U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia William Heidt Speaks at Middlesex Community College

Art & Design faculty exhibit in Lowell

MCC received a grant to help renovate the former Boston & Maine Railroad Depot

Bedford Campus
591 Springs Road
Bedford, MA 01730

Lowell Campus
33 Kearney Square
Lowell, MA 01852
"Best-organized Cambodian community"

U.S. ambassador has high praise for city's immigrants

By Todd Feathers

tfeathers@lowellsun.com

LOWELL — U.S. ambassador to Cambodia William Heidt toured Lowell on Wednesday, finding an expatriate community that has formed powerful local bonds but is sometimes passionately at odds over politics in their home country.

While recording a podcast at the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell, Heidt spoke with a 14-year-old

Please see TOUR/10


SUN/JOHN LOVE
Ambassador has high praise for city’s Cambodians

TOUR/ From Page 1 Cambodian-American boy who described trips to Cambodia where he saw children younger than himself working in rice fields.

In businesses around Cupples Square, the ambassador adroitly discussed the difficulties of shipping wedding garments to Cambodia and rattled off a list of the Southeast Asian nation’s most imported cars.

The people he met were thrilled about the visit — at one point a woman chased Heidt across the street for a photograph — but it was also clear that they have high expectations for how the top diplomat from their adopted home should promote human rights and democracy in a country most of them fled from in fear of their lives.

“We have a lot of conversations with the Cambodian government and some are really positive and some are on the tough side,” said Heidt, a career diplomat who is married to a Cambodian refugee and was appointed as ambassador just over a year ago. “Our policies are very clear on issues like the promotion of democracy and human rights “I know there are probably people that wish we would say it harder and more publicly and with more punitive stuff behind it, but that’s not where we are right now,” he said.

In many respects, Cambodia has made substantial progress since the bloody Khmer Rouge was ousted from power in the 1970s, Heidt said. The level of education has improved, although not enough, the country has avoided large-scale violent conflicts, it has expanded business dealings with the rest of the world, and many of the Cambodians who left over the previous three decades are now returning for short and longterm stays.

Rather than picking sides between Cambodia’s two major political parties — The Cambodian People’s Party, which has been in power since the 1990s, and the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party — America should promote its values in the country by encouraging trade and a flow of people between the two countries who can influence by example, Heidt said.

“To me I think the longerterm game is in some ways more significant,” he said. “So I encourage them to look at longer-term ways like mentoring, like doing business, like investing, like scholarships and other charity projects where the United States as a great big old country can keep prodding Cambodia forward.”

Deeply engaged

Many local Cambodian-Americans are already deeply engaged in those activities.

David and Monica Sen, owners of Amara Boutique & Services, travel to Cambodia at least twice a year to deliver the wedding garments they produce to clients there.

Others are also working to promote the image of Cambodian-Americans in the U.S. Mony Var, owner of Mony Var Insurance, was the first Cambodian election commissioner in Lowell and played an instrumental role in the campaign of state Rep. Rady Mom, the first Cambodian-American state legislator in the country.

“It would help the community a lot to see people from Cambodia and politicians come and visit Lowell and see how the people are living,” Var said, after speaking with the ambassador. “As an American, I want to see (Heidt) promoting the democratic process.”
Heidt's two-day, whirlwind trip through Lowell was set to end Wednesday night with a community forum at Middlesex Community College where members of the public could ask him potentially difficult questions about the complicated U.S.-Cambodian relationship.

Since covertly bombing Cambodia during the Vietnam War, the U.S. has worked hard to rebuild its image there through foreign aid and trade and to a large extent, Heidt said, Cambodians have accepted the U.S. as a partner and an example.

He pointed to Mom, for instance, and described him as a minor folk hero in Cambodia due to his success in Lowell through the democratic process.

"Yes, we came from there, but let's talk about how great we are here," said Mom, who came to Lowell as a refugee and served as Heidt's escort throughout the trip. "Yes, we have the pain and suffering, but let's talk about the positivity we can create from that."

By the middle of his visit, Heidt already seemed impressed by the success that philosophy had delivered in Lowell.

"This is the best-organized Cambodian community I've ever seen (in the U.S.)," he said.

*Follow Todd Feathers on Twitter and Tout @ToddFeathers.*

State Rep. Rady Mom, right, and others listen to the U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia William Heidt as he answers a question from one of the student members of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell during their podcast on Wednesday afternoon at the club. At rear, from left, are business owner Many Var, Kevin Coughlin, deputy director of Community Development and two unidentified aides.
U.S. Ambassador to Cambodia William Heidt shakes hands with members of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell during his tour of the “Cambodia Town” neighborhood of Lowell on Wednesday afternoon. See video and a slide show at lowellsun.com.

SUN PHOTOS /JOHN LOVE

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Middlesex College registering for spring classes

Registration is now open for spring semester courses at Middlesex Community College.

By registering early, students can get the best selection of courses to fit their schedule, and qualified students can save money by taking advantage of the state's new Commonwealth Commitment/MassTransfer Pathways program. Spring classes begin Jan. 23, 2017, on the Bedford and Lowell campuses and online.

The Commonwealth Commitment/MassTransfer Pathways commits the state's 15 community colleges, nine state universities and four UMass campuses to providing 10 percent rebates at the end of each successfully completed semester to qualifying undergraduate students. This is in addition to the standard MassTransfer Tuition Credit received upon entering a four-year institution from a community college. Students who enroll in the Commonwealth Commitment can save an average of 40 percent of the cost of earning a bachelor's degree.

Students and families can explore a wide range of degree programs, transfer options and college costs at all 28 public undergraduate campuses through the new MassTransfer web portal. Visitors to the portal will be able to see what is required to transfer seamlessly between campuses, including course-by-course "degree maps" available for some majors. For information about the Commonwealth Commitment or to explore options: mass.edu/masstransfer.

For a complete listing of spring 2017 course offerings: middlesex.mass.edu/registration/earlyreg.aspx.
Middlesex College to host Caravan World Music Trio

Friday
Posted Oct 21, 2016

Middlesex Community College’s fall 2016 concert series, A World of Music, continues with a performance by the Caravan World Music Trio, to be held at 3 p.m. Nov. 5, in MCC’s Federal Building Assembly Room on the Lowell campus, 50 Kearney Square.

The concert is free and open to the public.

Co-sponsored by MCC’s fall Interdisciplinary Weekend: Immigration, the concert will feature Jérôme Mouffe, guitar; Vladan Milencovic, piano; and Salil Sachdev, percussion. They are accomplished musicians from Belgium, Serbia and India respectively. Their eclectic ensemble, which specializes in improvisatory music in non-western styles, illustrates how music can cross boundaries to be influenced by a variety of cultures.

Additional concerts in the A World of Music concert series include performances by Orlando Cela & Friends at 8 p.m. Dec. 2; and an MCC Student Recital will be held at 12:30 p.m. Dec. 12, both in the Bedford Campus Concert Hall.

HERE’S AN AFFORDABLE ONLINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Middlesex Community College has been ranked No. 3 on the 2016-17 list of Best Online Colleges in Massachusetts by Affordable College Online.

“Middlesex is honored to be named one of the best online colleges in the state,” said President James Mabry. “We have been a leader in online education for more than 15 years. At MCC, we are dedicated to helping students overcome obstacles and transform their lives through education by offering high-quality online courses and programs that fit into their busy lives.”

MCC currently offers 10 associate degree programs and five certificate programs that can be completed entirely online. Hundreds of online course offerings – 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 education at Middlesex, visit: https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/online or call 1-800-818-3434.
EDUCATION

Middlesex College wins $113K Cultural Facilities Fund grant

Middlesex Community College was awarded a $113,000 Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund grant to support renovation and transformation of the former Boston & Maine Railroad Depot into a performing arts education center on the Lowell campus.

The Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund is a state program that fosters growth of the creative economy by supporting building projects in the nonprofit arts, humanities and sciences. MCC’s award was part of $93 million in new grants recently approved by the MassDevelopment board of directors. Grants must be matched one-to-one from private and/or other public sources.

“Middlesex is honored to receive a Cultural Facilities Fund grant to support transformation of the historic B&M Depot into a performing-arts education center,” said MCC president James C. Mably. “It provides a vital injection of public/private-sector support for this exciting project and plays a critical role in helping the college continue our focus on student success.”

In 2006, Middlesex acquired the former Boston & Maine Railroad Depot from the Lowell Historic Preservation Commission. Built in 1878 in High Victorian Gothic style, the building, located at 240 Central St., is a landmark in the Downtown Lowell Historic District. Upon completion, it will provide space for dance, music and theater rehearsals and performances currently lacking on MCC’s Bedford and Lowell campuses.

CFF grants have helped restore historical and cultural landmarks, and MassDevelopment and the state Cultural Council jointly administer the program. The fund received 146 applications in this round.

For background: mass-culturalcouncil.org/facilities/facilities_about.htm.

EDUCATION

Middlesex College wins $50K grant for Morocco program

Middlesex Community College was awarded a $50,000 Capacity-Building Grant from the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs and Partners of the Americas.

