

# FOUNDATION FOCUS

SUPPORTING MONTGOMERY COLLEGE TODAY AND TOMORROW

SUMMER 2017

VOLUME 11, NO. 1

## Alumnus and Video Game Developer Establishes Scholarship



Ashley Cheng with Vault Boy,  
a character from the award-winning  
Fallout franchise produced by  
Bethesda Softworks

## Alumnus and Video Game Developer Establishes Scholarship



Ashley Cheng at the Bethesda Softworks office

Ashley Cheng '93 knows a lot about having things taken away from him. He was only four years old, preparing to leave Taiwan for the United States, when he and his parents were involved in a horrific car accident. While Ashley survived, his parents did not. A mere toddler, he had to fly for hours, alone, to the United States and his waiting grandfather.

Ashley's first words to his grandfather were, "Please don't sell me." He was overwhelmed by sadness and loss, and desperately wanted to hold on to the family he had left.

Not only did Ashley's grandparents keep him, but they, who Ashley credits with instilling in him an incredible work ethic and an appreciation for education, raised him as their own. It's their hard work and support that shaped Ashley, and gave him the foundation for being a scholar, a successful game developer, a parent, and a philanthropist.

When asked about his teen years, Ashley laughs. His grandparents made it clear he'd attend college, and then made it clear he'd pay for it himself. By age 13, he was slinging burgers at a fast food restaurant. By the time he could drive, he was working early mornings, late evenings, and most weekends, at any number of jobs. He says, "It wasn't until I graduated from college and was working full time that I had my first weekend off!"

Montgomery College offered an ideal opportunity for Ashley. His grandparents suggested he take advanced high school courses, such as calculus, at the College to begin

to earn college credit. The flexibility and affordability of the College were irresistible to him, and he worked diligently until he could transfer to the University of Maryland. He graduated with a degree in English literature—and a love of gaming and problem solving.

These interests led him to the marketing/public relations department of Bethesda Softworks, a video game publisher. In time, drawing on his impeccable work ethic and dedication to hard work, he advanced to video game development.

That was 18 years ago. Today, Ashley is a successful game developer in Montgomery County, and he and his wife, Megen, are the parents of two children, John, six, and Emma, three.

While Ashley knows a lot about having things taken away from him, he also knows how to give back—abundantly. Recalling his feelings of loss and dramatic life changes, Ashley wants to help immigrant children. He knows he was lucky, but acknowledges, "When kids immigrate to the United States—whether with their parents or on their own—they need all the help they can get."

In recognition of kids who need assistance, and to honor his late grandmother, Ashley has worked with the Montgomery College Foundation to establish the Ellen Lin Cheng Endowed Scholarship. When considering where he wanted the scholarship focused, Ashley researched the

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Ashley Cheng's grandparents, Ellen and Simeon Cheng

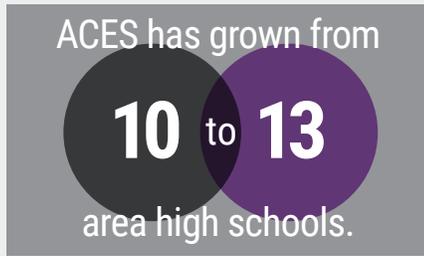
# Nothing Is Out of Reach with ACES

Imagine you're a high school student who is on track to become the first member of your family to attend college. You know the odds are stacked against you, and yet you have the fire and an unquenchable thirst to succeed. Now imagine you meet an ACES coach.

ACES, or Achieving Collegiate Excellence and Success, is a program that places coaches in 13 area high schools where they can access the students most often underrepresented in college classrooms. These coaches offer guidance and a support system that starts in high school and doesn't end until students graduate with a bachelor's degree.

From the moment students enter ACES, they know they have the power to change the trajectory of their lives. Combining their determination to succeed with the unwavering support offered by ACES, the cap and gown changes from a seemingly unreachable goal to a very attainable reality.

