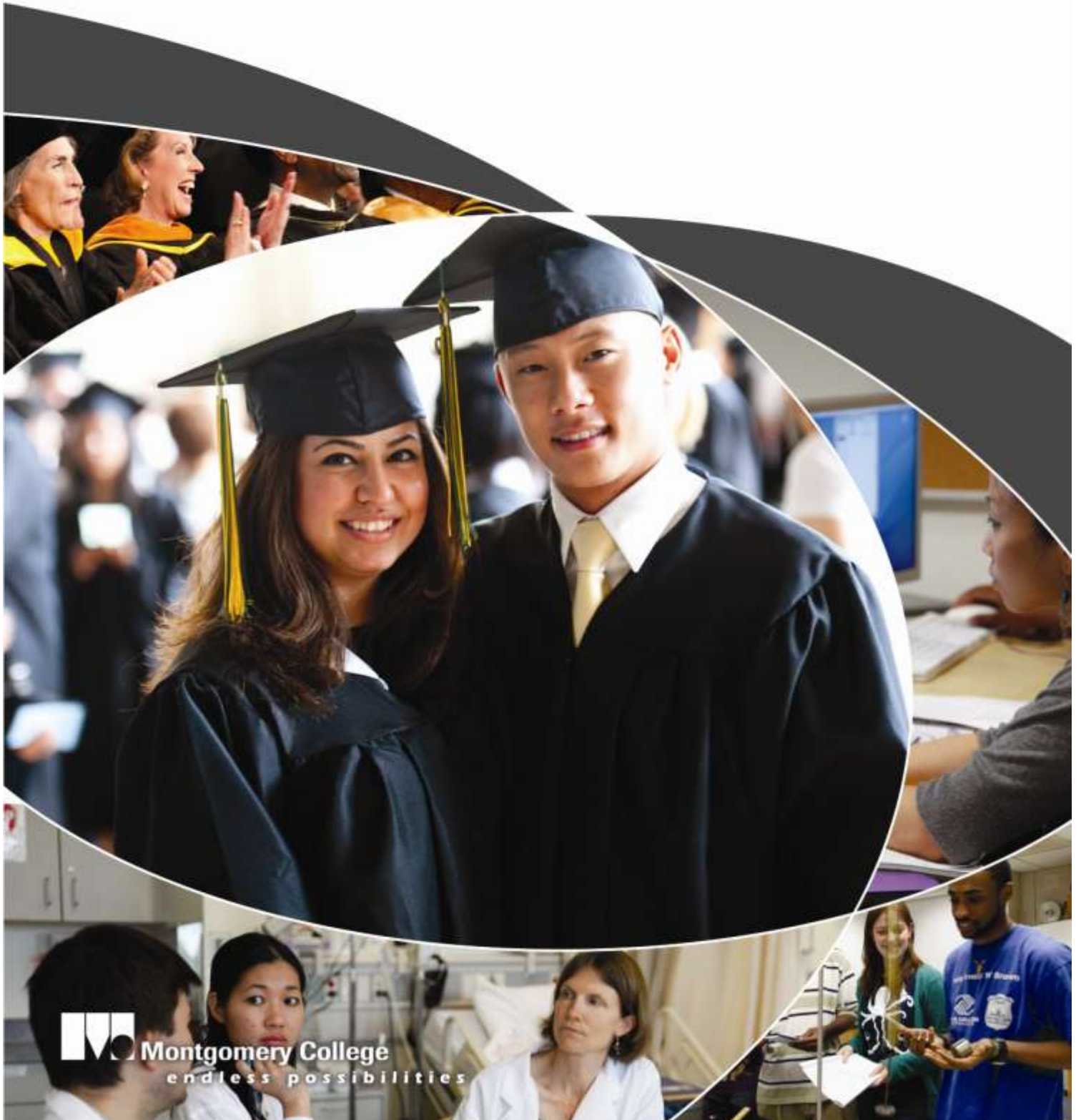


PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

October 2010



Montgomery College
endless possibilities



President's Report to the Board



DeRionne P. Pollard, Ph.D.
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If there was one thing that the Montgomery College community learned quickly about my new leadership as president it was that I am a communicator at heart. Among my many duties, my most important priority is telling the Montgomery College story. And I will do so to all who will listen, especially our elected officials at the federal, state, and local levels.

Now more than ever we must advocate and share the challenges and successes of this institution. Our Board of Trustees will serve as significant leaders in this effort, so I have chosen to devote my October Board of Trustees report to explain the current state of advocacy affairs at the College.

Advocacy, defined in the dictionary as support for a cause or position, is an essential task to be undertaken by the College's leadership. It is incumbent upon us to communicate the importance of our mission, and to seek the resources and policies that enable us to ensure the College's mission is met. We must be the leading advocates for the idea of higher education as a public good.

Community colleges across the state are the midst of the perfect storm. Public support is declining while our enrollment is peaking. First-generation high school graduates, returning adult students, and students from all socioeconomic statuses need the affordable, quality education that we provide.