Funding will be used to expand MCC’s study abroad programming in Morocco.

“The Morocco Experience” will be a new International Education Fellowship. It is a sustainable, collaborative effort by MCC and Moroccan partners to create an immersive experience for 22-25 students during the January 2018 Interession.

“This newly funded fellowship program grant will allow students to learn more about themselves, their own academic interests and important cross-cultural issues as they explore other cultures — truly becoming global citizens,” said Dona Cady, dean of Global Education.

Students will experience first-hand the impact global economies have on the micro- and macro-levels, encouraging them to think globally while acting locally, Cady added. Students will learn about small businesses, growth ventures, corporate and social entrepreneurship, as well as Moroccan markets and other cross-cultural issues.

To learn more about this grant or MCC’s study abroad opportunities, contact Dona Cady, dean of global education, at cadydi@middlesex.mass.edu.
Members of MCC faculty exhibit in Lowell

By Nancye Tuttle
Sun Correspondent

Faculty members from Middlesex Community College’s Art & Design Department are showing works in a variety of media at Gallery Z, 167 Market St., Lowell.

Free and open to the public, the show, on view through Oct. 23, reflects the many media disciplines taught at MCC from drawing, printmaking and painting to sculpture, ceramics, stained glass and graphic design.

All featured faculty are actively practicing, exhibiting or published artists including Jan Arabas, Meredith Fife Day, Mary W. Hart, George Herman, Tamara Krendel, Yary Livan, Margaret Rack, Carolyn Stock, Margaret Swan and Kai Vlahos.

Gallery hours are 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

MCC faculty members, from left, Margaret Swan, Margaret Rock, Mary W. Hart, Yary Livan and Meredith Fife Day, at the recent opening of their group show at Gallery Z.

Wednesday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Friday-Saturday and noon-5 p.m., Sunday.

Nancye Tuttle’s email address is nancyedt@verizon.net.
ITT Tech closure leaves students in lurch, debt

By Laura Krantz
GLOBE STAFF

When one of the country's largest for-profit college chains closed last month, it caught more than 500 students in Massachusetts off guard and left many of them with piles of debt, no degree, and few options for how to proceed.

Among them was William McNeil, a 57-year-old laid-off Sears worker just a few courses shy of an associate's degree in applied computer science from ITT Technical Institute. His classmate, Dwayne Davis, 38, had just one semester left to earn a degree that would help him become an electronic technician.

Both men made hard choices — and sacrifices — to attend the school. Davis quit his steady job at the US Postal Service, and McNeil worked two jobs, delivering newspapers overnight and auto parts during the day, so that he could attend class in the
ITT Tech closure leaves students in lurch, debt

One of the largest for-profit college chains, Corinthian Colleges, went bankrupt in 2015 after running afoul of state and federal regulators.

Now that ITT has closed, McNeil has two options, neither of which he considers ideal. He can apply to have his approximately $25,000 in loans forgiven but lose the credits he earned, or he can try to transfer to a different school.

"Some of these students are caught between a rock and a hard place," said Betsy Mayette, director of consumer outreach and compliance at American Student Assistance, a nonprofit organization that educates students about paying for college.

Specialists say that every student should research a college and its loan offers before enrolling.

Schools have to be transparent," she said.

The average ITT student has about $10,000 in debt. The net price for an associate's degree program was around $23,300 after scholarships, according to the US Department of Education.

McNeil, who lives in Brockton, said he worked for Sears for 12 years. When he began to collect unemployment in 2014, ITT flooded him with advertisements, so he decided it would be smart to retain himself as a computer specialist.

Rather than lose the ITT credits he earned, McNeil chose to enroll at Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology in Boston, one of many schools that

They could have just been honest with the students.

If you care about the students, give them a chance.

DWAYNE DAVIS
Former ITT Tech student

have marketed to stranded students.

That school's president, Anthony Benoit, said that it is difficult to match ITT courses with those at Benjamin Franklin, but that the school is finding a way.

Massachusetts community colleges have also reached out to former ITT students, said Dave Koffman, a spokesman for the colleges. So far 47 students have shown interest and 16 have enrolled or been accepted at MassBay, Wellesley, and Middlesex in Bedford, he said.

Davis, the 38-year-old student, applied to have his approximately $10,000 in loans forgiven after attending a workshops held by state Attorney General Maura Healey's office.

Healey has targeted what she considers predatory for-profit colleges. She filed suit against ITT in April, alleging that it carried out unfair and harassing sales tactics and that it had misled students about the quality of its programs and students' success in finding jobs. Along with several other state attorneys general, Healey also filed suit against Corinthian College and helped those students apply for loan forgiveness.

The workshops conducted by the attorney general's office gave ITT students information about discharging loans, transferring credit, GI benefits, and income-driven loan repayment. Approximately 200 students attended, and so far 63 have filed to discharge their loans, an office spokeswoman said.

"This is the problem with this industry," Healey said in a phone interview Wednesday. "It sets students up to fail. And we're trying to pick up the pieces."
A World of Music, Middlesex Community College's fall concert series, continues with pianist Yelena Beriyva on Oct. 23.

BEDFORD -- A World of Music, Middlesex Community College's fall concert series, continues with a performance by pianist Yelena Beriyva, on Sunday, Oct. 23, at 3 p.m., in the Concert Hall (Building 6) at 591 Springs Road. The concert is free and open to the public. Beriyva will perform a recital of works by Modest Mussorgsky, Frédéric Chopin and Claude Debussy.

Additional concerts in the A World of Music concert series include, performances by the Caravan World Music Trio on Nov. 5 on the Lowell campus; Orlando Cela & Friends on Dec. 2 and an MCC Student Recital on Dec. 12, both on the Bedford campus.

For information, contact Carmer Rodriguez-Peralta, director of A World of Music, at 781-280-3923 or peraltac@middlesex.mass.edu
Registration is open for spring semester classes at Middlesex Community College. Spring classes begin Monday, June 29, on the Bedford and Lowell campuses and online.

By registering early, students can get the best selection of courses to fit their busy schedules and qualified students can save money by taking advantage of the state’s new Commonwealth Commitment/Mass Transfer Pathways program.

The program commits the state’s 15 community colleges, nine state universities and four UMass campuses to providing 10 percent rebates at the end of each successfully completed semester to qualifying undergraduate students. This is in addition to the standard MassTransfer Tuition Credit received upon entering a four-year institution from a community college.

Students who enroll in the Commonwealth Commitment can save an average of 40 percent of the cost of earning a bachelor’s degree.

Students and families can explore a wide range of degree programs, transfer options and college costs at all 28 public undergraduate campuses through the new MassTransfer Web portal. Visitators to the portal will be able to see what is required to transfer seamlessly between campuses, including course-by-course “degree maps” available for some majors. Visit the new Commonwealth Commitment Web portal by visiting www.mass.edu/masstransfer.

Middlesex offers more than 70 degree and certificate programs. The college has many transfer options and enrollment counselors are available to answer questions and get you started on the path to academic success. MCC offers five academic, career and financial aid counseling, as well as free tutoring and extensive support services.

In addition to traditional courses, MCC offers a variety of seven-week, hybrid and Flexibile Studies courses. It offers 10 Associate degree programs and five certificate programs that can be completed online and face-to-face.

A complete list of Spring 2017 courses offerings can be found in MCC’s online Spring Academic Advising Schedule at www.middlesex.mass.edu/registration/vmyregtopgs.

Paralegal Career Night

BEDFORD — Middlesex Community College Career Services and the Paralegal Studies program will host a Paralegal Career Night, Wednesday, Oct. 26, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., in the Bedford Campus Center’s Café East, 591 Springs Road.

Free and open to the public, the session will help participants explore career opportunities for paralegals in both public and private legal sectors. Participants will meet and network with a panel of Paralegal Studies alumni currently working in the legal environment. Participants can also meet with MCCCC Law Center staff, Paralegal Studies faculty, members of the Student Paralegal Club and admissions representatives.

For more information, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/paralegal, email paralegal@middlesex.mass.edu, or call 800-818-3434.

Bedford Campus open house

BEDFORD — Middlesex Community College will host an open house on the Bedford Campus on Saturday, Oct. 29, starting at 9:30 a.m.

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 more about the admissions process, and take a campus tour.

Advisors and administrators will be available to answer student questions and provide information on 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. Financial aid representatives will also be on hand.

For more information, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/OH, or call 800-818-3434.

Sweet courses offered

Middlesex Community College’s Corporate and Community Education & Training Program offers a variety of noncredit courses for those interested in enhancing and improving their culinary skills. Courses begin Wednesday, Oct. 26 and include:

• Trick or Treat Cake Decorating: $15 fee covers all supplies; enrollment limited.

Career Source recognized

The Massachusetts Department of Career Service has awarded Career Source in Cambridge, which is managed by Middlesex Community College, a Jobs for Veterans State Grant Incentive “Gold Award” in the amount of $10,500.