On Friday, March 31, Montgomery College celebrated with more than a hundred people, including ACES students and their families, representatives from Montgomery County Public Schools, Montgomery College, the Universities at Shady Grove (USG), and donors to the Montgomery College Foundation. The ceremony marked the enormous accomplishments of students graduating at each level of the ACES program.



ACES Academic Coaches Melissa Gudiel, Andrea Robinson, Monica Burgos, and Sharon Grey Coker



ACES students Robert Asante and Jonell Malone with ACES Academic Coach Andres Maldonado



ACES students Enrico Chavez and Kerrin Massarueh

## 2016-2017 ACES ENROLLMENT

**1,208** MCPS students (now at 13 area high schools)

**717** Montgomery College

**45** Four-year institutions, 25 at USG

**1,970 TOTAL**

## HIGH SCHOOL PARTICIPANTS



99% of high school seniors successfully graduated



97% completed applications to at least one college or university

Top college choices include MC, UMD, and Towson University

## MONTGOMERY COLLEGE PARTICIPANTS



95 ACES participants have graduated from MC



60 will study at USG during fall 2017



Additional ACES students will graduate this summer



ACES students celebrate their academic achievements



Damien Robinson, ACES assistant director; Gina DiMedio-Marrazzo, ACES arts and culture coordinator

## Luncheon Hosted by the Board of Directors Brings Together Scholarship Donors and Students

The Montgomery College Foundation Board of Directors welcomed almost 500 people to the 2017 Scholarship Recognition Luncheon, which took place on March 30.

This event was poignant for both our donors and our students, as the students were able to thank, in person, the generous donors who contributed so significantly to their education.

The keynote speaker, Crystal Carr Townsend, president of the Healthcare Initiative Foundation (HIF), discussed HIF's pledge of more than \$1 million to the Montgomery College Foundation and the Universities at Shady Grove, culminating in the scholarship recipients receiving their bachelor's degree in a healthcare-related field. Ms. Townsend noted that her story is not unlike

**"I know that many of the donors here today have children of your own to educate, which makes your willingness to support the children of others that much more meaningful."**

**—Dina Haddad  
HIF Scholarship Recipient**

those of many who were in the room, and then recounted the personal struggles she had to overcome, and the recognition, at an early age, that it was only through education that she and her family would be pulled out of poverty. She pointed out that it was because of the scholarships she received that she was able to pursue her college education. HIF scholarship recipient Dina Haddad spoke eloquently about her dream to become an internal medicine physician in Montgomery County. She offered her heartfelt thanks on behalf of the more than 2,000 students who received scholarships from the foundation this year.

The audience was riveted as Ms. Townsend and Ms. Haddad described the impact of the scholarship program. It was a wonderful opportunity for donors and students to shake hands or offer hugs of thanks and appreciation. Many entered the room as strangers, but left as friends.



From left, Dr. Pollard; Dina Haddad, scholarship speaker; and Crystal Carr Townsend, president of HIF and donor speaker



From left, Debbie White with ACES program participants and Cliff White, far right



Macklin Business Institute students with Don Dawn (middle, grey sportcoat), president of the Gordon and Marilyn Macklin Foundation, and Stephen Lang (second from right), director of the Macklin Business Institute



Dr. Pollard and Raptor celebrate College's 70th anniversary



From left, Janet Saros, director of the Marriott Hospitality Center, with hospitality management students, and Vira Safai (far right), foundation board member and hospitality management adjunct professor



FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Under the leadership of Ken Becker, board chair, this year, **100%** of the current board contributed to the Montgomery College Foundation Board of Directors Challenge. In total, **\$92,000** was raised for scholarships, including **\$10,000** from the Healthcare Initiative Foundation.



## Michael Paukstitus

For more than 40 years, Mike Paukstitus has worked in the real estate industry as an owner, investor, developer, senior executive, and consultant. He's overseen transactions on every type of building you can imagine, including offices, industrial spaces, retail,

multifamily homes, medical offices, hotels, residential properties, and even land. Mike is currently the principal of Global Realty Investors, LLC, where he is primarily involved in real estate consulting and investing activities.