We must remind our elected leaders that the College cannot lose significant public dollars and still provide the same level of academic quality and student support services that have made Montgomery College a leader among community colleges nationally. Our very mission—of providing affordable access to quality higher education—is at risk.

Our key priorities at this time:

- Protect the Cade funding formula.
- Seek support for our capital budget requests at the state and the county including funding for the renovation of Science East at the Rockville Campus.
- Oppose a shift in the retirement and pension benefits to the county or local employers.
- Seek support for local operating funding.

What's Our Game Plan?

We are currently finalizing our plans and background documents to support the Board of Trustees advocacy efforts.

State Efforts

At the state level we will be working with our colleagues at the Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC) to meet with statewide leaders. We will be tracking the Maryland General Assembly actions and will talk to key members of our delegation about our needs and concerns. We will testify at the delegation's priority hearing. Once 2011 begins we will be working with our delegation to address any concerns we may see in the governor's proposed budget, and we will continue visits to testify at our capital and operating budget hearings. We also look forward to bringing students to the annual MACC Student Advocacy Day in Annapolis.

Our lobbying efforts will focus on protecting the basic principles of the community college funding formula, while MACC will be requesting the General Assembly reinstitute its goal of funding one-third of the state's community college budgets. In FY11, the state provided just over 14 percent of the College's operating budget. We will also work together with locally supported community colleges statewide to advocate for support of our capital budget priorities.

The College's major capital priority for FY12 will be \$12.2 million for the continued Rockville Science East construction. MACC also endorses additional state funding for the state's Adult Basic Education Program and advocates for increasing all need-based aid, simplifying the state financial aid process, and allocating a greater portion of state aid to students entering community colleges.

County Efforts

Roughly 50 percent of our annual operating budget comes from county support. We have always been fortunate to work with a county executive and county council members who share our commitment to changing lives, and who recognize the College's economic impact on our region. We must redouble our efforts to explain the importance of our role.

We hope to emphasize to our county leaders that they must protect our current level of funding and avoid substantial reductions. Like the state-level lobbying, we will impress on local leadership that our major capital priority for FY12 is the continued Science East construction.

Federal Efforts

At the federal level, the College will be meeting regularly with members of our congressional delegation to request additional federal funding earmarked for community colleges.

Board Contribution

What can our board do to help with advocacy efforts? Simply put, be an advocate! I am very grateful that our trustees have deep external connections with our elected officials and fellow community leaders. Trustees are the visible leaders of the College in our community. Take the time to share the College's story of the; share facts about the College; testify at our local hearings; speak at County Council work sessions; and engage decision-makers.

The College is deeply committed to supporting the Board of Trustees' efforts with carefully planned objectives and activities that will enable all of us at the College to advocate for resources and policies that create real change in people's lives.

And don't forget to sign up for these advocacy updates: www.acct.org/advocacy/latest/e-alerts.php and www.insidehighered.com/newsletter/signup



Board Discussion Questions:

1. Advocacy often boils down to a question of priorities – what should elected officials support when resources are limited? This question also applies to the College. How much time and energy should we devote to explaining our value to elected officials versus proving our value to students and taxpayers?
2. The Board of Trustee's primary role is one of governance. Does this role also include leveraging corporate and community connections to champion the community college agenda?

From the Field: Advocacy

Senior administrators at Montgomery College are well connected within the community, and these connections will prove helpful as we prepare to garner wide support for our fiscal budget. Throughout the year, the vice presidents and provosts and other administrators, faculty, and staff meet with community and business leaders and elected officials at community and business events to keep them informed of the latest developments, opportunities, and challenges at the College. These periodic and often informal contacts are important relationship-building activities that lay the groundwork for support during critical times, such as at critical county and state budget and legislative sessions.

In Rockville, Vice President and Provost Dr. Judy Ackerman is visible in the community. She is a member of the boards of the Rockville Chamber of Commerce and Rockville Economic Development, Inc. As appropriate, she serves on City of Rockville committees, including the Rockville Culture and Entertainments Steering Committee, and previously, the mayor's Transition Committee. Dr. Ackerman is in the Leadership Montgomery 2011 class, and develops relationships with members of the District 17 (Rockville Campus) and 16 (home) delegations, as well as members of the Rockville mayor and council offices. She also established relationships with County Council members, especially Phil Andrews and Roger Berliner.

On campus, Dr. Ackerman keeps the community informed about the College's advocacy message during "What's On Your Mind?" sessions with the Faculty Council.

At Takoma Park/Silver Spring Dr. Brad Stewart, vice president and provost, has used his leadership positions as president, secretary, and treasurer of the Greater Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce to convince fellow board members to effectively advocate for the College at the state and local level. He has recently joined the Committee for Montgomery, where he is actively engaged in convincing them to similarly advocate on our behalf. Dr. Stewart's work with the American Council on Education and the World Bank has elevated Montgomery College's status internationally as we explain the community college model of access and success to ministers of education and university presidents from around the world.

