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Dear Colleagues:

It's hard to believe that 40 years ago this month, our college opened its doors for the first time to welcome students to our campus, which at the time, consisted of a sprawling two buildings at the Veterans Administration Hospital.

In recent months, my office has been collecting delightful stories and wonderful memories of our time together here at Middlesex. That's one way of telling you that this summer has been anything but quiet around our campuses, and the coming semesters look to be chock full of exciting events to help Middlesex celebrate its 40th year as a college!

The many successes of our college are due to the hard work of so many hundreds of employees who have passed through our doors in the past 40 years, the least of which are all of you, who continue to do great work for us day in and day out. We could never have achieved our levels of success without each and every one of you pitching in to keep us moving forward.

As you've no doubt heard by now, the college has scheduled a diverse list of events in the coming months to celebrate our storied history and exciting future, and I hope all of you will be able to join us for many of them. We've collected most of the events on our new 40th anniversary website at <http://www.middlesex.mass.edu/40th/>

First up, is this year's Convocation, set for next Tuesday on our Bedford campus. This year, we have specifically reached out to many of our retirees and asked them to join us in our celebration, which should feature some humorous and heart-warming reminiscences.

On Friday, September 10, we will be having a campus block party on our Bedford campus from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This event is for students, faculty, and staff, and we hope you can join us for a cookout, lots of fun activities and a friendly competition or two.

Friday, September 24, which is also, coincidentally, the 40th anniversary of the exact date our campus first opened, will be the night of our Grand Gala at the Lowell Memorial Auditorium. This special night of fun dining and dancing is open to anyone. For more details on it, visit our gala website at: <http://www.middlesex.mass.edu/40th/gala.htm>

After that, it's time to lace up your sneakers for the Middlesex Fitness Trail 5K Challenge, a 3.1 mile course for runners and walkers alike on Saturday, October 2 at 10 a.m. This will be a great

opportunity for many of you to check out the gorgeous nature trail that encircles much of our Bedford campus. For details about that event, visit <http://www.middlesex.mass.edu/events/5K/>

In addition to our always-fun Trivia Nights and the Foundation's Celebrity Forum event, this year will also see us hosting a bicycle ride from our Bedford campus, with options to do either a 40-mile loop or a 10-mile leg, another must-see event for our fitness enthusiasts. More details to come in the months ahead!

Throughout this school year, you will be seeing our 40th anniversary logo across many of our events, and we welcome you to use it to help brand your own events as special during this celebratory year.

In the meantime, take a few minutes to escape the final heat wave of the summer, batten down the hatches as Hurricane Earl approaches the Cape, and catch up on what many of your colleagues have been doing in recent months!

Academic and Student Affairs:

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY/COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND TRAINING

RN Refresher Training Program

- Community Education and Training awarded 17 certificates of completion in our RN Refresher Training Program. This program was designed for registered nurses who have been away from nursing practice for an extended period of time. We provided a nurturing environment to update the nursing concepts and skills needed to re-enter the nursing workforce in acute care. Training consisted of 25 hours of theory and 20 hours of hands-on practice in MCC's nursing skills lab. The goal was to provide students with the supportive learning environment necessary to refine skills and develop a sound knowledge base needed to practice in today's complex health-care environment.
- Community Education and Training expanded its 100 hour Nurse Assistant/HHA Training and offered one summer daytime training session during the month of July. Nine students graduated July 29, 2010 and all nine students are eligible to sit for the Massachusetts nurse assistant certification exam.

Summer Camps

- Middlesex Community College (through Community Education & Training) summer camps entertained, supervised and taught 310 summer campers this year. Some highlights include the Improv Asylum in Boston coming to campus to work on leadership skills through improvisation with students from the Woburn Housing Authority. In addition, 28 children ages 8-12 explored LegoMindstorms NXT, learning to build and program robots that were able to complete various challenges distributed throughout the week. Finally, fashion design campers in both Bedford and Lowell were seen modeling redesigned formal wear donated by Chantilly Place in Lowell at the Runway shows on campus.
- **The RTTLEC Grant** (through Business & Industry Programs) is approaching its fourth year of providing free technology training to law enforcement in our community. This

August we offered two exciting new courses: One course on cell phone forensics and another on working with data in IMC (which is a records management system that many local police departments have recently started using). The cell phone forensics course was so popular we had to open a second section.

