

FOUNDATION FOCUS

SUPPORTING MONTGOMERY COLLEGE TODAY AND TOMORROW

FALL 2017

VOLUME 11, NO. 2

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from President Pollard's
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The Grunley family: from left, Adam, Aimee, Lauren, Ginny, and Ken

The spirit of giving is woven, inextricably, into the Grunley family. Its genesis can be traced back nearly 20 years, to when Virginia (Ginny) Grunley began volunteering with underprivileged children living under very difficult circumstances. Though she influenced many children, one little eight-year-old boy, in particular, stole her heart. Over the years, she counseled him and offered him the same advice she shared with her own children. Today, she looks with pride on her children, Lauren and Adam, but maintains a friendship with the special little boy who overcame immense challenges to become the happy, successful man he is today.

It was through this experience that Ginny realized that, while writing a check to support worthy causes is important, fully engaging in an organization can be transformative,

both for the individuals and those they help.

Ten years ago, the Grunleys founded the Kenneth and Ginny Charitable Foundation with the intent of supporting local and community-based organizations. With the input of Lauren and Adam, the Grunleys decide which organizations to support, and they recently chose to give a major gift in support of the Montgomery College

“Dr. Pollard is an eloquent and captivating speaker, but she’s not about lip service. She speaks with real purpose, and we largely consider this contribution to be in direct support of Dr. P’s mission.”

—Adam Grunley

Foundation. According to Adam, who heard Dr. Pollard speak at the home of Jeffrey Slavin, co-chair of the MC2020 Campaign, “Dr. Pollard is an eloquent and captivating speaker, but she’s not about lip service. She speaks with real purpose, and we largely consider this contribution to be in direct support of Dr. P’s mission.”

Their generous donation established the Grunley Family Achieving Collegiate Excellence and Success (ACES) Scholarships, ensuring that the students in our community who are most in need will have access to a college education. The ACES program offers

critical support services to assist these students who are most often underrepresented in college classrooms.

The Grunley family has a long history with the College. Ken Grunley, who graduated with a degree in finance and real estate from Kent State University, realized he could benefit from continuing his education at the College. Years later, Adam signed up for a course at the College while home for the summer from the University of Florida. Lauren, a financial analyst at Grunley Construction, turned to the College between her freshman and sophomore years at the Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland. As the Grunleys will tell you, the College helped them gain the tools they needed to succeed well beyond college.

Not only does the Grunley family support Montgomery College students through the generous scholarships they established, but also Grunley Construction recruits our graduates. The College offers an associate’s degree in construction management, and graduates of the program can continue their education at the Universities at Shady Grove (USG) in pursuit of a bachelor’s in construction management. According to Ken, “We have discovered some tremendous talent in this program and, if anything, I see Grunley Construction enhancing our recruiting efforts with MC and USG in the coming years.”

Although Adam recognizes the many business benefits of ensuring Montgomery County has an educated and trained workforce, the family’s decision to support the Montgomery College Foundation comes from a personal belief in lending a helping hand. “The fact that helping others can also help our business does not weaken the effect of giving. It’s this unique interplay that actually makes community work.”

ACES Students Benefit from President Pollard's \$500,000 Award from Carnegie Corporation

Carnegie Corporation of New York Bestows Prestigious Award



Did you know that we have an “exceptional American college and university president” walking around our campuses? That’s how the Carnegie Corporation of New York labeled Dr. DeRionne Pollard, who was chosen as one of just seven college presidents with this designation and selected to receive their Academic Leadership Award. Established in 2005, the award “reflects the conviction of Andrew Carnegie, the Corporation’s philanthropic founder, that education and knowledge are fundamental tools for strengthening democracy and creating a more vibrant civil society.” Vartan Gregorian, president of Carnegie Corporation of New York said, “There are more than 4,000 colleges and universities in the United States, which play a fundamental role in educating the next generation of our workforce, leaders, and citizens. Our higher education institutions are central to the future of our nation.” He went on to say that Mr. Carnegie “believed in the importance of strong, dedicated, and effective higher education leaders. As custodians of Mr. Carnegie’s legacy, it is our honor to salute a new class of exemplary leaders, who join with another 20 past award recipients in representing some of the best of the American academy.” The award comes with an impressive prize:

The Innovation Fund focuses on fostering the creativity of faculty and staff in seeking ways to increase the student completion rate at Montgomery College. The selected projects must track student impact, measurable outcomes, and must be sustainable. This year, we have a record-breaking \$200,000 available for the winner.