Contact with the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board has been a beneficial communications link with citizens throughout the upcounty as the College seeks to gain support there. Germantown Instructional Dean Dr. Tony Hawkins serves on the board of directors of the Blackrock Center for the Arts, which has led to valuable relationships with community and business leaders. These positive relationships have helped the College obtain support from community and business advocacy groups, particularly for the College budget. For example, the Gaithersburg Germantown Chamber of Commerce (GGCC) and many members of the Global Alliance for Indian Biomedical Professionals gave their enthusiastic support for the College's FY11 budget through letters and other communications to the County Council.



Participation on the GGCC's board of directors and various committees of has facilitated inclusion of supporting statements for the College in the GGCC annual legislative priorities report. It has also yielded GGCC fundraising revenues for Montgomery College scholarships. Faculty relationships with industry often lead to support for the College, such as Qiagen Corporation's recent gift of equipment for use in the biotechnology and biology programs. In addition, the vice president and provost, Dr. Sanjay Rai, expects to develop similar relationships with additional technology companies as we initiate the Chief Science Officer program at the Germantown Campus next term.

College representatives make regular contacts with start-up businesses in the Germantown Innovation Center, which have led to employment opportunities for students. The pursuit of the Science and Technology Park has led to a Memorandum of Understanding with Holy Cross Hospital, which already has provided more than \$250,000 for the nursing program and will result in an additional \$350,000 in grants over the next five years. Similar arrangements are anticipated with additional tenants.

In summary, much effort is required to develop and maintain strong relationships with the community and business leaders and elected officials. These strong outreach efforts lead to a strong base of advocacy for the College.

Members of the Rockville Campus community provide campus tours for elected officials as part of the College's advocacy effort.

Dr. Patti Bartlett, Rockville instructional dean and Ms. Pati Lopez, scholarships and state grants program director, and Ms. Judith Taylor, associate director of student financial aid, represent the College on the Rockville Scholarship Foundation, a subgroup of the Rockville Chamber that provides scholarships to Rockville residents who attend Montgomery College.

Both the collegewide dean and associate dean for the arts, Dr. Deborah Preston and Mr. David Phillips, represent the College at gatherings with legislators sponsored by Leadership Montgomery. They also network with elected officials at events produced by the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County, Adventure Theatre, Glen Echo Park, the Music Center at Strathmore, BlackRock Center for the Arts, Maryland Citizens for the Arts and the Maryland State Arts Council, and the Maryland Humanities Council. Mr. Phillips serves on the board of the Maryland Humanities Council.

Carolyn Terry, Rockville instructional dean, serves on the F. Scott Fitzgerald Corporation board that collaborates with both the College and the City of Rockville to host an annual F. Scott Fitzgerald literary conference, which will be on October 16 this year. Dr. Darrin Campen, Rockville instructional dean, joined the Rockville Rotary shortly after coming to the College in June 2010. Rockville Instructional Dean Ed Roberts is on the board of the Montgomery County Conservation Corps.

Dr. Clemmie Solomon, Takoma Park/Silver Spring dean of student development, and the Office of Student Development hosted the Education Day program for Leadership Greater Washington, the region's premier leadership organization. More than 70 executives from both private and nonprofit organizations participated in the event which focused on education reform.

Dr. Stephen Cain, Takoma Park/Silver Spring dean of natural and applied science, business, management, and information sciences serves on the Governor's Workforce Investment Board. Dr. Amy Gumaer, acting dean of the arts, humanities and social sciences at Takoma Park/Silver Spring, has tirelessly promoted the College and the Humanities programs within the arts community and among current and potential donors to the College.

Health Sciences Dean Angie Pickwick, who serves on the NBC 4 Community Advisory Board, is involved in a variety of education and health-related initiatives in the Greater Washington area, as well as national accreditation panels and review boards.



Throughout the campuses, the most powerful voices of advocacy belong to our students. As faculty, staff, and administrators, it is our job to empower and guide our students as they advocate for Montgomery College and higher education.

All three campuses encourage talented students to participate in the College's annual Student Advocacy Day, where students travel to Annapolis to explain to legislators how Montgomery College played an important role in their lives. Student Advocacy Day is also an important avenue for helping our students understand the statewide legislative process and the College's funding stream.

The Office of Volunteerism and Service Learning supports the mission of Montgomery College in enriching and supporting our students in out of classroom service experiences. This office connects students with the community, matching course requirements, student interests and needs to opportunities to serve in the Montgomery County community in nonprofits and NGOs that welcome our students into their organizations, especially now in these tight budgetary times.

Our students have earned Montgomery College a place on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. The College was selected based on the community and volunteer service efforts of students at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus. Factors influencing the selection included the scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service, and the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning courses.