Small Business Mini-Courses

- This summer, in an attempt to encourage participation from small business, MCC's Business & Industry Programs instituted small business mini-courses, which will also run periodically throughout the year. The summer's courses geared specifically to small businesses included Improve Your Office Efficiency, MS PowerPoint, Internet Marketing, and MS Basic Excel.
- Homeland Security Program Executive Director Terry Downes is planning the 2nd Annual Greater Lowell Public Health Conference, which will take place September 30. The conference will examine the growing regional problem of opioid overdoses, and abuse of prescription pain medications. The conference will be sponsored by the Homeland Security Program, and co-sponsored by the City of Lowell Health Department, the Office of State Rep. Thomas A. Golden, Jr., the UMass-Lowell Student Health Service, and the Tewksbury Hospital. In another development, the Program is working with federal, state and local public safety agencies to develop new, specialized training events for first responders.

BUSINESS, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

- **Nanotechnology**; Great strides were made this year in the college's Nanotechnology initiative. Associate Dean Neil Sheer coordinated a Nanotechnology Conference on campus attracting 50 area professionals, faculty and students. Presenters included Drs. Michael Strano, MIT, Jackie Isaacs, Northeastern, Carol Barry, UML, Mark Tourmaine UMA and Kevin Conley Forsyth University, NC. They spoke on topics such as Nanotechnology in health and biotechnology, manufacturing and plastics engineering.

Other Nanotechnology endeavors included site visits by Dean Judy Hogan to North Seattle Community College and Neil Sheer to Danville Community College in Virginia. Also 14 faculty from the Engineering, CAD, EUT, Business, Economics, Math and Science departments at MCC and North Shore Community College designed and embedded nanotechnology concepts into their existing course curriculum. Their work will be showcased at the National Science Foundation's Principle Investigators conference in Washington, DC in October.

- **Renewable Energy**; Explorations of various education techniques in solar power were conducted over the year. The college received a grant from the Department of Energy to create a solar installation training program. We are currently investigating the incorporation of this form of energy into the Bedford campus. This would also provide the necessary installation to acquaint Engineering, CAD, IT, EUT and CSNT students with Photovoltaic energy sources.

The project is a collaboration of BET and Corporate and Community Education. CCE will design and offer PV installation training on a non-credit basis as part of their workforce development initiatives during 2011.

- **STEM:** In coordination with the Math and Science Division, BET began planning for a major STEM Day at the Bedford Campus on November 14. 250 Girl Scouts, ages 6 – 16 will be on campus for workshops and activities geared to introducing young girls to Engineering as a career.
- **Technology;** Using funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act the division made a major enhancement in the area of Computer Software and Networking Technology. Equipment was purchased that will allow the faculty to teach cutting edge, state – of –the –art concepts to our students including Virtualization and Storage. Professor Mo Moghimi attended professional development training in the area of Virtualization while Professor Joe Kalus honed his skills in Storage technology over the summer.
- **Engineering;** Major strides have been made in the investigation of an enhanced Engineering articulation agreement with the University of Massachusetts Lowell. In preparation for revised curriculum work several faculty including Bob Bowles, Joe Kalus, Jacques Antoine Jean and Tony Mak attended “High Tech Toys” at Northeastern University. This weeklong institute was geared at enhancing Engineering curriculum with activity based learning.
- **Business Administration;** The Business Administration faculty were the first to participate in Title III, Strategies for Student Success activities including the use of the SARS early alert system and the new Degree Audit software. Additionally, several faculty embedded student success skills into their courses. The intention is to enhance persistence in courses and program retention.
- With the help of Kim Burns the **Third Annual Business Plan Competition** was a major success. 12 teams competed for three cash prizes. Judges included Vice President Lois Alves, Budget Director Gina Spaziani, and Professors Gulbicki, Agostini, Femia, Dottin, Awkward, Carosi, and Adjunct faculty Joe Patuto and Jim Grenier.

ASSESSMENT

- Middlesex Community College has been named by AAC&U as one of twelve leadership community colleges in its new "**Roadmap Project**". In this role, MCC will have the opportunity to develop a national model for community colleges to connect student achievement of expected learning outcomes with increased student access and increased student persistence, all essential components of student success.

