



Ring - Ring - Ring

Middlesex Alumni Dial for Dollars

What's loyal, supportive and scattered all over the world? Middlesex alumni, of course!

As part of the MCCFoundation's Annual Fund Campaign, Middlesex launched its first Alumni *Phonathon* in November. Over a three-night period, more than 2,000 MCC graduates and former students were called and asked to pledge their support. Making the calls were more than 65 MCC alums, current students and staff.

Some alumni were called as part of the *Phonathon*, while others received letters in the mail asking for their support. Every dollar raised through the Alumni *Phonathon* will be matched by the Nathaniel and Elizabeth P. Stevens Foundation and the Commonwealth sponsored matched-giving program. "This is a fantastic way to kick off our alumni campaign," said Dennis Malvers, Associate Dean of External Affairs and Alumni Relations. "The funds we raise will be tripled. In other words, \$5 becomes \$15! That's a lot of bang for your buck."

Since its founding 35 years ago, Middlesex has produced thousands of successful alums who live as far away as Alaska, California, Iceland and Jamaica. Not only are MCC alums doing well, said Malvers, they are also very supportive. "Some of our alums have said, 'We've been waiting for you to call!'" he said. "They've told us, 'Every other college I've attended calls me. I give money to those other schools, I really want to do it for you, too.' That's nice to hear."

Like a lot of community colleges, Middlesex hasn't always kept close tabs on its alumni, many of whom transfer and continue their education elsewhere. "We've got about 10,500 names in our database currently," said Malvers. "So there are a lot of 'lost' alumni, especially from the early years before our records were computerized. That's unfortunate because we really want to stay in touch with them. We've got a good base now and we'll continue to build on it from here."

Helping Malvers is a 13-member Alumni Campaign Committee, lead by William Chemelli, chairman of the MCC Board of Trustees and a 1975 graduate of MCC's Criminal Justice Program. Joining Chemelli on the alumni committee are Charles Braley '92, Tami Dristiliaris '83, Brent Esperanza '94, Tracy Esperanza '94, Tim Glaser '94, Jim Grenier '95, Michele King Hutcheon '72, Theresa Mello-Kopka 2000, Kenneth Rand '77, Diana Tran '99,

Tooch Van '99 and Carol Varonakis '79.

Five members of the committee also served as *Phonathon* captains (see sidebar, this page), helping to recruit alumni volunteers to make the calls, and soliciting local businesses to donate food and prizes for the event.

"We wanted the *Phonathon* to be upbeat and festive," said Malvers. "We blew whistles every time we got a new pledge. We gave out prizes for volunteers who got the most pledges or raised the most money each night. There was a lot of fabulous food ... it was great fun."

When Malvers began planning the *Phonathon*, finding an on-campus location with 18 to 20 telephone lines was the challenge. MCC's Chief Technology Officer, Darrow Neves, suggested they use MCC's *Softphone* computer software and make their calls from a Lowell campus computer lab.

"It was great," said Malvers, "we were just like the telemarketers. Basically, you sit at a computer with a headset on, type in the telephone number, click on 'dial' and talk," he explained. "When the conversation is over, the computer prompts you to hang up and you disconnect. We're one of the first community colleges in the state to use *Softphone* technology as a fundraising tool."

With a successful *Phonathon* to the alumni committee's credit, Malvers hopes the group will stick together and plan future events. "Our committee was formed last year to come up with a special alumni event for MCC's 35th anniversary year," Malvers explained. "Together, we planned an alumni reception for Darryl Scott, our 2006 Commencement speaker, which was very successful." Scott, a 1985 MCC graduate, is a celebrated singer/songwriter who has composed Grammy Award-winning hits for the Dixie Chicks and songs recorded by country music stars such as Travis Tritt, Garth Brooks and Faith Hill.

"As I was leaving the reception for Darryl," recalled Malvers, "I noticed a group of seven or eight alums standing outside talking and exchanging business cards. That was terrific! That kind of social and professional networking among our alumni, that's what it's all about."

For more information about MCC's Alumni Association, contact Dennis Malvers, Associate Dean of External Affairs and Alumni Relations, at 978-656-3185 or malversd@middlesex.mass.edu.



MCC's Alumni Campaign Committee: (front row, left to right) Jim Grenier, Michele King Hutcheon, William Chemelli, Theresa Mello-Kopka; (back row) Kenneth Rand, Tim Glaser, Charlie Braley, Carol Varonakis, Tami Dristiliaris, Tooch Van and Dennis Malvers

Five members of MCC's Annual Fund Alumni Campaign Committee served as captains of the recent Alumni *Phonathon*. Below they share why they became involved in efforts to generate alumni support for Middlesex.

Tami M. Dristiliaris '83 Program of Study: Nursing

A practicing attorney, Dristiliaris went on to earn her bachelor's degree in nursing from Atlantic Union College and her law degree from Suffolk University Law School.

"I received an excellent education at Middlesex that prepared me very well for my nursing career. I want to help give back what MCC has given to me."

Tim Glaser '94 Program of Study: Liberal Arts & Sciences

A pension administrator, Glaser is the alumni representative on the MCC Board of Trustees. After Middlesex, he earned a bachelor's degree in history from Tufts University.

"I have benefited greatly from my experiences at Middlesex and want to help contribute to the continued growth and success of the college."

Jim Grenier '95 Program of Study: Fine & Performing Arts

A sales consultant, Grenier also teaches business at Middlesex.

"The Annual Fund Campaign is a good opportunity for the college to increase funding in some critical areas."

Kenneth Rand '77 & '78 Programs of Study: General Science and Nursing

Rand enjoyed a 27-year career as a Registered Nurse. He is also retired from the U.S. Army Reserve.

"Alumni are an integral part of a school's ability to expand programs and offer more to the community. The *Phonathon* reminds our classmates that MCC needs us."

Tooch A. Van '99 Program of Study: Liberal Arts & Sciences

A native of Cambodia, Van was MCC's 2002 Commencement speaker. After Middlesex, he earned his bachelor's degree in international studies at Trinity College and a master's degree at Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. He currently works at MCC as an International Student Advisor.

"Middlesex has provided me with a solid foundation and confidence in my educational journey. I'd like to give something back to the college that means so much to me."

