



INTERIM VICE PRESIDENT & PROVOST



A Message from Clarice A. Somersall

The spring semester has begun in a remarkable way. The enrollment figures show an 11% increase over last year's numbers. This is due largely to the efforts of a top-notch team of administrators, faculty, and staff who know that students are "the center of our universe." Supplemental Instruction - a new academic support service designed to help students navigate especially challenging General Education courses - has started under the collective leadership of *Deans Porras and Segura*. *Paula Ottinger* is using her years of expertise and experience to coordinate the efforts in a masterful way. I can't help but beam with pride every time I take a visitor to the Bliss Room. The student art work, graciously supplied by our outstanding Art Department, new tiled steps, and real plants greet the visitor in an open and welcoming way. Due to the fine efforts of *Howard Stanley* and his superb team, we are all noticing the improvements to our physical plant. *Jim Walters* and *Judy Ramcharan* are working with the Montgomery County Public School System on a special project geared toward improving the reading skills of second graders. Indeed, Montgomery College, Takoma Park is making its mark in the College and out in the expanded community.

I don't know about you, but I can't help but marvel at the speed with which the Student Services Center is being constructed. Seemingly, the steel girders have sprung up over night. During the month of March, it is anticipated that the other portion of the pedestrian bridge will be erected. *Jennie Wells*, *Howard Stanley*, and our Facilities Office have met with our neighbors from the Takoma Park community. They are as thrilled and anxious as we are.

Please join us on March 8 when the outstanding Black and African American, Asian, and Hispanic students are acknowledged for their diligence and scholastic excellence at a day-long celebration on the Rockville campus. Students from the entire college will be praised. Dean Segura is leading a collegewide committee to sponsor the Hispanic Awards Ceremony. I know that your students will enjoy seeing you in the audience on that special day of recognition.

I am very pleased with the input that I received from the Takoma Park Vision/Needs Initiative that was mounted fall 2004. You spoke out about the need for student scholarships and the ongoing struggle to create a sense of community for our students, faculty, and staff. The broader Takoma Park and Silver Spring community also shared their perspectives on the value of having Montgomery College in their midst. With all of this priceless information in hand, the permanent Vice President and Provost will be able to chart a course for success for this campus and its citizens - you, the students, faculty, staff, and administrators.

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FACULTY COUNCIL

The VP/Provost News

Upcoming Events & Opportunities

Takoma Park

- ◆ Transfer Day - 02/22/05
- ◆ Health Fair - 04/05/05
- ◆ Job Fair - 04/06/05
- ◆ Phi Theta Kappa & Academic Awards Ceremony - 04/29/05

Collegewide

- ◆ Academic Awards - 03/08/05
- ◆ Information for Students with Disabilities - 03/09 & 03/16
- ◆ Staff Professional Day - 03/21/05
- ◆ Commencement - 05/20/05

Takoma Park Today

Learning Skills Support Services (LSSS) by Paula Ottinger

LSSS is one of the units within Student Development under the administration of *Dean Humberto Segura*. Its primary focus **is to support student persistence and success**. LSSS staff work with students individually, in small groups, and in workshop formats to help them develop academic and personal skills in a number of areas (e.g., **time management and organizational skills, study strategies, test-taking, overcoming stress and test anxiety, and managing obstacles interfering with success**). They assist students with **problem-solving** and make referrals to campus and community resources as needed. This unit also coordinates a number of campus events (information tables, health fairs, and success workshops) and facilitates production of informational publications for students referred to as Services Offered Students (S.O.S.), which provides information on campus services, and the Computer Access Information Sheet. In-class workshops are offered upon faculty request. Staff will collaborate with faculty to develop workshops in areas that students need help.

A new addition this year is coordination of **Supplemental Instruction**. SI is a form of academic support which involves identifying high-risk courses and utilizing student leaders to provide a review session for each class period. SI was started on a very limited basis with one Math course during the fall, and has expanded into a pilot program this spring semester to include courses in Math, Biology, and Chemistry.

Center for Teaching and Learning by Suzanne Shaffer



The Center for Teaching & Learning (CTL) is finalizing spring 2005 workshop offerings. Takoma Park's workshops will address plagiarism, disruptive students, using Excel in grading, classroom assessment techniques, diversity, and technology issues. Faculty are strongly encouraged to take advantage of CTL workshop offerings.

Skip Downing returns to Rockville in June, presenting his On-Course Strategies in a 3-day workshop. For descriptions of these and other workshops, visit <http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/ctl/workshops/workshop.htm>. You can access the Quickstart guide by visiting <http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/ctl/Quickstart/quickstart-current.htm>.