PARTNERSHIPS

- On June 30, Director of Academic Support Jo Mucci and Coordinator of Testing Services Anatoly Levin **presented College Readiness and ACCUPLACER® Awareness** along with Bruce Sullivan and Gabriella White of Nashoba Valley Technical High School at the Massachusetts Association of Vocational Administrators (MAVA) conference Developing a Clean and Green Workforce for the 21st Century held at Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School in Marlborough, MA. The presentation highlighted professional development workshops offered to high school teachers, guidance

counselors and administrators over the past three years that provide an opportunity to take the Accuplacer test and gain an awareness of its role in college placement. The workshops have been offered through a collaboration with the MCC Career and Technical Education Consortium (CTEC) and the Boston-area Advanced Technological Education Connections (BATEC). One hundred twenty-four people have participated in the workshops since they began in 2008.

- On June 29, ten high school and MCC English faculty met to debrief their High School/College for a Day experience. Under the program, high school teachers visited Middlesex English classes, and MCC teachers visited English classes at Lowell High School, Nashoba, and Greater Lowell. Participants completed pre- and post-visit surveys, read articles to gain a national perspective of students' readiness for college-level English, wrote a reflection paper, and viewed samples of student writing. At a debriefing meeting in June, participants discussed the many opportunities and challenges related to preparing students for college-level English. The group developed action items for improving student writing in both the high school and community college settings, and the program laid the groundwork for future collaborative activities.

MATHEMATICS/SCIENCE DIVISION

- STEM activities. (REUs, RETs, tutoring, STEM Club, field trips, etc)
- Vertical Teaming for Math and Science has continued with Math and Science faculty from Lowell High School and UMass/Lowell to ensure both appropriate flow of math courses and student preparedness to do college-level mathematics
- **Math Refreshers**
 - 270 students attended Math Refresher Sessions. 130 of 270 students (48%) took/retook CPT exam after attending one or more sessions. Of those 130 students:
 - 90% tested above Fundamentals of Mathematics
 - 10% tested into Fundamentals of Mathematics
 - 25% tested into Algebra I
 - 48% tested into Algebra II
 - 17% tested into Intermediate Algebra or above

SOCIALSCIENCE/HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION

Starting in September 2009 MCC offered faculty, staff and students a variety of community service opportunities throughout the year with the goal of surpassing the 2400 hours performed on last year's Day of Service. Members of the MCC community chose from a host of service opportunities and recorded their service hours as part of the Seasons initiative. SOS participants have volunteered at a variety of community organizations including the Merrimack Valley Heart Walk, Special Olympics, Merrimack Valley Food Bank, The Lowell Wish Project, Cards for Soldiers, ConKerr Cancer, The Salvation Army, United Teen Equality Center. As part of the college's work with the Merrimack Valley Food Bank Dean Judy Hogan fashioned "Bring Your Turkey to Work Day". With the help of Sheri Denk and Melissa Welch and the greater MCC community 79 turkeys were collected and donated to assist local families over the

holidays. Over the course of the 2009-10 academic year MCC students, faculty and staff performed approximately 3,200 hours of service in the community as part of this project.

MCC's work in the scholarship of teaching and learning will be highlighted in a new book co-authored by Pat Hutchings, Mary Huber, and Tony Ciccone which is slated to be published by Jossey-Bass in 2011. MCC's work is noted in several areas in the book, most notably in a section about the value of communities of practice in spreading new ideas and practices in teaching.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

- The **One World Series** will bring Rebecca Skloot, author of *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*. On February 8, 2011, Ms. Skloot will join us in the City Campus Cafeterias to discuss the book and her research connected with this amazing story of race relations, ethics, and modern medicine.
- Thanks to support from the Middlesex Foundation, a **new basketball court** has been constructed on the Bedford Campus, scheduled for a Grand Opening in September. Additionally, the foundation will support an additional 10 students to assist with reconstruction efforts in New Orleans during spring break 2011.
- The City Student Lounge has been relocated to the Merrimack Building (formerly Cyber Café). Its official opening will be the first day of classes on September 8th, but a Grand Opening Celebration is planned for Tuesday, September 14th from 9am-1pm. The new space affords students more room to congregate for socializing, studying and participating in structured and unstructured recreation. Student leaders also will have an office here for business and meetings. Student IDs will continue to be distributed in the lounge and students are also encouraged to stop by to purchase discounted movie and event tickets. The lounge will be open Monday through Thursday, from 8am-5pm and Fridays from 8am-4pm. We are delighted to accommodate our weekend students with new Saturday hours from 9am-2pm.
- A group of faculty and staff from Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Enrollment Services have formed a working group to review our current policies, procedures and interventions for students who are on academic probation or who have been dismissed from the college. This team will be working throughout the upcoming year to revise our current model and develop strategies to address the needs of students in academic difficulty.
- Programs and services offered by the **MCC Veterans Resource Centers** have reinforced MCC's commitment to serve our student veteran population and their families. Our efforts have recently been recognized and MCC was just selected by GI Jobs magazine as a "Military Friendly School for 2011." The recognition states: "This honor places you in the top 15% of all schools nationwide. Your steadfast commitment to educating our great nation's military veterans will enable the United States to prosper for generations to come."

