



MCC Alum 'Crosses the Pond' to Study at Oxford

Looking forward to a new world of possibilities, former Middlesex student Jana Casale is undertaking graduate studies at prestigious Oxford University in England this fall.

After attending Middlesex for a year and a half and achieving a nearly perfect grade point average, Casale transferred to Emerson College in Boston. She graduated summa cum laude in May with a BFA in writing, literature and publishing.

Casale credits Middlesex with giving her a chance to start over after a serious illness in high school forced her to abandon traditional high school classes. She actually started at MCC's Adult Learning Center to complete a GED, since she did not have a high school diploma. "Middlesex was fantastic for me. It opened doors and gave me an opportunity to realize I could do anything I wanted to do academically," Casale said.

At Middlesex, Casale had Associate Dean of Humanities Dona Cady for three courses and Humanities Professor Gail Mooney for two English courses. Both were quick to recognize Casale's talents and abilities. Cady had completed an Oxford fellowship as a graduate student,

and encouraged Casale to apply to the highly competitive institution.

Casale was accepted by Kellogg College at Oxford to study for a master's degree in creative writing, a program that enrolls only 16 people each year. "It's quite an international group, with four American students and others from Poland, Russia and Denmark," Casale said. She plans to write fiction and screenplays, and also hopes to teach at the college level.

"At Middlesex, I had exceptional classes and amazing professors, who really enhanced my life," Casale said. "Professor Cady was really the reason I first considered applying to Oxford. And, I adored Professor Mooney's workshop. She was incredibly supportive and made you believe in yourself."

Casale was also impressed by the people she met at MCC, many of whom were very much like her, dealing with circumstances beyond their control, but intent on getting a good education. "I met many brilliant, capable people at MCC. I know my education here was as good as, or superior to, the education of my friends who went to very competitive four-year schools. I am so grateful for my time at Middlesex."

● Deborah Kearney

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