Your Takoma Park CTL representative is *Suzanne Shaffer*, who is located in Science South 324, x1677. Suzanne is available to visit your department and for individual faculty assistance. CTL supports teachers by encouraging creativity, innovation, and continual improvement in instruction to enhance the learning environment for our students.

SPOTLIGHT ON: Arts and Entertainment

Early in January, potential architects for the proposed Takoma Park Campus Cultural Arts Center were interviewed by a team, including *Professor Perry Schwartz* and *Dean Paula Matuskey*. A week later the campus art faculty, *Professor Schwartz* and *Dean Matuskey*, as well as representatives from the School of Art & Design were presented with choices of color concepts/palettes for the King Street Art Center.

This center, which will be situated within the former Giant Bakery, is well underway in terms of planning. A glimpse of its design will feature art studio classrooms, a large lecture hall, a gallery, two Macintosh computer labs, a small student lounge, artist-in-residence studios (to accentuate the artistic presence), an art supply bookstore, coffee bar, faculty and staff offices, critique areas for student work, an art library, and additional instructional space. The center will also house approximately 20 artist studios which will be available for rent by local artists as part of the Silver Spring Arts & Entertainment District initiative. Finally, the center will be the site for the College's computer servers.

Initial color selections for the building, in terms of exterior and interior walls, as well as tile and carpet, were made. A large portion of the center will maintain concrete flooring to preserve its industrial appearance. None of the activities associated with these two projected buildings would be possible without outstanding constant support and involvement of the campus art faculty and staff - including *Wil Brunner*, *Joyce Jewell*, *Mary Staley*, *Carla Klevan*, *Maureen Kohl*, *Perry Schwartz*, and the faculty and the dean of the School of Art and Design. To the facilities staff who are working on these projects, we would like to extend much appreciation. These are exciting times for the Takoma Park Campus. Anyone interested in viewing potential floor plans for King Street should contact *Wil Brunner* or *Paula Matuskey*.

*"There's an artist
imprisoned in each one of
us. Let him loose to
spread joy everywhere."
- Bertrand Russell -*

What's Happening Collegewide?

GERMANTOWN by Hercules Pinkney

During the fall '04 semester, the Germantown Campus was the site of two standing-room-only audiences for the Spectrum Lecture Series sponsored by Germantown's Natural Sciences Department and coordinated by *Dr. Bob Coley*, chemistry professor. The first presentation, "*The Hubble Space Telescope and the Accelerating Universe*", was held in October and it was presented by *Dr. H. John Wood* from NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD.

The second presentation, "*Nanotechnology: What is it? Why should you care?*" was held in November by *Dr. Robert D. Shull* from NIST's Magnetic Materials Group. Dr. Shull explained that Nanotechnology is the science of creating, in a controlled way, materials and devices whose size is measured in nanometers. By the end of the lecture, everyone, including those who were not familiar with the metric system, knew that a nanometer was one billionth of a meter and that a meter was a little longer than a yard. This lecture was truly a fascinating and guided look at the tiny world of nanotechnology through the eyes of Dr. Shull. Even though all Spectrum Lectures are scientific in nature, they are aimed at non-scientific audiences and they always promise fascination, stimulation, and excitement.

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ROCKVILLE by Judy Ackermann

The Rockville Campus community responded to a very successful fundraising effort by its Student Senate attempt to raise \$100K to aid the children orphaned or displaced by the recent tsunami in southeast Asia and eastern Africa. Campus students, faculty, and staff were able to make donations to the "Save the Children" international relief organization by purchasing roses that were personally delivered by student volunteers on Monday, February 14, 2005, St. Valentine's Day. This sell-out event filled many offices and classrooms throughout campus with beautiful flowers. The Student Senate plans many other activities this year to meet its fundraising goal.

Workforce Development & Continuing Education by George Payne

The Adult ESL - Literacy & GED grant application was favorably reviewed and awarded to Montgomery College effective January through June 2005. Grant administrator, *Donna Kinerney*, and her team put together a 192-page grant submittal to the Maryland State Department of Education. A new grant cycle with an RFP process will begin again this spring for a three-year award period of July 2005 through June 2008.

The Takoma Park campus extends a hearty welcome to *Mary Freeman* who joins Montgomery College as special assistant for Adult ESL services. Ms. Freeman will assume leadership of the county-wide Adult ESL task force that Montgomery College and Montgomery County Public Schools have been participating in for several years along with many other community organizations. One of the primary projects of this work group is to create an independent, nonprofit community-based organization that works on behalf of all local service providers to increase the capacity to serve the adult learners who wish to learn the English language.

