

Congratulations! 70th Anniversary



MC MONTGOMERY
COLLEGE

Confluence Conference 2024

Translation in the Capital Area

**Culture-Crossing Contact Zones:
Translation in a Globalized World**

Saturday, April 13, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Health Sciences (HC)

Takoma Park / Silver Spring Campus



For disability-related accommodations, call 240-567-1697 or email: confluence@montgomerycollege.edu.

Please note, a two-week notice is required for accommodations.

MC Confluence Conference 2024

APRIL 13, 2024

HEALTH SCIENCES (HC)

TAKOMA PARK/SILVER SPRING CAMPUS

PROGRAM

Registration and Welcome 9 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Room HC 210 - Attendees arrive, check in, and receive event materials

Morning Breakout Sessions I 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Room HC 222 - Translating the Universal Library (Delivered via Zoom)

Room HC 225 - T&I at a Crossroads: How AI is Transforming the Language Professions

Room HC 227 - Translating Speculative Fiction: Contact, Change, and Resistance (Delivered via Zoom)

Morning Breakout Sessions II 10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Room HC 222 - American Sign Language (ASL) as a Controversial Topic Came Up in the Late 20th Century. Why Was Sign Language Buried and Oppressed?

Room HC 225 - Exploring the Terminology of Dance in Ancient Egypt: A Pragmatic and Philosophical Approach

Room HC 227 - Overcoming the Fear of Consecutive Interpreting

Keynote Address 11:50 a.m. - 12:50 p.m.

Room HC 222 - The Challenge of Communicating in a Globalizing World

Networking and Lunch 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Lunch on Your Own

Afternoon Breakout Sessions I 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Room HC 222 - Professional Development Programs and Initiatives of the American Translators Association

Room HC 225 - Navigating Business Opportunities as a Contracted, Freelance or Volunteer Translator/Interpreter in High Demand Languages

Room HC 227 - Translation (Con) Fusion: Syntax & Reference

Afternoon Breakout Sessions II 3:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Room HC 222 - Idiomatic Expressions Do Cats and Dogs Really Fall Out of the Sky?

Room 225 - Harnessing TikTok's Power: Transforming Translation and Interpretation in a Globalizing World

Room HC 227 - What's in a Name – through the Story of Hebrew

Closing 4:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Room HC 222 - Closing remarks and insights on the day's discussions



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MC Confluence Conference 2024

Translation in the Capital Area

Meet the Speakers



Amelia Feliciano Vazquez
Senior Diplomatic Translator
(Spanish)



Edward Wilson-Lee
Author and a 1596 Foundation
Fellow in English at Sidney
Sussex College, Cambridge



Robert Sette
President, Colorado Interpreters
& Translators Association



Lourdes Molina
Senior Lecturer of Spanish/
Professor, Southern
Methodist University



Vijay Advani
Professor, Montgomery College/
American Sign Language educator



Rania Suliman
Professor, Montgomery College



Fadhma Izri
Freelance interpreter/Instructor,
Washington Translation Academy



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MC Confluence Conference 2024

Translation in the Capital Area

Meet the Speakers



Jona Colson
Professor, Montgomery College



Russ Shughart
Chair of ATA's Government Linguist
Outreach Task Force (GLOTF)



Aileen Chun-Lin
Professor, McDaniel College



Rutie Eckdish
Freelance translator &
Interpreter - Hebrew



Heidi Hobson
Spanish Interpreter



Marisol Santana
Freelance Spanish Interpreter



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Confluence Conference 2024

Translation in the Capital Area

Translating the Universal Library

Presented by Edward Wilson-Lee

Room HC 222 (Delivered via Zoom)

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

This talk will look at the part played by translation and translated texts in the project of Hernando Colón (1488-1539) to build a universal library, which would contain, in his words, ‘every book, in every language and on every subject, from within Christendom and without’. The conversion of information from one form to another played a central part in the lives of Hernando and the father he idolized—Christopher Columbus—but as the world of print became increasingly connected and global, the problems presented by the wild variety of the world’s languages threatened to create chaos in the library that was intended to be his life’s achievement.

