over the past several weeks, he’s seen the college’s potential to do more.

Middlesex Community College President James Mabry said he wants to energize staff and faculty to take MCC “to the next level.” Watch video at lowellsun.com.

Please see MABRY/15
Mabry: MCC can be model

MABRY/From Page 1.

“They really are proud of being a leader in the state, but many people want to take it to the next level, really want to make Middlesex a leader in the nation in community colleges,” Mabry added. “I really see my job as to serve the folks there, to really engage with them, to really empower them and really energize them to take this college to the next level.”

Mabry, who took the MCC job earlier this year after a stint as the vice provost of academic affairs at Mesa Community College in Arizona, is focusing on infrastructure improvements, boosting the graduation rate and preparing students to fill jobs in thriving local industries.

An $18.7 million project to renovate the downtown Boston & Maine building is one of his first orders of business, with a groundbreaking set for this spring.

That building will house the college’s performing-arts program, including a 180-seat theater.

At the Bedford campus, a $27 million academic building in the planning stages has the potential to be “transformative,” Mabry said.

It will house the school’s biotechnology program. Three locations are being debated.

The new building, Mabry said, will allow the university to move some existing programs into better facilities and provide opportunities for expansion.

“We really see that having first-class facilities will give us an opportunity to expand our biotechnology program,” Mabry said. “When you have specialized programs like that and you have first-class facilities, you’ll find people will travel in for those. That will draw students into that area.”

The state has also released another $10 million, Mabry said, for another building on the Lowell campus, although they are just beginning the process for determining how that will be spent.

“We’re going to think about what we want to do academically and then find the space that would be best for that,” he said.

The school is also focusing much of its resources toward improving student achievement, some of which is reflected in the college’s graduation rate.

Though graduation rates tend to be low because they include students who transfer to other schools or students who take only a class or two rather than pursuing a degree, the school is working to get those rates up, and improve student achievement in other ways.

Getting students through programs quickly is another priority, he said.

He also reaffirmed the college’s commitment to the Paul Sullivan Institute, which aims to prepare the next generation of leaders by selecting a group of students each year with strong leadership potential to participate in workshops, community events and a mentorship program.

“Everything I’ve heard about the Sullivan Institute has been positive,” he said.

Mabry’s view of the school’s mission is to serve the needs of the community. To do that, he’s looking into what industries are in need of workers in this region, and then adapting the college’s programs to fill those needs.

“Education and higher education is critical to the economic development of this state,” Mabry said. “We don’t have great weather here, we don’t have many natural resources, we have a lot of smart people that are well-educated and if we’re going to grow and continue to grow as a state, if we’re going to keep this standard of living that we have here, it’s going to be by having a smart and well-educated workforce.”

MCC’s strong partnership with the community, Mabry said, was one thing that attracted him.

Since taking the job, he’s been continually impressed with the pride that people from the Lowell area take in their community, including in MCC.

“Residents here are extremely proud of the city and it’s something I’ve rarely witnessed in other communities to this extent. People are very happy to tell you about the city and really welcome you to it.”

Whether it’s sharing college resources with local technical high schools or participating in community events, Mabry said he’s committed to continuing that tradition.

“It’s really important that we are connected and a part of all of those communities,” he said.

“I think that working with the city, we can really make this a great Gateway City in the commonwealth,” he added.

Follow Chelsea Feinstein on Twitter and @CEFeinstein.
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Registration open for Middlesex Community College summer sessions
bostonglobe.com/metro/regional...

The Boston Globe
Registration open for Middlesex Community College summer sessions ...
Four sessions are available for day and evening classes.

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Phlebotomy program at MCC lauded

Middlesex Community College's Phlebotomy Program was recently presented the 2014 Best of Phlebotomy Education Award by Phlebotomy TrainingSpot.com.

A free resource for prospective students and career seekers looking for phlebotomy training and jobs, PhlebotomyTrainingSpot.com recognizes the top phlebotomy programs across the country.

"We are honored to receive the Best Phlebotomy Education Award," said Suzanne McHale, program coordinator for MCC's Academy of Health Professions. "Our Phlebotomy Certificate Program trains students to become skilled phlebotomists as well as exceptional health-care professionals. We hold our students to the highest standards of the field."