Gold Awards recognize the efforts of an entire One-Stop Career Center — not just a veteran's unit or veteran staff — the efforts of which demonstrate improvement and modernization of employment, training and placement services for veterans, reward and celebrate excellence in priority of service, develop a library of best practice techniques, and improve performance outcomes for veterans.

"Receiving the JVS Gold Award — the top award from the state — is a recognition that is truly an honor for Career Source staff," said Linda Rohrer, executive director of Career Source.

“This grant allows us to provide additional services and sponsor activities specifically for veterans beyond what is possible with core funding.”

Part of the state network of One Stop Career Centers, the Career Source in Cambridge is funded primarily by federal and state resources, and is staffed by the Metro North Regional Employment Board.

According to Rohrer, Gold Award funds will be used to support the following Career Source activities and services:

• A special November computer- software skills course targeted to the needs of veterans.

• Individual resume critique, LinkedIn profile critique, and career-counseling sessions for veterans.

• Purchase of laptop computers to increase and improve the availability of technology for veterans to complete online career assessments, job applications and job interviews.

• A November event to increase awareness of the benefits and resources available to veterans.

• MBTA cards for veterans needing help with transportation for job-search related activities.

For more information on Career Source in Cambridge, visit www.yourcareersource.com.
MCC high on list for veterans' services

The Middlesex Community College Veterans Resource Center helps veterans achieve their educational and career goals. Military service members who are beginning a college career or returning to complete an academic program can choose from a variety of academic programs offered during the day, evening, weekend and online.

MCC's Veterans Resource Center was established to serve as a place where veterans can receive information about educational programs, assistance with accessing college resources, and answers regarding eligibility for government, state and community-sponsored services.

Advocates are available to assist service members and their families in finding answers to help aid in the transition from military service to higher education through support and guidance during the application, admissions and academic process. The VRC also provides a support system where veterans meet other veterans as they become members of the Middlesex college community.

MCC is ranked sixth on a list of military-friendly community colleges nationwide. Also, MCC has been designated a Military Friendly School by Victory Media every year since 2011.

MCC's Veterans Resource Centers are located in the Bedford Campus Center, Room 206, or in the Lowell City Building, Room 117. For more information about MCC's Veterans Resource Center, contact Maryanne Mungovan, director of Multicultural and Veterans Affairs, at mungovanm@middlesex.mass.edu, or call 978-666-3267. For registration information, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu, or call 800-818-3434.
PROGRAM

Middlesex College to offer noncredit culinary courses

Middlesex Community College’s Corporate and Community Education and Training Program offers a variety of noncredit courses for those interested in enhancing and improving their culinary skills. Courses begin Oct. 26. Courses include:

- Trick or Treat Cake Decorating: Students will learn the basics of working with fondant, including dying, rolling out and laying it properly. They will also learn to create fondant accents. A $15 supply fee will cover all supplies for the class. Enrollment is limited to nine.
- Intro to Cake Decorating: Learn the art of cake decorating in this introductory course. Learn a variety of techniques from frosting a cake, to piping intricate borders and making frosting roses. Each student will take home a fully decorated cake. A supply fee of $20 will cover all supplies for the class. Enrollment is limited to nine.
- Coolest Holiday Cookies: Learn how to decorate cookies with a stained-glass look, goodie bags, and royal icing. A $20 supply fee will cover all supplies for the class. Enrollment is limited to nine.

To register: middlesex.mass.edu/careertraining.

OPPORTUNITY

Bedford Cultural Council accepting grant applications

The Bedford Cultural Council grant application period closes 11:59 p.m. Oct. 17. Grant money can be used to support a variety of artistic and cultural projects and activities in Bedford including festivals, workshops, lectures, exhibits, field trips and school performances. Grants are reimbursement-based, meaning the applicant expended their own money, and if approved for a grant, then submits paperwork for reimbursement.

There is an 18-month window of eligibility, July 1 through Dec. 31 of the following year, so applicants may apply for projects that have already taken place, with the understanding that funding is not guaranteed. BCC funding priorities, project guidelines and a link to the application form are available at mass-culture.org/Bedford.

INFORMATION

Middlesex College to host Bedford campus open house

Middlesex Community College will host a Bedford Campus Open House at 9:30 a.m. Oct. 29, in the Bedford Campus Center, 691 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.

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 more about the admissions process and take a campus tour.

"This open-house format gives students an opportunity to learn about everything Middlesex has to offer," said Marilyn Gallogan, dean of admissions. Advisers and administrators will be available 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.

Students can also learn about the statewide Commonwealth Commitment initiative, a MassTransfer program, which is designed to ease the transfer process and make getting a bachelor's degree more affordable.

Attendees can also 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: 800-818-3494; middlesex.mass.edu/OL.
EDUCATION

MCC offers communications certificate program this fall

New this fall, Middlesex Community College's Corporate and Community Education & Training Program will offer a noncredit Communications Certificate Program.

This fast-paced program can help students increase their professional skill set and better understand the internal and external communications needs of an organization. Courses begin Oct. 29, and include:
- "Public Relations Principles and Case Studies" - Define the practice of public relations and underscore its importance through case studies as a valuable and powerful communications tool for employers in the 21st century.
- "Measuring Your Image Through Market Research" - Examine how public opinion may positively or negatively impact a brand's image and how organizations may enhance their reputation through market research.
- "The Power and Influence of Effective Media Relationships" - Explore media communications in all forms, including print, broadcasting and social media, and learn the proper way to work with journalists.
- "Integrated Marketing and Social Media Communications" - Create a powerful marketing approach by integrating a variety of advertising, public relations and social media.

- "Employee and Community Relations" - Learn best practices of communicating internally with employees and stakeholders, as well as externally with the community.

- "Crisis Communications" - Students will be taught to effectively evaluate and respond to a high-profile crisis that negatively impacts the image and reputation of an organization.

For information or to register for these and other noncredit courses, call 800-818-3434; middlesex.mass.edu/careertraining.

CONCERT

Middlesex College to host pianist

Yelena Beriyva

A World of Music, Middlesex Community College's fall concert series, continues with a performance by pianist Yelena Beriyva, at 3 p.m. Oct. 23, in the Bedford Campus Concert Hall, Building 6, 201 Springs Road.

The concert is free and open to the public.

Beriyva will perform a recital of works by Modest Mussorgsky, Frederic Chopin and Claude Debussy.

Additional concerts in the A World of Music concert series include performances by the Caravan World Music Trio at 3 p.m. Nov. 5, in the Lowell Federal Building Assembly Room; Orlando Cela & Friends at 8 p.m. Dec. 2, in the Bedford Campus Concert Hall; and an MCC Student Recital at 12:30 p.m. Dec. 12, in the Bedford Campus Concert Hall.

For information: 781-280-3923; geraltae@middlesex.mass.edu. For directions: middlesex.mass.edu. To see video clips: youtube.com/user/MCCmusicOnline24g/a

Yelena Beriyva.

COURTESY PHOTO
Middlesex College to host Paralegal Career Night

Thursday
Posted Oct 13, 2016 at 12:08 PMUpdated Oct 13, 2016 at 12:08 PM

Middlesex Community College Career Services and the Paralegal Studies Program will host a Paralegal Career Night from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Oct. 26, in the Bedford Campus Center’s Café East, 591 Springs Road.

Free and open to the public, this information session will help participants explore career opportunities for paralegals in both public and private legal sectors. Participants will meet and network with a panel of paralegal studies alumni currently working in the legal environment. Participants can also meet with MCC Law Center staff, paralegal studies faculty, members of the Student Paralegal Club, as well as admissions representatives.

Panelists:

—Rachel Holmes, foreclosure paralegal at Korde & Associates (MCC ’14)

—Lauren Ennis, litigation paralegal at Zwickler & Associates (MCC ’15)

—Cathy Allard, Trusts & Estates paralegal at McLane Middleton, and president of Paralegal Association of New Hampshire

—Anikó Bouley, advanced certified corporate paralegal at McLane Middleton

—Jaclyn Baker, firm administrator at Rawson Merrigan & Litner

—Karen James, MCC’s coordinator of career planning & placement; Melissa Welch, internship coordinator; and representatives of the Paralegal Student Association will also be available.

Approved by the American Bar Association, MCC’s Paralegal Studies Programs offer two associate degree programs, a career track and a transfer track, as well as a one-year post-graduate certificate program, for those who have already earned an associate or bachelor’s degree.

For information: middlesex.mass.edu/paralegal/. For more information: 800-818-3434; sugarmanh@middlesex.mass.edu.
Middlesex College earns $1.7 million grant to support Asian-American students

Wednesday
Posted Oct 12, 2016 at 4:29 PM Updated Oct 12, 2016 at 4:29 PM

The U.S. Department of Education awarded Middlesex Community College a five-year $1,732,245 development grant from its Office of Postsecondary Education’s Asian American Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution program.

Under the grant, Asian-American students attending Middlesex will receive a range of support services and co-curricular activities designed to improve their college-going experience, as well as their completion and transfer outcomes.