Presenter Biographical information:

Edward Wilson-Lee is 1596 Fellow in English at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, where he teaches medieval and Renaissance literature and Shakespeare. He is author of a number of books, including *The Catalogue of Shipwrecked Books: Christopher Columbus, His Son, and the Quest to Build the World's Greatest Library* and (most recently) *A History of Water*. His research focusses on books, libraries and travel in the early modern period. He is currently working on a book on global concepts of sublime language--*The Grammar of Angels*-- which will be published in 2025.



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Translation in the Capital Area

T&I at a Crossroads: How AI is Transforming the Language Professions

Presented by Robert Sette

Room HC 225

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Drawing on 35 years of experience as a professional translator, the presenter will offer insights into current technology challenges in the translation and interpretation industry (T&I) as well as past transformations that our profession has endured. Special attention will be paid to ChatGPT and other AI tools and machine translation (MT) post-editing. Discussion will also focus on how to promote ourselves as professionals in the midst of these challenges.

Presenter Biographical information:

Robert has worked as a professional translator for 30+ years and holds ATA certification in Spanish, French, Portuguese & Italian into English, in addition to working from Catalan to English. He has lived and studied languages & linguistics in Spain, France and Russia. He specializes in commercial, legal and technical translation. Robert is currently serving as an ATA Board member and is President of the Colorado Interpreters & Translators Association. He serves as a mentor for new, aspiring translators, and he has previously taught translation at the University of Pittsburgh and Kent State University. He is a frequent speaker at local conferences, as well as conferences hosted by ATA and ELIA.



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Confluence Conference 2024

Translation in the Capital Area

Translating Speculative Fiction: Contact, Change, and Resistance

Presented by Lourdes Molina

Room HC 227 (Delivered via Zoom)

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Speculative literature, such as science fiction, reflects distant and foreign settings—it anticipates, bends, and fractures reality. This presentation examines how these texts simultaneously reflect sociocultural elements of contemporary Cuba as they foreignize a familiar world, and how the translator of these texts must capture the uncanniness of the original. As such, the speaker will discuss the unique challenges of, and strategies for, translating them, including translating concepts, proper nouns, terminology, modes of communication, technology, sites (sense of place), and imagery characteristic of these genres that are often far beyond the foreignness of the original language. In addition, the presentation will discuss the art and craft of literary translation and address the following questions: What "culture" are we contacting? Where/what is the contact? What is gained in the translation? What is lost? What makes a translation effective and "good"? When is translation possible, and how does the text resist it? Why is it necessary to translate these texts?

Presenter Biographical information

Lourdes Molina received her Ph.D. in literary studies and translation from the University of Texas at Dallas. She currently teaches Spanish language and Spanish American literature and culture at Southern Methodist University. She translated Jorge Enrique Lage's *Freeway: La Movie*, a cyberpunk novel (Deep Vellum, 2022) and her work has appeared in *Latin American Literature Today* and *Translation Review*.



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Translation in the Capital Area

Exploring the Terminology of Dance in Ancient Egypt: A Pragmatic and Philosophical Approach

Presented by Rania Suliman

Room HC 227 10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Ancient Egyptian lacks a generic term for "dance," posing a challenge for scholars exploring its linguistic, cultural, and religious implications. This paper proposes an examination of dance terminology in ancient Egypt, employing pragmatic and philosophical approaches. By analyzing key dance-related terms like "jbꜣ," "xbj," "Trf," and "ksks" from previous research and textual evidence, it aims to illuminate their meanings and evolutionary trajectories, providing insights into their translation and interpretation in the context of dance practices.

Presenter Biographical information:

Rania Suliman, a dedicated scholar specializing in history and ancient Near Eastern Studies, is currently undertaking doctoral research at Johns Hopkins University. Additionally, she serves as an educator at Montgomery College and an archaeologist for the Johns Hopkins University Expedition to the Temple of Mut. Rania's research interests encompass various aspects of ancient Egyptian culture, including religion, art, linguistic analysis, and the translation of ancient texts.



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Translation in the Capital Area

American Sign Language (ASL) as a Controversial Topic Came up in the Late 20th Century.

Why was Sign Language Buried and Oppressed?