TRIO Grant

- Both collegiate TRIO programs, the TRIO Program for Student Achievement and the TRIO Student Success Program, were awarded five year Department of Education grants

this month, which will run from September 2010 through August 2015. This was a tough competition, in which approximately 900 programs out of 1500 applicants were chosen. These programs will continue to serve 300 students each year, all of whom are low income, first generation college students, or students with disabilities.

- **CCLA participants for 2010-2011 are**
 - Marci Barnes, Program Manager in Community Education & Training
 - Rebecca Newell, Director of Leadership Development and Student Activities

HUMANITIES DIVISION

Music

- Mark Berger joined the string and chamber music faculty at the Boston University Tanglewood Institute and spent 6 weeks teaching viola and chamber music at Tanglewood. James Borchers completed a 5-week course "composing interactive multimedia" at Centro Mexicano para la Música y las Artes Sonoras in Morelia, Mexico. He was also the artist in Residence at the Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts in Nebraska City, Nebraska.
- Susan Dill began rehearsals as vocal director for the September production of Song on the Wind in Concord, Massachusetts. She will also be singing the role of Squaw Sachem, widow of Nanepashemet, Chief of the Massachusetts tribe.
- Carmen Rodríguez-Peralta gave two recitals in Maine with violinist/violist Anatole Wieck, and she recorded two new piano works by Lexington composer Pamela Marshall.
- Johannah Segarich spent a month doing research in Cambodia as part of the Fulbright-Hays grant team from MCC and Lowell Public Schools. Her research focused on traditional and contemporary music in Cambodia and cultural attitudes toward education.
- Tom Rohde and his ensemble Choro Democrático gave several performances in the Boston area, including at the Regatta bar in Cambridge.

Reading/Language

- Carrie Finestone attended the Reading Apprenticeship seminars held by West Ed. in Oakland, California. Reading Apprenticeship is a series of methods used for textbook reading. The Reading Department will be utilizing these methods in their reading classes this fall.
- Since January 11, 2010, 99 students have taken the **Reading Refresher Workshops**. Of those 99 students, 24 students have retaken the CPT (as of 8/5/10). Sixteen of the 24 students have received scores of 68 or above. This means they do not need any reading courses at the college (67%). Of the remaining, five students needed to take reading courses (~20%), and 3 students tested below 33 on their CPT (13% although some of these students later declared themselves ELL, so it is difficult to determine the percentage).

- Carrie, Pat Hyde, Michelle Bloomer, and Phyllis Gleason also recently met with faculty at Northern Essex Community College to collaborate and learn what NECC has done with their work on Reading Apprenticeship with faculty across the disciplines.
- Business and Industry and the Language area are working together to arrange three brainstorming meetings with area businesses and industries to explore the interest in or need for a language certificate program. The meetings are scheduled for September.

Art Department

- As the plans for the Boston and Maine Building renovation evolve, Art and Design Assistant Pai-Fang Lin is designing a series of cut paper pieces for the building's large windows. The images will celebrate the arts at MCC and be on display this fall. In addition Pai-Fang has created several design motifs that will be incorporated in a banner as well as hand-held objects for use in both the Bedford Day Parade, and the Lowell City of Light Parade.

Theatre Department

- Karen Oster participated in a three week summer institute at the East West Center at the University of Hawaii. The focus was on infusing South Asia into the undergraduate curriculum. Topics included Indian Philosophy, Politics, Art and History. The MCC Children's Theatre presented "Seussical, Jr." to two sold out houses. Participants included children ages 7-14 as well as current MCC students and alumni.

China-US Faculty Exchange Program - 2010

- **Chinese Ministry of Education, Peking University, East-West Center, University of Hawai'i**

Middlesex Community College participated in the 2010 China-US Faculty Exchange Program from July 31—August 4. This program regularly brings Chinese university faculty to the United States on an exchange visit.

