

Montgomery Scholars Program Newsletter

# SCHOLARLY PURSUITS

VOLUME 18 | ISSUE 28 | SPRING 2018



# Touchdown



MONTGOMERY SCHOLARS  
MONTGOMERY COLLEGE



# SCHOLARLY PURSUITS

VOLUME 18 | ISSUE 28

SPRING 2018

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We encourage the scholars community and friends to give to the program. A gift, no matter its size, is really helpful to support the program during these difficult financial times. You can make your gift at our secure, online giving site: [www.montgomerycollege.edu/onlinegiving](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/onlinegiving). (Click on "Select an area of support" then click on "Other" and type Montgomery Scholars in the box.)

You can also send a check made payable to Montgomery College Foundation and write Montgomery Scholars on the memo line.

Send your check to:  
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**Thank you so much!**

## Schedule of Events

**Skool** for the sophomore Class of 2018 and their families, Scholars program faculty, and College administrators:  
Monday, May 14, 5:30–8:30 p.m.  
Gudelsky Building, Rockville Campus

**Graduation** for the Class of 2018:  
Friday, May 18, 9 a.m.  
Athletic Field, Rockville Campus

**Picnic** for all classes of scholars, past, present and incoming, and Scholars program faculty:  
Saturday, August 18, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.  
Bohrer Park, Gaithersburg  
*Hosted by the Montgomery Scholars Alumni Advisory Board*



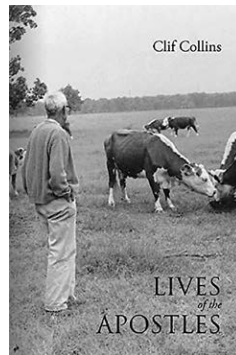
## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

### Dear Scholars, Parents, and Friends of Scholars:

This edition of the newsletter celebrates one of our alumnae whose academic journey led from Montgomery College to Cornell to her dream job as event and meeting manager at the National Football League Players Association. Lindsay notes that her parents did not attend college, which makes them that much more proud of her trajectory, as are we. In honor of those achievements, we entitled this edition "Touchdown." This title is not only appropriate for its direct association with football but also for the many reactions the act usually provokes.

A touchdown in football—despite its physical meaning being grounded in reality as literally bringing something in direct contact with the earth—can produce a range of emotions. It can inspire players and fans alike, often to a state of euphoria. It can give renewed hope when scored by the trailing team. Or it can take one's emotions downward with it as it injects desperation into the fans and players of the opposition. Touchdowns of airplanes too can trigger nostalgia and intense emotion when returning to the land of one's birth, or can induce intense dread if the reason for landing is to visit a loved one who is ill, or can lead to excitement and anxiety if arriving for a job interview.

Lindsay's "touchdown" is cause for celebration and definitely comes under the euphoric consequences of the action category. Theresa Price, an alumna who is currently in medical school, also writes about a touchdown of sorts as the result of an emergency simulation exercise that inspired and galvanized her motivation to be a doctor who can literally "save someone one day."



On that medical note, this edition is also in honor of Professor Clif Collins. You may have noticed the absence of "Clif's Notes" with its own inimitable writing style. As some of you know, Clif has been fighting an autoimmune condition and other health-related problems for a number of years. Despite that, he has not only persevered in teaching World Literature to the first-year students but has done so with his usual aplomb, wit, and encouragement of students' voices. His current students and colleagues are saddened by his inability to teach this semester. During his recent health issues, he turned to writing poetry and prose. As

he reflects on the book jacket of his subsequent publication, *Lives of the Apostles*: "I started seeing the power lines outside my bedroom window as guitar strings being plucked by God."

Clif always teases me about my lack of knowledge of U.S. sports, but I believe this time I have it correct: Clif, your book is definitely worthy of the term "touchdown."