Mike serves as the treasurer and a board member of the Montgomery College Foundation. He was a founding member of the Washington, DC/Maryland chapter of the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties, and served as its president and chairman. He started his career in public accounting with Coopers & Lybrand, now PricewaterhouseCoopers, as a CPA. Mike attended Montgomery College before transferring to the University of Maryland, where he earned both an MS and an MBA.

### Let's Get Personal! What's...

**Your favorite local sports team?** The Washington Nationals.

**Your favorite place to eat lunch around the College?** Il Pizzico.  
It's near Gude Drive, by the Rockville Campus.

**The last good movie you saw?** *Hacksaw Ridge*. What a hero!

**Your favorite piece of advice to give?** Relax, take a deep breath, and never give up.

**The first car you remember driving?** A '62 red Corvette, to MC and home!

**Your favorite sport to play?** Golf. Last year, I won the Lexus Raffle at the foundation's golf outing and got the chance to

**"We make a living by what we get.  
We make a life by what we give."**

**— Winston S. Churchill**

play all three courses at Pebble Beach. I checked that off my bucket list.

**The junk food you find most irresistible?** Well, I always love a good cheeseburger smothered in grilled onions and mushrooms.

**The best concert you've attended?** Rolling Stones at the Capital Centre.

**An adjective your friends would use to describe you?** Funny, dependable, active.

**Your biggest global wish?** This sounds like a cliché, but world peace. We've got to find common ground; there's just too much tragedy in the daily news cycle.

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### FOUNDATION FOCUS

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

**David Sears**, *senior vice president for advancement and community engagement*

**Carol Rognrud**, *executive director of the foundation and director of development*

**Katie Kumkumian**, *donor relations director*

**Pete Vidal**, *photographer*

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[www.montgomerycollege.edu/onlinegiving](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/onlinegiving)

For gifts, contact Carol Rognrud, executive director of the foundation, at 240.567.7493 or [carol.rognrud@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:carol.rognrud@montgomerycollege.edu)

# Foundation Receives Prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Grant

The College was one of eight organizations chosen from a pool of 152 applicants to receive a prestigious grant from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. The foundation awarded a grant of \$32,755 to the Montgomery College Foundation to support an exciting student research initiative. Beginning this summer, the grant will serve 20 high school juniors who are participating in the Achieving Collegiate Excellence and Success (ACES) program. Through the ACES Research Opportunity Scholars Program, students will be paired with Montgomery College faculty and participate in a rigorous year-long, college-level research project, with the goal of submitting and presenting their work to at least one research conference and possibly an academic journal.

"We are grateful to the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation for providing students with this unparalleled opportunity to learn about scholarly research methods," said Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, president of Montgomery College. Through a collaboration

between Montgomery College, Montgomery County Public Schools, and the Universities at Shady Grove, ACES creates a smooth educational pathway from high school to community college to university using a one-on-one case management approach for students from groups often under-represented in higher education.

"Students from low- and moderate-income families will benefit from our grants, often getting outstanding educational opportunities beyond the financial reach of their parents," said Cooke Foundation Executive Director Harold O. Levy. "The grants will help develop the talents of students in our region, preparing them for success in school and careers."



## FROM THE CHAIR



I choose to support the Montgomery College Foundation for many reasons, the first of which is simply my abiding belief in the College's mission of empowering students, through education, to reach their potential. Also high on my list is need: here in Montgomery County, one of the wealthiest counties in this nation, the reality is that a large number of our residents need a helping hand to complete their educational journeys. And when this journey succeeds and leads to employment, our community is further enhanced—it is safer, our workforce is more stable, our government services are under less stress, our safety net is strengthened for those who need it, and we are all in a better place. And, in recent years, 77 percent of our

students have stayed right here in Montgomery County to seek employment or business opportunities.