“Middlesex is striving to build stronger and deeper connections with the large and diverse Asian-American population in our region,” said president James Mabry. “We have long worked with local Cambodian organizations and have extensive connections with educational and cultural institutions in Cambodia. This grant will allow us to strengthen those partnerships and help us improve success for Asian-American students at the college.”

More than 11 percent of MCC credit students are Asian-American, primarily Southeast Asian. Among that cohort, 70 percent apply for financial aid, and the majority are also from families in which they are the first to attend college.

“This grant is a perfect example of Middlesex directly reflecting and linking to the communities it serves,” said James Campbell, chairman of the MCC board of trustees. “We are proud of our diversity efforts at the college, and this grant will allow our outreach to the Southeast Asian community in particular to be amplified and focused to help more willing learners achieve their dream of obtaining a college degree.”

“Growing up as a refugee, I never thought I would have the opportunity to attend and complete college,” said MCC trustee Bopha Malone. “However, through the support of caring mentors, I was able to achieve the American dream. As a college trustee, and as a community activist, it’s an honor to be part of the planning process. But I am even more excited to continue to advocate and guide Asian-Americans to attain success.”

AANAPISI-grant project activities will involve establishing an Asian-American Connections Center and peer-support program, titled Asian-American Student Network, to increase a sense of connection and belonging to the college. The project will also include personalized support to better navigate college processes; interventions focused on continued support for writing skills to aid ELL students as they
transition to college; and the development of academic curriculum related to the cultural heritage of
Asian-American students.

"I'm thrilled Middlesex was awarded this grant," said Lowell State Rep. Rady Mom, an MCC alum and
supporter of the grant proposal. "As a leader in Lowell's education and workforce-development landscape,
this grant will allow MCC to expand and enhance its services to the Asian-American community in and
around Lowell. I'm greatly looking forward to seeing what success they can achieve in the future."
College pantry feeds hungry students - and staff

Wednesday
Posted Oct 12, 2016 at 5:41 PMUpdated Oct 13, 2016 at 6:56 AM

By Cynthia McCormick

WEST BARNSTABLE — A food pantry at Cape Cod Community College had more than 20 clients — including at least one faculty member — the first week it reopened this fall, said Kelly Brox, Project Forward teacher and pantry manager.

“We’ve been really busy,” said Brox, who is looking for volunteers from the community to help run the pantry located in the lower level of the college’s gymnasium.

The Family Pantry of Cape Cod in Harwich started providing nonperishable food items to the pantry three years ago, said Christine Menard, executive director of the Family Pantry of Cape Cod.

But last year the pantry didn’t get much foot traffic while the gym was being renovated, Menard said.

“We’re relaunching at the college campus,” Menard said. “I’m trying to get the word out the pantry is there. It’s open.”

The pantry is open to individuals affiliated with Cape Cod Community College, including students, staff and faculty and parents whose children attend the Children’s College day care program.

According to a 2014 report by an organization called Feeding America, more than 10 percent of adults clients participating in meal and food programs are attending school — 6.7 percent full time and 3.5 percent part time.

And published reports say hundreds of food pantries are opening at colleges across the U.S.

Many of them, including Middlesex Community College in Connecticut and Greenfield Community College in Massachusetts, advertise their availability to faculty and staff in need as well as students.

“You never know what someone is going through,” Brox said.

If a single person makes less than $22,000 a year, that person is eligible to receive a bag of groceries, Menard said. “We base everything off the federal poverty guidelines,” she said.

As colleges and community colleges increasingly come to rely on adjunct faculty as well as part-time staff members, more employees are fitting in low-income categories, said Claudine Barnes, chapter president of the Cape Cod Community College Association, a school union.
Adjunct faculty members make anywhere from $3,100 to $3,717 for a three-credit course, she said. "It's tough. It's not a lot of pay," Barnes said.

And while some adjunct faculty members are retired or have other full-time jobs, some college teachers rely on their part-time employment to survive, often piecing together jobs at different colleges without benefits, Barnes said.

Brox said eligible clients receive one bag of nonperishable food a week from the pantry, which is open from 2 to 4 p.m. Mondays, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2 to 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays and from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursdays.

"We have really good hours. We're open a lot for a small pantry," Brox said. "Anyone who shows up will get a bag of food."

Students in the college's Project Forward program rotate through jobs at the food pantry to learn skills including inventory control and data entry, Brox said.

For more information, call Brox at 508-362-2131, ext. 4763 or call the Family Pantry of Cape Cod in Harwich at 508-432-6519.
Grants galore for Middlesex Community College

Mass. Cultural Facilities Fund

Middlesex Community College has received a $113,000 grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund to support renovation and transformation of the former Boston & Maine Railroad Depot on Central Street into a performing-arts education center.

The Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund is a program that fosters growth of the creative economy by supporting building projects in the nonprofit arts, humanities and sciences. MCC's award is part of $8.0 million in new grants recently approved by the Massachusetts Development board of directors. Grants must be matched one-to-one from private or other public sources.

"Middlesex is honored to receive a Cultural Facilities Fund grant to support transformation of the historic B&M Depot into a performing-arts education center," MCC President James Mabry said. "It provides a vital injection of public-private-sector support for this exciting project, and plays a critical role in helping the college continue our focus on student success."

In 2008, Middlesex acquired the former Boston & Maine Railroad Depot from the Lowell Historic Preservation Commission. Built in 1878 in High Victorian Gothic style, the building, located at 240 Central St., is a significant landmark in the downtown Lowell Historic District. Upon completion, it will provide space for dance, music and theater rehearsals, and performances currently lacking on MCC's Bedford and Lowell campuses.

CFF grants have helped restore many treasured historical and cultural landmarks. MassDevelopment and the state Cultural Council jointly administer the program. CFF grants remain highly competitive. The fund received 146 applications in the most recent round.

For more information on CFF and its impact, visit www.massculturalfound.org/facilities/facilities_about.htm.

Affordable Care Act

As the state's population ages, there is a growing need for home health aides and certified nurse assistants to care for the elderly, the disabled and those with chronic illnesses confined to their homes. Middlesex Community College has joined a state-wide consortium to improve training and education of direct-care workers.

In conjunction with MassBay Community College, MCC will help create a Personal Home Care Aide State Training program, and build a Direct Care Worker Educational Pathway Model.

Supported by the Affordable Care Act, PHCAST federal grant, this initiative will expand career opportunities for direct-care workers across the state. It will create clear pathways and educational ladders, with transferrable courses, that can lead to higher-level jobs. The initiative will also establish standardized competency training throughout Massachusetts.

MCC offers a Nursing Assistant Certificate Program as part of its Academy of Health Professions, which features short-term training and college-credit programs. MCC also offers a 100-hour noncredit Nurse Assistant/Home Health Aide course through Community Education & Career Training.

Students who complete those programs may find career opportunities in long-term care facilities, hospitals and clinics, or in individual residential/patient homes. They are also eligible to take the Massachusetts state certification examination and work as a CNA.

Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment

BEDFORD — Middlesex Community College has received a $105,000 Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment Initiative grant from the state Executive Office of Education to support its Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment program.

Serving public-high school students with intellectual disabilities, MCC's IGE program is a dual-enrollment opportunity for 18- to 22-year-olds living in Bedford, Burlington, Lexington, Arlington and Belmont, via the LaBB Educational Collaborative.

Research shows that students with significant intellectual disabilities benefit academically, and transition to young adulthood more readily, when they have an opportunity to engage in all college-related activities rather than staying at high school.

MCC's IGE students receive specialized enrollment, registration and academic advising, community-based employment and career support, plus educational coaches and peer mentors. IGE students have full access to Middlesex clubs, student activities, and academic and support services.

Part of the three-year, $1.1 million in funding announced recently by the Baker-Polito Administration, MAICEI is aimed at developing IGE programs for students with intellectual disabilities at 12 Massachusetts public-higher education campuses.

Funded by the Commonwealth since 2008, IGE has grown to 14 public two- and four-year institutions supporting more than 1,200 students. During the 2015-2016 academic year, 269 students were enrolled in the program.

For more information, visit www.mass.gov/idea/curriculum-12/higher-education/initiatives-and-special-programs/inclusive-concurrent-enrollment, or www.middlesex.mass.edu/ disabilitysupport/IGEprogram/default.aspx, email wood@middlesex.mass.edu or groard@middlesex.mass.edu, or call 781-286-3641 or 781-286-3769.

U.S. Department of Education

Middlesex Community College has received a $2,205,024 grant from the U.S. Department of Education to expand its work on student success.

The grant will be distributed over a five-year period, as part of the Title III Strengthening Institutions Program that helps eligible institutions expand their capacity to serve low-income students by providing money to improve and strengthen academic quality, institutional management and fiscal stability.

The grant will be used to implement the "eMCC: Success From the Start" program to improve the student experience and better assess academic performance. MCC will provide a number of services to help students retain enrollment, or www.middlesex.mass.edu/disabilitysupport/IGEprogram/default.aspx, email wood@middlesex.mass.edu or groard@middlesex.mass.edu, or call 781-286-3641 or 781-286-3769.