MCC's Phlebotomy Certificate Program enables students to build the skills necessary to work in hospitals, clinics, doctors' offices, nursing homes, research settings and reference labs. Students are trained to perform a variety of blood-collection methods using proper techniques and precautions.

The Phlebotomy Certificate Program is part of MCC's Academy of Health Professions, which offers short-term training and college-credit courses to prepare students for careers in entry-level health care. Other programs offered as part of AHP include Certified Nursing Assistant, Medical Receptionist, Medical Office Administration, Medical Assisting, and a Clinical Lab Assistant Certificate Program.

PhlebotomyTrainingSpot.com recognizes programs with the ability to foster career and personal development in their students. Nominees were rated over a several-month period at the end of 2014 and winners were identified based on total ratings, program reputation and accreditations.

For more information about MCC's Phlebotomy Certificate Program, contact McHale at mchales@middlesex.mass.edu or 978-322-8412.
COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO HOST OPEN HOUSE

Middlesex Community College will host an open house at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 28, at the Bedford Campus Center, 591 Springs Road. Prospective students and their families, as well as adult learners interested in continuing their education, will have the opportunity to learn about the 70 degree and certificate programs, noncredit courses, and online and flexible-learning options offered by the school. According to a press release, the open house will feature a series of breakout sessions allowing students to explore specific areas of academic interest, meet with faculty and academic deans, learn about admissions and financial aid, and take a campus tour. Students can even turn in college applications and schedule appointments for placement testing. For more information or to RSVP, visit www.middsex.mass.edu/OH or call 1-800-818-3434.

JENNIFER FENN LEFFERTS
LOWELL — Middlesex Community College, in conjunction with Lowell Telecommunications Corp., will present the 2015 Juried Student Art & Design Show, on view April 30 through May 20, at the LTC, 246 Market St. The exhibit will feature artwork created by students enrolled in MCC’s Graphic Design and Fine Art programs, including drawings, paintings, photographs, sculpture, ceramics and print media.

An opening reception and awards ceremony will be held Thursday, April 30, from 5 to 7 p.m. Student awards will be presented during the reception.

Regular gallery hours are Monday through Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Friday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information, contact Margaret Swan, chairwoman of MCC’s Fine Art & Graphic Design Department, at swanm@middlesex.mass.edu or 781-280-3803.

For more information about LTC, including directions & parking, visit www.ltc.org.

MIDDLESEX

College awards foundation scholarships

The Middlesex Community College Foundation recently awarded more than $86,000 in scholarships to 72 Middlesex students for the 2014-2015 academic year.

The 94 scholarships range from $500 to $2,500 and are funded by sources including memorial donations, local businesses, private foundations and private donors.

"At Middlesex, we recognize the accomplishments of our students, and the strong and generous commitment from our donors who provide financial assistance to our students as they work so hard to achieve their dreams of higher education and meaningful careers," said Dennis Malvers, Dean of College Advancement.

Three new scholarships were established and awarded this year; The Audrey A. Cogliano Memorial Scholarship, the Paul Sheehy Memorial Scholarship and the Tom McKay Memorial Scholarship.

Named in memory of Audrey Cogliano, wife of MCC Foundation Board Member John Cogliano, the Audrey A. Cogliano Memorial Scholarship honors a student who has demonstrated a commitment to people in need and community service.

The Paul Sheehy Memorial Scholarship is presented to a student who demonstrates a commitment and service to his/her community. Named in memory of the late Paul Sheehy, who served as Lowell City Manager and Massachusetts State Senator.

The Tom McKay Memorial Scholarship was established in memory of Tom McKay, a member of the MCC Foundation Board and an active leader in the Lowell community. This scholarship honors a student who demonstrates civic commitment and leadership. For information, leea@middlesex.mass.edu; middlesex.mass.edu.
Former dean of Middlesex Community College's Lowell campus, Molly Sheehy, was one of seven UMass Lowell graduates honored for their professional achievements and contributions to the community at the annual University Alumni Awards on Thursday. Sheehy earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education at the State Teachers College at Lowell in 1960, followed by a master's degree in reading and language at the University of Lowell and a doctorate in leadership in schooling at UMass Lowell. Standing behind Sheehy are her daughters, from left, Elizabeth, Anne and Maria.
Retired Judge Robert Barton visits the courtroom at Lowell Superior Court where he spent much time presiding, and where his portrait was hung Wednesday. Watch video at lowellsun.com.