Presented by Vijay Advani

Room HC 222

10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

After the Milan Congress of 1880, many schools for the deaf in the United States and throughout Europe forbade their students from using sign language. Many oralists, including Alexander Graham Bell, believed that signing was an inferior mode of communication and attempted to bulldoze and bury the art and history of sign language in favor of speech. In the 1960s, however, linguists began asserting that sign languages were as complex as spoken ones. That revelation revitalized the Deaf community and culture. In subsequent years, many people have realized the treasure that is sign language, which has evolved in the United States into what we now know as American Sign Language.

Presenter Biographical information:

Prof. Vijay Advani started teaching at Montgomery College last fall, 2023. He graduated from Gallaudet University with a BA in education and McDaniel College with an MS in Deaf education. He is a full-time American Sign Language educator for the staff who need to improve their American Sign Language skills. He has created the curriculum for the staff for two and a half years.

Over 30 years ago, Professor Advani began teaching preschool to university. He believes that educating students is a wonderful opportunity. He is a global presenter and an advocate for the Deaf community.



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Translation in the Capital Area

Overcoming the Fear of Consecutive Interpreting

Presented by Fadhma Izri

Room HC 225 10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Many interpreters feel and express an aversion to consecutive interpreting and prefer to work exclusively in the simultaneous mode. While there is no hard data supporting this trend among interpreters across language combinations, input from colleagues and professional social media network posts and discussions suggest that this trend is not exceptional. Knowing that mastering consecutive is a prior requirement to studying and training in simultaneous interpreting, this fear is rather puzzling.

This presenter draws on her experience and research to share a groundbreaking strategy along with a few established techniques to help interpreters not only overcome the dear of consecutive interpreting but to excel in it. She demonstrates that consecutive interpreting, were it intralingual or interlingual, is nearly an everyday practice that goes unnoticed, and that extrapolating some of the techniques used in SI onto CI will have a significant and positive impact on the way they view and practice consecutive interpreting.

Presenter Biographical information:

Fadhma Izri is a conference and diplomatic interpreter and translator with more than 20 years of experience in the field. She covers conferences for USG Agencies in the Washington DC area and organizations worldwide. She taught CI at the University of Algiers from 1999 to 2004 where some of her students went on to become UN Interpreters and is now helping colleagues to hone their CI and SI skills.

She graduated from the University of Algiers in 1999 with a Maitrise in Translation and Interpreting, from Georgetown University in 2009 with a MALS in Foreign Affairs, from the American University in 2018 with a MA in Philosophy, and she is currently a PhD candidate at the Catholic University of America researching translation movements between Greek, Syriac, and Arabic in the Medieval era.



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Translation in the Capital Area

The Challenge of Communicating in a Globalizing World

Keynote: Amelia Feliciano Vázquez

Room HC 222

11:50 a.m. - 12:50 p.m.

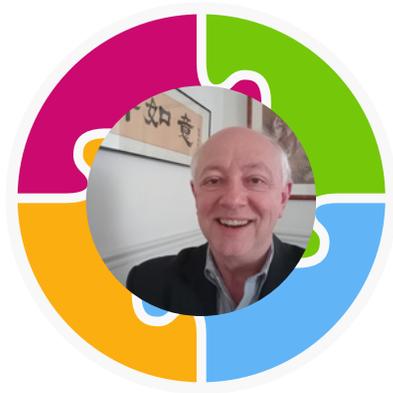
As language professionals, we relish the intellectual challenge of rendering messages from one cultural and linguistic context to another...a simple point A to point B. Yet the challenge of our era is often to work with broader audiences who speak the same language but are based in many different nations or cultural contexts, or with individuals who themselves encompass multiple national or cultural backgrounds. The presenter will discuss the complexities at play, how industry shifts and new technologies amplify them, and how adapting to them is crucial to continued relevance and evolution in our field.

Presenter Biographical information:

Amelia Feliciano Vázquez is a Senior Diplomatic Translator at the Office of Language Services, U.S. Department of State. Before her current position, she worked as a translation project manager with the Department of State and in the private sector and as a freelance translator and interpreter. She has a master's degree in Spanish Translation and Interpretation from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies (MIIS) and a bachelor's degree in Modern Languages and Audiovisual Communications (double major) from the University of Puerto Rico-Río Piedras. Her working languages at the Department of State are English and Spanish, and she is also a fluent French speaker.