**Mary T. Furgol**  
Director, Montgomery Scholars  
[mary.furgol@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:mary.furgol@montgomerycollege.edu)

# DESDE EL ESCRITORIO DEL DIRECTOR

## Queridos Becados, Padres de Familia, y Amigos de Becados:

Esta edición del boletín informativo celebra a uno de nuestros alumnos cuya experiencia académica le condujo desde Montgomery College hacia Cornell para alcanzar su sueño trabajando como Coordinador de Eventos y Encuentros de la Asociación de Liga Nacional de Jugadores de Fútbol. Lindsay sabe que sus padres no fueron a la Universidad, por ello su trayectoria es algo por lo cual ellos están naturalmente muy orgullosos, como estamos nosotros. En honor de estos logros, titulamos esta edición "Anotación". Este título no es solo apropiado para esta asociación directa con el fútbol americano sino también para las muchas emociones que las acciones usualmente provocan.

La anotación en fútbol, aparte de su significado físico como literal de llevar algo en directo contacto con la tierra, puede provocar un rango de reacciones. Puede inspirar a jugadores y seguidores a un estado de euforia o puede renovar la esperanza cuando anota el equipo que esta perdiendo o puede inyectar desesperación dentro de los seguidores y jugadores de la oposición. Los aterrizajes de aviones pueden desencadenar nostalgia e intensa emoción cuando uno regresa a la tierra donde nació o intenso temor si la razón del aterrizaje es visitar a la persona amada quien está enferma o entusiasmo y ansiedad si el arribo es para una entrevista de trabajo.

La "anotación" de Lindsay, sus logros son definitivamente causa de celebración y llegan cargados de euforia, consecuencias de sus acciones. Theresa Price, una alumna quien está actualmente en la escuela de medicina, también escribió acerca de tipos de aterrizajes como resultado de un ejercicio de simulación en emergencia que la inspiró e impulso su motivación a ser médico quien puede literalmente "salvar el día de alguien". En esa nota médica, esta edición esta en honor al Profesor Clif Collins. Usted ha notado la ausencia de "Las notas de Clif" con su inimitable estilo de escritor. Como muchos de ustedes saben, Clif ha estado luchando contra una condición autoinmune y otros problemas relacionados a la salud por muchos años. A pesar de eso, el no solo ha perseverado en la enseñanza de Literatura Mundial a los estudiantes de primer año sino que él lo ha hecho con su usual aplomo, ingenio y motivando a su vez las voces de los estudiantes. Sus actuales estudiantes y colegas están tristes por su incapacidad para enseñar este semestre. Durante sus problemas de salud el comenzó a escribir poesía y prosa. Como el refleja en la cubierta de la siguiente publicación, *La Vida de los Apóstoles*: "He empezado a ver la líneas poderosas fuera de la ventana de mi dormitorio como cuerdas de guitarra arrancadas por Dios"

Clif siempre bromea de mi falta de conocimiento acerca de los deportes americanos, pero Yo creo que el tiempo que he tenido lo ha corregido, Clif- tu libro es definitivamente merecedor del término "Anotación." [Translated by Estefany Carillo '09.]

**Mary T. Furgol**  
**Director, Montgomery Scholars**  
[mary.furgol@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:mary.furgol@montgomerycollege.edu)



Picnic to welcome the Class of 2019



# TOUCHDOWN!

## Dream Job

By Lindsay Schattenstein (Class of 2007)

I am one of those unique breeds who knew as a teenager my biggest strengths and how they could morph into a career: event planning. Coming from a family whose parents didn't go to college, it was clear from an early point in my life that having a strong education was something my parents thought of as crucially important to my success.

I started in the Montgomery College Scholars program in August of 2005, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed to continue to broaden my knowledge base in a variety of topics. The experiences I had in the Scholars program (especially studying abroad at Cambridge University), along with the friendships I made, serve me well to this day. I graduated from Montgomery College in 2007 and headed off to the Cornell University School of Hotel Administration—the top hospitality program in the country. What a fabulous next step it was, the exact track I needed to pursue the career I saw myself in after graduation. Needless to say, it was an amazing program that set me up for success in so many ways, and my parents absolutely know I made the right decision in choosing to attend!

Event planners really have their own niche, and sometimes they have to carve their own path to find their way. I started my career at a large building with about 100,000 square feet of rentable event space as an assistant in the sales and events department. I was subsequently promoted twice to become an event planning manager. During this time, I also earned my CMP (Certified Meeting Professional) and CSEP (Certified Special Events Professional) designations. It was a fabulous first job, working on events for President Obama, Vice President Biden, and many other dignitaries. But after four and a half years, it was time to move on!

