

PREMIER ISSUE

Need help Adjusting to College life & A New Culture? Join the International Buddy Program!

MC Takoma/ Silver Spring campus has a special mentoring program for all MC international students called the International Buddy Program. It was created by Dr. Harold Barber in 2005 as a part of Global Connections. The program helps international students, who are new to the USA, as well as the college environment, better cope with the new challenges they will face while attending MC.

How does the program work? The International Buddy Coordina-

tor will pair each international student (mentee) with what is called a mentor. The mentor is either a current MC student or an alumnus (graduate) who already understands the college environment and the culture here in the US. The mentors willingly take the time to share what they've learned and how they've been successful throughout their time at the college. Many of our International Buddy mentors have graduated from MC, transferred to 4-year schools, obtained their graduate degrees

and are already working in their professions. The mentors are very enthusiastic about helping because they were once in a similar situation and have been able to overcome certain obstacles.

If you are an international student, don't hesitate to sign up for the International Buddy Program today.

Contact Eniola Olowofoyeku at 301-650-1480 or visit Student Services Center Rooms 144-145.

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Photo by Rayon Anthony

From left to right: Eniola Olowofoyeku, Harold Barber & Lorraine Krusa

International Student Office Now Located in the New Student Services Center

The new Student Services Center, which opened in June 2006, is the new home of the International Student Office (ISO). This office is located on the first floor in rooms 144 through room 146. All students must stop at

the front desk and sign in before proceeding to speak with one of the counselors who work in these offices.

In addition to the International Student Office, the new building houses the Cafeteria, MC

Munchies, MC copies, Security, Admissions, Counseling, the Testing Center, Student Life, Financial Aid, the Cashier, the Career Center and Disability Student Services.

Special points of interest:

- International Buddy Program
- Faculty/Staff Corner
- Important Dates
- Alumni Perspectives
- Global Connections Fall 2006 Upcoming Events





“If you don’t understand something in the classroom, don’t be afraid to talk to the instructor....”
-Lorraine Krusa

Welcome New International Students!

The fall semester is about to begin and we are happy to welcome some 40 new international students, both “first timers” in the U.S. and transfers from other schools. Among the students who attended international orientation, countries represented are Gabon, Cameroon, Nigeria, Rwanda, Jamaica, Madagascar, Namibia, Uruguay, Ivory Coast, Venezuela, Mali, Thailand, South Korea, France, Sweden, Trinidad, Burkina Faso, Burundi and Brazil. Students who are newly

arrived are beginning a whole new life in a new culture. Hopefully during the semester, there will be opportunities for both U.S. and international students to share their culture through discussions, movies, and class presentations.

The U.S. system of education is very interactive. Instructors evaluate students through exams as well as participation and quizzes. If you do not understand something in the classroom, don’t be afraid to talk to

the instructor and your classmates to clarify what you don’t understand.

Remember that you don’t need an appointment to visit my office. Walk-in hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2-4 p.m. Fridays are 9 to 1 p.m. and, by appointment, 2 to 4 p.m. Best wishes for a successful fall semester at Montgomery College.

-Lorraine Krusa,
 International Student Coordinator



Global Connections Newsletter

The publication of the *Global Connections Newsletter* represents another milestone in the history of the International/Multicultural Center, Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus. Created in 1999, the Center was charged with developing and coordinating programs and services for the increasing international/multicultural student population. The primary purpose of the newslet-

ter is to expand the channels of communication to students on issues related to their educational and social welfare. Among other things, it will provide information on upcoming Global Connections programs. **The creators of this newsletter would like to emphasize that the materials in this and all subsequent issues should not be construed as superseded-**

ing the current policies, procedures, and regulations of the College.

Finally, the Center wishes to express its gratitude to the College for its continuing support of the services to the international/multicultural student population .

-Dr. Harold E. Barber

Greetings From The Editor

Dear Readers,

I am very pleased to release the premier issue of Global Connections Newsletter. It is my hope that the entire campus community will benefit from all that this publication has to offer. The newsletter will be published twice during both the fall and the spring semesters. I look forward to speaking with you again during the upcoming November/December issue.

Sincerely,

Eniola Olowofoyeku
 -Editor-in-Chief

Contributors:
 Dr. Harold Barber
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*MC Students who wish to work on the newsletter should contact either Dr. Harold Barber or Eniola Olowofoyeku at 301-650-1474.

Important Dates to Keep In Mind During Fall 2006 Semester

September

6 Late registration begins the first day a class meets; \$35. Nonrefundable fee charged.

9-10 Saturday and Sunday classes begin

12 Drop with refund deadline

13 Change of schedule fee begins; \$10 nonrefundable fee charged.

15 \$50. Late payment fee

charged for registration not paid before this date.

26 Deadline to add with instructor permission, drop with no grade, or change to credit or audit. Audit to credit and credit to audit change require instructor's signature.

October

1 Last date to complete application for I-20 forms for students outside the United States for the spring semester. Forms

are required for international students who need F-1 immigration status.

18-24 Midterm exams; midterm grades due from faculty one week after midterm exams

November

1 **Prospective May Graduation:** If you plan to graduate in May 2007 you should apply for graduation by this date

If you are missing any degree requirements you will have to try to register in the needed classes before the spring semester begins

December

1 Late date to complete I-20 applications for F-1 status students transferring from within the United States for the spring 2007 semester (Forms are required for international students who need F-1 immigration status)

7-23 Final exams

An International Student's Experience at Montgomery College

Prior to applying to Montgomery College, I had lived in the metropolitan DC area for 3 months. I applied for admission for the 2004 fall session. I made an appointment to see the international student counselor at the Takoma Park campus. He evaluated my credentials and documents and requested that I take the TOEFL exam.

Once I met all the requirements for admission I applied for an I-20. The international student counselor was very helpful in making the application process a smooth and successful one.

My immediate challenge as an international student was finding affordable accommodation. For-

tunately, the campuses are all accessible by public transportation, making it possible to commute to school easily.

Montgomery College has a very diverse student body. This coupled with its location within the greater metro DC area makes it easy for international students to adapt and blend in. The proximity of the Silver Spring/Takoma Park campus to downtown Silver Spring allows for a wealth of extra-curricular and entertainment options.

My experience at Montgomery College was rewarding and fulfilling. The faculty and staff are just as diverse as the student body. Their expertise, profes-

sionalism and interest in students enabled me to succeed.

- ABIOLA FOLARIN

AAS Mental Health

May, 2006



"My experience at Montgomery College was rewarding and fulfilling"
-Abiola Folarin



Montgomery College Takoma/Silver Spring

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Photos by Rosser Farley



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We're on the web!
[www.montgomerycollege.edu/
Departments/studevtp/
international.htm](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/Departments/studevtp/international.htm)

MAILING ADDRESS



GLOBAL CONNECTIONS FALL 2006 UPCOMING EVENTS

- * Student Welcome—**September 12**
- *AELP Information Session- **September 20**
- *Financial Issues Information Session- **September 28**
- *Conversations: Theme is based on immigration and Hispanic population (In observance of Hispanic Heritage Month)-**October 3**
- *Health Insurance Issues Information Session-**October 10**
- *Field Trip- **TBA**
- ***International Student Week**
November 13-17
- *Opening Event-**November 13**
- *Special Panel Presentation, "Africa: The Other Side Of The Picture"-**November 14**
- *International Student Update- **November 15**
- *Visit The National Museum of the American Indian on your own
(In observance of Native American History Month) – **November 16 - 17**
- *Conversations- **December 5**

Photos by Don Rejonis

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