FOUNDATIONFOCUS

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News from the Montgomery College Foundation

Spring/Summer 2015

GIVING THANKS

Annual Scholarship Luncheon Recognizes Students and Donors



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Scholarship Luncheon Connects Students and Donors

When Alejandro Vargas and his mother left their home country of El Salvador just three years ago, he arrived in the United States with only basic knowledge of English but boundless ambition about the prospect of a bright future.

Vargas's powerful story of how he overcame seemingly insurmountable odds highlighted the 2015 Montgomery College Foundation Annual Scholarship Recognition luncheon on March 30.

The luncheon, which drew a record number of scholarship recipients and donors, took place at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Convention Center. More than 400 people came to celebrate at the event that allows scholarship recipients to meet and spend time with their scholarship donors.

This year's event emphasized the Achieving Collegiate Excellence and Success (ACES) program, to which Vargas attributes his educational success.

When he came to the United States, Vargas began attending Seneca Valley High School, where he worked hard to quickly transition out of the ESOL program and eventually begin the IB program. Soon after, however, he found the academic weight to be too much for him, and his grades and motivation declined.

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and director of development

Melanie Kandel, donor relations and board stewardship director

Katie Kumkumian, donor relations and board stewardship associate director Jennifer Baugh, creative services director Jill Fitzgerald, writer/editor Pete Vidal, photographer

Heather Milke, strategic communications director

Montgomery College Foundation, Inc. 40 West Gude Drive, Suite 220; Rockville, MD 20850 240-567-7900; montgomerycollege.edu/foundation

www.montgomerycollege.edu/onlinegiving

For major gifts, contact Carol Rognrud, executive director of the foundation, at 240-567-7493, 202-257-6539, or carol.rognrud@montgomerycollege.edu.



(From left) Carol Rognrud, executive director of the foundation, Dr. Pollard, Alejandro Vargas, and his scholarship donor, Karla Berg Walker

"With a very low GPA in my junior year and the beginning of my senior year, hopes of a college education were very low," Vargas said. "But then, out of nowhere, hope came unexpectedly. The ACES program arrived my senior year. Not only as a bridge program to college, not only as another way of counseling, but as a creator of hope, dreams, and peace within me and my family. Dr. Damien Robinson, who is here today, took my hand and introduced me to this program, and to many other opportunities that have now changed my life completely."

Launched in 2013, the program has helped more than 1,300 students across Montgomery County. A collaboration among Montgomery College, Montgomery County Public Schools, and The Universities at Shady Grove, ACES increases access to higher education by providing comprehensive interventions and support for students who have both the desire and the capacity to achieve their bachelor's degree. More than 300 students who began the program in high school in 2013 are now attending Montgomery College through the program.

"I experienced a miracle," Vargas said, "a miracle that came in form of The Growing Academic Potential ACES Scholarship. It was an opportunity that, as a man of faith, I believe was laid for me to be able to succeed. Everything took a 180 degrees change in my life. Within this blessing other blessings came, such as the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarship and the Karla Berg Walker Scholarship. These scholarships have helped me move forward in my life, and grow as a person."

Montgomery College President DeRionne Pollard noted the importance of such philanthropic efforts, given the county's growing needs. She said requests for scholarships have skyrocketed and financial aid applications are up 61 percent.

"At the College, the average family income of our students who receive federal funding is \$27,000 per year. In the same county where you and I live—where gas prices, utility costs, and the price for food are the same for everyone—families are being raised on just \$27,000 per year. It is the cost—not the lack of interest and certainly not the ability to thrive—that is the barrier to a college degree for many of our county residents," she said.

"That's why programs like ACES and the named scholarships that many of you established are so crucial."

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Gigi Godwin, president and CEO of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, with Madison Graham, recipient of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce Public Safety Scholarship



Camille (bottom, second from left) and Cliff Kendall (fourth from left) pose with their Kendall Scholars along with Alex Boyle (second from left), foundation board member; Clarice Somersall, associate senior vice president for academic affairs (bottom, left); and Monica Brown (left), senior vice president for student services.