I spent my next two years as director of production at The Webster Group, a small woman-owned event planning firm here in D.C. I worked on conferences and galas, product launches, and much more all over the country.

Currently, I am at the National Football League Players Association (NFLPA), and honestly, some days I wake up and think, "How did I land at my dream company at the age of 29?" The NFLPA has a suite of five major events that the department plans, including an event at the Super Bowl along with pop-ups throughout the year at things like the ESPY (Excellence in Sports Performance Yearly) awards. One of our events brings the top-40 rookie players out to Los Angeles, where they get to see—and ultimately wear—their NFL jerseys for the first time. I work for the players, and they are our event attendees. As an avid football fan, there is no place I would rather be, and I am grateful to come to work at the NFLPA every day.

I am thankful for the Montgomery College Scholars program, which set a solid foundation for my career path, and I am happy to talk about my experience at MC and the wonderful Scholars program whenever anyone asks how I got where I am today!



## To Save Someone One Day

By Theresa Price (Class of 2011)

*Theresa Price '11, BS, AA, and currently a medical student in the College of Osteopathic Medicine at Western University of Health Sciences, sent this e-mail to the director:*

"Hi, Dr. Furgol! I just want to say hello and give you a random thank you for helping me evolve as a writer, critical thinker, and storyteller and as a person in general. I also want to describe a life-altering experience I just had.

I was in San Diego for the past week for hyper-realistic simulation training for mass casualties. It was the first time my school had students attend the event, and I wanted to show my gratitude for everything they did for me. I thought about writing a story to share my experiences, and the way I wrote it reminded me of you. I had read the stories in the recent Scholars program newsletter entitled "Journeys," and it inspired me to write one of my own. The stories were so vivid, and I was so touched by the writing style that I have missed so much. I wanted to make sure you read my letter because I thought of you the whole time and want you to know that, even six years after graduating from Scholars, the program continues to make an impact on me and all the people who are touched by this letter. So thank you!"

### THE LETTER

I would like to share with you my experiences in San Diego this past week. I was able to participate in hyper-realistic training for mass-casualty emergencies with 29 other medical students from two other schools. It was an experience that is difficult for me to put into words, and an attempt at fleshing out my thoughts is going to be a challenge.

On day one, we were asked to write down what motivated us in medical school. And we were asked again on the last day. Here is what I wrote:

Day 1: Success

Day 6: To save someone one day

That is a pretty accurate description of my week in San Diego. It was more of an



existential journey, as cliché as that sounds, for my motivation to study medicine. And to be honest, recently my motivation has been lacking, as one may tell with my simple half-hearted answer on day 1 of “success” (which, at the time, I thought was a pretty decent answer because I wanted to prove myself—but that’s another story). So let me explain by putting you in my shoes for half a day during the training.

Imagine for yourself, the following scenario:

You are a young, straight-out-of-medical-school Army physician who is relieving a colleague of a currently stable 45-year-old male patient who came in a few hours ago with a blast injury. Let’s face it—you haven’t experienced trauma before. The chaos is new to you, but it seems to have cooled down. The patient has two fractures: a left humeral and left femoral fracture. He lost one liter of blood, which was replenished with two units of type-matched blood and one liter of intravenous (IV) crystalloid fluids and was also given 2g Ceftriaxone IV. X-rays show complicated angular fractures of both extremities. He had a negative FAST exam (focused assessment with sonography for trauma) and no head trauma. After the hand-off, you get to know the patient—his favorite movies, his recent

trip to Baltimore—hey, that’s where you’re from!—when all of a sudden he starts bleeding profusely from the loosened tourniquet on his lower leg and begins to have a massive seizure. *You are the physician.*

Before you can think, two other colleagues rush to jump on the bleeding leg tourniquet, compressing it with their knees and yanking the tourniquet tight. The patient is seizing and it’s your job to stop it. You can’t remember the drug to give the patient. You’re freaking out. From past experiences, the only real-life seizures you’ve seen were managed with waiting it out. So that’s all you can think of doing. But your patient doesn’t stop. He is foaming at the mouth. He is shaking all over and blood is all over your hands.