Over many years at Montgomery College I have witnessed, firsthand, the ongoing dedication to excellence of our College Board of Trustees, and our president, staff, and faculty. This institution is one of our community's most valuable resources, improving lives, providing employment, improving the quality of the workforce, and most definitely deserving the support of all of us. And finally, I support this effort to further honor the values of my mom and dad, who gave my brothers, sisters, and me the opportunity to pursue whatever educational objectives we chose, and went on to establish the Miriam and Arthur Becker Scholarship with the Montgomery College Foundation. This fund, with my support and that of my wife, our adult children, and extended family and friends, has provided scholarship support to hundreds of students for their educational aspirations over the past years, and we have experienced the joy of meeting many of those students along the way.

So, while supporting the Montgomery College Foundation is a very sound decision of civic and personal responsibility, I have also learned that it is a profoundly rewarding decision as well.

## Congratulations to Our Graduates!

On May 19, Montgomery College's Rockville Campus was transformed into a sea of black tassels, smiling graduates, teary parents, and proud family friends as students from all three campuses, and apprenticeship graduates from the Workforce Development and Continuing Education programs, gathered under an enormous white tent to be recognized for their hard work and academic achievements. This year, of the nearly 2,800 graduates, more than 900 participated in commencement, and 94 percent of those students received associates degrees. These outstanding statistics underscore the reality that Montgomery College has educated thousands of students in our 70-year history, approximately 77 percent of whom choose to stay in Montgomery County, contributing their talents to our economy.

The Montgomery College Foundation offers our warmest congratulations to this year's graduates. The accomplishments honored at commencement are only the first step to success, and we look forward to watching our students soar.

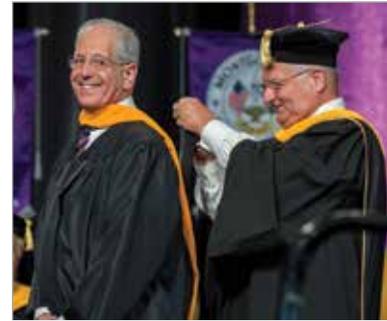


Dr. Pollard addresses 2017 graduates





Raptor celebrates with 2017 graduates



Montgomery College Foundation Board Chair Ken Becker (left) accepts his honorary degree from Bob Hydorn, College trustee. Honorary degrees were also presented to Audrey Hill, professor emerita and college transfer counselor; and James Muir, proud alumnus, vice chair of PIC MC, and vice president of Hughes Network Systems.



## Art Collection Donated to Foundation

This fall, Dr. DeRionne Pollard and the Montgomery College Foundation proudly celebrated the gift of an extraordinary collection donated by Janet Crampton and her late husband, Theodore. The exhibit opened at Montgomery College's Cultural Arts Center gallery on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus and was on display through January 2017.

The foundation is extremely grateful to Janet, a longtime supporter of education, for this collection that includes paintings in various mediums, sculptures, collages, and textiles. Janet says, "This is a collection of art by local artists, many of whom have a connection to the College.

Montgomery College is my local college, so it seems fitting that I donated the collection to MC. I believe in supporting local and giving forward."

Art can be a powerful historical memory, so it is particularly poignant—and personal—that Janet chose

to give their art collection to the College. The Crampton's collection is a gift of history in some ways, since many of their pieces capture the extraordinary experiences they had. But

it is also a gift of inspiration: students who interact with these pieces will get to practice the language of art. They will get to communicate with artists from different eras; they will peek through the lenses of other historical periods, other aesthetic angles, and other existential moments.

Janet Crampton has had a rich professional and personal life. In some ways the span of her experiences—and her



husband's—are the essence of the Crampton's collection. If one didn't know her well, one might think she has a strictly scientific view of the world: a geologist, a math and science teacher, and a Smithsonian volunteer in mineral sciences. But if you shift your lens a



little—in the way that good artists do—you can see that she has been an extraordinarily devoted aunt, a mentor for countless students, a writer and editor, and a traveler whose curiosity continues to take her on the road to adventure.