Retired judge’s portrait feels like ‘home’

By Lisa Redmond
lredmond@lowellsun.com

LOWELL—Townsend triple-murderer Daniel LaPlante. Mob executioner William “Billy” Barnoski. Convicted child abusers Corby and Nancy Adkinson. Lowell Superior Court Judge Robert A. Barton held court over some of the most notorious cases in the Lowell area.

During his 22 years on the bench, before he faced mandatory retirement at age 70 in 2000, Barton was an

Retired judge Robert Barton chats with Judge Heidi Brieger at Lowell Superior Court after delivering his portrait.

Please see BARTON/6
imposing figure as a Superior Court judge. Despite all the courts he has worked in, Barton admits Lowell Superior Court — where he was assigned the most — felt like home.

So it was fitting that Barton decided his judicial portrait — given to him upon his retirement — be moved from his Bedford home where it has been for 15 years and hung in a new place of honor.

As he looked at his own image hung in a courtroom that he loved, Barton admitted it was time for a change.

Without any fanfare, Barton was in Lowell Superior Court on Wednesday to view his 3-foot-by-4-foot portrait in its new home, hung in a spot above the jury box in the criminal session. In the portrait, Barton is dressed in a black robe with the hint of a smile on his face.

"With my wife just passing away, I am realizing that I'm getting up there in age. It was time to place things in their appropriate places," said Barton, now 85.

Norma Barton, 83, died on March 18 of cancer. She was a TWA flight attendant based in San Francisco when she met Marine 1st Lt. Robert Barton. They were married for 56 years.

Gazing at his portrait as the afternoon sun hit it, Barton said simply, "It's nice. It is something tangible. No one ever wants to be forgotten." Anyone who knows Barton knows he has never forgotten the high-profile cases that have come before him.

One of those cases was LaPlante, a 17-year-old Townsend resident who was convicted in the 1987 rape and murder of Priscilla Gustafson, a nursery-school teacher, and the murders of her two children — Abigail, 7, and 8-year-old William, in their Townsend home.

Former state Attorney General Tom Reilly, who drove Barton to Lowell on Wednesday, was the assistant district attorney who prosecuted LaPlante.

"That was a horrible case," Reilly said, recalling the details of the crime. As Reilly looked around the room, he said this is the first time he has been in this courtroom with Barton since that trial.

After Barton's portrait was hung in the courtroom two weeks ago, a potential juror in another case looked up at his portrait and commented that her husband had testified at LaPlante's trial before that same judge.

"That was one in a million," Barton said, smiling. Follow Lisa Redmond on Tout and Twitter@redmond19_lisa.

Retired Judge Robert Barton points out to Judge Heidi Brieger how he spotted a missing rosette in the ceiling decoration one day during a trial in Lowell Superior Court.
A conversation with Mabry

MCC's newest president reflects on his first four months

By Joy Richard
jrichard@wickedlocal.com

From one MCC to another, Middlesex Community College's newest President Dr. James Mabry recently reflected on his first few months with the school and what makes the Bedford and Lowell campus unique academic settings.

More than 2,500 miles away from his last position as vice president of academic affairs for Mesa Community College, Middlesex president, Dr. James Mabry joked that one of the hardest parts of the transition to MCC came in acclimating to a surprisingly harsh New England winter this past season. He said getting to know the two campuses and the students and faculty has been much more pleasant experience.

How long have you been with the college?

"I have been in the position since Feb. 16, of this year. I came from Mesa Community College, which is just outside Phoenix, Arizona, where I was the vice president of academic affairs. I was there for seven years."

What drew you out to the east coast?

"There were many reasons, one was I am originally from New York, so East Coast is quite familiar. I grew up in upstate New York and I spent 10 years in New York City. I went to school there and then...

SEE MABRY, B6
taught high school social studies there, as well. I met my wife in Central Park and both of my daughters were born in New York City, so it holds a lot for us there.