*He is in status epilepticus.*

You don’t know what to do. You can’t remember how to help this patient. Even though you’ve been taught, over and over, about Ativan.

“Ativan!” someone shouts at you, “Give that patient some...Ativan!!!!” Now your body is running for you toward the medication cabinet. But it’s not anywhere. “How much Ativan are you going to give?” You realize you can’t remember the dose. Wait, were we even taught

what the dose was? And then you remember. You’re not a physician. You’re a second-year medical student playing the role of a physician. You don’t know the dosage. You can’t even find the make-believe vial labeled Ativan. Your curriculum so far doesn’t require you to know. In panic, you ask your fellow doctors, aka other second-year medical students who are now trying to escort out the worried onlookers who rushed into your ER. No one can help you. And your patient is seizing, frying his brain right in front of you. And it’s your fault you don’t know. The REAL Navy physician supervising you has such a disappointed look on his face that reads: your lack of knowledge is killing this man.

*Your mind is blank.*

“If you don’t know what to do, look it up!! You have a phone!!” the Navy physician finally yells at you. So you stumble for your phone. In your nervousness, you can’t type right. You keep typing “atrivab doxage” or “attivam dpsagr” until finally you get it right. You find it: 0.5 mg to 2 mg IV. You rush to your patient to administer 1 mg IV Ativan, and the patient finally stops seizing. You order more tests: FAST exam, chest X-ray, non-contrast head CT ....

*Then you finally breathe again.*

This was the scenario I had on my last day at training, and it was, by far, the most motivating and educational day for me. Success? Sure. But to me, I don’t care about proving myself anymore. One day, I will be presented with a patient like him. In a real scenario, the knowledge I should have had might not come to me because of my lack of motivation to study all those years ago, which is right now. And that is why my motivation for medical school has drastically changed. I am EXCITED to study for boards. The more I learn, the more deaths I can prevent from my own ignorance. There is no substitute in education for hands-on experience. That is what motivates you. At least that’s what motivates me now.

On a last note: I will never, ever forget to give a seizing trauma patient a dose of Ativan (which, I was told later, should have been 2 mg because it was such a dire emergency). As I said on my Facebook post, I am so grateful for this week’s experience. I can’t wait to get out on rotations and apply my new knowledge and experience to actually help people and “to save someone one day.”

Sincerely yours,  
Theresa Price, OMSII  
2LT, US Army, MC  
WesternU, COMP



# TRANSFER EXPERIENCES



## Choosing a Concentration

By Chadwick Dunefsky (Class of 2017)

In the fall of 2017, I transferred to The University of North Carolina (UNC) Chapel Hill as a history major with an undecided concentration. Declaring a concentration was a key part of my transition. Thinking back to Montgomery Scholars, I especially remembered learning about Russian modes of identity through literature and about women's rights throughout the Civil War era. After a semester, I decided to concentrate my studies on "Gender and Women Studies."

I am currently enrolled in an Oral History course and a Global 1970s course. For my research papers pertaining to these two topics, my intent is to interview feminists who were active in the 1970s and also to investigate feminism in the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). Montgomery College and the Scholars program taught me how to explore history. Enrolling at UNC Chapel Hill granted me the opportunity to work with top scholars in these fields so I could further develop the passion for history that I first acquired at MC.



## Interdisciplinary Bliss

By Lori Wysong (Class of 2017)

One of the first things I noticed at Washington College is that everything is still interdisciplinary! I've seen connections between my classes and activities every semester that I've been here, and I think my recognition of the interconnectedness of knowledge is a direct result of the Scholars program. I have been getting involved on campus, writing for the school paper, giving tours of a historic Customs House, and travelling to the Harvard World-

MUN (Model United Nations) in Panama over spring break with the Model UN Team. I believe that the interdisciplinary courses I took as a Montgomery Scholar uniquely equipped me with the combined research, writing, and presentation skills required to be successful in each of these endeavors.