\$500,000 to be used to support programs of Dr. Pollard’s choice. She selected two landmark priorities: **Achieving Collegiate Excellence and Success (ACES)** scholarships, and the **Montgomery College Foundation’s Innovation Fund**, thereby ensuring that these pioneering programs have the additional resources they require in order to reach as many students as possible. To read more about ACES donors and its impact on our students, see page 4.



MC In the News: College Ranked 9th In The Nation

Washington[®] MONTHLY

Montgomery College was recently ranked number nine in the nation for best two-year colleges for adult learners by *Washington Monthly*, a bi-monthly nonprofit magazine that conducts annual rankings of colleges and universities. Unlike other rankings, *Washington Monthly* bases its rankings on “what taxpayers get in return for tens of billions of dollars spent on student aid.” The criteria used for this ranking includes tuition and fees; the strength of our transfer policies; the share of students over 25; average post-college earnings; and the quality of services for adult students. The College is thrilled to be recognized for the educational opportunities we have been providing for more than 70 years—opportunities that are made possible because of donors who value and support our mission.

Words of Wisdom from an ACES Student



When Geraldin Landry Leukeu was at Seneca Valley High School, his auto tech teacher, John Maher, recommended he consider joining ACES. After he met Dr. Damien Robinson, at the time an ACES coach and now the ACES program assistant director, Geraldin understood why his teacher recommended him. Geraldin graduated from high school in 2014 and began his college career at Montgomery College. With the support of his ACES coaches and the camaraderie of his fellow ACES classmates, Geraldin thrived. He is now pursuing his bachelor's in criminology at the Universities at Shady Grove and aspires to a career in law enforcement in Montgomery County.

ACHIEVING COLLEGIATE EXCELLENCE AND SUCCESS (ACES)

Now in its fifth year, the ACES program is serving more than 2,400 students, including 1,576 students in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), 787 Montgomery College students (MC), and 41 students at the University System of Maryland, Universities at Shady Grove (USG).

List three adjectives that describe ACES' impact on your education.

Positive, important, beneficial.

Which class at MC has had the most impact on you? Why?

I took a seminar taught by Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard my sophomore year. In the class, we read and discussed influential leaders' stories, and learned about the adversities they faced in life. Through this course, I was able to see that many people in the world faced the same challenges I have faced, and some have faced even greater challenges. What I learned is that it's all about how we react to those adversities. It is not about how a person starts the race, but how he or she finishes it. At the end of the course, all the students presented vision boards to Dr. Pollard. We discussed the dreams we envision for ourselves, and the actions we will take to achieve them.

Fill in the blank: because of ACES I...

can return the knowledge I have gained, and help my peers and anybody I encounter.

In your wildest dreams, what does the future look like?

I will impact the world in the most positive way, and help as many people as I can.

What's the best advice you have been given by your ACES coach?

"If you can find a path with no obstacles, it probably leads nowhere." Dr. Damien Robinson

If your ACES donor is reading this, what do you want them to know about you?

There are many students who share the same story I do. We all come from various backgrounds, and have some inspirational stories. Though money can be a factor when it comes to furthering higher education, sometimes all it takes is a family member, friend, mentor, or a stranger to believe in a person, to help mentor them and give back to them the knowledge they have acquired in their life. This is what the ACES program has given me.