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Translation in the Capital Area

Professional Development Programs and Initiatives of the American Translators Association

Presented by Russ Shughart

Room HC 222

2 p.m. - 3 p.m.

In this session, the presenter will deliver a comprehensive overview of the professional development programs and initiatives of the American Translators Association (ATA), including prominent professional resources, services, and events. The presentation will include updates on recent developments in the language services industry and at ATA as they relate to the translator and interpreter professions. The session will include the distribution of references from ATA on careers in the language services industry.

Presenter Biographical information:

Dr. Russ Shughart is a retiree of the U.S. Federal Government and the U.S. Air Force with a long and successful career in language services and language program management. He is a member of the Leadership Council of the Government Division of the American Translators Association (ATA), and he currently chairs ATA's Government Linguist Outreach Task Force (GLOTF). He has been an active member of ATA for nearly 20 years.



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Translation in the Capital Area

**Navigating Business Opportunities as a Contracted, Freelance or Volunteer Translator/
Interpreter in High Demand Languages**

Presented by Aileen Chun-Lin

Room HC 225

2 p.m. - 3 p.m.

The presentation focuses on the demands of translation/interpretation as a business consultant, freelancer or professional volunteer in language and linguistic services. The primary objectives are to (1) share the demands and market trends of expertise required or currently in demand, (2) professional opportunities in AI, localization, data collection and management, and (3) the higher demand for critical languages, including international consultancy work bypassing English. The presentation finally provides options to receive credentials internationally, if one is planning to work with organizations outside of the US.

Presenter Biographical information:

Dr. Aileen Chun-Lin is a 30+ year veteran of translation/simultaneous interpretation and language acquisition administration and education. Born and raised in Honolulu, she started learning languages in Kindergarten, and studied in China, France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Switzerland and the U.K. She knew she wanted to be an opera singer, and a polyglot Shakespearean thespian, incorporating languages daily (legal and diplomatic consultancy). She now serves as a Professor of Chinese at McDaniel College and still uses at least 8-11 languages daily.



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Translation in the Capital Area

Translation (Con)Fusion: Syntax & Reference

Presented by Jona Colson

Room HC 227

2 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

During this presentation, The speaker will discuss some challenges with syntax and reference while translating Spanish to English. In addition, the presentation will review the production process and challenges that a small press faces by publishing translation.

Presenter Biographical information:

Jona Colson's poetry collection, *Said Through Glass*, won the Jean Feldman Poetry Prize from the Washington Writers' Publishing House. A full-length translated collection of poems by Uruguayan author Miguel Averó, *Aguas/Waters*, will be published this spring. He is also the co-editor of *This Is What America Looks Like: Poetry and Fiction from D.C., Maryland, and Virginia* (2021). His poems have appeared in *Ploughshares*, *The Southern Review*, *The Massachusetts Review* and elsewhere. His translations and interviews can be found in *Prairie Schooner*, *Tupelo Quarterly*, and *The Writer's Chronicle*. He became president with Caroline Bock of the Washington Writers' Publishing House and edits the bi-weekly journal, *WWPH Writes*. He is a professor of ESL at Montgomery College and lives in Washington, D.C.



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Translation in the Capital Area

What's in a Name – through the Story of Hebrew

Presented by Rutie Eckdish

Room HC 227

3:15 p.m. - 4 p.m.

So many of us know the Biblical stories and through them either have or know people who have "Biblical Names." When reading the stories, we read that Sarah called her son Isaak because she laughed, and Hagar called her son Ismael because she wished for god to hear her. What does Isaack or "Isack" (or Isaac) have to do with "laughter"? What does "Ismael" have to do with "hearing"? Without drama, god, God or history nor politics, let's make some sense of our Biblical names from the Hebrew linguistic point of view.