Students have also contributed to the College's advocacy through internships in the offices of city, county, and state elected officials. Communications student Tierra Washington, for example, works as an intern for Congresswoman Donna Edwards; works as a student assistant in the Office of the Vice President and Provost; and blogs for Montgomery College. She was recently selected to participate in the MTV/BET/CMT Town Hall with President Obama, where she had the opportunity to address the President directly with a question regarding the affordability of higher education and the preparedness of today's students to succeed.

For the past two semesters, students in Professor Shelley Jones' intermediate Spanish at Takoma Park/Silver Spring have been serving the local Latino community through service learning in organizations such as Casa de Maryland, Spanish Catholic Center, Gala Hispanic Theater, Gilchrist Center, Latin American Youth Center, and Mary Center. The students must speak Spanish at the site and produce a final research paper and oral presentation, in Spanish, on a social phenomenon in the Latino community that they have become aware of due to their experiences.

The health sciences Student Nursing Club is frequently involved in health-related community outreach programs. In a few weeks, club members will participate in the Langley Park Health Fair to screen residents for hypertension and to assist instructors in self breast and testicular exams.

Montgomery College students have a new opportunity to work with ESOL students from Blair High School and Northwood High School through an AmeriCorps VISTA service learning collaborative. Activities range from cleaning up Sligo Creek to reading books at the Takoma Library's *Read-Out!* event. Another VISTA program partners our students with elementary and middle school students in age-appropriate service learning activities. MC student volunteers are assisting at Broad Acres Elementary to bag food and deliver it weekly to the elementary school children.

The Montgomery College "Health e-News" Health Sciences e-newsletter, which received the 2009 Silver Paragon Award for Best Electronic Newsletter at the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR) Paragon Awards, serves as an outreach tool for Montgomery College's Health Sciences programs to network, partner, and share news about the College's various health sciences programs with clinical, educational, industry partners and affiliates.

Professor James Walters, director of student life, and faculty at Takoma Park/Silver Spring pioneered an approach over the past year to engage students in deeper thinking about their personal choices, with the ultimate aim of preventing



unplanned pregnancy. Prof. Walters spoke at a meeting hosted by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) who has joined with the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. AACC will use the successful TP/SS experience as a national model.

Even our buildings serve as examples of advocacy for the College. The Takoma Park/Silver Spring Cultural Arts Center has been well utilized since it opened a year ago. It served as the venue for the Purple Line Now event with Congresswoman Donna Edwards and as the venue for Governor Martin O'Malley and his cabinet as they conducted the state's business from the dance studio. In addition to being a magnet for our elected officials, the newly created spaces on campus have attracted a variety of community and commercial events that further strengthen our ties to the area and heighten awareness of our programming and purpose.

The College's Workforce Development and Continuing Education program has contributed significant stories and friends to support the Community College mission in Maryland. Whether commenting on legislation and policy issues at local, state, and federal levels, or generating editorials and news stories about program successes, or securing support for Montgomery College, Workforce Development and Continuing Education has been at the center of sharing the best outcomes of the community college experience for gaining and encouraging friends to support that mission in the most endearing ways.

Throughout the year, our Workforce Development & Continuing Education programs and partnerships touch the lives of many Montgomery County families, community groups, business, and governmental organizations. Each of these relationships cultivates a following, a story, an experience that becomes the basis of support for the College.

Partnering projects with the Hispanic Chamber, the African American Chamber, the Montgomery County Chamber, and many local chambers each year connects the College to the individual memberships of each group. Requests for letters of support for budget requests are gladly answered, given our positive working relationships on a year-round basis.

Positive interactions with many county agencies through contract training, coordination of some aspect of personnel training, or helping to craft a local solution to a training need with area community based organizations, also creates a positive regard for the relevancy of the College in meeting the training needs of the community. Among county agencies we have a positive working relationship that assists in elevating College support among the elected officials who are aware of these collaborations.

Celebrating Students

Every year Montgomery College sends an outstanding array of students to the Beacon Conference for Student Scholars at Two-Year Colleges to present original academic research in their College courses. Mentored by Rockville English Professor *Shweta Sen*, five students won in their respective categories at the Beacon competition this summer. Congratulations are in order to students *Ana Palomino, Alexandra Smith, Claire Kalala, Meikeng Stephannie Achamorfaw, and Whitley Richards*.

The ABC Metro of Washington chapter of Associated Builders and Contractors and the Montgomery College Student Construction Association participated in CANSTRUCT, a competition organized by the Washington Architectural Foundation, in which teams of architects, engineers, and students compete to design and build structures made entirely of canned foods. The results were displayed in The Shops at 2000 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., in Washington, D.C., from September 12 to October 2. After the exhibit, the canned food was donated to local food banks for distribution to emergency feeding programs. The MC team used approximately 4,000 cans of food to construct a replica of the Guggenheim Museum in New York.

Lien Yao, a long-time student of the Rockville Art Department, held a one-person show at the Mansion at Strathmore from September 11 to October 16.