Arlene and Ken Becker (center) with daughter Allison Becker Wisemen pose with many of the recipients of the Arthur P. and Miriam G. Becker Scholarships. Ken is the vice chair of the Montgomery College Foundation.



Dawn (left) and Harold Berger (right) with Victor Mercogliano, a recipient of the Harold and Dawn Berger Scholarship, who presented them with flowers at the luncheon



Alejandro Vargas and Carol Rognrud, executive director of the Montgomery College Foundation

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Carol Rognrud, executive director of the foundation, and foundation board members Linda Youngentob, The Honorable Jeffrey Slavin, Chair Marty Colburn, Dr. Pollard, Vice Chair Ken Becker, Sally Rudney, and Morgan Sullivan. Foundation board members in attendance but missing from photo were: Bobbi Shulman, Michael Yuen, and Erica Webber.



Karla Berg Walker (second from right) and her husband, Frank, pose with Karla Berg Walker Scholarship recipients, including Alejandro Vargas (center), who was this year's student speaker, along with his brother (left) and mother (second from left).



(From left) Ed Roberts, instructional dean of the Gudelsky Institute for Technical Education, and Patti Bartlett, retired dean of business, information science, and hospitality management, with Alejandro Vargas and Monica Brown, senior vice president for student services



Montgomery College President DeRionne Pollard, (left) with Robyn Jones, and their recipient, Ariel Zuniga (center), of the Myles Julian Pollard-Jones Scholarship



Hillman Entrepreneur Scholarship recipients with Montgomery College Hillman Entrepreneurs Program Director Rebecca Razavi

Honoring Your Parents Through Giving

As a first-generation college graduate, I wanted to honor and leave a legacy for my parents." This was the motivation behind Susan Sullivan's newly established endowed scholarship, The D. Jean and D. Clayton Davidson Scholarship. Susan, the director of special events at Montgomery College, thought this would be a special gift to give her parents, Jean and Clayton Davidson, as they are the two people who helped her realize the value of an education and always stressed the importance of attending college.

Jean and Clayton met in Buckingham County, Virginia, and married in 1959. They moved to Montgomery County in 1966 and have lived here happily for 49 years. Clayton served in the United States Air Force for six years before beginning his 40-year career in the plumbing industry, while Jean worked as an early childhood educator for 26 years throughout Maryland helping those in her community, church, and state.

Her parents' professions later influenced Susan to establish an endowed scholarship that will support students in both early childhood education and the trades. Susan, who was once academically unmotivated in high school, found Montgomery College to be a "transformational" time in her life.



Susan Sullivan, Montgomery College director of special events, with her parents, Clayton and Jean

While she worked two jobs, Susan was still able to take advantage of the many opportunities afforded to Montgomery College students, such as a wonderful faculty and involvement in student life. Her time at MC led her to other opportunities in higher education, and she ultimately graduated

with a master's degree. She returned to MC and has held positions as director of student life as well as her current role. Susan presented the scholarship to her parents this past Christmas. Like other employees, Susan will be paying off her pledge as part of the payroll deduction program.

An Example to Their Children



Sarah McBride, Peter Kovar, Paula Kowalczuk, and Paul Kovar

Daula Kowalczuk and Peter Kovar share a passion for education. This passion has led them on a mission to expand access to educational opportunities-similar

became involved with Crittenton Services of Greater Washington, whose mission is to "empower teen girls to overcome obstacles, make positive choices,

to what they

provided for their

own children-

to others. They

started down this

path when Peter

and achieve their goals

through programs in schools." Now they have taken it a step further by establishing a scholarship through the foundation, which they named in honor of their two

children, Sarah P. McBride and Paul E. Kovar.