"I have to say I didn't move here for the weather. We managed to get snowed-in the first weekend we were here."

"Also, I was looking for a job at a really strong institution, one that had good leadership and one that was really ready to move forward. That is really what I have found at Middlesex."

Was your previous college similar to the setup of Middlesex?

"Mesa had two campuses itself, the main campus served about 19,000 students and the second campus served about 5,000 students. [Bedford and Lowell campuses] are about equal. They run about 6,000 students at each campus."

Which campus do you favor during week?

"I split my time. So, it's very interesting trying to figure out my calendar some weeks, with two campuses and two offices with meetings in both places. I try to, whenever possible, spend an entire day on a campus and not spend time driving back and forth, but it doesn't always work like that."

"They are both very important and very different. One of the things that I really do find fascinating about this institution is the two campuses in the different communities. In some ways you get the best of both worlds."

What are some of the features of each campus that make them unique?

"First of all, it doesn't matter which campus you're on, there is a tremendous amount of pride in the institution. People really feel attached to Middlesex Community College. Many of them have worked here for years and they see it really as a home and as a part of their family. There is a real warmth there and a real lack of contention, which is wonderful. This is a place where people really feel like they are coming and are able to do their jobs and do what they love to do, which is helping students succeed with their educational goals."

"I think the other part that I have seen is that people really appreciate my focus on students. I am really a classroom teacher who grew up into another role, but I have really maintained strong relationships with students and really kept in touch with their goals and what they want to do."

"Bedford has a beautiful setting. I remember the first time I drove in here; I wondered where I was going. Coming down these windy back roads it is a very pretty area. The campus has a very distinct and almost tranquil feel to it. It feels very comfortable here."

"Lowell is about 180 degrees from here; it is an urban campus, right in the middle of downtown Lowell. They are re-purposed buildings that are very different styles and we've made it work in both communities and for our students from both areas."

"Bedford is older. The college originally started at the VA hospital using some of the buildings down the road and was eventually built on this former seminary site in the early 1970s. The Lowell campus opened in the 1990s."

What were some of the things the school was looking for to you working on, and what were you looking to tackle during your first year?

"I think that, again, going back to one of the things that attracted me to this institution, is with [former] president [Carole] Cowan there was long and stable leadership at the college and a really strong leadership team. She is really responsible for building this place. So, coming into that situation it is not that you need to make major changes, it's that you're coming in with some fresh ideas based on past experiences. I have worked at community colleges in Arizona, Florida and New York. It is also bringing in a fresh view."

"The search committee really made a point of picking finalists from outside the area and outside the Massachusetts system. You could tell that they were looking for not an overhaul, but just some fresh ideas."

"My big task in the beginning is just to get to know the place. It is really important that I understand people, because you don't want to come in and impose your ideas, you really want to create structures and systems and teams where you can empower them to really have a fresh look and you will find that they have many more ideas than I will ever have."
MCC offers adult learning courses

The Middlesex Community College Adult Learning Center offers free college preparation courses for adult learners (age 16 and older) who live and work in Massachusetts. Adult Learning Center classes are small and range from adult basic education to HiSET (High School Equivalency Test) preparation. The program meets from 9 a.m. to noon Tuesdays through Thursdays, September through June, on the Bedford campus. Students are admitted throughout the year on a space-available basis, and registration is available.

Adult Learning Center students participate in two classes a day, one focused on reading and writing skills, and the other on mathematics. Other topics, such as science and social studies, are also covered. Students have access to computer labs with specialized software to supplement classroom learning.

“Our experienced and professional instructors help returning-adult students develop and improve their computer, study and job skills,” said Kathy Innis, MCC’s Adult Learning Center coordinator. “The program helps prepare students for success in college, at work, and in the community.”

Middlesex Community College’s Adult Learning Center is a free program supported by a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

For information: 781-280-3665; middlesex.mass.edu/adultlearning.

MCC to hold open house

Middlesex Community College will host an open house on the Bedford campus at 5:30 p.m. April 28, in the Bedford Campus Center, 591 Springs Road. Prospective students and their families, as well as adult learners interested in continuing their education, will have the opportunity to learn about MCC’s more than 70 degree and certificate programs, noncredit courses and online and flexible-learning options.