Outreach Today by Jennie Wells

Takoma Park: Recently, I had the occasion to sort a collage of photos representing the history of the Takoma Park campus. I appreciated the beauty of the original campus, the old picturesque Burlington Street bridge, the football team, and the homecoming queen. It was a time when the students wore leather jackets, the women wore skirts, and faculty dressed in suits and ties. Not everything fit into the "apple pie" model of Americana. I chuckled over the photos of local citizens who planted themselves in front of the bulldozers and picketed the administration building in opposition of the campus renovations.

Now, we appreciate the support of our neighbors from both Takoma Park and Silver Spring who have embraced the vision of our new expansion. They have served on committees, testified on our behalf before city, council, and state agencies, and they have intervened when small pockets of opposition have surfaced. It is equally important that we continue to foster the positive relationships that we have worked so hard to establish. With this thought in mind, I'll move on to one major concern.

One complaint that continues to haunt the relationship between the College and its neighbors is **illegal parking**. A neighbor reported that a student drove into his driveway and parked the car behind the neighbor's house blocking in his cars.

(continued on Page 4)



Faculty Council Corner: AJ "Tito" Baca Jr, Ed.D—Chairperson, Takoma Park

MEMBERS:

AJ (Tito) Baca, Chair
Maria Donahue
Sandi Schuler
Evelyn Gonzalez-Mills
Deborah Taylor
Jeffrey Hotz
Ijeoma Otigbuo

"Some
succeed
because they
are destined
to, but most
succeed
because they
are
determined."

Greetings from the Takoma Park Faculty Council!

As you know, the Faculty Council has been working diligently on an initiative to determine why students at Montgomery College register so late. During the fall, I discussed the council's efforts on this project with the Governance Leadership Group. Dr. Nunley then tasked me to present our charge to the Board of Trustees at their monthly dinner in October.

The dinner was a success and a unique opportunity to speak of things happening here at Takoma Park from my perspective. The board members were delighted that the Faculty Council had undertaken this initiative. On the other hand, they were discouraged that late registration was such a prevalent problem. In short, they offered their support and some suggestions on how best to proceed.

One suggestion was to hold student focus groups which would afford them the opportunity to speak openly about any concerns. Having such a forum would alleviate any boundaries or restrictions that a survey may place on their responses due to its structure. In conforming to that suggestion, we welcome students to the council meeting on February 22nd from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The venue will be the Bliss Room in the Commons building. Please encourage students to attend and be prepared to informally discuss any concerns they might have. It will be helpful to attend if just for a few minutes to give the council some feedback.

Focusing on surveys, they were sent out the second week of classes. Congratulations to the Takoma Park faculty for their interest and participation as the number of responses far exceeded our goals.

In closing, thank you for your participation in this project and on the various committees in which you may be working. *Know that we appreciate the support you give the Faculty Council and please let us know how we might better represent your needs.*

Outreach Today (continued)

When the student came back to remove the vehicle, he shrugged and said he was "in a hurry to get to class". As often as we remind students to park in the garage and not on neighboring streets, we still have a problem. Please, please help us work on this problem. If/when you see students parking illegally, please ask them to park in the garage. If you are at all uncomfortable talking directly with the student, call security (xt.1600).

On the morning of January 24th, I strolled up to Islington Street. There were three cars that did not have the required East Silver Spring parking sticker - and the cars were getting ticketed! The uniform has changed and the cars look different. I'm sure the fine is greater, but the outcome is no different from a snapshot taken thirty-some years ago.

Please help us be better neighbors - **park only in designated spaces** and **remind others to do the same**. Have a wonderful spring semester.

Community Outreach: Students are greatly encouraged to take advantage of RIDE ON bus route 127. This is a great Campus Connector and it is one solution to our parking concerns. RIDE ON buses are free seven days a week, anywhere in Montgomery County upon presentation of a valid student ID.

In the News



- The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC) has named as its new executive director, *H. Clay Whitlow*, who served most recently as president of Evergreen Valley College, an 11,000-student community college in San Jose, California.
- *Governor Ehrlich's* FY 2006 Capital Budget submission included \$46.7 million earmarked for community colleges throughout Maryland, representing the largest ever capital improvement program for community colleges.

**Ideas, Comments and
Submissions?**

Please contact the

Senior Administrative Aide to the VP/P —

**Snami Wureh-Glay at (301) 650-1312 or
Email : snami.wureh-glay@montgomerycollege.edu**