Presenter Biographical information:

Born in Haifa, Israel, Rutie was raised surrounded by languages and accents which she mimicked easily and lovingly. After 30 years teaching, she was awarded the Morningstar Master's Hebrew Scholarship and graduated with an M.A. in Hebrew as a Second Language Instructor from the University of Maryland (and stopped teaching). Following that she became a full-time freelance translator and interpreter, working in person and virtually in all courts and in conferences, traveling and interpreting with international delegations for the Department of State, and translating everything from marriage certificate to family history books. When not playing with words, Rutie loves opera, classical music, Jazz, and theater.



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Translation in the Capital Area

Idiomatic expressions: Do Cats and Dogs Really Fall Out of the Sky?

Presented by Heidi Hobson

Room HC 222

3:15 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Idiomatic expressions can easily derail the delivery of a message as we interpret or translate when the meaning of the expression as a unit is unknown. Knowledge of history and culture is required to understand these expressions, and unless you know the expression, it will interfere with the accurate delivery of the message. In this presentation, the speaker will encourage everyone to discover equivalent expressions in each cultural background, resulting in the accurate delivery of the message, regardless of the vocabulary utilized during the rendition. The end result will be an empowering assurance of the interpreter's delivery of the message without hesitation.

Presenter Biographical information:

Ms. Heidi Hobson was born and raised in Guatemala where she learned English. Her father sparked her curiosity for the discovery and application of expressions in other languages. She began interpreting as a volunteer for International Medical Mission Campaigns throughout rural areas of Guatemala and El Salvador, serving as a relay medical interpreter for Indigenous and Spanish speaking patients, awakening her love for languages, interpreting, advocacy, and ethics. She continues to study the English language, to enable her to accurately represent the message, and loves to discover the nuances of culture and history in all languages and expressions.



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Translation in the Capital Area

Harnessing TikTok's Power: Transforming Translation and Interpretation in a Globalizing World
Presented by Marisol Santana

Room HC 225

3:15 p.m. - 4 p.m.

In today's globalized world, Translation and Interpretation (T&I) professionals play a crucial role in bridging linguistic and cultural divides. They facilitate communication and understanding across borders. However, in an increasingly digital landscape, traditional methods of reaching audiences are being supplemented by innovative social media platforms. Harnessing TikTok's power is essential for T&I professionals looking to elevate their social media strategies and connect with audiences in a meaningful way. This presentation offers a roadmap for T&I professionals to navigate TikTok's potential and emerge as leaders in the digital age. By harnessing the power of TikTok and embracing innovation in social media strategy, interpreters can expand their reach, foster meaningful connections, and contribute to greater cross-cultural understanding in our increasingly interconnected world.

Presenter Biographical information:

Marisol Santana is a freelance Spanish interpreter with nine years of experience specializing in healthcare and educational settings, coupled with a recent interest in judiciary settings that sparked three years ago. She is a fervent advocate for staying abreast of industry trends by actively engaging in national associations and attending conferences and webinars to remain at the forefront of her field. In a bold move towards leveraging modern platforms, Marisol initiated her TikTok account in August 2022, becoming an influencer and a beacon for knowledge dissemination within her community. Driven by an unwavering dedication to lifelong learning and networking, Marisol is deeply committed to cultivating genuine connections with like-minded professionals.



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Special Thanks

We sincerely thank all our sponsors, presenters, and committee members for making this conference possible.

Dr. Deidre Price
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Chief of Translating Division
Office of Language Services
U.S. Department of State

Dr. Sharon Fechter
Special Assistant to the President for Institutional Projects

Dr. Sarah Campbell
Acting Collegewide Dean of Humanities

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**Dr. Maria-Elvira Luna Escudero-Alie, Ms. Farah Arjang, Professor Albert K Kapikian,
Dr. Sandra Rose Maley, Ms. Shaline Kirkland, Mr. Jeff Chuang**