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Middlesex Community College To Host Bedford Campus Open House

Middlesex Community College will host a Bedford Campus Open House at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 29, 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.

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 more about the admissions process, and take a campus tour.

“This open-house format gives students an opportunity to learn about everything Middlesex has to offer,” said Marilyn Galligan, Dean of Admissions.

Advisors and administrators will be available 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.

Students can also learn about the statewide Commonwealth Commitment initiative, a MassTransfer program, which is designed to ease the transfer process, and make getting a bachelor’s degree more affordable.

Attendees can also 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 more information, or to RSVP for MCC’s Bedford Campus Open House, visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/oh1 or call 1-800-818-3434.

Middlesex Community College is your pathway to success. As one of the largest, most comprehensive community colleges in the state, we educate, engage and empower a diverse community of learners. MCC offers more than 70 degree and certificate programs, plus hundreds of noncredit courses, on our campuses in Bedford and Lowell, as well as online. Middlesex Community College: Student success starts here!
Register Early & Save With MCC And The Commonwealth Commitment

Registration opens Tuesday, Oct. 11, for Spring Semester courses at Middlesex Community College. Spring classes begin Monday, Jan. 23, 2017, on the Bedford and Lowell campuses, and online.

By registering early, students can get the best selection of courses to fit their busy schedules. And qualified students can save money by taking advantage of the state’s new Commonwealth Commitment/MassTransfer Pathways program.

The Commonwealth Commitment/MassTransfer Pathways commits the state’s 15 community colleges, nine state universities, and four UMass campuses to providing 10 percent rebates at the end of each successfully completed semester to qualifying undergraduate students. This is in addition to the standard MassTransfer Tuition Credit received upon entering a four-year institution from a community college.

Students who enroll in the Commonwealth Commitment can save an average of 40 percent of the cost of earning a bachelor’s degree.

Students and families can explore a wide range of degree programs, transfer options, and college costs at all 28 public undergraduate campuses through the new MassTransfer web portal. Visitors to the portal will be able to see what is required to transfer seamlessly between campuses, including course-by-course “degree maps” available for some majors. Visit the new Commonwealth Commitment web portal by visiting: www.mass.edu/masstransfer

Middlesex offers more than 70 degree and certificate programs. The college has many transfer options, and enrollment counselors are available to answer questions and get you started on the path to academic success. MCC offers free academic, career and financial-aid counseling, as well as free tutoring and extensive support services.

In addition to traditional courses, MCC makes it easy to enroll in online, hybrid and Flexible Studies courses. We offer 10 associate degree programs and 5 certificate programs that can be completed entirely online, as well as 12 degree programs that can be completed through hybrid course offerings, which combine online and face-to-face instruction.

A complete listing of Spring 2017 course offerings can be found in MCC’s online Spring Academic Advising Schedule: https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/registration/earlyreg.aspx

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Middlesex College to offer noncredit culinary courses

Thursday
Posted Oct 6, 2016 at 5:55 PMUpdated Oct 6, 2016 at 5:55 PM

Middlesex Community College's Corporate and Community Education and Training Program offers a variety of noncredit courses for those interested in enhancing and improving their culinary skills. Courses begin Oct. 26.

Courses include:

—Trick or Treat Cake Decorating: Students will learn the basics of working with fondant, including dying, rolling out and laying it properly. They will also learn to create fondant accents. A $15 supply fee will cover all supplies for the class. Enrollment is limited to nine.

—Intro to Cake Decorating: Learn the art of cake decorating in this introductory course. Learn a variety of techniques from frosting a cake, to piping intricate boarders and making frosting roses. Each student will take home a fully decorated cake. A supply fee of $20 will cover all supplies for the class.

—Coolest Holiday Cookies: Learn how to decorate cookies with a stained-glass look, goodies and royal icing. A $20 supply fee will cover all supplies for the class. Enrollment is limited to nine.

To register: middlesex.mass.edu/careertraining.
MCC students can save 40% on Bachelor's degree

Middlesex Community College students taking advantage of the state's new Commonwealth Commitment/MassTransfer Pathways program can save an average of 40 percent on the cost of earning a Bachelor's degree.

An innovative college affordability and completion plan designed to help more students achieve the dream of a college degree, the Commonwealth Commitment was unveiled by Gov. Charlie Baker last spring on MCC's Lowell campus.

"The Commonwealth Commitment unites the Massachusetts public higher-education sector in an energized drive to promote access and success for our diverse communities," Middlesex President James Mabry said.

The Commonwealth Commitment/MassTransfer Pathways program is an agreement between the state's 15 community colleges, nine state universities and four UMass campuses.

Participating MCC students must enroll in the Commonwealth Commitment before they earn 15 course credits; attend full-time; and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0. After earning an associate degree in 2.5 years or less, students can transfer to a state university or UMass campus to earn a baccalaureate degree.

The Commonwealth Commitment commits every public-college campus to providing 10 percent rebates at the end of each successfully completed semester to qualifying undergraduate students. That is in addition to the standard MassTransfer Tuition Credit received upon entering a four-year institution from a community college.

There also will be a freeze on all tuition and mandatory fees upon program entry, which is valid until students successfully complete or leave the Commonwealth Commitment program.

Students will begin their studies at one of the state's 15 community colleges, enrolling in one of 24 Commonwealth Commitment/MassTransfer Pathways major programs of study that roll out over the next two years.

Visit www.mass.edu/masstransfer. For more information about Middlesex and the Commonwealth Commitment, call 800-818-3434, or visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/macomm.
MCC artists to be displayed in Lowell

LOWELL — Art faculty members at Middlesex Community College will be featured in a group show at Gallery Z through Oct. 23, including this piece, titled, "Low Tide," by Margaret Swan.

Transition program

Learn more about Middlesex Community College's nationally recognized Transition Program, a two-year, non-credit certificate program for students with learning/cognitive disabilities. An information session for the Transition Program is planned for Thursday, from 9 to 11 a.m., in MCC's Bedford Campus Center Café East, 591 Springs Road.

Three days a week, Transition Program students attend classes designed to teach independent-living skills, computer and job-survival skills, and social skills. Small class size ensures that students receive individualized attention and a program tailored to meet their needs.

For more information or to register for an information session, call 781-280-3638, or visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/transitionprogram.

MILES Institute

BEDFORD — Middlesex Community College will host the fall opening session of the Middlesex Institute for Lifelong Education for Seniors, or MILES, on Thursday at 2 p.m., in the Bedford Campus Center Café East, 591 Springs Road. The opening session will feature a discussion about campus safety and active-shooter awareness by MCC's campus-safety team. The event is free and open to the public.

The MILES program offers stimulating, interactive daytime seminars and workshops — with no term papers, tests or grades — for active, older adults. The fall session runs from Oct. 17 through Nov. 22 on the Bedford campus. The two-hour study groups meet from 2 to 4 p.m., in one-, two- or five-week sessions, and are facilitated by individuals with expertise in their field, including MCC faculty and staff. The workshops and seminars focus on a variety of topics, including movies, nature, art, literature, technology, health and environmental issues, religion and history.

Each MILES course costs $15. All participants enjoy free use of the MCC Fitness Center and library. For the complete schedule of MILES courses, call 781-280-3570, or visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/MILES. To register for MILES courses, call 800-818-3434.

World of Music

BEDFORD — A World of Music, Middlesex Community College's 2016 fall concert series, begins with a performance by cellist Igor Zubkovsky on Friday, Oct. 14, at 8 p.m., in MCC's Concert Hall (Building 6) on the Bedford campus, 591 Springs Road. The concert is free and open to the public. Call at 781-280-3923, or email peraltae@middlesex.mass.edu.
Middlesex Faculty Art Show Opens

Middlesex Community College art faculty will be featured in a group show at Gallery Z in Lowell, on view Sept. 30 through Oct. 23.

Free and open to the public, the show will reflect the many media disciplines taught by in MCC’s Art and Design Department. Works include drawing, printmaking, painting, sculpture, ceramics, stained glass and graphic design.

Faculty artists include Jan Arabas, Meredith Fife Day, Mary W. Hart, George Herman, Tamara Krendel, Yary Livani, Margaret Rack, Carolyn Stock, Margaret Swan and Kat Vlahos. All faculty members are actively practicing, exhibiting and/or published artists.

The opening reception will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, Sept. 30, at Gallery Z, 167 Market St. in Lowell. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

For more information about the Faculty Art Show at Gallery Z, contact Margaret Swan, at swanm@middlesex.mass.edu

Middlesex Community College is your pathway to success. As one of the largest, most comprehensive community col-
Transition Program
For Students With Learning Disabilities

Learn more about Middlesex Community College’s nationally recognized Transition Program, a two-year, noncredit certificate program for students with learning/cognitive disabilities. A public Information Session for the Transition Program will be held from 9 to 11 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 6, in MCC’s Bedford Campus Center Café East, 591 Springs Road.