Judy Soukup, a Rockville Art Department student, participated in the juried show, Cumberland Valley Artists Exhibition, which ran through September 26 at the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts in Hagerstown, Maryland.

Under the guidance of Professor Janet Saros, students in the Hospitality Management program will prepare and cater Dr. Pollard's inaugural luncheon on Friday, October 29. This is a first for the Hospitality Management program and its students.

A Graduate Transitions Program student has been nominated for the HSC Foundation Student Leap Award. The HSC Foundation, which serves the HSC Health Care System organization, is dedicated to improving access to services for individuals who face social and health care barriers due to disability, chronic illness, or other circumstances that present unique needs.

Celebrating College Faculty, Staff, and Administrators

Dr. Lucy E. Laufe, collegewide honors coordinator, was invited to serve as a final reader for the Hites Transfer Scholarship, a new national scholarship initiated by the Phi Theta Kappa International Honors Society. Dr. Laufe was selected as one of six readers to select five winners from the 26 best applicants for the \$7,500 scholarship.

Like many women in physics, *Dr. Kris Lui*, coordinator of Physics, Engineering, and Astronomy at Germantown, received a grant from the Mellon Foundation to collaborate with colleagues from Swarthmore College to conduct a study to determine how male and female physicists are evaluated in the classroom. They concluded from their study that not only can a physics professor's gender make a difference in how a lecture is received by students, but also that student gender can play a role. The complete study is available at www.physicsworld.com. Dr. Lui earned a Ph.D. degree in physics from the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada.

Germantown professor and chair *Jackie Middleton*, spoke at the Pentagon during two separate events for recent college graduates in September. At one event, she addressed members of the Army Knowledge Leaders Program, a fast-track leader development program.

Dr. Jack Sallie, Germantown counseling faculty member, recently completed requirements to receive certification to administer the Myer's Brigg Type Indicator.



Rockville Professor *Carl Ackerman*, adjunct faculty, Applied Geography, recently received the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History award in recognition of exemplary teaching. This institute named Ackerman History Teacher of the Year for the District of Columbia in 2010. The award comes with a cash prize, teaching and reference materials, and eligibility for recognition as the national award winner, which will be announced in late October.

Creative Writing Professor Dr. Julie Wakeman-Linn's short story, "Fancy Man," just appeared in the fall 2010 issue of *Rosebud*. The story's protagonist, Tom Jensen, a young man, nearly out of luck, ends up on the doorstep of an old family friend, George Wilson in Lusaka, Zambia. They struggle with homophobia and the loss of family. Professor Wakeman-Linn also edits *the Potomac Review*, an award-winning literary magazine.

Dr. Gina Wesley-Hunt, professor, Rockville Biology Department, authored two chapters in the newly released Cambridge University Press book, *Carnivoran Evolution: New Views on Phylogeny, Form, and Function*, edited by A. Goswami and A. Friscia. Dr. Wesley-Hunt is the first author on the chapter *Comparative Ecomorphology and Biogeography of Herpestidae and Viverridae (Carnivora) in Africa and Asia*, and second author on the chapter *The Biogeography of Carnivore Ecomorphology*.

Dr. Maria Brunett, professor, Rockville Math Department, had a cover article published in the August 2010 edition of *MathAMATYC Educator*, a refereed publication of the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges. Entitled *Linear Programming with Legos*, the article illustrates Dr. Brunett's interest in innovative lesson plans for the college mathematics classroom. Dr. Brunett combined several ideas to construct a lesson plan that utilizes Legos to actively engage students as they learn about linear programming.

Rockville Art Professor *Michael Farrell* will have a one-person exhibition of paintings and drawings at Gallery 555 in Washington D.C. Exhibition dates are October 12 to November 19.

Rockville Art Professor *Michael Sellmeyer's* work will be on exhibit at Glenview Mansion in Rockville from September 12 to October 5.

In collaboration with alumni Samantha Song '07 and Rosetta Nesbitt '05, Professor *Sumita Kim*, Art Department chair, created and installed mural paintings for the Quince Orchard Library in Gaithersburg, Md.. The paintings, which represent the themes of learning and diversity, are now prominent features in the Teen Zone alcove of the library.

Jean Hirons, Rockville adjunct professor of art for pastel, has had her painting, "House by the Tracks," accepted into the 2010 national juried exhibition of the Pastel Society of America (PSA). The show was held at the National Arts Club in New York City during the month of September. Hirons is a signature member of the PSA; this is her fourth acceptance into this highly competitive show.

A sculpture by *Barbara Allen*, Rockville adjunct professor of drawing, titled, "Garden Plan," was selected for the ReVision exhibition at the Katzen Museum at American University in Washington, D.C.

Rockville Adjunct Professor *Dave Daniels* was selected as one of the artists participating in the 10th Annual American Landscapes Exhibition, a nationally juried show that was held at the MFA Circle Gallery, Annapolis, Md., through September 19.