Paula and Peter see this scholarship as a way of beginning to level the playing field, as they recognize their own children have opportunities that others do not. Their goal is to help remove the financial barriers, which is often the biggest deterrent to pursuing an education. This scholarship will make it easier for students-preferably young women who have participated in any Crittenton programs-to change their lives. Choosing to name their scholarship after Sarah and Paul, they are hoping to instill a philanthropic mindset in their children, encouraging the next generation to continue to support their legacy of giving and making a difference in our community.

FY2014 Gifts and Pledges



Martin Mayorga '97 established the Mayorga Latino Leadership Scholarship. He was one of 519 alumni who made gifts to the foundation.

gave more than \$300,000. 746 other friends donated gifts and other support.

FY2014 Support Provided by Gifts

\$2,922,939

Total support provided by gifts as of June 30, 2014

GRANTS 35.7% \$1,044,095

This includes awards from emergency funds to assist students with urgent needs, such as food, transportation, or housing costs, as well as grants that support unique programs, such as the Hillman Entrepreneurs Program, Macklin Business Institute, and the Global Humanities Institute.

To make a gift online, visit montgomerycollege.edu/onlinegiving



Holy Cross Health Supports Partnership

Holy Cross Health and Montgomery College have entered into a new five-year collaboration agreement to expand a partnership between the two organizations.

Montgomery College and Holy Cross Health's relationship spans more than a decade in serving students and the Montgomery County community. The original partnership helped expand nurse enrollment and graduation by 38 percent and 48 percent, respectively. Holy Cross supported the partnership with contributions totaling \$600,000 for capital and program enhancements at the College.

This expanded relationship between the College and Holy Cross Health will enhance the educational opportunities for students, Holy Cross Health and College employees, and community members and will create workforce development and career opportunities in nursing, health sciences, and STEM fields. Highlights of the expanded partnership include:

- Expansion of the number of graduates with degrees in nursing and health sciences;
- Support for joint opportunities between the College and Holy Cross Health to



Holy Cross Germantown Hospital on the Germantown Campus

conduct programs in secondary schools for teachers and students regarding the life sciences;

- Provision for at least 64 clinical rotations per year at Holy Cross Health locations;
- Expansion of the number of adjunct faculty and teaching opportunities for Holy Cross Health employees, including as mentors and guest lecturers;
- Exploration of joint partnership opportunities for the College and Holy Cross Health with community organizations to support health-related initiatives; and
- Increased employment opportunities for Montgomery College students and opportunities for Holy Cross Health staff to expand their career opportunities through education and workforce development at the College.

As part of the collaboration agreement, Holy Cross Health will provide financial support for selected initiatives that enhance health care education and/or health care workforce development and training. A steering committee, with representation from both Holy Cross Health and Montgomery College, will oversee the overall collaboration and make recommendations on initiatives suitable for Holy Cross support.

Holy Cross Germantown Hospital anchors the Hercules Pinkney Life Sciences Park, which encompasses approximately one million square feet across 40 acres on the Montgomery College Germantown Campus. Holy Cross Germantown Hospital is the first hospital in the United States to be located on the campus of a community college. Over the next several years, the park will be further developed with other business, government, and nonprofit tenants that can provide an integrated academic, business, and research environment.

From the Chair

A t a recent Montgomery College Board of Directors meeting, Sally Rudney, chair of the foundation's



development committee, talked about the importance of "giving joyfully" in support of the foundation and our mission. Although this was the first time I had heard the expression, the act of giving joyfully was not new to me—having established a scholarship at the foundation in loving memory of my godson, Jordan Denion.

Giving joyfully also is not new to my former colleague, Rick Ketchum, chairman and CEO of FINRA, the largest independent securities regulator in the United States. I had the opportunity recently to introduce Rick to Dr. Pollard and, soon thereafter, Rick and his wife, Mary Beth, made a very generous contribution to the foundation in support of our ACES scholarship program.

Their decision to support the foundation did not surprise me because, in addition to being a very generous and caring family, they also understand business and recognize the needs of the individual students in the ACES program as well as the value of supporting this community-changing program. I was very happy to facilitate this introduction and to welcome Rick and Mary Beth into the fold of donors who appreciate the difference they can make in the lives of students across Montgomery County.