"MCC’s Transition Program is designed for students with significant learning disabilities who would find traditional college-level academics too challenging, even with extensive support services," said Susan Woods, MCC’s Associate Dean of Student Support Services.

Three days a week, Transition Program students attend classes designed to teach independent-living skills, computer and job-skill survival skills, and social skills. Small class size ensures that students receive individualized attention and a program tailored to meet their needs.

When students are not in class, they work as interns in competitive employment situations in office and business support environments. Transition students may participate in all Middlesex student activities and student support services.

Graduates of MCC’s Transition Program receive a Certificate of Completion in Office and Business Support Skills and typically obtain employment in office support, business support, or retail support.

Transition Program candidates should have a high school diploma of GED credential, interest in training for entry-level work in business and industry, fifth- to eighth-grade level reading and math skills, and the maturity and emotional stability to effectively participate in a program on a college campus.

Information session participants will receive an overview of the program, as well as in-depth information on the curriculum, application procedures, details of the required internship portion of the program, and prospective job opportunities.

For more information about MCC’s Transition Program, or to register for an information session, call 781-280-3638 or visit https://www.middlesex.mass.edu/transitionprogram/.

Middlesex Community College meets the evolving educational, civic and workforce needs of our local and global communities. As one of the larg-

MCC Explores Active Shooter Awareness At MILES Opening Session

Middlesex Community College will host the fall Opening Session of the Middlesex Institute for Lifelong Education for Seniors (MILES) at 2 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 6, in the Bedford Campus Center Café East, 591 Springs Road. The opening session will feature a discussion about campus safety and active-shooter awareness by MCC’s Campus Safety Team. The event is free and open to the public.

The term “active shooter” gets tossed around far too frequently these days. But what exactly is an “active shooter” and what actions should you take if you are ever in that type of situation? Join the MCC Campus’ Safety Team to learn the best practices and enhanced lock-down procedures during an active-shooter event. This is information you can use anywhere to protect yourself, as well as your family and friends.

MCC’s MILES program offers stimulating, interactive daytime seminars and workshops – with no term papers, tests or grades – for active, older adults. This informational and entertaining Opening Session provides community members an opportunity to learn more about MILES and the courses being offered, and is a good opportunity to meet instructors and peers. Light refreshments will be served.

The fall session of MILES runs from Oct. 17 through Nov. 22 on the Bedford campus. The two-hour study groups meet from 2 to 4 p.m. in one-, two- or five-week sessions, and are facilitated by individuals with expertise in their field, including some MCC faculty and staff. The workshops and seminars focus on a variety of topics, including movies, nature, art, literature, technology, health and environmental issues, religion and history.

Each MILES course is $15. All MILES participants enjoy free use of the MCC Fitness Center and library. For the complete schedule of MILES courses, contact Caitlin Campopiano at 781-280-3570 or visit www.middlesex.mass.edu/MILES.

To register for MILES courses, call 1-800-818-3434.

Middlesex Community College is your pathway to success. 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.
EDUCATION

Commonwealth Commitment to cut college costs

Starting this fall, Middlesex Community College students taking advantage of the state’s new Commonwealth Commitment/MassTransfer Pathways program can save an average of 40 percent from the cost of earning a bachelor’s degree.

A college affordability and completion plan designed to help more students achieve the dream of a college degree, the Commonwealth Commitment was unveiled by Gov. Charlie Baker this spring on MCC’s Lowell campus.

“The Commonwealth Commitment unites the Massachusetts public-higher education sector in an energized drive to promote access and success for our diverse communities,” said Middlesex President James Mabry.

The Commonwealth Commitment/MassTransfer Pathways program is an agreement between the state’s 15 community colleges, nine state universities and four UMass campuses.

Participating MCC students must enroll in the Commonwealth Commitment before they earn 15 course credits, attend full time and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0. After earning an associate degree in 2 1/2 years or less, students can transfer to a state university or UMass campus to earn a baccalaureate degree.

The Commonwealth Commitment commits every public-college campus to providing 10 percent rebates at the end of each successfully completed semester to qualifying undergraduate students. This is in addition to the standard MassTransfer Tuition Credit received upon entering a four-year institution from a community college.

A freeze on all tuition and mandatory fees will be upon program entry, which is valid until students successfully complete or leave the Commonwealth Commitment program. Students will begin their studies at one of the state’s 15 community colleges, enrolling in one of 24 Commonwealth Commitment/MassTransfer Pathways major programs of study that roll out over the next two years.

For detailed information about Commonwealth Commitment/MassTransfer Pathways, visit mass.edu/mastransfer. For information: 800-818-3434; middlesex.mass.edu/macom.com.

EVENT

Middlesex College to begin World of Music concert series

A World of Music, Middlesex Community Colleges 2016 fall concert series, will begin with a performance by cellist Igor Zakhovskiy, set for 8 p.m. Oct. 24 in MCCs Concert Hall Building 6, on the Bedford campus, 291 Sturges Road.

The concert is free and open to the public.

Zakhovskiy started playing cello at the age of 5 and first appeared as a soloist with the Minsk State Philharmonic Orchestra at age 12. He is currently a member of the Kennedy Center Opera House Orchestra and performs extensively as a soloist and chamber musician.

In his performance at Middlesex, Zakhovskiy will be joined by his mother, pianist Susanna Kolker, for a duo recital of works by Johannes Brahms, Robert Schumann, Mikhail Glinka and Karl Davydov.

Additional concerts in the A World of Music concert series include a performance by pianist Yelena Benyon to be held at 8 p.m. Oct. 23 in the Bedford Campus Concert Hall; the Caruso World Music Troupe at 3 p.m. Nov. 5 in the Lowell Federal Building Assembly Room; Orlando Cea & Friends at 8 p.m. Dec. 2 in the Bedford Campus Concert Hall; and an MCC Student Recital at 12:30 p.m. Dec. 12 in the Bedford Campus Concert Hall.

For information: 781-280-2953; perlauf@middlesex.mass.edu. For directions: middlesex.mass.edu. To see video clips of previous MCC concerts, visit youtube.com/user/MCCmusicOnline.
SAFETY

Middlesex College’s MILES program to explore active shooter awareness

Middlesex Community College will host the fall opening session of the Middlesex Institute for Lifelong Education for Seniors at 2 p.m. Oct. 6 in the Bedford Campus Center Café East, 591 Spring Road.

The opening session will feature a discussion about campus safety and active-shooter awareness by MCC’s campus safety team. They will teach best practices and enhanced lock-down procedures during an active-shooter event.

MCC’s MILES program offers interactive daytime seminars and workshops — with no term papers, tests or grades — for active, older adults. The event is free, and light refreshments will be served.

The fall session of MILES runs from Oct. 17 through Nov. 22 on the Bedford campus. The two-hour study groups meet from 2 to 4 p.m. in one-, two- or five-week sessions and are facilitated by individuals with expertise in their field, including some MCC faculty and staff. The workshops and seminars focus on a variety of topics, including movies, nature, art, literature, technology, health, environmental issues, religion and history.

Each MILES course costs $15. All participants may use the MCC fitness center and library. For the complete schedule: 731-280-3270; middlesex.mass.edu/MILES. To register: 800-818-3434.

EDUCATION

Middlesex College receives $2.2M grant

Middlesex Community College was awarded a U.S. Department of Education grant for $2,205,024 to expand its work on student success.

To be distributed over a five-year period, the grant is part of the Title III Strengthening Institutions Program. This program helps eligible institutions expand their capacity to serve low-income students by providing funds to improve and strengthen academic quality, institutional management and fiscal stability.

Grant funds will be used to implement the “eMCC: Success From the Start” program to improve the student experience and better assess academic performance. Funds will be used to improve the technology infrastructure used by both students and the institution.

“Middlesex plans to use this grant support to employ smart data and focus on student retention and success programs that will help keep our students on campus through the successful completion of a degree and position them for an educated entry into the workforce,” said President James C. Mabry.

The program will be implemented in two parts. First, the Student Experience portion of the grant will include the development of a comprehensive self-service program for students that will help them with enrollment, planning, advising and success.

Second, the Academic Progress portion of the plan will help shape student success by providing faculty and staff with an analytical 360-degree digital view of student progress. This data will allow faculty and staff to better assess academic progress and provide timely interventions or guidance to promote student success.

“This is thrilling news for Middlesex Community College and will have a direct and immediate impact on students who are seeking to further their education at our campuses in Lowell and Bedford,” said Mabry. “Once again, the support of our federal partners (Rep.) Thongs and Moulton is helping further the mission of higher education and provide pathways to success for our students.”
RECREATION

Local woodcarvers showcased at Middlesex Community College

Bedford campus hosts local artists

By Ariana Seymour
bedford@wickedlocal.com

Woodcarving is one of the world’s oldest art forms, dating back to ancient Egypt. The New England Wood Carvers Association (NEWC) is extending that tradition of artistry, marking its 51st anniversary this year.

The organization started in 1965 and has successfully developed through a continued effort towards educating others on the art of woodcarving.