Many of MCC’s academic programs allow students to earn an associate degree and then transfer to a four-year college or university through the statewide MassTransfer program articulation agreements with private colleges. Transfer agreements are designed to ease the transfer process, allowing a student to specifically plan a curriculum that will fit a chosen bachelor’s degree program.

The Bedford Campus Open House will feature a series of breakout sessions tailored to meet student needs and interests. Students can explore specific areas of academic interest, meet with faculty and academic deans, learn about admissions and financial aid and take a campus tour.

“This open-house format gives students an opportunity to learn about everything Middlesex has to offer,” said Marilynn Galligan, MCC’s dean of admissions.

Advisers and administrators will be on hand to answer student questions and provide information about how to be successful at Middlesex. Students can learn about MCC’s many support services such as academic and career counseling, dual enrollment, tutoring, disability support and other special programs.

Attendees also can meet with financial aid representatives to get information about financing their education. Students can even turn in college applications and schedule appointments for placement testing.

For information and to RSVP: 800-818-3434; middlesex.mass.edu/OH.

EDUCATION

Middlesex Community College to host STEM and Health Expo

Middlesex Community College’s STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) and Health Pathways Center will hold a STEM and Health Expo at 2:30 p.m. May 8 in Room 215 in the Talbot Building, 44 Middle St., on the Lowell campus. This event is free and open to the public.

Current MCC students and prospective students and parents can explore MCC’s STEM & Health programs, including biotechnology, dental laboratory technology, computer-aided design, engineering, life sciences and medical laboratory technology.

Participants can learn about various career opportunities in these high-demand fields, participate in hands-on classroom and lab demonstrations, meet and network with STEM and Health faculty and staff, and speak with current MCC students enrolled in these programs.

“The STEM & Health Expo provides a unique opportunity for students and prospective students to explore their interest in STEM & Health programs,” said Audrey Frater, director of MCC’s Pathways Center. “Students may discover new passions through our engaging workshops and interactive simulations.”

The MCC STEM and Health Expo is hosted by the STEM and Health Pathways Center and sponsored by the STEM Starter Academy.

For information and registration: middlesex.mass.edu/pathwayscenter/ stem-expo.aspx.
21st Century Latinas

La Séptima Conferencia Anual de Mujeres Latinas Moving Forward presentó Latinas del Siglo 21 el 24 de marzo. En la foto aparecen las organizadoras María Vejar, Darmery Montoya, Darcy Orellana y María López.

The 7th Annual Latina Women Moving Forward Conference presented 21st Century Latinas on March 24th. Here are the organizers of the event: María Vejar, Darmery Montoya, Darcy Orellana and María López.
Middlesex Community College Dean's List

Continued
At Middlesex Community College, everyone teaches, everyone learns! In addition to more than 70 degree and certificate programs, MCC's Commonwealth Honors Program offers unique learning opportunities for students who elect to study at a more advanced level.

The Honors Program at Middlesex offers a variety of Honors Course options, as well as opportunities for students to master research and presentation techniques, and engage in extra and co-curricular activities.

"The Commonwealth Honors Program is a great place for students who want to be fully engaged in their intellectual enterprise to learn as much as possible about the world around them - and focus on the collegiate experience," said MCC History Professor David Kalivas, current CHP Director.

"In my 'Globalization' and 'World Cultures' Honors Seminars, I learned how to see the world from another perspective," said Honors student Diana Santana. "We learned about economics, religion, culture, the environment and politics. We had guest speakers, went on a field trip to the Museum of Fine Arts, and even ate special meals together."

Students who complete their degrees through CHP are guaranteed transfer to other Commonwealth Honors Programs at any state college or university, or can enhance their applications for other four-year public or private institutions.

For more information about Middlesex Community College's Commonwealth Honors Program, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/honors or call 781-283-2553.

Online Learning at MCC

Another Middlesex advantage is the highly regarded online learning program. For more than 12 years, MCC has been a leader in online education. Currently, 11 associate degree programs and six certificate programs can be completed entirely online. And hundreds of online courses, as well as hybrid courses (which combine online and face-to-face instruction), are also offered.

Students who take courses online at Middlesex complete the same high-quality coursework as those who take courses on campus. And, online students earn the same course credits - which are transferrable to bachelor's degree programs.