I encourage you to join them and me and to give joyfully, knowing that you are making a true difference in the life of a student, and that our students are incredibly appreciative of the educational opportunities your generosity provides.

—Martin Colburn '90 Chair, Montgomery College Foundation







Steve and Cokie Roberts

Dr. Michael Lin



Eliot Pfanstiehl

C. Marie Taylor

Community Leaders Honored at Commencement

Five community leaders received honorary degrees at this year's commencement, held May 22 on the Rockville Campus. The honorees were: Dr. Michael Lin, biomedical research scientist and former chair of the Montgomery College Board of Trustees; Eliot Pfanstiehl, CEO and founder of Strathmore Hall Foundation Inc.; Cokie Roberts, Emmy-award winning political commentator for ABC News and contributor to National Public Radio; Steve Roberts, political journalist and the Shapiro Professor of Media and Public Affairs at the George Washington University; and C. Marie Taylor, executive director of the Community Foundation for Montgomery County.



Montgomery College 2015 graduates celebrate at commencement in May.

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AstraZeneca and MedImmune Support Research Course

Biopharmaceutical company AstraZeneca and its Gaithersburg-based global biologics research and development arm, MedImmune, each have provided a \$10,000 grant to the Montgomery College Foundation to support community college student success.

The AstraZeneca grant will support the independent research course, Fundamentals of Scientific Research, which is designed for biotechnology, chemistry, and biology students. Participating students will work in small groups with a faculty adviser and will have the opportunity to establish a virtual biotechnology company. They will learn interdisciplinary scientific research skills as well as collaboration, problem solving, and critical thinking. Twenty science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) students will benefit from the grant, which will be used to purchase instructional equipment and supplies.



The grant from MedImmune will provide program support for the Achieving Collegiate Excellence and Success (ACES) initiative, a collaboration among Montgomery College, Montgomery County Public Schools, and The Universities at Shady Grove. The ACES program offers a pathway from high school to community college to a university. The initiative focuses on underrepresented students as well as those who would be the first in their family to attend college. The program currently serves more than 1,300 students in local high schools and at Montgomery College.

Members of the AstraZeneca and MedImmune leadership teams also are volunteers for Montgomery College. Dr. Bahija Jallal, executive vice president, AstraZeneca, and head of MedImmune, is serving as an honorary co-chair of the Montgomery College Foundation's MC 2020 Campaign to raise \$30 million for scholarships and programs.

In addition to Jallal's involvement with the College, Dr. Gail Folena-Wasserman, senior vice president of MedImmune's Biopharmaceutical Development division, is a member of the College's Hercules Pinkney Life Sciences Park Foundation Board of Directors.

Remembering Michael Leahy



Past Alumni Association President (2012–2014) Carol Leahy recently established the F. Michael Leahy Endowed Scholarship in memory of her beloved husband.

Carol and Michael shared a love of family and friends, and also the College. Michael, an artist at heart, contributed many paintings to the College's Mobile

Masterpieces series, including one that proudly hangs in the home of Dr. DeRionne Pollard. He died on October 18, 2014—the night of last year's Mobile Masterpieces event. The first painting to sell was one of his.

Michael loved all forms of art, and he wanted to make it possible for others to be able to develop that same interest. With this in mind, Carol established the scholarship "to encourage talented young people, who don't have all of the resources necessary, to allow them to pursue art as a career/passion."

Mobile Masterpieces



Napa Vista, F. Michael Leahy



Oh Say Can You See O.C., F. Michael Leahy

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From the Executive Director

There is a trend developing at the Montgomery College Foundation involving intergenerational philanthropy. Ken Becker spearheaded this trend



by following in the footsteps of his beloved parents, Miriam and Arthur Becker. He enthusiastically joined the Foundation Board of Directors to represent his father many years ago and is now the vice chair. Like his parents, he graciously and generously supports our students and the College's mission. This year Ken and Arlene's daughter, Allison, attended the Scholarship Luncheon for the very first time, providing her with the opportunity to meet some of the more than 200 students the Becker family has been able to assist over the years through their philanthropy.