ACES Donors Who Are Changing Lives

Drs. Michael J. and Judy E. Ackerman	The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation	Mr. Kevin Jason Polite
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	Mr. Christopher J. Walker and Ms. Leigh C. Pilzer	

32nd Annual Golf and Tennis Classic Breaks Record



From left, Hayley Hughes and Zed Debebe

We are very grateful to all those who participated in and sponsored this year's tournament. For the second time in tournament history, we sold out of foursomes! This was due to the work of our dedicated golf committee: Carl Buch, Peter Bulcavage, Steve Bulcavage, Doug Firstenberg, Bill Hard, Sam Spiritos, and Morgan Sullivan. Thanks to their efforts, each golfer received a complimentary car wash, and all participants enjoyed the Nike Mobile Pro Shop, which was sponsored this year by AMF Walls & Ceilings.

We also want to thank David Lee of ESPN 980 for his tireless support of our tennis program. David is responsible for having a record number of tennis players participate in this year's tournament—all of whom we hope will join us again next year. We also were happy to welcome back EagleBank Lending as the tennis tournament sponsor.

Carol Rognrud, executive director of the foundation, was surprised to hear her name drawn as the winner of this year's Pebble Beach raffle. She quickly donated the ticket back and auctioned it off to the highest bidder...so we hope Cliff Kendall enjoys his all-expenses paid trip for two to Pebble Beach. Compliments of Lexus of Rockville, this golfer's dream trip includes 18 holes of golf at Pebble Beach, Spyglass, and the Links at Spanish Bay. The event is part of the 2017 Lexus Champions for Charity National Championship.

Congratulations to the winners of this year's golf and tennis tournament. We look forward to seeing all of you on the links or the courts of Lakewood Country Club for the same event next year.

It is with immense gratitude that we recognize all of our sponsors, especially our presenting sponsors, Buch Construction and Lexus of Rockville.



Winners of the 2017 golf tournament. From left, Peter Bulcavage, Lynn Appel, Chilton Griffin, and Shane Dougherty



From left, Mitchell Rubenstein, Cliff Kendall, Steve McAuliffe, MCF board vice chair, and Clark Kendall



From left, Steve Bulcavage, Patrick Miller, Brian Pearson, and Tim Dietz



Lexus of Rockville team members



Foreground, Kevin Dowdell and Mehdi Pirzadeh



From left, Jack McShea, Bruce Childs, Mike Sloan and Bill Hard, MCF board member



Front far left, David Lee, tennis chair, with tennis participants and special guest, 2-time grand slam champion Richey Reneberg, front, 3rd from left



From left, Mike Paukstis, MCF board member and Ken Cook, MCF board member



From left, Mike Orloff, Sam Spiritos, Rami Futterman, and Elliott Estes

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Chairman's Reception



E.J. Dionne, Jr. of the *Washington Post* and Brookings Institution

When Dr. Pollard first read E.J. Dionne Jr.'s column entitled "Degrees of Opportunity," in which he discusses the many benefits of a community college education on the individual and his/her community, she knew right away that she wanted to invite him to speak at the College. So, when Ken Becker, chair of the foundation's board of directors, offered to host a reception in order to spread the word about Montgomery College and the "degrees of opportunity" we provide, Dr. Pollard knew the perfect keynote speaker.

On a beautiful summer evening, Arlene and Ken Becker hosted a reception at Woodmont Country Club featuring E.J. Dionne of the *Washington Post* and Brookings Institution. Following dinner, Dr. Pollard and Mr. Dionne formally addressed the guests. Mr. Dionne spoke movingly about the countless opportunities community colleges provide, including the pivotal role they play in helping restore social economic and mobility. Guests included friends of the foundation, members of the board of directors, and two recipients of the Arthur P. and Miriam G. Becker Scholarship.



From left, Linda Youngentob, MCF board member and adjunct faculty member, Carol Rognrud, executive director of the Montgomery College Foundation, and Connie McGuire, adjunct faculty member

"Friends of hard work and self-sufficiency should want to expand access to community colleges as much as possible."