Google Photo

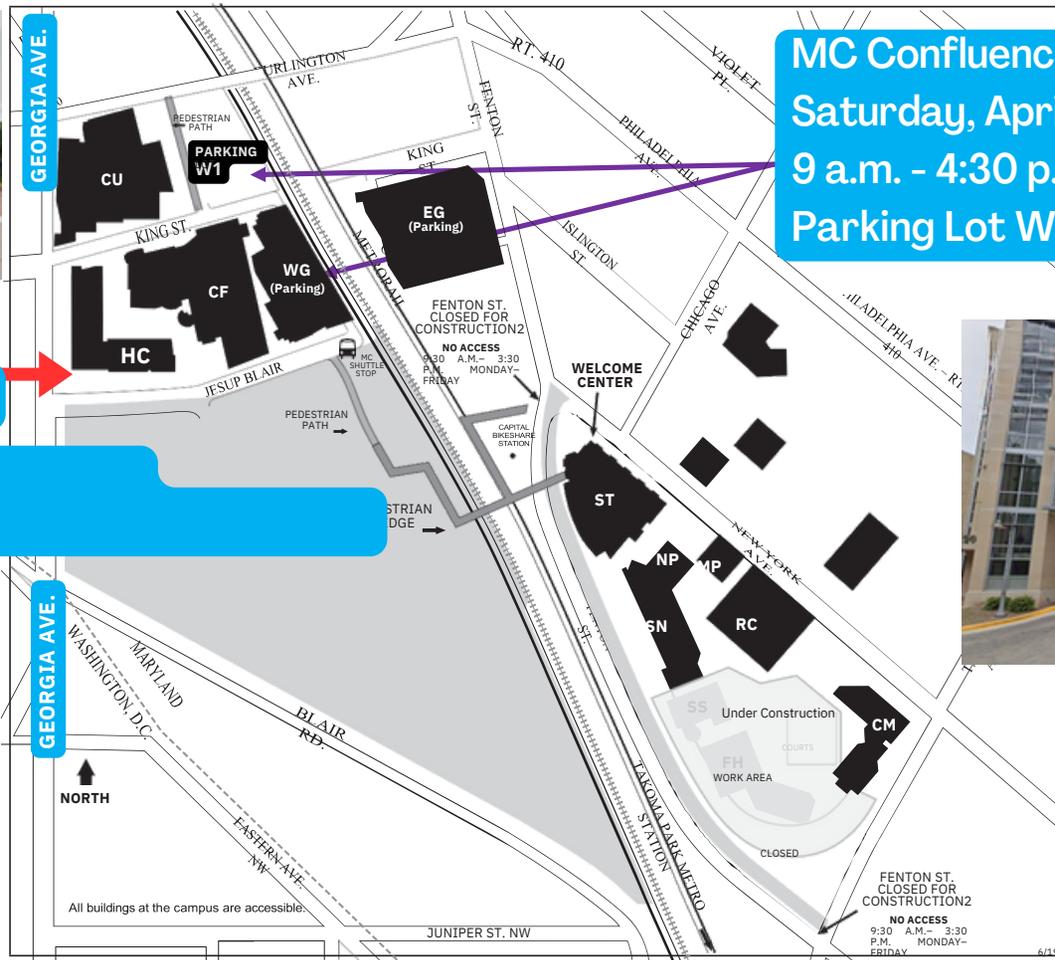
W1 Parking - King St

HC - Health Sciences Center 7977

Georgia Avenue,
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(Between King St & Jesup Blair Dr)



Google Photo



MC Confluence Conference 2024
Saturday, April 13, 2024
9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Parking Lot W1 & WG (Parking)



Google Photo

West Garage (parking) - Jesup Blair Dr

MC MONTGOMERY COLLEGE

Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus
 7600 Takoma Avenue
 Takoma Park, MD 20912
 240-567-3333
 TTY 301-587-7207

HC Health Sciences Center
 7977 Georgia Avenue,
 Silver Spring, MD 20910

Legend of Campus Buildings
(as of June 2019)

- CF The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Arts Center
Refugee Training Center
Workforce Development & Continuing Education (WD&CE)
- CM Catherine F. Scott Commons
- CU Cultural Arts Center
- EG East Garage (parking)

- P1 Pavilion One
- P2 Pavilion Two
- P3 Pavilion Three
- P4 Pavilion Four
- RC Resource Center
Library
- SN Science North Building
- ST Charlene R. Nunley
Student Services Center

- Public Safety Office
- Student Life Office
- Welcome Center
- Bookstore
- Cafeteria
- Counseling and Advising
- Enrollment Services
- Financial Aid Office