Rockville Adjunct Professor *Guita Vafai* illustrated a book of poetry, *The Happiest People Cry the Hardest* written by S.H.Vafai, a former Montgomery College student who transferred to the University of Maryland. It was published by iUniverse Inc.

Rockville Adjunct Professor *Michaele Harrington* judged Montgomery Art Association's *Paint the Town* show in Kensington. Prof. Harrington also exhibited in University of Maryland-Shady Grove Campus's Community Day Celebration on September 25.



National Chemistry Week was October 17 through 23. Rockville Chemistry Professor *Nevart Tahmazian* celebrated by volunteering with the American Chemical Society *Enthusiast* program. Tahmazian will work with local Girl Scout Troop 331 to demonstrate hands-on chemistry activities at a Pre-K-8 school in Rockville.

Rockville English Department professors, *Effie Siegel* and *Carol Malmi*, will serve on a panel discussion of the 2008 Smithsonian Institution Fellowship program for the November 4–7 Two-Year College Association (TYCA) Northeast annual conference at the Dupont Hotel in Washington, D.C.

The Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS) program has started a DMS blog for students, alumni, and clinical instructors. In Professor *Linda Zanin*'s MS 200 independent study course, students were tasked with designing ways to enhance communications among all faculty, staff, and students that would enhance learning. The DMS blog is a result of that project.

Takoma Park/Silver Spring Counseling Professor *Ed Muchene* received a doctorate in Addictive Disorders from Breining Institute in California.

This fall, *Angie Pickwick*, dean of health sciences at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus and member of the NBC4 Community Advisory Board, will help award \$5,000 NBC4 Education grant to a student-choice educational program. Students who live in the regional community are being asked to submit innovative, creative, and compelling ideas to address education reform in their schools.

The Office of Service Learning welcomed a new AmeriCorps member, *Allison Klothe*, who recently graduated from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. While in college, she worked for the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Service Learning also welcomed the new Americorps VISTA member, *Laura Stagnaro-Green*. Laura will head up the Service Learning Collaborative with Montgomery Blair and Northwood high schools.

Jay Marciano, Takoma Park/Silver Spring counselor, authored *Peace & Justice-Making Connections through Peace and Justice*, the publication used for the 2010–2011 First Year Experience at his campus.

Jamin Bartolomeo, Takoma Park/Silver Spring counselor, received the American College Personnel Association (ACPA) award for Outstanding Use of Technology in the Two Year College category.

Sharon Maxwell, senior administrative aide, Workforce Development and Continuing Education, supported Sherwood high school student Kayla Robinson in earning her Girl Scout Gold Award for her project, "*Career/Job Opportunities for Stay-at-Home Moms!*" event. Sharon organized a team of Montgomery College professionals for this event, including: *Shirley Bliss*, job opportunity counselor, Student Employment Services; *Cathy Kwolek*, coordinator, Admissions Recruitment; *Ann Johnson*, webmaster, Workforce Development and Continuing Education; and Adona Leonard, chief executive officer and owner of ACCe'NT Team Financial Services. *Joseph O'Hare*, job opportunity coordinator, gave an insightful presentation on the current job outlook, networking opportunities, educational opportunities, resume preparation tips, and Montgomery College resources.

Steve Greenfield, dean of business, information technology and safety, Workforce Development and Continuing Education, joined with *Dr. Sanjay Rai*, vice president and provost of the Germantown Campus, to participate in a unique public/private partnership to develop a Chief Science Officer training program. The program will offer information to scientists on five business fundamentals: leadership, project management, first-line supervision, negotiation, and finance. The noncredit curriculum, which begins January 2011 on the Germantown Campus over 12 Saturdays, was developed by Montgomery College, the Montgomery County Department of Economic Development, the Foundation for Education in the Sciences, the NIH Office of Tech Transfer, and Human Workflow, Inc..



Eunice Montilla, program assistant, Workforce Development and Continuing Education (WD&CE), will begin a new partnership with the Montgomery Works by providing weekly information to job seekers who attend the Montgomery Works one-stop workforce center in Wheaton. Each year, the center serves more than 11,000 job seekers who are in career transition or are looking to enter or re-enter the workforce. Eunice will provide Montgomery Works clients with information on all Montgomery College training and courses, including short-format WD&CE courses.

Academic News

The Office of Distance Education at the College has changed its name to the Office of Distance Education and Learning Technologies (DELT) to reflect its new learning technologies training for faculty functions. The office will continue to offer training on distance education pedagogy but also will work with on-campus faculty on ways to better incorporate technology into their classes. Upcoming workshops will be offered to faculty in AELP, math, and science.