Inspired by the Beckers' familial approach to philanthropy, Dr. Pollard established two ACES scholarships, including one named in honor of her son, Myles. At a young age, he is well aware that "to whom much is given, much is expected." In addition to being introduced to philanthropy, he is also being taught how to budget for it. These are two very important life lessons for even our youngest community members.

Most recently, Peter Kovar and Paula Kowalczuk established the Sarah P. McBride and Paul E. Kovar Scholarship (on page 5); and Shirley Brandman and Howard Shapiro established the Samuel Jacob and Zachary Brandman Shapiro Scholarships. In both cases, the parents established the scholarships in their children's names. Like Dr. Pollard and the Becker family, these parents want their children to recognize their own good fortune and pay it forward.

We think this trend of intergenerational philanthropy will continue. It is a wonderful way to engage the next generation of philanthropists and ensure they carry on the family tradition of continuing to make a real difference in the lives of others.

> —Carol Rognrud Executive Director Montgomery College Foundation



Employees Also Give Back

There is a fast-growing group of individuals providing life-changing educational opportunities to students in our community: our employees. More and more faculty and staff members are signing up for our payroll deduction plan to ensure students in the community in which we live and work have access to a high-quality education.

As members of the Montgomery College family, the College's staff and faculty members are well aware of the obstacles—as well as the incredible potential—that so many of our students face. In order to ensure students receive the education and/or job training they need, employees are heeding the call and stepping up to provide our students with access to endless possibilities.

Two such employees are Cherree Adams, purchasing manager, and Ed Roberts, instructional dean at the Gudelsky Institute for Technical Education. Both enrolled in the payroll deduction program, which deducts a designated amount from an employee's paycheck and directs it to the foundation.

Adams is participating because her own daughter received scholarships while she was in college, so she knows "the true value of a scholarship." Roberts established the Edward Roberts Endowed Scholarship because he sees the "wonderful programs that train people with skills for better jobs and a career path that can change their lives."

By choosing the amount—whether big or small—and the designation of their gifts, employees are able to decide exactly how they want their donation to be utilized.

Through the efforts of the Campaign 2020 Employee Committee, which consists of committed College employee volunteers, the word is spreading across our campuses about the importance of giving back and supporting our students.

Montgomery College Employees and Retirees Who Have Established Named Scholarships

Judy E. Ackerman Gladys and Robert Lipton Endowed Scholarship

William H. Anderson William and Jane Anderson Montgomery Scholars Endowment

Florence H. Ashby Muriel Ashby Memorial Endowed Scholarship

Rose Garvin Aquilino Garvin Aquilino Family Endowed Scholarship

Patricia M. Bartlett Dr. Patricia Maxey Bartlett Endowed Scholarship

Peggy J. Bebee Bebee Distinguished Staff Endowed Award

Karen Callender The Karen Callender Endowed Scholarship

Stephen M. Campanella Campanella Technical Theatre Scholarship

William E. Campbell Wilfred S. and Ruth C. Campbell Memorial Endowed Scholarship

Lisa Marie Carvallo Dr. Richard L. and Barbara A. Beaudoin Endowed Scholarship

Susan R. Christen Susan R. Christen Scholarship

Diane E. Cockrell Janet and Russell Dech Endowed Scholarship

Robert S. Cohen Shirley R. Cohen Charitable Endowed Fund

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

Donald K. Day Donald Day Endowed Scholarship Donald Day and Karen Gruner Endowed Scholarship