Nearby Restaurants

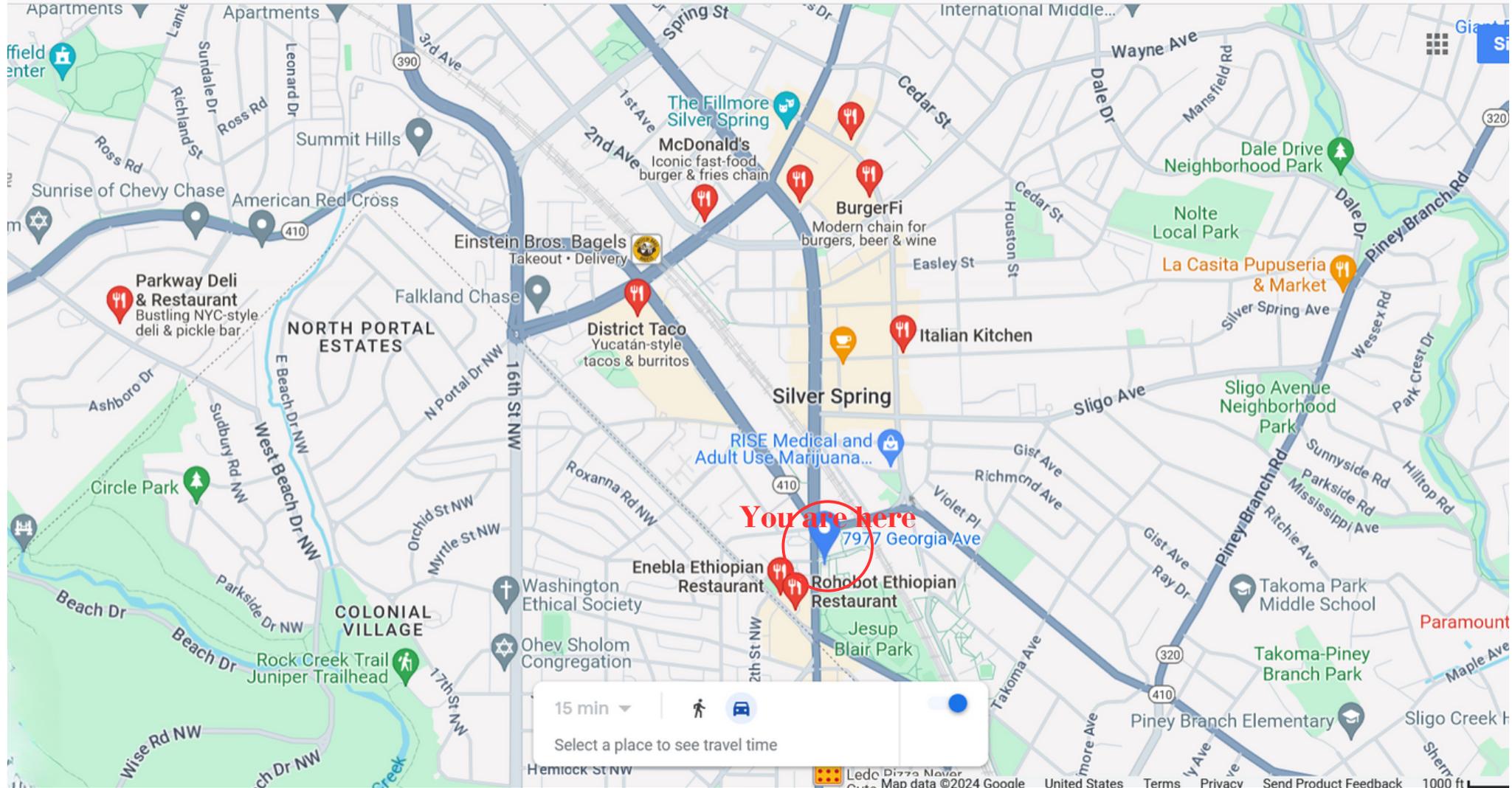
La Fonda Paisa (Colombian restaurant) 10% Off



For Delivery :



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