## POETRY CORNER

A poem inspired by a study travel experience in Asheville, North Carolina, with the author's class

### VCR

I think I was falling,  
Fading away,  
Like a lesson on a chalkboard at the sound of a bell.  
I was brought back by a state,  
And memories filled in with color.

Long nights, talks at 2 am; a hazy blue.  
I remember talking about our pasts,  
And wondering how I ended up here,  
On a couch a few hundred miles from home,  
Talking to people I met a mere few months ago.

Dancing, friends, laughter; a shivering red.  
Round and round we went,  
Time stood off in the corner,  
Casting a thin layer of ice over the room.  
My heart, a lime green,  
Was sprayed by the graffiti of my friends,  
A burnt orange, a vibrant maroon, a vibrant pink,  
a dark purple, and a bright green.  
Swirls of colors mixing as we found the beat  
of music,  
And spun the night away.

Trips downtown; a pale orange.  
In the calm of downtown,  
Compared to the ferocity of home,  
My heartbeat could not find a pace to keep  
itself against,  
It slowed to a quiet whisper,  
As I walked around town,  
And I found solace in the love of a town,  
That loved itself more than anything.

I lifted myself out of June's Summer Tunes,  
Into August and its Good Vibes,  
It seemed I hit a deep sadness,  
That I did not realize I was in,  
Until I was out of it,  
Laughing and smiling, a vibrant lime green  
once again,  
In the company of friends.

I was lifted by a state,  
The rich red of the inside of a watermelon,  
Out of that deep sadness,  
And thrown into the midst of August,  
Looking once again within myself,  
Caught up by the fervor of a month that will  
not slow down.

I wait for September to creep by,  
And for the sunflowers to wilt,  
For the fall season to hit,  
And the world to evolve back into that burnt orange.  
I will enjoy the moment,  
And tuck the memory of the sunflowers in my heart,  
For a cold fall day.

Chadwick Dunefsky '17

# CONGRATULATIONS!

## Three Births

Congratulations to **Kristen (Hand) Smoker '04** and her husband, Jason, on the birth of their second daughter, Nora Anne Smoker, on November 8, 2017; to **Gadi Sadan '05** and his wife, Meghan, on the birth of their first child, Liat Colleen Sadan, on August 28, 2017; and to **Josephine Ta '07** and her husband, Tito, on the birth of their third child, Penelope Rose Morales, on December 14, 2017.



Nora Anne Smoker



Liat Colleen Sadan



Penelope Rose Morales

## ... and One Wedding & Two Engagements

Many congratulations and best wishes to **Emily Thron '10** on her marriage to Tim Nelson on December 2, 2017. We also extend our congratulations to **Mary Close '06** on her engagement to Paul Mitchell and to **Rachel Patrick '08** on her engagement to Michael Pacella.



Emily Thron and Tim Nelson



Mary Close and Paul Mitchell



Rachel Patrick and Michael Pacella

# ALUMNI HAPPENINGS

## Pass It On

The Montgomery Scholars Alumni Advisory Board organized our second alumni panel—eight alumni representing various professions—to speak to the current Montgomery Scholars on November 9, 2017. The aim of the evening was for each member of the panel to talk about their experiences at Montgomery College, at their transfer schools, and in the workplace and to offer advice to the current students. There was also a question-and-answer session at the end.

Our alumni panel members represented various professional areas:

**Mariano Ramos '01**, BS, Chef

**Judy Martinez '03**, MA, BA, global diversity and inclusion consultant, Lockheed Martin

**Nick Lovesee '04**, BS, lead lobbyist for Eni

**Victor Ontiveros '04**, PhD, MS, BS, Hughes Associates—Fire Risk Assessment, Nuclear Plant



Back row left to right: Nick, Mariano, Seung, and Alisa  
Front row left to right: Nick, Rose, Judy, and Victor

**Rose (Wyzga) Simpson '04**, BSN, oncology nurse, Montgomery General Hospital

**C.J. Overly '06**, MBA, BS, project manager, Boston Properties

**Alisa Tsaturov '12**, BA, Fulbright Scholar and U.S. Department of State

**Seung Yeob-Yang '15**, BS, project manager, Health Care Design Builders, LLC

Once again, Nick Lovesee chaired the event in his own inimitable style with both humor and gravitas. A common theme of the evening was the degree to which writing and public speaking skills are necessary in the workplace, regardless of profession, and also how much each of the alumni believe they owe their success to Montgomery College and the Montgomery Scholars program. The importance of relationship-building (not just networking) was emphasized, with each of the panelists reiterating how they had reached their current situations with the aid of generous individuals they had met along the way.