Patrick L. Devlin Eamon and Grace Devlin Memorial Endowed Scholarship

Jennifer J. Dobbins Audrey T. Hill Endowed Transfer Scholarship

Mary Theresa Furgol Ruth B. Dinbergs and Jean M. Furgol Endowed Scholarship

Mary F. Gallagher Connie Tonat Anthropology Endowed Fund Anthropology Rookie Research Endowed Scholarship

Melissa F. Gregory Joseph J. Fouchard Memorial Scholarship

Ada Garcia-Casellas Casellas Endowed Scholarship Bernice G. Grossman Louis and Robert Grossman Memorial Endowment

Ruth Gruenberg Robert Gruenberg Memorial Endowed Scholarship

Karen Gruner Donald Day and Karen Gruner Endowed Scholarship

Audrey T. Hill Audrey T. Hill Endowed Transfer Scholarship

Donna E. Hoffacker Donna E. Hoffacker Scholarship

Susan T. Hoffman Frances Hoffman Memorial Summer Dinner Theatre Endowment

Robert W. Jacobs Robert W. Jacobs Family Endowed Scholarship

Eric E. Jeffers Anne Jeffers Memorial Endowed Scholarship

Collins R. Jones Evan A. and Catherine C. Jones Memorial Biotech Endowed Scholarship

Thomas E. Kenney Thomas Kenney Chemistry Endowed Award

Raymond Joel Kimball Raymond J. Kimball TechLEAP Scholarship

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

Beverly S. Lloyd John M. Lloyd Memorial Endowed Scholarship

Joseph R. Manno Dr. Joseph R. and Mary H. Manno Management Endowment

Ruth J. McClelland Ruth McClelland Endowed Scholarship

Ruth H. Meyer Ruth H. Meyer Scholarship

Marshall Moore Rosie Moore Endowed Scholarship

Connie A. Morella Connie Morella Endowed Scholarship

Charlene R. Nunley Hone Family Endowed Scholarship Charlene R. Nunley Endowed Scholarship

Mary E. Owens Anne Jeffers Memorial Endowed Scholarship

Robert E. Parilla Nicholas E. Parilla Memorial Scholarship

Vicki M. Pendleton Julian Madison Pendleton Memorial Endowed Scholarship **Donna M. Pina** Pina Family Endowed Scholarship

DeRionne P. Pollard P. Paul Pollard Generational ACES Scholarship The Myles Julian Pollard-Jones ACES Endowed Scholarship

Deborah Preston Preston & Nicholson Endowed Scholarship

Rodney Redmond Dr. Rodney W. Redmond Endowed Scholarship

Edward J. Roberts Edward Roberts Endowed Scholarship

Lois D. Robertson Janet and Russell Dech Endowed Scholarship

Carol D. Rognrud Roger T. Rognrud Endowed Scholarship

Carlo Alberto Sanchez Carlo and Mary Sanchez Endowed Scholarship

Carolyn P. Schick Irvin H. Schick Endowed Scholarship

Michelle T. Scott Frank and Maxine Scott Endowed Scholarship

Ajit Singh Jaikaur and Surjan Singh Endowed Scholarship

Sara W. Smith Sara W. Smith Endowed Scholarship

Peter B. Stein Zachary Stein Memorial Endowed Scholarship

Yvonne H. Stephens Yvonne H. Stephens Endowed Scholarship

Bradley J. Stewart Leslie and Brad Stewart Endowed Scholarship

Susan Sullivan D. Jean and D. Clayton Davidson Endowed Scholarship

Joan F. Van der Slice Paul Van der Slice History Scholarship Endowment

Edward N. Van Duyne* Yuri K. Van Duyne Memorial Endowed Scholarship

Martha C. Vaughan Martha Vaughan Endowed Scholarship

Kenneth S. Weiner Adele and Hy Weiner Memorial Endowed Honors Scholarship

Kathleen A. Wessman Richard (Dick) Wessman Memorial Endowed Scholarship

Joseph W. White II Joseph W. White Facilities Endowed Scholarship

* deceased



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Questions about this year's event? mcgolf@jsheaevents.com

montgomerycollege.edu/golftournament