The China-US Faculty Exchange Program is a collaboration involving the Ministry of Education in China, Peking University, the East-West Center and the University of Hawai'i. The purpose of the program is to expand and improve teaching about China (in the US) and about the U.S. (in China) at the university level.

The 2010 program for Chinese faculty started in Washington D.C, and then continued to Boston and San Francisco before concluding in Honolulu at the East-West Center and University of Hawai'i. Fifteen Chinese faculty and administrators, most of whom have not been to the U.S. previously, met with scholars and experts at colleges and universities and at national, state and private agencies and organizations. Participants took will part in discussions on American history and culture, as well as contemporary political and social issues relevant to both China and the U.S.

As part of the Boston visit, Middlesex hosted a dinner and reception at Nesmith House. The delegation spent an afternoon at the Peabody-Essex Museum in Salem. Participants also walked

the Freedom Trail and met for an hour at the State House with State Representative, Jay Kaufman. They also visited Concord and Lexington revolutionary war sites and took part in presentations at Harvard University and MIT in Cambridge. The Boston visit was coordinated by Julien Farland of MCC's Humanities Division.

RESOURCE AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Professional Development

- **Title III – Successful Outcomes for Pilot Projects:** Pilots of course curricula that were redesigned in year one were conducted this past year and have proven to be very successful. Data indicates that students who were enrolled in these classes *showed an increase in persistence from a baseline of 71 % to 83%*, an outstanding accomplishment!
- This summer, 41 faculty attended a three-day Summer Institute to prepare year for three activities. The first day was an orientation for the people who will be working on advising design and reformed curriculum in year three. Day two trained faculty how to use new advising tools, and day three offered an opportunity for faculty who teach Explorations courses to learn more about the project and ways that they can use the Resource Guides and the Advising tools.

The first two years of project activities have gone well. Advising materials were designed and distributed to the Business Division in year one, and the full-time Business faculty, as well as many of the part-time faculty, have been trained in and are piloting both the SARS Early Alert system and the Degree Works software tool that is making advising students much easier to accomplish. In addition, during this past year, 10 additional courses were redesigned, and faculty in those courses now have Resource Guides, which include many lesson plans that embed the Core Student Success Skills, a key component of the Strategies for Success project.

Resource Development

- **Title VI Project - Enhancing Undergraduate Chinese Language and Culture Studies: Integrating Faculty and Curriculum Development:** Middlesex Community College is one of six partners participating in this three-year East-West Center Asian Studies Development Program Title VI Project. Dona Cady is the MCC Project Coordinator, and 12 MCC faculty will participate in project activities, which include workshops for curriculum development. The project will result in an interdisciplinary Chinese Studies Certificate organized around three interdisciplinary core courses in Chinese studies, improved Chinese language instruction, and significantly expanded post-introductory and upper division language and cultural studies enrollments.
- **New “Encore” Career Part-time Faculty Project:** Middlesex is one of seven colleges across the country selected to participate in the Civic Ventures Encore Career Initiative funded through MetLife. MCC's project focuses on recruiting and training potential part-time faculty over the age of 50 who are interested in pursuing an “encore” career as a community college teacher in the developmental education and clinical nursing areas. Coordinated by Ellen Nichols, the project will include a Career fair on September 30, and a Part-time Faculty Training Certificate program that involves workshops, classroom observations, and working with mentors.

HEALTH CAREERS

- A Nursing faculty task force has been working this summer to increase the use of simulation in the nursing program in order to enhance the preparedness of our graduates for both practice and the NCLEX examination.
- The Academy of Health Professions began in February 2010 and offers four entry-level programs in health careers during evening and weekend hours. Students can earn certificates in Nursing Assisting, Medical Receptionist, Phlebotomist and Medical Secretary, completing their studies in 9 week modules over a period of 27 weeks. The Academy of Health professions admitted students for the Nursing Assistant, Medical Reception and Phlebotomy certificates this spring and summer and will graduate its first students in mid September. In addition, the first phlebotomy certificate students are completing their phlebotomy coursework this August and will begin their externships this fall. Working with partners on the HealthCare skills partnership funded by the Commonwealth Corporation, research and curriculum development is underway on a possible Clinical Lab Assistant Certificate.
- Both the Dental Hygiene program and the Nursing program completed research projects focused on student retention and student success. The Dental Hygiene program's research compared the use of the program's Student Portfolio assessment to student GPA, retention, and course completion rates. The Nursing program's research looked at student success utilizing SMART goals in the existing At-Risk program.
- Both the Radiologic Technology programs and the Diagnostic Medical Sonography programs have been conducting self studies in preparation for accreditation site visits during the upcoming academic year.