—E.J. Dionne, Jr.



From left, Arlene Becker, Ken Becker, MCF board chair; Howard Weiss, Melinda Becker, and Bill Becker

Happy 100th Birthday, Catherine “Kay” Scott!

It's not every day that one of the members of the Montgomery College Foundation's Board of Directors turns 100! On Friday, September 29, 2017, we hosted a birthday reception in honor of Catherine Scott, professor emerita. Family from as far away as Boston and New York gathered, along with friends from all facets of Catherine's inspiring life. Some of these friends knew Catherine when she was teaching at Montgomery College. Her career with us began in 1958 and lasted until her retirement in 1986. The party took place in the Catherine F. Scott Commons on the Takoma Park Campus—the first building to be named in honor of a faculty member—in appreciation and recognition of her generosity of resources, time, and talent. We wish Catherine the happiest of birthdays and look forward to working together to ensure the students of Montgomery College continue to learn from and be inspired by her.



Seated from left, Martha McNeil Downs, Catherine Scott, Gloria Monteiro Rall. Standing from left, Estelle Gearon, Dr. Pollard, Jane Blocher, Ephraim Salins, and Patricia Dalton



Catherine Scott and Ana M. Sanchez '91



The newlyweds: Catherine Scott and Tillman Neuner

Committed to a Cause

Some may call it kismet, while still others refer to it as destiny, but if you were to ask Myra Turnoff and Ken Weiner, they would simply refer to it as luck—very, very good luck. Myra and Ken first met in the 1960s at summer camp, but lost touch once they began college and throughout the early years of their respective careers—Ken



From left, Myra Turoff, Dr. Pollard and Ken Weiner

as a math professor at Montgomery College, and Myra as Managing Director of Chestnut Hill Partners, an investment banking firm. Through the wonders of technology, they reconnected some forty years later and

are now a happily married couple pursuing their mutually shared interests. These include travel, golf, and, perhaps most importantly, their shared belief in the importance of helping students most in need pursue their education.

Ken has long been associated with Montgomery College, beginning 38 years ago when he joined the faculty as a

professor of mathematics. His belief in the College's mission was contagious, and soon Myra was actively engaged with our students through their volunteer work with Future Link, an organization Ken founded, and one for which they both serve on the board of directors.

In addition to the countless hours and incredible talent they dedicate to helping our students, the couple is also generously supporting the Montgomery College Foundation in two ways: through a scholarship they established in memory of Ken's parents, and also through their estate plans. "There are so many things I admire about Myra and Ken," said Carol Rognrud, executive director of the foundation, "including their devotion to each other and their shared commitment to helping our students pursue their academic dreams. When they commit to something—whether it is Myra deciding to become fluent in French, or Ken's resolve to improve his golf game—they give 100%, and we are so grateful that they have chosen to support our mission."

Myra and Ken embody the giving and nurturing spirit we see so often with supporters of the foundation. This couple, as committed to each other as much as to the causes they hold dear, have changed—and will continue to change—the lives of countless deserving students.

Grant from Guardian Life Insurance Helps Students Develop Personal Finance Skills

For the second year in a row, the Guardian Life Insurance Company of America has pledged a significant grant that will meet the tuition and textbook costs for as many as 240 Montgomery College students, allowing them to take the College's Personal Finance course and build better money management skills.

This course, which is offered by the Department of Business Administration, helps students develop the essential skills needed to manage their own finances and plan for their educational and financial futures. Topics include budgeting, consumer credit, consumer spending, insurance, real estate investments, securities, commodities, income tax planning, and retirement planning.

"When our students gain a deeper understanding of money management, they become empowered in new ways to build stronger futures for themselves and their families. Montgomery College is grateful to the Guardian Life Insurance Company for making this vital investment in the success of our students," said Montgomery College President DeRionne Pollard.