The Spirit of Wood (SOW) competition brings recognition to all kinds of wood artists. It will be held on the Bedford Campus of Middlesex Community College on Sunday, Oct. 16.

Kenneth Wagner of Tewksbury, treasurer and SOW Competition chairman, said that last year of about 400 members, there were 200 attendees with about 65 entries and more than 120 carvings. There were 68 categories and five levels of expertise, including: youth, novice, intermediate, open, and master carver.

Wagner explained that NEWC draws its members from 31 other woodcarving clubs across New England.

“Most clubs have both men and women in them and I haven’t met a carver that isn’t willing to stop what they are doing and help someone out. Whether it be to help them hold the tool differently to achieve the task or to help them sharpen a tool or paint them,” said Wagner.

This is SOW’s 16th year as an event and the day offers a plethora of woodcarving activates and demonstrations.

“The SOW offers a chance for carvers to see what other clubs are doing and it’s a great opportunity to meet other carvers and share ideas,” said Wagner.

NEWC former treasurer and current webmaster, Joe Marshal, has been a member of the group for the last 30 years.

Marshal explained that this occasion is the largest woodcarving show in New England. The event offers woodcarving seminars that consist of tool sharpening, carving 101, how to photo your carvings, scroll carving, and pyrography, the art or technique of decorating wood, or leather by burning a design on the surface with a heated piece of metal.

NEWC merchandise is also available for sale, tool and wood vendors are available, and members and vendors donate tools, books, and carvings for a bucket raffle.

“This year, for the first time, gift certificates will be given to top winners,” Marshal said. “Certificates will be for tools, wood, books, and other carving needs.”

Marshal said one of the most popular events at SOW is Tom Ricardi’s bird exhibit. He’s from the Massachusetts Birds of Prey Rehab Facility and he discusses environmental issues as related to the birds of prey.

Community service

In addition, various woodcarving clubs across New England are given tables for public demonstrations and discuss how they engaged with their communities. A prize is given to the club that provided the best community engagement.

Alberta Genetti of Bedford said she has been with the group since 1982. When she was a member of a woodcarving club in Vermont, her club gave back to the community by creating the Big Cane Program where members carved canes for Purple Heart veterans.

“I made one cane for my grandson,” Genetti said. “We always put an eagle on top of the cane and carved in the history of their dedication like where they have been.”

NEWC’s Tree of Hope is also a major contribution to the community, in which members throughout New England carve Christmas ornaments for sale.

“One hundred percent of the funds goes to the Bedford VA Hospital,” said Marshal. “When the project started in 1993, the ornaments were donated to the Boston Children’s Hospital. Twenty-three years later, NEWC has donated over $80,000 to the two causes.

NEWC continues its efforts to give back to the community and works to recruit a new generation of woodcarvers.

“I really like the people I carve with. It’s such a great community to be a part of because everyone is so encouraging and helpful,” said Genetti.

NEWC holds five general membership meetings at Middlesex Community College throughout the year and more information can be found on the website at newc.org.

SEE WOOD, A9
Grant to aid Asian American students

By Grant Walker
gwalker@lowellsun.com

BEDFORD — Middlesex Community College has received a $1.7 million grant to help Asian-American students with support services and activities, a boon for students from the area’s Cambodian community.

More than 11 percent of the college’s students are Asian-American, and primarily from Southeast Asia. Most of those students apply for financial aid, and a majority are the first in their families to attend college, the college said.

Southeast Asians, particularly from Cambodia, also make up a major portion of Lowell’s population.

Middlesex announced the five-year U.S. Department of Education grant on Thursday.

"Middlesex is striving to build stronger and deeper connections with the large and diverse Asian-American population in our region," college President James Mabry said in a statement.

“We have long worked with local Cambodian organizations, and have extensive connections with educational and cultural institutions in Cambodia. This grant will allow us to strengthen those partnerships and help us improve success for Asian-American students at the college," he said.

The college already has a program called the Asian-American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution, which will be expanded, thanks to the grant funding.

The program will create a new Asian-American Connections Center and a peer-support program called the Asian-American Student Network.

Middlesex will also add new support for students learning English as a second language and will add curriculum on the cultural heritage of Asian-American students."
NEW ADDITIONS

Gov. Charlie Baker appoints Middlesex College trustees

Gov. Charlie Baker appointed two new members to the Middlesex Community College board of trustees. MCC alumnus Alec A. Belanger, of Billerica, will replace alum member Timothy Glaser. Cheryl Howard, vice president of Communications, Diversity and Inclusion at Simmons College, was appointed in April, replacing retiring trustee Elia Mannik.

"Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito and I congratulate these new trustees on their appointment and thank them for their service to our colleges and universities," said Baker. "Board oversight is critically important, especially at our public institutions, and we are confident these appointees will bring extensive leadership, professional and academic experiences to the benefit of the schools and their students."

"Alec Belanger will make a fine addition to our board," said MCC President James Mabry. "He was a distinguished member of our Dean's List when he was an engineering student here, and he is always proud to let people know how Middlesex helped set him on a path to success. I look forward to working with Alec, and at the same time, want to thank Tim Glaser, who has been an incredible representative for our alumni during his terms of service on the board."

"I'm excited and honored to be selected by the Commonwealth as a trustee of Middlesex Community College," said Belanger, a member of the Class of 2003. "As an alum of Middlesex and UMass Lowell, and a resident of Billerica, my goal is to help expand educational opportunities in new and emerging industries in Massachusetts. As the director of operations for TriTech Communications, Boston Office, I credit much of my success to the education that I received at MCC and its partnerships with UMass Lowell, as well as other organizations in the Greater Merrimack Valley."

"Cheryl Howard has been a terrific addition to the Middlesex board of trustees," said Mabry. "She has already expressed a strong interest in helping to ensure success for our students at Middlesex, and I know she will become even more engrossed as this new semester progresses. I am confident she will continue the focus on our students that Elia Mannik was so passionate about. Elia was a tremendous supporter of student success and, in everything she did with our board, always put our students first."

For more than two decades, Howard served in a number of national and international marketing, brand and customer relations positions at The Gillette Co. and at Digital Equipment Corporation. In her last assignment at Gillette, she was vice president for personal care, a $450 million division of the company. She also has taught marketing, consumer behavior and advertising courses at the graduate and undergraduate level at colleges in the Boston area. Howard holds a Bachelor of Arts from Simmons College, as well as a Doctor of Business Administration and Master of Business Administration from Harvard University.
Middlesex Community College lands big grant

By Grant Welker, gwelker@lowellsun.com

UPDATED: 09/28/2016 12:04:27 PM EDT

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Read more: http://www.lowellsun.com/breakingnews/ci_30416620/middlesex-cc-lands-big-grant#ixzz4NLYETFZI
Nashoba hosts college fair

Nashoba Regional High School will host a State College Fair 6-8 p.m. Oct. 19 at the school’s upper gym, 12 Green Road, Bolton. This fair is designed to highlight the outstanding and unique majors and programs offered at each of the state’s public colleges and universities, including Bridgewater State University, Fitchburg State University, Framingham State University, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, Massachusetts Maritime Academy, Salem State University, Westfield State University, Worcester State University, UMass Amherst, UMass Boston, UMass Dartmouth, UMass Lowell, Mass Bay Community College, Middlesex Community College, Mount Wachusett Community College and Quinsigamond Community College. There will also be a financial aid seminar for seniors 6-7 p.m. and a college planning seminar for juniors 7:15-8:15 p.m.; both events will take place in the auditorium.
Penfield College to Host AAC&U STIRS Initiative Workshops on Vertically Integrated Curricular Pathways

September 26, 2016

ATLANTA – Penfield College of Mercer University will host a series of workshops Sept. 29-30 by Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) Scientific Thinking and Integrative Reasoning Skills (STIRS) Fellows on creating vertically integrated curricular pathways to promote student signature work.

The first session, Sept. 29, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., will help Penfield College faculty create assignments that encourage use of evidence-based reasoning to promote integrative learning.

The second session, Sept. 29, 1-4 p.m., and Sept. 30, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., will help program coordinators and department chairs intentionally scaffold curriculum to enhance students’ capacities to produce signature work in capstone courses.

The final session, Sept. 30, 1-4 p.m., will help program coordinators and department chairs, in addition to faculty and administrators from Metro Atlanta community colleges and Technical College System of Georgia institutions, explore the possibilities of articulating scaffolded curricular pathways that bridge Penfield College’s program outcomes with those of the two-year transfer institutions.

All three sessions will take place in the Trustees Dining Room on the Cecil B. Day Graduate and Professional Campus in Atlanta.

Penfield College was one of only four AAC&U STIRS institutions selected in May to participate in a two-year planning effort aimed at improving the capacity of students to use evidence to solve problems and make decisions.

Penfield’s project proposal, titled “Redesigning Pathways to Signature Work for Nontraditional Students,” aims to create a pathway in the College’s general education curriculum to lead nontraditional students toward the development of signature work in their program capstone courses prior to graduation.