ACADEMIC RESOURCES AND INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGIES DIVISION

- Self-paced studies programs housed in the former Cyber Café have moved to Suite 402 in the Pollard Exchange building. The new location will be the Lowell home of SPS's World Languages offerings and other courses as scheduling permits. The staff of SPS wishes to express our sincere thanks to everyone who helped to make this move possible.
- The college continued improving and updating its technology classrooms on both the Lowell and Bedford campuses. All classrooms with basic presentation technology will feature whiteboard surfaces and improved cable management. Presentation stations are in the process of being improved as well as older carts are gradually replaced with a newer, smaller footprint design.
- The 9th Annual Advance-to-Go Orientation took place on August 10 - 12. Each day's evaluations had a recurring comment about how the orientation was extremely helpful and how welcoming and friendly everyone was during the three days. This year, we also had more parents who accompanied our students to the orientation, and who also stayed to talk with us about how satisfied they were about having made the decision to choose MCC. The Academic Support department wishes to express our appreciation to all who supported and contributed to this successful event.

HONORS PROGRAM

- The College's Honors Program has had a banner year, successfully completing its first external review to secure accreditation as a Board of Higher Education approved Commonwealth Honors Program. The program has also found a new space for students in the Campus Center Room 216, Bedford Campus, and has nearly a hundred students in the program with lots of new activities planned for the upcoming academic year.

Enrollment Services

Fall Enrollments: As of August 20th, fall enrollments are up 3.7% over last year at this time. This is an increase of 292 students, 736 enrollments and 2208 credits. The largest increases are in the areas of Biotechnology, Life Science, Computer Forensics, Fine and Performing Arts Music, Liberal Arts Psychology, Human Services, Early Childhood Education and the new Academy of Health Professions.

DegreeWorks: Last year, the Title III Strategies for Success Academic Advising Design Team and Business Administration faculty collaborated to successfully pilot test **DegreeWorks**, an exciting new educational planning and degree audit system. DegreeWorks is much more user-friendly than our current degree auditing system. It includes links to courses that will fulfill specific requirements along with their course descriptions, course prerequisites and available sections for the current term. In addition, DegreeWorks provides the capacity for the student and advisor to create an academic plan that spans across as many terms as necessary for the student to attain their educational goal and to monitor progress toward its accomplishment. The system also allows advisors to record specific recommendations and to email an advisee directly from the system. The use of DegreeWorks will be expanded to Liberal Studies programs in the fall and to all college programs in February, 2011.

Early Alert System: The SARS Early Alert System was also successfully piloted in Business classes last year and alerts were issued to students with class attendance issues. The system allows faculty to issue an alert to students in their classes who exhibit certain high risk behaviors identified by the Advising Design Team. These alerts trigger an e-mail to the student and an identified staff member who will follow up with the student. In 2010-11, the system access will be expanded to include all faculty teaching explorations courses and Liberal Studies faculty teaching introductory classes. The type of alerts will also be expanded to include students who are not completing assignments on time, students earning low scores on graded assignments and students not participating in class. Academic advisors and college tutoring staff will follow up with these students. Access to the system will be expanded annually.

Prerequisite Checking: Banner, MCC's student information system, automatically checks to insure that students have completed all course prerequisites before registering them into courses. Since many returning students register for their next semester's classes before grades are due, the system assumes that students will successfully complete their current courses for prerequisite checking purposes. If the student then fails to earn the necessary course grade, s/he may be enrolled for a course without the appropriate prerequisite. For many years, Enrollment Management has reviewed the grades earned by students in writing and math courses and helped them change their schedule if necessary to insure they had successfully completed all required prior coursework. This summer, Enrollment staff tested a program that allowed us to review the spring grades and fall enrollments for all students who registered before final grades were issued

in the spring and to identify a wider group of students with possible prerequisite programs. Staff then worked to adjust student schedules as necessary. We are committed to insuring that students have the academic skills to succeed in their classes, and will work to further expand this initiative in future semesters.