Katherine Michaelian, instructional dean, reiterated Dr. Pollard's sentiments. "The knowledge and skills our students learn in the Personal Finance class will benefit them throughout college and long after they have graduated. There really isn't any other place where one can learn this information...we should all be so educated!"

The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America® is one of the nation's largest mutual life insurers and a leading provider of employee benefits. For more than 150 years, Guardian Life Insurance Company has had at its core a belief in people and doing right by them. It is with this mission in mind that the company developed Guardian's Money Management for LifeSM program, which is being taught at community colleges across the country, including Montgomery College.



GUARDIAN®

Steve McAuliffe



Steve McAuliffe is a principal with the firm of Miles & Stockbridge in Rockville, MD, specializing in general civil litigation with an emphasis on commercial litigation. He also acts as outside general counsel for a diverse group of businesses based in Montgomery County, including large, publicly traded corporations. He is a member of the Bar Association

in both Montgomery County and the District of Columbia. He is vice chair of the Montgomery College Foundation Board of Directors and serves as legal counsel and as an ex-officio member of the Board of Governors of Christ Episcopal School. He is a trustee of the Rockville Academy, is a member of the Rockville Rotary Club, and serves on the board of directors of the Rockville Rotary Foundation. In addition, he is a director at Revere Bank, which has over \$2 billion in assets.

Let's Get Personal. What's...

Your favorite local sports team? Washington Redskins. I will never give up on them.

Your favorite place to eat lunch around the College? Cuban Corner. I had a sandwich named after me!

The last good movie you saw? Dunkirk

Your favorite piece of advice to give? Treat people how you would want to be treated and always be kind but firm in your convictions.

The first car you remember driving? A 10-year old Buick Regal.

Your favorite sport to play? GOLF

The junk food you find most irresistible? Ice cream

The best concert you've attended? Earth Wind & Fire

An adjective your friends would use to describe you? Loyal

Your biggest global wish? An end to conflict, divisiveness and violence and recognition that regardless of our differences that we all treat each other with dignity and respect.

FROM THE CHAIR

Over the summer my wife Arlene and I were delighted to host a reception that featured E.J. Dionne, Jr. of the *Washington Post* and the Brookings Institution. It was wonderful to hear E.J. speak so eloquently about his personal experience with, and commitment to the community college movement.

An additional highlight of our reception was having two of our Becker scholarship recipients in attendance, Eyosias Bisrat Awgethew, a current student, and Chaka Street, a recent alumna. Eyosias immigrated from Ethiopia just four years ago and is pursuing his degree in electrical engineering. Like so many of our talented and hardworking engineering students, he will soon transfer to the A. James Clark School of Engineering at the University of Maryland. Chaka, a Maryland native, found Montgomery College as her only true option to pursue her educational objectives while maintaining her fulltime position with a local bank branch. A significant portion of our students must maintain a source of income while pursuing their educational objectives, further demonstrating the dedication and tenacity of these students.

We know that we have an amazing student population where there are numerous gripping stories of struggle for

a better life, and the critical role played by Montgomery College and the Foundation to assist so many students in their journey. But that story often remains distant until it is truly animated when we have the opportunity of meeting students who personally tell their stories. When that happens we see, truly, what a difference our gifts have made.

E.J. Dionne expressed the view that Montgomery College plays a vital role in maintaining our social and economic advantages in Montgomery County. I agree and, on the occasion of our reception, Eyosias and Chaka served as notable examples of the nearly 2,000 students who received Montgomery College Foundation scholarships in the past year further demonstrating that view. While Mr. Dionne's words resonated with all of us present, it is our students who illustrate to all of us just how much community colleges and scholarship support can change lives.



SAVE THE DATE SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2018



WHERE STUDENTS AND DONORS MEET. For more information, please call Katie Kumkumian at 240-567-7499

FOUNDATION FOCUS

Montgomery College Foundation's newsletter is produced by the Office of Advancement and Community Engagement.

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