Dr. Wesley Barker, assistant professor of religious studies, serves as the Mercer’s AAC&U STIRS Fellow and project director. Dr. Fred Bongiovanni, chair of the Department of Liberal Studies, and Dr. Colleen Stapleton assistant dean and chair of the Department of Mathematics, Science and Informatics, are also contributors to the project.

The remaining four STIRS Fellows – Dr. Seth Anthony, assistant professor of chemistry at Oregon Institute of Technology; Dr. Tami Carmichael, professor of humanities and integrated studies at the University of North Dakota; Dr. Catherine Pride, associate professor of psychology at Middlesex Community College; and Dr. Ryan Zerr, director of essential studies and professor of mathematics at the University of North Dakota – will lead the three workshops at Mercer.

“Working with AAC&U and the STIRS fellows over the past year has been a true honor, and I am excited that the STIRS fellows are coming to Mercer to share their expertise on implementing integrated reasoning across the curriculum,” said Dr. Barker. “These workshops will be an opportunity for Penfield faculty to reflect on our curriculum and discover ways to ensure that our students are engaging in the type of critical inquiry and investigation that will lead them to produce signature work.”

AAC&U is the leading national association concerned with the quality, vitality and public standing of undergraduate liberal education. Its members are committed to extending the advantages of a liberal education to all students, regardless of academic specialization or intended career. Founded in 1915,
AAC&U now comprises more than 1,300 member institutions – including accredited public and private colleges, community colleges, research universities and comprehensive universities of every type and size. For more information, visit www.aacu.org.

About Penfield College of Mercer University

Penfield College of Mercer University, established as the College of Continuing and Professional Studies in 2003, is committed to serving non-traditional learners and currently enrolls more than 1,300 students. Undergraduate, graduate and certificate programs are offered to working adult learners seeking professional advancement into leadership roles in and beyond their communities. Educational programs provide students with distinctive, multidisciplinary programs that integrate theory and practice. The College offers general education and elective courses for various colleges and schools at Mercer. Another initiative called the Bridge program transitions students enrolled in Mercer’s English Language Institute and other international students to undergraduate programs throughout the University. Areas of study include organizational leadership, counseling, human services, human resources, informatics, criminal justice leadership, nursing preparation, liberal studies, psychology, communication, homeland security and emergency management, and healthcare leadership. Programs are offered on Mercer’s campuses in Atlanta and Macon, as well as multiple regional academic centers in Douglas County, Henry County and Newnan, and online. To learn more, visit penfield.mercer.edu.

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Big cheer for Pepperell girl

Autistic teen finds confidence with squad at Littleton High

By Anne O'Connell
aoconnor@nashobavalleyvoice.com

LITTLETON — Cheerleading practice always starts with a mile run. Well, almost always.

Senior Erin Sullivan, winner of last year's Most Spirited Award, was a bit late, delayed because she took time to speak with a newspaper reporter.

That was OK with the coach, who canceled the run that day because too many girls

Please see CHEER/6

Erinn Sullivan, a cheerleader at Littleton High, shows a bracelet she received for her 18th birthday. It was made in Haiti from beads made from cereal boxes. Her mother's parents are Haitian immigrants.

After she earns a certificate of completion from Littleton, her next step is college, most likely Middlesex Community College, where she can take courses to prepare to pass the high-school equivalency exam.
Autistic teen earns cheers with Littleton squad

Cheer/From Page 1

were sick or injured.

A chorus of “Hi, Erinn!” greeted her as she joined her teammates on the mats. The cheerleaders warmed up, stretching their bodies into positions only achieved by the supplest of athletes.

The young woman from Pepperell is in her fourth and last year at the Concord Area Special Education Collaborative, or CASE, at Littleton High School. The program allows Erinn, who has autism, a chance to do age-appropriate activities like cheering and to get real-life experience in her areas of interest.

“My favorite is child development,” Erinn said. “I just like working with kids.”

Twice a week, she goes to a preschool and reads to the youngsters. She took classes in early-childhood development.

CASE also helps her in other ways by working on her feelings, communication and life skills, she said.

“It’s all paying off. Erinn will attend away games as a cheerleader for the first time this year. She sings and taught herself to play five instruments, a sure-fire hit at the talent show.

She recently applied for a job at The Little Gym in Pepperell.

“I nailed my job interview,” she said.

She is also a peer role model at the middle school.

After she earns a certificate of completion from Littleton, her next step is college, most likely Middlesex Community College, where she can take courses to prepare to pass the high-school equivalency exam, her mother, Liz Sullivan, said.

Erinn was part of the first group of CASE students at Littleton High School.

“It’s been great,” Liz Sullivan said, adding that Erinn has developed confidence and has a safety net.

Erinn did well at the program offered by the North Middlesex Regional School District, her home district, until she hit middle school at Nissitissit. Then it was time for a change.

“The work at Nissitissit is not that hard,” Erinn said. “It’s easy as a piece of cake.”

Best Buddies, linking mainstream high-school students with CASE students, is an important part of Erinn’s success. At freshman orientation, her new best buddy showed up and led her through the mysteries of a new school.

The group meets weekly after school and socializes outside of school. Some of Erinn’s best buddies went to her 18th birthday party over the summer.

Liz Sullivan wants to bring Best Buddies to Nissitissit. The Girl Scout troop leader is encouraging her girls to consider it as a Silver Award project.

The middle school serves students from Ashby, Pepperell and Townsend.

“The girls were very pumped,” she said.

Erinn’s brother and sister are in the North Middlesex district. Brendan will be in the first class to graduate from the new high school. Nina will be in the first class to attend all four years in the new building.

The Sullivans have a rich cultural heritage. Erinn received a bracelet made of beads formed from cereal boxes from Haiti for her birthday.

Her maternal grandparents emigrated from Haiti and met in the United States.

Liz Sullivan and her mother, Erinn’s grandmother, communicate in a mix of languages. The 84-year-old grandmother speaks French and Creole. Her daughter answers in English. Liz Sullivan grew up in an Italian neighborhood.

Erinn has lots of cousins. Her father Sean’s Irish-American clan is large. Her dad, brother and uncles are all called “Sully.”
Middlesex College to host group art show in Lowell

Monday
Posted Sep 26, 2016 at 4:00 PM

Middlesex Community College art faculty will be featured in a group show at Gallery Z in Lowell, on view Sept. 30-Oct. 23. The opening reception will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. Sept. 30 at Gallery Z, 167 Market St. in Lowell.

Free and open to the public, the show will reflect the many media disciplines taught by in MCC's Art and Design Department. Works include drawing, printmaking, painting, sculpture, ceramics, stained glass and graphic design.

Faculty artists include Jan Arabas, Meredith Fife Day, Mary Hart, George Herman, Tamara Krendel, Yary Livan, Margaret Rack, Carolyn Stock, Margaret Swan and Kai Vlahos. All faculty members are actively practicing, exhibiting and/or published artists.

Gallery hours are 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday and Saturday; and noon-5 p.m. Sunday.

For information: swanm@middlesex.mass.edu
MCC, UML greet Honors students

The Middlesex Community College Commonwealth Honors Program and the UMass Lowell Honors College recently held a joint admission and welcome event on MCC's Lowell campus.

The special orientation session was designed for students admitted to UML but who were placed on a wait list. They were encouraged to keep their momentum going by enrolling at Middlesex as Honors students. During the event, students and parents attended a luncheon and information session, followed by student advising sessions, registration and a campus tour.

CHP at Middlesex offers a variety of Honors course options, as well as opportunities for students to master research and presentation techniques. They can also engage in extracurricular and co-curricular activities, including field trips and guest lectures. MCC students who complete their degrees through CHP are guaranteed transfer to other Commonwealth Honors Programs at any Massachusetts state college or university, or can enhance their applications for other four-year public or private institutions.

After receiving accreditation from the State Board of Higher Education in 2010, MCC's Commonwealth Honors Program became part of an integrated network of honors programs throughout the Massachusetts public college and university system. Since 2013, the Commonwealth Honors Program at Middlesex has seen a 27 percent increase in the number of students who elect to study at a more advanced level.
my MCC

"The Commonwealth Honors Program isn't just about professors teaching — it's designed to allow teachers and students to teach and learn from each other. It is exciting to share my viewpoint and listen to others."

Jonah Jell - Class of 2016

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WHO HELPED MAKE OUR 1ST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS

To all involved,

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your help in making the Megan House 1st Anniversary Celebration a tremendous success, from our Honored Guests and sponsors, to the individuals who purchased tickets or contributed by giving so generously of their time. The comprehensive services offered at Megan's House are provided at no cost to the residents, thanks to the continued support of our many benefactors, donors and volunteers. Through your efforts, we raised over $140,000 during our anniversary celebration, helping ensure those services can remain free to those in need. Once again, you have shown that together, we make a difference.

Eternally grateful,

Tim Grover
Megan's Dad
Special thank you to our Honored Guests, District Attorney Marian T. Ryan, Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito, Congresswoman Niki Tsongas and UMass Lowell Chancellor Jacqueline Moloney

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