The event was a great success and will be repeated this fall. Any alumni reading this who would like to be included in the panel, please contact Monica Young at [monica.young@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:monica.young@montgomerycollege.edu) or [mcscholarsalumni@gmail.com](mailto:mcscholarsalumni@gmail.com)





Montgomery College, Rockville Campus

# SCHOLARS COLLOQUIUM

By Susan Chen (Class of 2019)

The sun had set on Montgomery College, but in the Theatre Arts building, the show was only beginning. The arena was filled with professors, scholars, and families eager to see the presentations the night had in store. This year's focus was "Global Intersections." With such an open theme, topics ranged from farmers' market fraud to the ethics of covert anthropology.

The poster presentations were the first in the spotlight. Presenters stood by their posters on the arena floor ready to share the culmination of their research. **Oluwadara Olokode's** presentation, "A Racial Nexus: The Reality of Institutionalized Racism in the West and Beyond," explored how racism has manifested itself in places such as the U.S. and England, but also in countries such as Ghana and Tanzania where the population is not dominantly white. She concentrated on the glorification of lighter skin and how it has led to practices such as skin bleaching.

Audience members were actively engaged with the presenters, asking many questions and showing great interest. Scholars themselves were also initiating discussions with each other about their respective topics. Other presentations included **Maryamewit Abate's** "Resisting Resistance: A Global Look

at Antibiotic Resistance," which examined the overuse of antibiotics and the severe repercussions that could result, and **Jeong-Yeob Yang's** "Sleep Paralysis: Medical or Cultural Phenomenon?" which explored this mysterious sleeping condition that lacks a conclusive cause.

After the poster session, everyone returned to their seats as the announcement for "New Friend of the Scholars" was made. Abate nominated her ninth grade math teacher, Tasha Thomas, who was unable to come to receive her award. However, Ms. Thomas still had her achievements as a teacher recognized on stage.

The next session was the arena presentation. This year's arena speaker was **Hannah Shraim**. As she ascended the stage, her classmates cheered her on with encouraging shouts and chants. Shraim's presentation, "Bitcoin: Booming Business in Unexpected Spaces," delved into the nature of this cryptocurrency and its global application. Bitcoin is a self-regulating online currency. Being both a business and political science major, Shraim sought to view the world of bitcoin through these two lenses. She looked at case studies in Venezuela, Iran, and Asia, where populations face problems such as hyperinflation, power corruption, and

general lack of economic stimulation. She emphasized that the nature of bitcoin allows people to access global markets when they otherwise could not. Shraim described bitcoin as something that "bridges connectivity across the globe."

The remaining presentations took place simultaneously in four different classrooms. **Emma** in her presentation, "Scars on the City: Long-Term Consequences of Divisive Urban Planning," examined how discrimination lives within the fabric of cities. She concluded by relating her case studies back to the United States and asking the audience to consider the effects on our country of whom we exclude in the future. **Hana Fischer** presented about global mental health and how culture influences the perception of mental disorders. She emphasized that the medical world must consider these cultural factors in order to better diagnose and treat patients, especially as globalization continues to create a more diversified world.

After the presentations, the scholars celebrated with cake as they relished in the satisfaction of having reached the finale of the program. The thought-provoking research that the scholars brought to the table resulted in a night that left everyone present with much to think about.