The College's Center for Teaching and Learning is planning its fall 2010 Professional Development Saturday Series on November 13, 2010, at the Germantown Campus. Themed *Student Success and the College Completion Agenda*, the daylong faculty professional development event will feature Dr. Pollard facilitating a workshop, and a series of roundtable discussions at lunch on contemporary issues at the community college. These awareness sessions are intended to spark faculty interest to attend future workshops and apply for fellowships the CTL will be offering throughout the academic year and summer 1.

Montgomery College has been selected to receive a \$100,000 grant as part of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' (USCIS) Fiscal Year 2010 Citizenship and Integration Grant Program. Montgomery College is one of 75 organizations from 27 states and the District of Columbia to receive a total of \$7.8 million in grant funding to promote citizenship education and immigrant integration in communities across the country. Through this grant program, USCIS seeks to expand citizenship preparation programs for lawful permanent residents (LPRs)

The Graduate Transition Program (GTP) received an anonymous gift of \$1,550 to support a needy student; this contribution was matched by the Montgomery College Foundation.

The Information Technology Institute (ITI), the Montgomery County Corrections Prerelease Center, and Montgomery Works have been awarded a Demonstration Grant from the Department of Justice for a Second Chance Act Technology Careers Project for Incarcerated Adults and Juveniles. Award notification was officially received October 4. The ITI will be delivering the main technology component of this project as it gets underway this fall.

Ed Palaszynski, senior program director of the Information Technology Institute (ITI), successfully completed 30 hours of customized UNIX training contract for MedImmune, one of the largest biotech employers in the county. He was assisted by Kathy Michaelian, instructional dean of business, science, mathematics, and technology at the Germantown Campus; Rockville Computer Science Professor Dr. Greg Grinberg; and Rockville Computer Science Professor Ms. Alla Webb. Dr. Andy Yao, chair of the Rockville Computer Science, Information & Interactive Technologies department, prepared instructional materials, based on a new UNIX text that was customized by his team. MedImmune has begun discussing additional contract classes.

Community Recognition

Gaithersburg-based Mosaic Technologies was honored as one of the top companies in Maryland at "The Gazette of Politics & Business 3rd Annual Exceptional 53 Awards." Principal and CEO Jason Bach said, "Our success is in part due to the relationship we are continuing to build with Montgomery College." Mr. Bach worked closely with Montgomery College employees Martin Levy, CK Shiang, and Eric Myren over the last year and invited them to attend the ceremony,



held at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda on September 15. Additional information may be accessed by visiting <http://www.gazette.net/PB53/>.

The Cultural Arts Center on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus received the Public Building of the Year Award from AIA Maryland, a society of the American Institute of Architects. Larry Frank, AIA, design awards committee chair, assisted by Eileen English, AIA, president of AIA Maryland, presented the award on Thursday, September 2, at the society's annual awards gala, which was held at the Cultural Arts Center.

Speakers and Events

Montgomery College will present an interactive exhibit, *Hands-on Maglev*, at the inaugural National Science and Engineering Festival on the National Mall and surrounding areas on October 23–24 from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. MC's tents, numbered 262–266, will be located between Jefferson and Madison drives, and 3rd and 4th Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. The exhibit will feature small levitated vehicles on magnetic tracks, an experiment with ferrofluids and strong magnets, and levitation of graphite at room temperature. Between 80,000 and 100,000 visitors are expected during the two-day event featuring over 1,500 fun, hands-on science and engineering activities.

As part of presidential inaugural week activities, the Macklin Business Institute Speaker Series features Mr. Martin Mayorga, MC alumnus, founder and president of Mayorga Coffee. Mr. Mayorga will speak on Wednesday, October 27, in the Music Building Recital Hall from 2:30–3:30 p.m. Mr. Mayorga will discuss the challenges of starting his company and the growth it has experienced in only a few years.

The Rockville Women's Studies Program will co-sponsor the Bandana Project on Tuesday, September 21, 3:30-5 p.m., in the Humanities Amphitheatre, on the Rockville Campus, as part of the observance of International Peace Day, organized by the Peace and Justice Studies Committee. The Bandana Project is a program of the Southern Law Poverty Center, which is designed to promote and support advocacy for immigrant women farm workers who have been victims of abuse and violence. Students will create bandanas to show their support of these women.

The Paul Peck Humanities Institute was selected for the third year in a row to co-host this year's official One Maryland/One Book Author Tour featuring *Outcasts United, An American Town, A Refugee Team And One Woman's Quest To Make A Difference*. Author Warren St. John spoke at the Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus on Tuesday, September 28 at 7 p.m. The talk was followed by a book signing, and guests had an opportunity to meet the author. The event was cosponsored by the Paul Peck Humanities Institute, MC Office of Communications, MC Libraries, Takoma Park/Silver Spring Student Life, the Arts and Humanities Department and faculty at Takoma Park/Silver Spring, as well as corporate sponsors: The Maryland Humanities Council, The Writers Center, and Giant Food LLC of Landover, Md. More information about One Maryland/One Book and about *Outcasts United* can be found online at www.mdhc.org/programs/one-maryland-one-book or at <http://www.outcastsunited.com/>

The Inspiring Women, Telling Our Stories Series, cosponsored by The Office of Equity and Diversity and The Women Studies Program, presented *Crossing Borders, Meeting New Challenges*, on Thursday, September 30, at 2 p.m., in the Goldenrod Building, Room 105B, on the Germantown Campus. The program consisted of a talk and reading by Prof. Xuan Lan Nguyen, ESL, author of *The Sea and the Mulberry Field*, followed by group discussions about the immigrant experience. This program is funded by the Make It Happen! Innovation Grant (MIHG) Program.