Ashley Cheng with a popular Fallout character

## Alumnus and Video Game Developer Establishes Scholarship

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DREAM (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors) Act. Under this proposed legislation, "DREAMers" are undocumented immigrant students who are offered a path to conditional, and then permanent, residency. Instantly, Ashley knew his scholarship would be designated for these kids, who he recognizes as "our most vulnerable students."

When asked for advice to young people considering college choices, Ashley offers his grandmother's practical wisdom: don't take out a ludicrous loan so you can attend a four-year university. He maintains that an education from the College "positions you well to transfer to a four-year school, and you'll end up with the same degree hanging on your wall—and a lot less debt."

Ashley chose to give back to the College because, "the money goes further for a student at MC than it would for a student at a four-year university. I also believe in the College's mission to ensure that anybody can get an education, whether you are just starting out of high school or looking for another career."

Ashley embodies the spirit of the College. His incredible loss as a child started him on a path he couldn't have imagined. Along the way, he learned a lot of lessons about grit and perseverance, and gained a desire to help others as he was helped. Thanks to his wish to give back to the College, which was so instrumental in his success, countless students will also be given a chance to find their own path.

# College Employees and Retirees Support Students By Establishing Named Scholarships

**JUDY E. ACKERMAN, PhD**

Judy E. and Michael J. Ackerman ACES  
Endowed Scholarship

**MR. WILLIAM H. ANDERSON**

William and Jane Anderson Montgomery  
Scholars Endowment  
William and Jane Anderson Montgomery  
Scholars Scholarship

**MS. ROSE GARVIN AQUILINO**

Garvin Aquilino Family Endowed Scholarship

**MS. FLORENCE H. ASHBY**

Muriel Ashby Memorial Endowed Scholarship

**PATRICIA M. BARTLETT, PhD**

Dr. Patricia Maxey Bartlett Endowed Scholarship  
Dr. Patricia Maxey Bartlett Scholarship

**MS. KANI BASSEY**

Ekanem Bernadette Bassey Endowed Scholarship

**MS. PEGGY J. BEBEE**

Beebe Distinguished Staff Endowed Award

\*Thomas L. Bichy Transfer Scholarship Award Fund

**DR. MONICA R.M. BROWN**

Dr. Monica R. M. Brown Endowed Scholarship

**MS. ANNE M. BUNAI SPOKAS**

Bunai Family Engineering Endowed Scholarship

**MS. KAREN K. CALLENDER**

Karen Callender Endowed Scholarship

**MR. STEPHEN M. CAMPANELLA**

The Evangeline Technical Theatre Scholarship

**MR. WILLIAM E. CAMPBELL**

Wilfred S. and Ruth C. Campbell Memorial  
Endowed Scholarship

**MS. LISA MARIE CARVALLO**

Dr. Richard L. and Barbara A. Beaudoin  
Endowed Scholarship

**MS. DIANE E. COCKRELL**

Janet and Russell Dech Endowed Scholarship

**DR. ROBERT S. COHEN**

Shirley R. Cohen Charitable Endowed Fund

**DR. LOUISE T. CRISSMAN**

John and Ada Thorpe Endowed Scholarship  
John and Louise Crissman Endowed Scholarship  
John Crissman Memorial Scholarship

**DR. DONALD K. DAY**

Donald Day and Karen Gruner Endowed Scholarship  
Donald Day Endowed Scholarship

**MR. PATRICK L. DEVLIN**

Eamon and Grace Devlin Memorial Endowed Scholarship

**DR. JENNIFER J. DOBBINS**

Audrey T. Hill Endowed Transfer Scholarship

**MS. ELAINE M. DOONG**

Mohammad R. Safaian Scholarship

**DR. MARY THERESA FURGOL**

Ruth B. Dinbergs and Jean M. Furgol  
Endowed Scholarship

**DR. MARY F. GALLAGHER**

Anthropology Rookie Research Endowed Scholarship  
Connie Tonat Anthropology Endowed Fund

