



## PROJECT DATA

**Note:** This form is for **APPROVED GRANTS** only! A Project Data form is a requirement for the grants. The information provided will be posted on the Learning College website.

**Directions:** Fill out the form and email it to [anne.holte@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:anne.holte@montgomerycollege.edu).

**Project Name:** Guest Speakers/Workshops for Rockville Developmental Writing Program

**Project Director:** Professor Ellen Olmstead and the Rockville Developmental Writing Committee

**Project Starting and Ending Date:** February-April 2008

**Brief description of the project:** Each month, guests will come to dialogue and workshop with Developmental Writing Program classes. These will be active, student-centered, multimedia, multidisciplinary, multicultural, collaborative, inquiry “activities” that connect to students’ lives outside the classroom and to the larger community; the speakers will demonstrate how essential writing is to everyday life, as they all use writing in their livelihood. The proposed slate of speakers will discuss not only their work and the issues addressed in it, but also take the students “inside” how they made the films, radio programs, and books the students will watch, listen to, and read before the visits. In the participating sections of Developmental English, students will be developing their critical thinking and writing skills by working on pieces about their families and their ethnic/cultural heritage as well as current issues of race, ethnicity, nationality, and identity.

**State fundamental need or concern addressed in this project:**

Student retention and successful completion of the developmental writing courses is a major concern of the English Department. We want to ensure that students are engaged and that they develop and integrate critical thinking and communication skills. We hope that students’ relating to the speakers and identifying with the issues addressed will motivate and inspire them to persist and achieve...that connecting the curriculum to the community and bringing the community into the classroom, creating a larger community of learners, making the classes seem more relevant, will translate into heightened enthusiasm about the materials and assignments.

**List the project's core goals and/or objectives.**

Enhanced student engagement  
Improved critical thinking and communication skills  
Raised awareness of community, current issues, and cultural literacy

Improved rate of student retention

Improved rate of successful completion of the developmental writing courses

This project relates directly to the following Initiative Areas: First-Year Experience; Student Achievement and Retention; and Writing in the Disciplines

**Who will benefit from this project?**

While students in EN 001 and EN 002 are the primary target audience for this project, all events will be announced college-wide and open to the general public.

### **Events Scheduled:**

Award-winner Stephanie Allen, author of A PLACE BETWEEN STATIONS, talking about writing and reading from her collection...FYI re: her book, go to:

[http://www.amazon.com/Place-Between-Stations-Stories/dp/0826214444/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1201209347&sr=8-1](http://www.amazon.com/Place-Between-Stations-Stories/dp/0826214444/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1201209347&sr=8-1)

Tuesday, February 5, 12:30-1:30 p.m., Gudelsky 222

Wednesday, February 6, 1-2 p.m., Gudelsky 222

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Dynamic activist-documentary/feature filmmakers--who grew up in Montgomery County--speaking about their community involvement and some of the films they made for YouTube about the immigration backlash in our area... Read about our guest speakers, Annabel Park, Eric Byler, and Jeff Man, in The Washington Post: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/11/02/AR2007110202158.html> and

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/14/AR2007121401327.html>

Tuesday, February 26, 12:30-1:30 p.m., Theatre Arts Arena

Wednesday, February 27, 1-2 p.m., Theatre Arts Arena

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Rebecca Haile, author of HELD AT A DISTANCE: MY REDISCOVERY OF ETHIOPIA, talking about her identity and experience as an Ethiopian American, her return 25 years later to Ethiopia, and her reflections on Ethiopian history and culture...Here's some info on her book: [http://www.amazon.com/HELD-AT-DISTANCE-REDISCOVERY-ETHIOPIA/dp/0897335562/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1201209297&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/HELD-AT-DISTANCE-REDISCOVERY-ETHIOPIA/dp/0897335562/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1201209297&sr=1-1)

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Wednesday, March 5, 11-12 p.m. and 1-2 p.m., Theatre Arts Arena

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Michel Martin, star of National Public Radio's "Tell Me More," an eclectic, cutting-edge news/talk show, discussing her work on current issues...Here's an intro article from The Washington Post: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/10/26/AR2007102600486.html>; and here's the link to her programs on NPR: <http://www.npr.org/templates/rundowns/rundown.php?prgId=46>

Friday, April 18, 1-2 p.m., Theatre Arts Arena