On Thursday, October 7, the Women's Studies Program, The Gathering Series of Rockville Student Life, and the Hispanic Heritage Month Committee presented *From Storyteller to Advocate: Transforming Experience into Political Change*, in the Student Activities Center, on the Rockville Campus. Latino community activists, Dream Act, led the advocacy session (teach-in/workshop); storyteller Noa Baumled the storytelling session.



On October 8, Montgomery College participated in *Frontiers in Science and Medicine* at the Shady Grove campus of Johns Hopkins University (JHU), a countywide program for middle school students. Chemistry Professor Nevar Tahmazian and Interim Science, Engineering, and Math Dean Dr. Robert Brenneman facilitated several hands-on activities designed to increase interest in the sciences. This is the second year that the College participated in this annual event, involving local universities, organizations in the life sciences, and health-care providers in collaboration with local research organizations and bio-tech companies.

Business executives will speak to students from all three campuses in the Theatre Arts Arena at Rockville on the theme: Do the Write Thing! Writing for Success in the Workplace on October 26 and November 18 from 11–11:50 a.m. The speaker series, which included an October 13 event, is sponsored by EN109 Writing for Technology and Business (Rockville) and supported by a Make It Happen! Innovation Grant. Speakers are from Lockheed Martin, Marriott, and National Institutes of Health.

SEM Exchange, a provocative series of presentations on science, math, engineering, and technology topics, kicked off with its first-ever outside speaker, Dr. Crispin Taylor, executive director of the American Society of Plant Biologists. Dr. Taylor spoke on the importance of studying plants on October 14. On October 28, Dr. James Sniezek, Biology Department professor, will talk about the microorganisms found in the discharge of blowholes of toothed whales. Dr. Jim Cosgrove, Biology Department professor, will discuss the new world of eukaryotic RNA transcription and gene expression on November 11; and Dr. Barbara Hoberman, Biology Department chair, will provide details on writing a competitive grant application for NIH or other agencies on December 9. SEM Exchange discussions are from 2:30–3:30 p.m. in TC 136 on the Rockville Campus and are open to the public.

The Inspiring Women, Telling Our Stories Series, cosponsored by The Office of Equity and Diversity and The Women's Studies Program, will present *Single Parenting — The Balancing Act: Home, Work and School*, on Wednesday, November 3 at 3:30 p.m. in the Theatre Arts Arena, Rockville Campus. The program will feature Professor Gus Griffin, counselor and advisor to *Boys to Men Group*; Ms. Manar Morales, commissioner, Montgomery County Commission for Women and associate executive director, The Center for WorkLife Law; and Professor Judith Vaughan-Prather, sociology, executive director, Montgomery County Commission for Women. This program is funded by the Make It Happen! Innovation Grant (MIHG) Program.

The College Performing Arts Series will present Harry Connick Jr.'s *The Happy Elf* on November 12 through Sunday, November 28. at the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center.

The Office of Volunteerism and Service Learning hosted a Fall Community Organization and Volunteer Opportunity Fair on Wednesday, September 22. Thirty organizations registered to attend. Students were able to speak with representatives personally about opportunities to fulfill course syllabus components of service experiences related to learning objectives.

On Tuesday, September 21 in honor of International Peace Day and the 2010–2011 First Year Experience (FYE) peace and justice theme, two events were held at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus. A discussion entitled “Does Capital Punishment Create a More Peaceful and Just Society?” was held with Shujaa Graham, a man wrongly imprisoned on death row for three years, and Art Laffin, whose brother, Paul, was murdered. Their stories shared sadness, anger, and frustration, but ultimately spoke of redemption. The documentary, “Encounter Point,” was screened and discussed in the Commons. “Encounter Point” follows the lives of four unlikely heroes—a bereaved Israeli mother, a former Palestinian prisoner, a former Israeli settler, and a wounded Palestinian still grieving the loss of his brother—as they confront hatred and struggle to find workable solutions despite their own loss and pain.

Samuel Gonzales, social media director, American Occupational Therapy Association, presented a workshop titled “Facebook for Marketing Your Programs” on September 15 for the Workforce Development and Continuing Education's (WD&CE) Professional Exchange Program, which is funded by the Make It Happen! Innovation Grant. Under the exchange program, WD&CE staff post their talents and best practices in a database, and colleagues utilize each other's talents to assist work efficiencies and professional growth.