**MS. ADA GARCIA-CASELLAS**

Casellas Endowed Scholarship

**DR. MELISSA F. GREGORY**

Joseph J. Fouchard Memorial Scholarship

**MS. BERNICE G. GROSSMAN**

Louis and Robert Grossman Memorial Endowment

**MS. RUTH GRUENBERG**

Robert Gruenberg Memorial Endowed Scholarship

**MS. DONNA E. HOFFACKER**

Donna E. Hoffacker Scholarship

**MS. SUSAN T. HOFFMAN**

Frances Hoffman Memorial Summer Dinner  
Theatre Endowment

**MR. ROBERT W. JACOBS**

Robert W. Jacobs Family Endowed Scholarship

**MR. ERIC E. JEFFERS**

Anne and Eugene Jeffers Memorial  
Endowed Scholarship

**DR. COLLINS R. JONES**

Evan A. & Catherine C. Jones Memorial Biotech  
Endowed Scholarship

**MR. THOMAS E. KENNEY**

Thomas Kenney Chemistry Endowed Award

**MR. RAYMOND JOEL KIMBALL**

Raymond J. Kimball TechLEAP Scholarship

**MS. JUDITH F. KNEEN**

Judith F. Kneen Endowed Scholarship  
Judith F. Kneen Transfer Endowed Scholarship

**DR. MARGARITA KRANIDIS, MS. JOAN MURRAY  
NAAKE, AND MS. PATRICIA M. RUPPERT**

Global Humanities Justice Endowed Fund  
Global Humanities Justice Scholarship

**MS. KATHRINE KUMKUMIAN**

Joan and Edward Corboy Endowed Scholarship

\*LDI Leadership Legacy Endowed Scholarship

\*LDI Leadership Legacy Scholarship

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Hone Family Endowed Scholarship

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The Parilla Family Foundation Endowed Scholarship

**MR. GEORGE M. PAYNE**

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**MS. DONNA M. PINA**

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P. Paul Pollard Generational ACES Scholarship

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Carlo and Mary Sanchez Endowed Scholarship

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Frank and Maxine Scott Endowed Scholarship

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Sara W. Smith Endowed Scholarship

**MR. PETER B. STEIN**

Zachary Stein Memorial Endowed Scholarship

**MS. YVONNE H. STEPHENS**

Yvonne H. Stephens Endowed Scholarship

**DR. BRADLEY J. STEWART**

Leslie and Brad Stewart Endowed Scholarship

**MS. SUSAN SULLIVAN**

D. Jean and D. Clayton Davidson Endowed Scholarship

**MS. NEDENIA J. TUCKER**

Robert and Edna Johnson Endowed Mathematics Award

**MS. JOAN F. VAN DER SLICE**

Paul Van der Slice History Scholarship Endowment

**MS. MARTHA C. VAUGHAN**

Martha Vaughan Endowed Scholarship

**DR. KENNETH S. WEINER**

Adele and Hy Weiner Memorial Endowed  
Honors Scholarship

**MS. KATHLEEN A. WESSMAN**

Richard (Dick) Wessman Memorial Endowed Scholarship

**LT. COL. JOSEPH W. WHITE II (RET.)**

Joseph W. White Facilities Endowed Scholarship

\*Scholarship established by multiple donors

32ND ANNUAL

# MONTGOMERY COLLEGE FOUNDATION GOLF AND TENNIS CLASSIC

PRESENTED BY



## SAVE THE DATE

**OCTOBER 23, 2017**

**Lakewood Country Club**  
13901 Glen Mill Road  
Rockville, MD 20850

Join us for the 32nd Annual Montgomery College Foundation Golf and Tennis Classic, an event to benefit student scholarships at Montgomery College, presented by Lexus of Rockville. Event details to come at [montgomerycollege.edu/golftournament](http://montgomerycollege.edu/golftournament).

### 2017 MONTGOMERY COLLEGE FOUNDATION GOLF AND TENNIS CLASSIC COMMITTEE



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