Strategic Planning: A college-wide Strategic Planning Steering Committee has been formed to guide the development of the new Institutional Strategic Plan. This year we will report and celebrate the outcomes of the 2007 to 2010 Strategic Plan and identify institutional goals for the next three years. The entire college community is invited to participate in the planning process by attending one, or more, of the six summits that will be held on campus during the fall semester. The summits will be topic-based, each focusing on one of the following institutional priorities: Student Success, Assessment, Workforce Development, Fiscal Stability and Diversifying the Workforce. Faculty members who are interested in becoming a member of the Steering Committee should call or email Vice President Lois Alves.

Middlesex Community College Fact Book: The 2009-10 MCC Fact Book is completed and posted on the Strategic Planning website. The Fact Book provides an overview of a few key institutional initiatives, academic programs, educational partnerships, workforce development activities and five-year trend analysis of student enrollments, demographics, entering academic skills, grade distribution, success rates, degrees awarded, transfer colleges, tuition and fees, the college budget, financial aid and an employee profile.

Technology Center

Comprehensive Network Electronics Upgrade: A comprehensive upgrade of the College's network electronics was completed in May 2010. The project, which was rolled out over a six month period and funded by federal stimulus dollars, maintains excellent network quality, supports future growth, and modernizes the network management tools.

Data Security: Data security remains a high priority. Middlesex must comply with many laws and regulations that have been promulgated around these issues. Specifically:

1. Middlesex must comply with industry standards for credit card process (called PCI Compliance). The State of Massachusetts required recertification of compliance in April 2010, which was accomplished.
2. Middlesex must comply with Federal Trade Commission regulations (called "red flag alerts") that identify 26 different ways that data can be flagged for potential identity theft. Middlesex remains compliant with these requirements.
3. Middlesex must comply with State laws (MGL 93H, MGL93I and associated CMR 17.00) that specify how the College must protect personally identifying information (PII) for residents of the State of Massachusetts. Led by the work of the Institutional Data Security Team, chaired by Executive Vice President Jay Linnehan, significant efforts have adjusted policy and practice to ensure that both digital and paper-based transactions protect PII and comply with the appropriate State laws.

Content Management System: Based on design from Publications and applying best practices associated with delivery of web content through a Content Management System, a new look and feel to the College's OU Campus supported web pages is in process. A sample of the new design can be seen at the [Business and Industry site](#). This rollout, and associated training for content managers, will continue over the next few months.

Academic and Instructional Technology

In collaboration with Academic Resources and Facilities a number of projects are underway including:

Smart Classrooms: The standard for Smart Classrooms endorsed by the FSA Technology Committee continues to be applied to existing Smart Classrooms. Twelve classrooms were completed to this model in 2010 and several others will be completed by the start of Fall classes.

Blackboard Upgrade: After a year of research and review the FSA Technology Committee recommended that the College continue its use of the Blackboard software. In collaboration with the Academic Resources and Instructional Technology committee, the upgrade to Blackboard 9.1 is underway with an expected production rollout for the Spring 2011.

Administrative System Support

Banner: The College's enterprise data system, Banner, must be newest version (Banner 8) by early 2011. This project, a significant undertaking, is underway.

Self-Service Notes

Accessing Files: Remember, you can access the files you save on the MCC network from anywhere you have Internet access (home, office, or classroom, for example). Log on to the MyMCC portal and look for your myfiles link. Clicking this link will open the Internet File Share folder. Files may be copied or placed on the Internet File Share in the office and accessed from home. Hopefully this eliminates the need to email documents or carry USB drives in order to work on documents when away from the office.

Technology Services and Support: More information about this and other technology services can be found by clicking the Help icon at the top of the MyMCC portal page. Look for future enhancements and improvements to that interface.

Public Affairs

The public affairs office had a very busy summer. "Middlesex Minutes," the weekly radio segment highlighting all the happening at MCC, never skipped a beat. The program completed its second full year of broadcasting and the summer guests included Pat Demaras, Kate Sweeney, Sheri Dank, Pam Flaherty and Phil Sisson. Expect a call to come on the program or feel free to contact us if you would like an opportunity to promote you, your programs and your students.

The Paul Sullivan Leadership Institute graduated its third class of fellows. Just a few words from the students; "Being a Leadership Fellow was an incredible experience. We learned about leadership, civic engagement, business etiquette and so many things that we could not have learned in a classroom." Patrick Kenney 2008; "I definitely feel my Paul Sullivan training has made me more confident, and able to speak to strangers with ease. I have also learned invaluable networking and interview skills from the institute, and it was certainly a foundation for getting me my recognition at Pine Manor, as well as my animal career." Ashlie Jensen 2008-2009; "This

year was an unforgettable experience! I've learned so much from the institute... I hope that there are many years to come for this Institute." Melissa Jackson 2009-2010.

