

March 20, 2024

FACULTY SABBATICALS REVITALIZE TEACHING AND LEARNING

During her sabbatical, Professor of Natural Sciences Claire Condie found inspiration deep in data and deep in the water.

“Sabbaticals are a great way for professors to reinvigorate their classrooms and bring current material into the room and that can be key to hook a student,” Condie explains. “If we’re not out there learning something new and building off what we have as our base and exploring new items and incorporating them into the room, it can easily become stagnant.”

After ten years of service, full-time faculty members may apply for a sabbatical.

Condie divided her time on her sabbatical between conducting research and developing new Open Educational Resources for use in the Introduction to Geology course which generally has an enrollment of more than 100 students each semester.



Claire Condie
Professor of Natural Sciences

Condie's sabbatical afforded her time to focus on reducing textbook costs for students, align curriculum goals for transfer students, and update course evaluation materials used in the courses she teaches.

Outside of the classroom, Condie used some of her sabbatical time to work with the ReClam The Bay organization, which promotes education on the importance of Raritan Bay. She learned about oyster and clam hatcheries and has now started a small bed of clams and oysters in Main Hall Room 152 for her students to study.

“We are learning about how they grow, how they are filter feeders and how they can improve water quality, and we tie that into their impact on the economy in New Jersey and also ocean acidification,” said Condie. “What was really interesting was 75 percent of the class didn’t know that people ate oysters and clams when ReClam the Bay came in, even though our students are right by the Raritan Bay, they didn’t have any connection to it. That alone was a win in the lab for them to see.”

Condie shared that the favorite part of her sabbatical experience was the opportunity to spend time in Key Largo where she was able to go scuba diving with marine biologists to work with them on helping coral to grow. She has plans to return in May and continue the work. In the meantime, the marine biologists have made themselves available to Condie’s students to answer questions and exchange ideas, helping Condie bring a fresh approach in improving the classroom experience for her students.

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON CAMPUS

GIVE KIDS A SMILE

Nearly 30 second-year dental hygiene students, along with six volunteer dentists, 28 volunteer dental hygienists, two volunteer dental assistants, and three volunteer staff, participated in the Give Kids a Smile event at the College's new Dental Hygiene Clinic on February 28, 2024.

Providing essential dental care for children who lack dental insurance or financial resources, this annual event successfully treated the children, providing approximately \$15,000 worth of dental care. Children, ranging in ages 2 1/2 to 14, received a wide array of dental treatments, including restorative procedures, extractions, and preventive care.

The dedicated volunteers who gave their time and service include New Brunswick High School students who assisted second-year dental hygiene students in escorting children throughout their appointments, as well as graduates of the College's Dental Hygiene Program, including Class of 2006 valedictorian Priya Kannusamy. Giovanna Onofrietti, a senior dental hygiene student, volunteered to be the tooth fairy, spreading smiles and capturing photo opportunities with the children who participated in the event.

The program received generous donations of dental supplies from companies such as Henry Schein and Patterson. Dr. Charles Montgomery also contributed supplies from his own office to provide care to the children. Additionally, Momentum, the College's food service provider, donated coffee and tea for the volunteers.





GO COLTS!

Six students from the wrestling team qualified for the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) National Tournament in Iowa, including freshman Mike Marzano who won a Gulf Atlantic District Championship. The other five Middlesex College wrestlers who qualified are John Braun, Luis Suriel, Carlos Angel, Danny Ramirez, and Alex Pasquale. In addition, Braun and Angel were named First Team All Garden State Athletic Conference.

The men's basketball team finished their first season as an NJCAA Division II school with a final record of 20-8 and captured the Garden State Athletic Conference championship. The women's basketball team finished their season with a 69-43 win over Camden Community College to improve their final record to 17-10. Congratulations to head coaches Winston Smith and Michel Powell for helping their teams to qualify for the NJCAA Region 19 Tournament.



CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

During the month of February, we acknowledged and celebrated how African Americans have employed their artistic talents to preserve community memory, expand historical narratives, empower the expression of lived experiences, and set the standard for popular trends in the United States and around the world.

SPREADING THE LOVE



Bolt and President McCormick handed out chocolate and lollipops to students, faculty, and staff on campus on Valentine's Day.

Arc of Middlesex County	Corporate Education and Training Director Vega	Met with staff from Arc of Middlesex County to discuss offering leadership training
Old Bridge Township Public Schools	President McCormick, Vice Presidents Laureano and Scherr, Assistant Deans Orosz and Rodriguez Gregory, and K-12 Partnerships Director Hooper	Met with Old Bridge Superintendent Cittadino and team to explore ways that Middlesex College can support Old Bridge students in thinking about their future, including expanding Dual Enrollment opportunities

Friday, March 1	Educational Opportunity Fund Information session	New Brunswick Center
Monday, March 4	Middlesex County College Fair (hosted at Edison High School)	Edison
Tuesday, March 5 and Wednesday, March 6	East Brunswick High School Instant Decision Days	East Brunswick
Wednesday, March 6	National Association for College Admission Counseling National College Fair – Northern New Jersey	New Jersey Convention and Exposition Center (Edison)
Wednesday, March 6	New Brunswick High School College Admissions presentation	New Brunswick
Thursday, March 7	South Plainfield High School Admissions presentation	South Plainfield
Sunday, March 10	Camp Middlesex Open House	Edison campus
Tuesday, March 12	Admissions Day	Perth Amboy Center
Wednesday, March 13	Amazon Career Choice College Fair	Edison
Monday, March 18	Middlesex College Opportunity Night at East Brunswick High School	East Brunswick
Multiple times	Admissions Information Session*	Virtual events
Multiple times	FAFSA on Demand Workshop*	Virtual events
Multiple times	Paying for College Info Session*	Virtual events
Multiple times	Health Programs Information Session	Virtual events
On an ongoing basis	Live chat appointments*	Via the web

*in English and Spanish

Wednesday, April 10*	Board Committee meetings	Via Zoom
Wednesday, April 17 5:00 p.m.**	Board meeting	West Hall, Parkview Room and via Zoom

*All morning (to be determined) **Note the different start time