Evelyn Gray, Quil Kibak, Julia Tallon, and Jennifer Sorto



Colloquium Group



Oluwadara Olokode presents poster



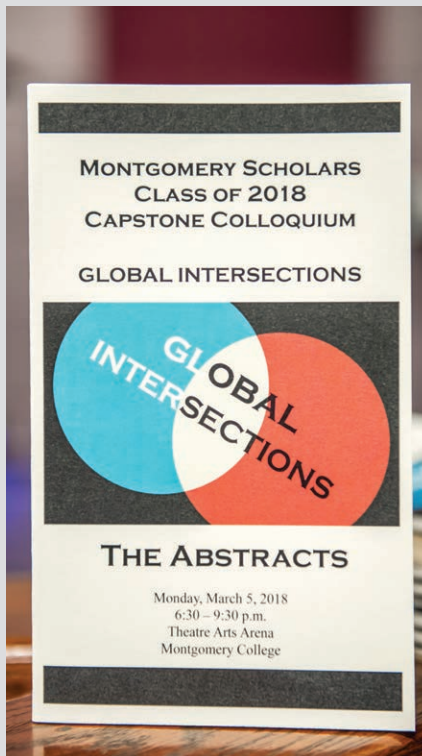
Maryamewit Abate presents poster



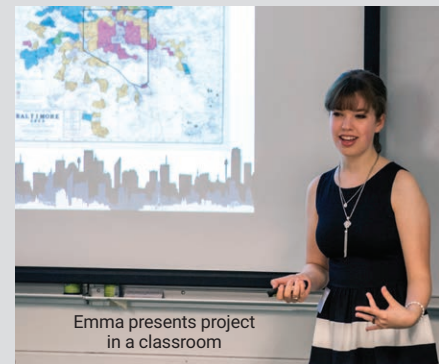
Hannah Shraim gives arena presentation



Jeong-Yeob Yang presents poster



Hannah Shraim, Lauryn Fanguen, and Professor Rose Piskapas



Emma presents project in a classroom



# IN THE NEWS



**Class of 2001.** Members of the class attended a mini-reunion in January. It was great to catch up and reminisce about "old times" at MC.



**Judy Martinez '03**, MA, BA, AA (Springbrook HS), recently returned to Cambridge with her parents and husband, where she reminisced over the "life-impacting experiences of my Scholars Summer Abroad."

**Josephine Ta '07**, BSN, BS, AA (Northwest HS), will be starting the certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) program at the University of Maryland, Baltimore in June 2018 for her doctor of nursing practice (DNP) degree.



**Christian Barrera '08**, MA, BA, AA (Wheaton HS), is deputy chief of staff and legislative director for the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services within the District of Columbia government. He received the Montgomery College "Rising Star" Young Alumni Award for 2018, joining past recipients **Michelle Mays '02**, **Amy Gueye '03**, and **Carolina Pena '07**.



**Sarah Lasko '10**, BA, AA (Rockville HS), spent most of 2017 working for the Disney Cruise Line. She spent two and a half months rehearsing at Disney Cruise Line's facility in Toronto and then seven months on the *Disney Magic*, sailing the Baltic, the Mediterranean, the Canadian coast, and the Caribbean. While working as a mainstage performer on the *Disney Magic*, Sarah visited 21 countries, performed for thousands of people all over the world, and traveled across the Atlantic Ocean twice. Sarah portrayed Rapunzel in *Tangled: The Musical* and Belle in *Disney Dreams*.



**Corinne Wilhelm Glab '11**, BA, AA (Covenant Life HS), wrote: "This February I opened The Family Room, a gathering place designed to look and feel like your own family room. We have unique gifts and specialty goods for your home as well as coffee, tea, and grab-and-go snacks. Much like Professor White's basement where many of us spent Friday afternoons, The Family Room was designed to create an atmosphere

in which people could spend time with friends and loved ones, build community, and buy some great items all in one stop. The Family Room is much more than a coffee shop or a gift boutique; it's a place to call home. I hope you can stop by and enjoy our shop. And if you do, please mention that you are part of our Scholars family!"