For more information about online classes at Middlesex, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/online

MassTransfer at MCC

Middlesex also recognizes that many students, after completing their MCC coursework, intend to transfer and pursue a bachelor's degree at another institution. For these students, Middlesex offers MassTransfer, a statewide transfer program to help streamline the transfer process.

MassTransfer provides community college students, who complete approved associate degrees and enroll in linked MassTransfer programs, with the benefits of full transfer of credits, guaranteed admission, and a tuition discount to Massachusetts state colleges or universities.

For more information about MassTransfer, visit www.mass.edu/masstransfer/home.aspx, contact MCC's Academic, Career & Transfer Center at 1-800-819-3434 or visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/transfer/masstransfer.aspx

Whatever your goals, Middlesex is committed to helping you achieve them. Registration for summer and fall semesters is now open. For complete listings of summer and fall course offerings, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/register.

Middlesex Community College meets the evolving educational, civic and workforce needs of our local and global communities. As one of the largest, most comprehensive community colleges in the state, MCC educates more than 13,000 students annually on campuses in Bedford and Lowell, and online.
SUMMER LEARNING

MCC's College for Kids participants explore careers, develop new skills and boost self-confidence. COURTESY PHOTO

Middlesex Community College announces summer sessions for all ages

Middlesex Community College will hold four summer sessions, a Saturday accelerated session and College for Kids summer programs.

Day summer sessions run May 26 to June 25 and July 6 to Aug. 5. Classes meet four days a week on the Bedford and Lowell campuses.

MCC's expanded online and evening summer sessions run June 1 to July 28 and June 15 to Aug. 11. Classes meet online or two evenings a week.

The Summer Saturday accelerated session will run May 23 to Aug. 1.

MCC's College for Kids programs are designed to provide children with fun and challenging opportunities to explore careers, gain new knowledge, develop new skills and boost self-confidence. Camps are offered for children ages 8 to 15, and run July 6 through Aug. 13 on the Bedford and Lowell campuses.

For information and registration: 800-818-3434; middlesex.mass.edu/summer.
Theater

Middlesex Community College to stage ‘Bat Boy: The Musical’

The Middlesex Community College Theater Department will stage "Bat Boy: The Musical" for six performances April 23–26 in the Burgoyne Theatre at Lowell High School, 40 Page St., Lowell.

Curtain times for "Bat Boy" are 7 p.m. April 23 and 24; and 2 and 7 p.m. April 25 and 26. Tickets are $15 (MCC students, staff and faculty $10).

Hailed by the New York Times as "a jaggedly imaginative mix of skewering humor and energetic glee," "Bat Boy: The Musical" is a musical comedy and horror show based on a story in the Weekly World News about a half-boy, half-bat creature who is discovered living in a cave near Hope Falls, West Virginia.

For information: 978-468-5429; middlesex.mass.edu/performingarts.
MCC holding bilingual financial workshops

Middlesex Community College will host two free bilingual College Financial Planning Workshops.

A Spanish workshop will be held Tuesday, at 6 p.m., in the Federal Building Assembly Room, 50 Kearney Square on the Lowell campus. A second College Financial Planning Workshop, conducted in English, will be held Wednesday at 1:30 p.m., in Room 216 in the Bedford Campus Center, 591 Springs Road. Both events are free and open to the public.

Current and prospective students and parents are invited to learn about financial aid and student-accounts information, processes and deadlines. Topics covered include, applying for financial aid; financial-aid eligibility for grants, scholarships and loans; completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid FAFSA; options and resources for paying college bills; tuition and fees; billing cycles; and the withdrawal/refund policy.

MCC celebrates Asian culture

LOWELL — Middlesex Community College’s International and Multicultural Affairs Office will host a series of Asian Cultural Celebrations on the Lowell campus during the month of April. Free and open to the public. Jeff Dyer will present Khmer String Music on Wednesday, from noon to 1:30 p.m., in the Multicultural Center (Cowan Center, ground floor). Dyer received a Thomas J. Watson Fellowship to study Cambodian traditional music in Cambodia. He teaches at the Christa McAuliffe Charter School in Framingham.
Community Calendar

May 9
Andover, Mass.
The 40th Annual Andover Crafts in the Park will be held at Central Park at Chestnut, Bartlett and Whittier Streets from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event will feature the works of artisans including photographers, jewelry makers, painters and others. Proceeds will be used to support local nonprofits. For more information call (978) 475-1832 or visit CraftsInThePark.com.