This year's group of Leadership fellows kicked off on August 31 at Sully's Ice Cream with a meet and greet preamble for a busy year ahead. The 12 selected students that make up the 2010-2011 class represent a wide cross-section of our college community. The fall semester will once again immerse the students into the planning and implementation of a major City of Lowell event; the City of Lights. The largest event the city hosts was enhanced last year when the PHS fellows implemented a family scavenger hunt through downtown. The students are looking forward to bringing yet another new aspect to this event. The year will follow a similar course as in the past that includes an evening on philanthropy and etiquette, workshops dedicated to "learning" how to be a leader, and a trip to meet our State Delegation at the State House. But the highlight this year may come in October when they will have a unique opportunity to schmooze with such prominent members of the Boston Media as Jim Broude and Maria Stephanos.

The Smith Baker Center of Lowell continues to be a priority. We are continuing to work with the city in a collaboration to keep the historic site as a venue to be shared by various members of the community.

Publications

It has been a lively summer in the Offices of Marketing and Publications. You may have noticed the new billboard on the Lowell Connector as well as the television, radio, print ads and a multitude of Middlesex 40th Anniversary celebration banners, posters, event fliers and invitations. All signs point to an exciting year ahead!

Human Resources

The Human Resources Office has been very busy with searches for nineteen position openings over the summer for positions at the college, The BRIDGE Program and The Career Place. We have had tremendous cooperation from departments as we have fully implemented the college's new hiring policy with an emphasis on diversity and consistent interview and selection practices.

The HR dept is working in collaboration with Professional Development and the academic areas on an Encore Career project designed to recruit and train individuals over age 50 to become college faculty. HR is organizing a FT and PT faculty career fair on Sept. 30 in Bedford to identify talented individuals for a College Teaching Certificate program as well as potential faculty talent for the College.

The National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI) program held a workshop for the Senior Leadership Team of the College in July to learn more about this Diversity leadership program, and to explore how NCBI can be used to further support our diversity and equity goals at the College. In addition, The Massachusetts NCBI consortium of community colleges held its annual June 2-day retreat on Conflict Resolution skills on the Lowell Campus.

The Human Resources Office is continuing to emphasize training initiatives with regard to preventing sexual harassment and awareness of the conflict of interest and campaign and finance laws, commonly referred to as Ethics Commission training.

Facilities Department

The Facilities Department has been getting things done over the summer, with on-going carpet replacements and painting projects on both campuses.

A new roof for the Campus Center and a new basketball court have been completed on the Bedford campus, and, at the Lowell campus, lab renovations in the Talbot Building have brought new plumbing into three remodeled labs and the Merrimack Building (formerly Cyber Café) has been renovated as the Student Lounge has moved there from the City Building.

Advancement and Development

As a result of the 2010 Annual Fund Campaign, the MCC Foundation awarded 13 grants totaling \$61,682. Thanks to the entire Middlesex community for its continuing support. Special thanks also to Phil Mahler for chairing the Faculty/Staff Annual Fund Committee and to Jim Haney for his dedicated efforts in reaching out to our retirees.

This year, College Advancement initiated an extensive alumni outreach effort with the newly formed Alumni Network Committee. This committee met throughout the year to plan and coordinate various alumni events ranging from professional networking sessions to alumni social events, which included career seminars at The Career Place, MCC Night at the Merrimack Repertory Theatre, and a trip this summer to Martha's Vineyard. Thanks to Jim Grenier '95 for serving as chair of this committee.

In the coming year, the Alumni Network Committee will continue to promote alumni involvement and volunteerism at campus events, expand its efforts to increase alumni participation in MCC's Annual Fund, strive to establish an alumni-supported scholarship, and enthusiastically celebrate MCC's 40th anniversary.

Again, a reminder, you can follow many of our college events on our social media sites at Facebook, Twitter and our MCC blog at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Bedford-Lowell/Middlesex-Community-College/92394167708>

http://twitter.com/middlesex_cc

<http://community.middlesex.mass.edu/blogs/mccblog/default.aspx>

And remember to follow the events all throughout our 40th anniversary celebration on our website at:

<http://www.middlesex.mass.edu/40th/>

Enjoy these final days of the summer, and I'll see everyone on the 7th!

Sincerely,

Carole A. Cowan, Ed.D.
President