The Family Room, 6820 Olney-Laytonsville Road, Laytonsville, MD 20882  
[www.thefamilyroomlaytonsville.com](http://www.thefamilyroomlaytonsville.com)



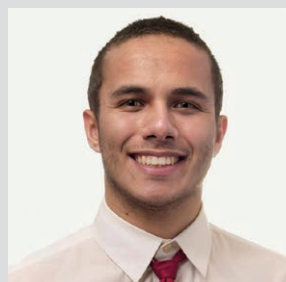
**Yves Gomes '12**, BS, AA (Paint Branch HS), received the John Delloro Generations Rising Award from the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA). This award "is given to an outstanding student or youth advocacy organization committed to worker, immigrant, and civil rights. The Generations Rising Award was launched to reinforce APALA's long-standing commitment

to multigenerational leadership in the labor movement." An officer in APALA, Yves is currently a third-year pharmacy student at the University of Maryland, Baltimore.



**Sophia Venero '13**, MS, BS, AA (Blake HS), was the alumni speaker at the Montgomery County Executive Hispanic Gala in the fall of 2017.

**Betzaida Nolasco '15**, AA (Montgomery Blair HS). While finishing up her undergraduate degree in romance languages with a minor in global poverty, Betzaida is interning with CASA's Department of Education.



**Charles Varga '18** (Albert Einstein HS) has received the CyberCorps Scholarship. This award will cover tuition when he transfers to the University of Maryland, Baltimore County in the fall.



# THANKS!

## Roundtable Presenters & Guest Lecturers

The scholars wish to thank the following individuals for their generous contributions of their time and talents during this academic year.



Roundtable with Mariano Ramos



Roundtable with George Scheper



Ana Palomino



Steve Di Girolamo



Professor Shweta Sen



Nathan Zook, PhD



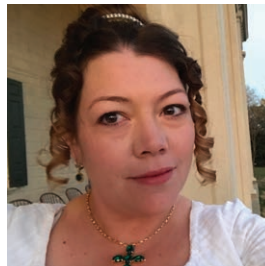
Aram Hessami, PhD



Left to right: Nicole Moorman (Crone), Sarah McIlvried, and Ana Palomino



Gislene Tascayo



Elizabeth Keaney

### *Cross-Cultural Communication*

**Ana Palomino '10**

### *Scholarly Cooking*

**Mariano Ramos '01**

Advanced Culinary Arts Instructor  
Carlos Rosario International Public  
Charter School

### *Japanese Tea Ceremony*

**Mr. Steve Di Girolamo**

### *Internships and Working for Nonprofits*

**Nicole Moorman (Crone) '08**

Children of Uganda

**Sarah McIlvried '10**

Catholic Relief Services

**Ana Palomino '10**

Social Ministry Coordinator  
Rape, Abuse, and Incest National  
Network

**Gislene Tascayo '16**

Bilingual Support Specialist  
Montgomery County Recreation  
Site Director  
Dream Academy

### *Latin America*

**George Scheper, PhD**

Director, Odyssey Program  
Senior Lecturer, Advanced Academic  
Programs  
Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts and  
Sciences  
Johns Hopkins University

### *Indian Religions and Culture*

**Shweta Sen**

Professor, Montgomery College

### *Tolerating Intolerance: A Simulation of Dutch Immigration Policy*

**Nathan Zook, PhD**

International Studies Coordinator  
Montgomery College

### *Post-Modern Thought*

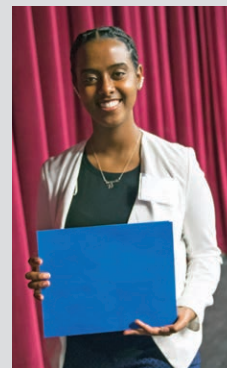
**Aram Hessami, PhD**

*Martha Custis Peters (George  
Washington's granddaughter)*

**Elizabeth Keaney**

Character Interpreter  
George Washington's Mount Vernon

## New Friend of the Scholars



Congratulations to our new Friend of the Scholars! The following high school teacher was nominated because of her guidance and mentorship of students:

**Tasha Thomas**

*Mathematics*  
Springbrook High School  
Nominated by

**Maryamawit Abate '18**



Montgomery Scholars Program Newsletter

# SCHOLARLY PURSUITS

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Montgomery Scholars program, please go to  
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Comments, feedback, or input, please email:  
[mary.furgol@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:mary.furgol@montgomerycollege.edu)