May 13
Lowell, Mass.
Community Teamwork is hosting a 50th Anniversary Gala from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell. In addition to a gala dinner, the event will feature auctions, a historic look back, and an “Outstanding Leadership” awards presentation. For more information call (978) 654-5640 or visit CommTeam.org.

May 14
Andover, Mass.
The YWCA of Greater Lawrence will hold its annual Tribute to Women Awards Luncheon across The Commonwealth.
The Trustees of Reservations’ annual Home Sweet Home open house event celebrates "Massachusetts’ Mavericks" and includes free admission to 11 Trustees of Reservations historic sites across the state. For more information visit TheTrustees.org/HomeSweetHome.

June 8
Atkinson, N.H.
Merrimack Valley Federal Credit Union hosts its 15th Annual Charity Golf Tournament to benefit Emmanus Inc. and the Merrimack Valley YMCA at the Atkinson Resort & Country Club from 12 to 6:30 p.m. For more information call (978) 975-4035 ext. 2020 or visit Merrimack-Valley-FCU.org.

June 11
Lowell, Mass.
The 17th Annual Middlesex Community College Celebrity Forum will feature actor, director and philanthropist William Shatner, 8 p.m., at the Lowell Memorial Auditorium. For more information call the box office at (866) 722-8881 or visit LowellAuditorium.com.

June 12
Methuen, Mass.
The 12th annual Northeast Independent Living Program (NILP) Golf Tournament for Independence will be held at the Merrimack Valley Golf Club. All proceeds will benefit NILP.

Have news you'd like to share in the magazine or online? Send press releases to editor@mvmag.net.
The Community Calendar is for charitable and community-oriented events.

May 1 June 2015 21
Middlesex offers 75+ degree and certificate programs and hundreds of noncredit courses.

To learn more, call 1-800-818-3434 or visit www.middlesex.mass.edu
MAKE YOUR SUMMER MATTER

Get an early start on your college career.

DAY SUMMER SESSIONS
MAY 26 – JUNE 26
JULY 6 – AUG. 5
Classes meet four days per week, in Bedford & Lowell

ONLINE/EVENING SUMMER SESSIONS
JUNE 1 – JULY 28
JUNE 15 – AUG. 11
Classes meet online or two evenings per week

DUAL ENROLLMENT
High school students seeking to dual enroll in the online courses should contact a Dual Enrollment Advisor at 1-800-818-3434.

To learn more, call 1-800-818-3434 or visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/summer

Everyone teaches, everyone learns.
**College for Kids**

Summer Programs for Kids Age 8 to 15

**July 6 - August 14**

Fun, engaging Summer Programs include:

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- Fashion Design
- Minecraft
- Science
- Coding for Kids
- Stop-Action Videos
- Lego® Mindstorms
- Cake and Cupcake Decorating
- Public Speaking
- Veterinary Medicine

Register Now. Space is Limited!

To learn more or to register,
contact Marci Barnes at 1-800-818-3434 or visit
[www.middlesex.mass.edu/collegeforkids](http://www.middlesex.mass.edu/collegeforkids)
BEDFORD OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, APRIL 28 - 5:30 p.m.
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Middlesex offers 75+ degree & certificate programs,
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begin a bachelor's degree or upgrade your skills.

REGISTER NOW! Everyone teaches,
everyone learns.

To learn more or to RSVP call 1-800-818-3434
www.middlesex.mass.edu/OH
BEDFORD OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, April 28 - 5:30 p.m.
591 Springs Road • Bedford, MA 01730

Learn more about ...

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DAILY TIMES CHRONICLE - THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2015

BOSTON SUNDAY GLOBE APRIL 12, 2015

DAILY TIMES CHRONICLE - THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2015

THE SUN

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2015
May 8th, 2015, 6:30PM
Pailin Restaurant.
Lowell, MA

The 5th Annual
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